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Dexter Elks Contest Winners Announced

JANUARY 26TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Elks Contest Winners Announced

Dexter, Missouri - The Elk's Lodge in Dexter hosted their annual American Essay contest for third, fourth, and fifth grade students.

The topic "What the Pledge of Allegiance Means to Me" is an ongoing event held each year. The top three winners will on to the next level of judging at the district and then on to the state level.

First place was Bailey Whitaker Second place was Tucker Kyle and third place went to Kayleigh Gibson

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Star Banner 4-H Group to Host Trivia Night

JANUARY 23RD 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Star Banner 4-H Group to Host Trivia Night

Dexter, Missouri – The Stoddard County Star Banner 4-H group will host a Trivia Night and Silent Auction at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dexter.

The event will take place Friday, January 23, 2015 with doors open at 6:00 p.m. and trivia beginning at 6:30 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three teams!

“These kids have been helping 18Fore Life and Wreaths Across America for several years now as well as other organizations within our community,” commented Monie Brehmer, 4-H Youth Program Assistant for Stoddard County. “They don’t ask for recognition, but they do it because they are the most kindhearted, generous kids you will ever meet. I am so proud of this group and want to help them as much as I can to make this a successful event for them.”

The cost is \$10 per person and there will be eight participants per table. Drinks and snacks are provided.

All proceeds will be donated to the 18Fore Life, UCAN and Wreaths Across America.

For more information call 624-2361 or email mbrehmer@wildblue.net.

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Thad Powell Chosen as January Student of the Month

JANUARY 22ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Thad Powell Chosen as January Student of the Month

Bernie, Missouri - Thad Powell has been selected as Bernie Parents as Teachers Student of the Month for January.

Thad is the eight and a half month old child of Brandon and Lydia Powell.

Recently Thad has been pulling up on anything he can and he really enjoys knocking down towers that his parents have built for him.

Thad also enjoys eating and his favorite foods are fruit. During his PAT visits, Thad enjoys playing iwth the different colored and textured balls Mrs. Williams brings for him.

If you would like to know more about Parents as Teachers contact Courtney McGarity or Paige Williams at 573-293-5335, ext 293 or find them on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

The following information was taken directly from the Parent as Teachers Missouri website. For more information click [HERE](#).

Our Vision

All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

Our Mission

To provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

Our Values

The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life.

Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.

Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials and services.

All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic or economic considerations.

An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

History

In 1981, Missouri pioneered the concept of helping parents embrace their important role as their child's first and best teacher. Today, Parents as Teachers continues to equip early childhood organizations and professionals with information and tools that are relevant—and widely applicable—to today's parents, families and children.

The Parents as Teachers leadership team and Board of Directors is engaged in a three-year [strategic plan](#), which positions the organization as a valued partner to support the organizations and professionals who serve families and children, especially those most vulnerable.

The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness. Research showed that greater parent involvement is a critical link in the child's development of learning skills, including reading and writing.

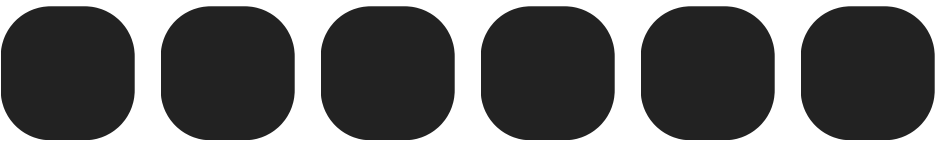
Early childhood professionals suggested that a program to provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and parent education to help parents understand their role in encouraging their child's development from the beginning could help improve school readiness and parent involvement.

With funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The Danforth Foundation, Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot project for first-time parents of newborns. Recognizing the program's benefits and cost effectiveness, the Missouri legislature provided state funding in 1985 to implement Parents as Teachers programs in all Missouri school districts. Since 1985, Parents as Teachers has expanded to all 50 states and six other countries.

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Ethan Parker Named Bernie PAT Student of the Month

Ethan Parker Named Bernie PAT Student of the Month

Bernie, Missouri - Ethan Parker has been selected as Bernie Parents as Teachers Student of the Month for January.

Ethan is the one-year-old son of Kevin and Jessica Parker.

He enjoys chasing the dogs around, playing peek-a-boo, and driving his new Spider Man car. Ethan's favorite part of participating in the Parents as Teachers program is playing with all the toys that Mrs. Casey brings each month.

If you would like to know more about Parents as Teachers contact Courtney McGarity or Paige Williams at 573-293-5335, ext 293 or find them on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

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Dexter Elk's Host Essay Contest

JANUARY 21ST 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Elk's Host Essay Contest

Dexter, Missouri - The Elk's Lodge in Dexter hosted their annual American Essay contest at T.S. Hill Middle School and the winners have been announced.

The topic "What the Pledge of Allegiance Means to Me" is an ongoing event held each year. The top three winners will on to the next level of judging at the district and then on to the state level.

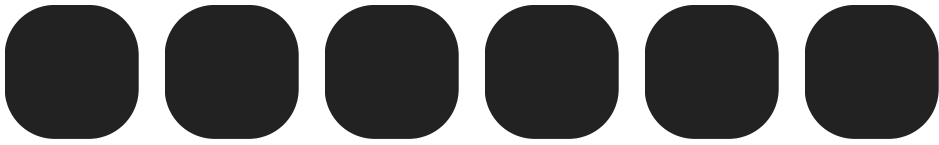
First place was Chaylea Mosby. Second place was Brock Simmons and third place went to Sarah Smith.

Shown in the photo provided by Michelle Cannon is Americanism Chairperson Randy Northington, Chaylea Mosby, Brock Simmons, and Sarah Smith.

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