

MAURY CITY, FRIENDSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HOST MATH & LITERACY NIGHT

By Ron Barry

The President may have been preparing to deliver his “State of the Union” speech Thursday night, but many Crockett County parents preferred to see the “State of Crockett County Education” as illustrated by two of the district’s elementary schools hosting Math & Literacy Night events at their facilities.

Maury City Elementary went with a “carnival” theme and filled its gymnasium with tents featuring individual word and math games for the children, along with a front lobby display of its “Potato Book Character Challenge,” which featured some of the most creative things you can imagine being done to a russet potato.

Friendship Elementary also featured a gymnasium full of educational games and contests for its children to play, but stuck more to a celebration of “Reading Across America Week” by gearing many of its stations to book giveaways and continuing the emphasis that has led 69 readers to surpass the 6-million mark in words read over the school year.

“We’ve had several kids just zooming through chapter books since the Christmas break,” said FES Save the Children reading ambassador Ashlee Hall. “And to move past 6-million words read is an amazing accomplishment for these students. We’re so proud of how many of them are taking advantage of these opportunities.”

One of Hall’s initiatives at the event was to host a “BOGO” table: Bring One, Get One! Students were encouraged to bring one of their own books from home that they were willing to share with others. Every student who brought a book got to take another one home that another student had donated.



Left: Friendship's Save the Children reading ambassador Ashlee Hall hosted a "BOGO" table: Bring One, Get One!

“I can honestly say that the Save the Children project has been the most impactful program I have seen here since I’ve been the principal,” said FES leader Cindy Nolen. “The results have been remarkable, and can be easily traced to the program. I know it’s a pilot program, but I sure hope the funding for it continues, because it’s been a remarkable success here.”

Friendship also had a “Book Walk” going, a STEM project in which robotic bees could be programmed to lead students to follow clues that resulted in prizes, a cause-and-effect game in which 10 students at a time had to match cards to see if a “cause” could find an “effect,” or vice versa, and several other activities.

At Maury City, the “Potato Book Character Challenge” displays were a big draw, but the gymnasium was packed with carnival-goers as well. As at Friendship, there were several individual stations hosting creative contests and games, all designed to help the players either spell words, compute math problems, follow clues, or combine several learning skills to gain prizes.

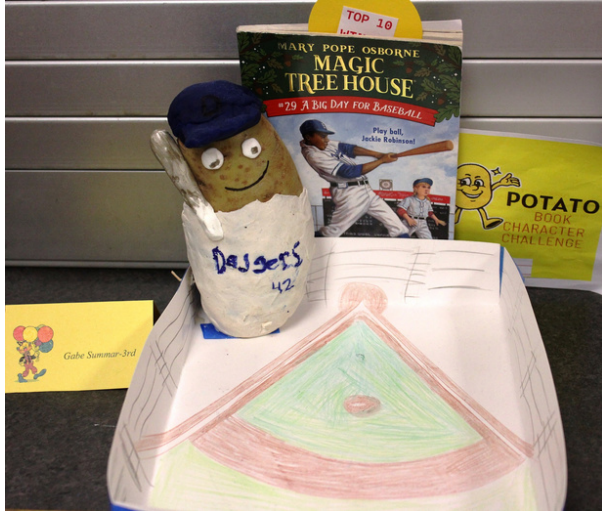
Maury City’s Save the Children reading ambassador Tammy Womack was excited about the turnout, as well as the quality and creativity displayed in the potato contest, in which children had to take a baking potato (donated by Tate’s Family Foods) and turn it into a character from a book they were reading. They could paint it, dress it, add materials to it, or stage it in a situation – and the results were amazing.

“Our judges were going to have a Top Ten,” Womack said, “but I think they actually ended up with 12 or 13. And there are some on the other table that could just as easily been rewarded. The important thing is that all of it helps increase the incentive to read. Children who read well are the key to a good educational system.” Some photos from both events follow here.



Right: But the big draw at Maury City was the "Potato Book Character Challenge" display, like this mouse with a cookie.

Left: This potato became a Rainbow Fish. Many more potato characters are featured on the Crockett County School District Facebook page.



Above: A Jackie Robinson potato showed up in this entry.

Right: A horse potato.



Above: He'll have a blue Christmas without you...



Above: Maury City folks were greeted by two of the school's finest.



Above: Maury City featured a "Spin the Wheel" game.



Above: Another one of Maury City's games.



Above: Maury City featured a target game as well.



Above: Maury City went with a "Carnival" theme.



Above: At Maury City, children played a screen game in which they had to find certain animals in the big picture and move them over to the side.



Left: Friendship had a "Busy Bees Match" game in which students had to match a "cause" card with an "effect" card.

Below: At Friendship, students had to "Shake, Spill, and Spell" a word.



Above: Friendship hosted a "Magic School Bus" game that explored the solar system.



Above: Friendship used programmable robotic bees from its STEM classroom to spell words and win prizes.



Above: Friendship's "Squash & Sculpt" - you had to make something out of Play-Doh that the other person could identify.



Above: Friendship had a Tic-Tac-Toe Relay game.