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Karis Kennedy Earns Positive Office Referral

NOVEMBER 16TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Karis Kennedy Earns Positive Office Referral

Dexter, Missouri - Southwest Elementary honors Karis Kennedy with the Positive Office Referral certificate.

This award is presented to students who consistently show the 3 R's RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN at Southwest Elementary in Dexter.

Karis was nominated by her second grade teacher Mrs. LeeAnn Nelson. She also received a certificate, a golden loop and a free taco from Taco Bell.

Mrs. Nelson says, "Karis is always showing the 3Rs every where she goes."

Karis is the daughter of Chase and Mauri Kennedy.

Congratulations Karis!

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Second Graders Hold Coin Drive for Veterans

NOVEMBER 16TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Second Graders Hold Coin Drive for Veterans

Dexter, Missouri - Mrs. Kruse encouraged second grade students at Southwest Elementary in Dexter to participate in a Coin Drive for Veterans.

Mike Williams, pastor of the First Christian Church, came to the school and gave a presentation on Thursday, October 30th. Mr. Williams is a Senior Protestant Chaplain of the 932 Airlift Wing at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

He spoke with the students about his job, what it meant to be a Veterans and let them know that they were not too young to get involved in a service project.

For one week, students were encouraged to bring coins to school as part of a special contest with all monies raised to go to the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield. As an incentive, the winning classroom was promised a surprise pizza party by the Ladies Auxiliary - American Legion Post #59.

A very special thank you went out to Sue Grobe who took all the coins to a machine counter, otherwise they might still be counting those pennies, nickels, and dimes.

The total amount raised was \$654.36. The winning classroom was Mrs. LeeAnn Nelson's room with a total amount raised of \$188.66.

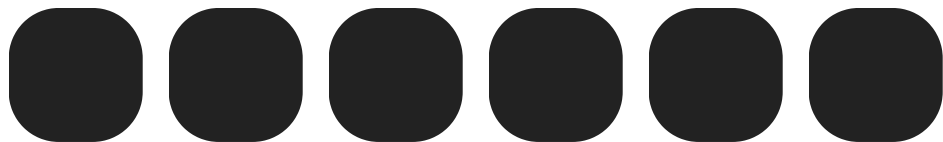
The students voted this year to support the Bloomfield Assistance League of the Missouri Veterans Cemetery, which helps to support the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield.

Presenting the check at the Veterans Days Ceremony held in the Bearcat Event Center on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 was Mrs. Nelson and two students from her classroom, Eli Scott and Karis Kennedy. World War II Veteran, Mr. Windy Richmond, representing the Bloomfield Assistance League of the Missouri Veterans Cemetery received the check on behalf of the Bloomfield Veterans Cemetery.

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5th Grade Veterans Day Poster Contest

NOVEMBER 16TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[5th Grade Veterans Day Poster Contest](#)

Dexter, Missouri - Each year the 5th grade students of Central Elementary School in

Dexter are given the task of creating a patriotic poster and are then entered into a contest.

Students at Central Elementary in the 5th grade classrooms worked very hard on their posters to commemorate our military and Veterans. They wanted to show Veterans how much they appreciate them and these students know that without each Veteran's sacrifice they would not have the right to express themselves through art.

One winner is selected from each fifth grade classroom. SPC Katie Alsup, Missouri Army National Guard representative and Sheila Alsup, American Legion Auxiliary President announced the winners of the 2015 Patriotic Poster Contest.

This year's winners, shown with their winning entries, are (in front) Nate Harris, Chase Elder, and Hunner Kyle. In back are Richard Zheng, Kayden Burns, Shannon Moore and Jayci Holcomb.

Dee Womble, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, present each with their very own patriotic/military "dog tag".

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Second Graders Conduct Veterans Day Coloring Contest

NOVEMBER 13TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Second Graders Conduct Veterans Day Coloring Contest

Dexter, Missouri - A coloring contest was conducted for all second grade students at Southwest Elementary in Dexter. The students talked about Veterans Day in the classroom of the art teacher, Mrs. Kristi Banken.

Mrs. Banken taught them that a Veteran's primary job was not to take care of animals and that they actually did eat meat. She taught them that Veterans were men and women of honor and that they protect our freedoms. The students were then asked to color a soldier in honor all Veterans.

Winners were selected from each classroom. The following students were awarded a special certificate and some brand new art supplies.

Jackson Moore – Mrs. Justice's classroom

Meredith Nea – Mrs. Nelson's classroom

Luke Fichtel – Mrs. Keena's classroom

Keeleigh Flanigan – Mrs. Mick's classroom

Ochean Learue – Mrs. Fortner's classroom

Emmelia Cliff – Mrs. Leonard's classroom

Daniel Twomey – Mrs. Boyer's classroom

Ava Schaefer – Mrs. Massey's classroom

Herbie Henson – Mrs. Kruse's Classroom

The overall coloring contest winner and recipient of a \$10.00 gift card to Wal-Mart was Addyson Lacy of Mrs. Fortner's classroom.

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Irene Huang Wins 8th Grade Veterans Day Essay Contest

NOVEMBER 12TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Irene Huang Wins 8th Grade Veterans Day Essay Contest](#)

Dexter, Missouri - Each year T.S. Hill 8th grade students are asked to write an essay in their Social Studies class. Mrs. Jessica DeMent is the director of this annual project.

Irene Huang was chosen from all of the 8th grade Social Studies students at T.S.

Hill Middle School and with that honor was selected to read her essay at the annual Veterans Day Observance Program held at the Bearcat Event Center. This year the event was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015.

Below is her essay! Congratulations Irene! The Veterans and the Dexter community are proud and honored to have heard your essay on Wednesday.

"During the Revolutionary War, there were people who risked their lives for our freedom. In the Civil War, freedom and lives, once again, were risked for equality. Those who served in the military for our country are called veterans. In this room with us today are veterans. They, along with a great number of others, have fought for us. They chose to live a life filled with risk and uncertainty, hoping to give their country safety, freedom, and the benefits we, as Americans, have today. Many of our freedoms are not available to people in other countries. In President Abraham Lincoln's last inaugural address, he made a promise to help veterans. He swore to support our military families. I believe it is important to stop today and examine what I can do, as an American, to continue to fulfill the promise Lincoln made to this group of heroes. There are many simple tasks all of us can take upon ourselves to help implement our 16th president's pledge such as sending care packages and letters, reassuring families of those deployed in times of need, or perhaps visiting a veterans' hospital nearby.

I can help uphold Lincoln's promise by, almost effortlessly, dispatching a letter or care package. You may ask, "What would a letter to a veteran contain?" I could easily write down how thankful I am for their service. In care packages, I can put a few small things, such as sweets, batteries, and books. This small action, taking only a little time out of my day, would show those serving our country that they are strongly appreciated. While I can't physically complete the job required of our veterans, I can help them by encouraging them as they serve our country.

We as a community could also console the families of those enlisted. All of us could bring small gifts such as candies to assist with comforting them. Even though they are not serving overseas, families would also know that they are appreciated for going through hardships for us. A wife of a deployed soldier received an anonymous gift under her windshield wipers when he was deployed. There was an envelope containing two twenty-dollar bills and a note that thanked her and her husband for serving. The note read, "Him serving, and you waiting." The note also told her to use the money for dinner for the two. Anybody could do

uncomplicated tasks to thank veterans. If you have Internet access, you could go to the United Service Organizations' website, known more commonly as the USO, to send a short message to a military family. Together as we prioritize putting our thoughts into action, we can fulfill Lincoln's promise to veterans and their families.

Lastly, numbers of us could go to a veteran's hospital in a town nearby. I belong to an organization called Junior Beta Club. As a club, we prioritize service projects, and our group could sponsor a project to encourage veterans who are receiving long-term care. There are a vast amount of things we could do for them, such as bringing treats, letters, gifts, or just ourselves. We could simply sing a song or read to them. The simple investment of time could make a difference in the day of someone who made a difference for our country. These are some other ways I could show recognition and gratefulness for their risks, sacrifices, and hardships.

Think about how veterans sacrificed their freedom, safety, and rights for us: our FREEDOM, our SAFETY, and our RIGHTS. In conclusion, I challenge everyone to take action. We must show veterans our appreciation. Together, we can honor them. Even the respect we exhibit today during this ceremony, sitting quietly and paying attention, is an action we can all do to honor the men and women who have kept our nation strong. Going forward, we must continue to look for ways to thank these brave, amazing men and women. Help soothe a military family. Send care packages and letters. Just try. Help me keep Lincoln's promise to care for our veterans and their families. Thank you."

Pictured are Jessica DeMent (left) and Irene Huang (right).

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