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CENTERPIECE

Education foundation gives dictionaries to Clarke students

By JULIA KAZAR | The Winchester Star Sep 27, 2017 Updated 9 hrs ago



Boyce Elementary School third-grader Carter Frame looks at the dictionary he received from the Clarke County Education Foundation on Tuesday. The Dictionary Project is a national project that started in Charleston, S.C., in 1995.

Ginger Perry/The Winchester Star

BERRYVILLE — Every third-grade student in Clarke County will receive their own dictionary this week courtesy of the Clarke County Education Foundation as part of The Dictionary Project.

In total, 170 students at Boyce Elementary School, D.G. Cooley Elementary School, Powhatan School in Boyce, and Keystone Christian Academy in Clarke County will receive copies of the dictionary.

“The sense of pride and ownership the kids get when they receive their dictionary is so important,” Amy Lowell, executive director of the Clarke County Education Foundation, said. “And kids need the dictionary, and need to understand how to use it. Even with the internet, they still need to know how to find something in the dictionary.”

On Tuesday morning Lowell distributed dictionaries to Boyce Elementary School in Boyce. When the students found out they were getting their very own copies to take home with them, there were audible gasps of excitement in the room.

“Oh my gosh!” said 8-year-old Michael Pisciotta.

Lowell asked the students what they can use dictionaries for.

“You look stuff up,” said 8-year-old Brittany Drosselmeyer.

“You use it to learn the meaning of words,” said Matthew Myers, also 8.

After students were given their dictionaries, Lowell asked them to see if they could find the longest word in the book.

The word contains 1,909 letters and is a scientific term for a formula.

“It’s just a giant squish of letters,” said Noah Banks, 8, after he found the word. “I can’t even pronounce it.”

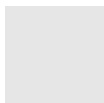
Noah said he found the word by using the table of contents. He is excited to have his own copy of the book to look up words when he’s doing his homework, as well as to “look things up about planets and animals.”

The Dictionary Project is a national project that started in Charleston, S.C., in 1995. Locally, it started in 2004 when John Friant Sr., a member of the Clarke County Library Council, read an article about the project and decided to begin one in Clarke. He raised the money for a private endowment to purchase the dictionaries annually for each third-grade student in public and private schools around the county. This is the 13th year for the project in Clarke. To date, the Clarke County Education Foundation has delivered 2,530 dictionaries through a collaborative effort between the foundation, the Clarke County Library Council/John Friant Sr. and Clarke County Public Schools.

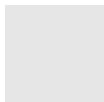
“This is a great project,” Lowell said.

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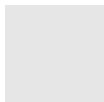
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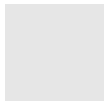
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