Jarrett Among Local ‘Women of Distinction’

Wintersville Elementary School Principal Lorrie Jarrett is at the top of the class after being named a 2018 Woman of Distinction.

Jarrett was one of six women who received the honor during the Steubenville YWCA’s third annual banquet on Nov. 29. The award honors women whose efforts and achievements have improved the lives of women and children throughout Jefferson County and the region, and she was spotlighted as a member of an impressive group of women who care about and work to better their community,” she said. “I’m grateful to the community, the YWCA, my school and family to be considered a Woman of Distinction.”

The Steubenville native said education was not her first choice when she entered college. She earned a bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership and development from Wheeling Jesuit University and her work experience has been in business and industry. However, she made a career change in 2003 and returned to school.

“I decided to go back to school because I felt a desire to teach elementary children to read,” she explained. “I consider being an educator a ‘calling.’ Through my coursework at Franciscan University and volunteering at elementary schools, I knew I had made the right decision.”

Students read “All of the Above,” a novel by award-winning author Shelley Pearsall that is based on the true story of four inner city students and their quest to build the world’s largest tetrahedron, or a triangular pyramid. Although the characters live in the same neighborhood and attend a school that is considered by many in the community to be a “dead end,” their lives are vastly different as they try to solve their own problems and the story of despair becomes one of hope. Pearsall spoke at a school assembly and students received a copy of her book and got an opportunity to have it signed.

Following the assembly, the pupils completed the 234-page tome with guest readers, including community members, local television personalities, retired teachers and school and sports leaders. The overall goal was to help foster a love of reading and help the children make a more personal connection with the book, in addition to learning the moral of the story.

She earned a master’s degree from Franciscan University and volunteering at her mother Barbara Hubbard’s Legacy. Jarrett enjoys visiting classrooms, spending time with students in the cafeteria and talking to parents, living by the adage “When you focus on the positive, everybody wins.” She now plans to continue the momentum of improving children’s literacy by carrying on her mother Barbara Hubbard’s legacy.

“My future plans include continued work in the community and helping young children develop a love of reading through the Community Readers Book Club which my mother started years ago.”

District Teachers Receive Best Practice Grants

The Jefferson County Educational Service Center has awarded mini-grants to teachers within the Indian Creek Local School District to expound upon student learning.

Three $600 Best Practice Grants were distributed to Michele Fabbro at Indian Creek Middle School and Willemijn Lambright and Ashley Turnbull at Hills Elementary for their insightful projects.

Fabbro, who serves as district library coordinator, used her mini-grant to benefit nearly 200 middle school students with the One Book One Day project. Fifth-graders read an entire book during the One Book One Day Challenge on Nov. 27.

“One Book One Day challenges intermediate and middle school students to read an entire novel in one day. All fifth-graders participated along with their regular teachers and related arts teachers,” Fabbro explained. “We involved administrators, cafeteria staff, the author of the book and celebrity readers from the community.”

For her part, Lambright plans to provide autism support with materials for students in her classroom.

“This will provide supporting materials for students with autism and cognitive disabilities in the area of academics, basic concepts, visual-motor development and other skills,” she said, adding that it will assist five pupils in grades K-4.

She hoped to have the materials on hand in the coming weeks and said the purpose was to enhance student learning, development and motivation, while she would also like her students to have access to more independent tasks.
An upcoming venture will unite pupils with potential employers during the Student Job Fair at Indian Creek High School.

Sponsored by the school Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), the event will be held on Dec. 19 from 9-11 a.m. in the gym and is open to juniors and seniors. Representatives from universities, colleges, career technical schools, apprenticeships and local businesses are expected to be on hand with exhibits and will talk to students about admission and career opportunities. Should inclement weather occur, the event will be rescheduled to a later date.

Organizers said students have an opportunity to connect with their future and explore careers at the free activity. Members Bryan Paulman and Ananda Livingston said the job fair so far includes Eastern Gateway Community College, Franciscan University, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and First National Bank.

“The group’s idea was that more students needed jobs in our schools,” said Paulman. “We have some students making resumes to hand in and see if they can actually get hired.”

The nine-member student organization is part of teacher Julie Robinson’s second-period leadership class and looked at different issues to focus on for projects, including child abuse and neglect. They ultimately began planning the job fair at the start of the school year and members have been busy contacting sites by phone to gather more participants.

The job fair is being provided as part of the Lead2Feed Leadership Challenge, a national initiative that encourages middle and high school students to hone leadership skills by completing a service-learning project that solves an issue or problem in their community. The program also awards technology grants for schools and cash prizes for their community partners. Last year, the ICHS FCCLA conducted a canned food drive for local food pantries to help the area needy for the challenge.

Meanwhile, Robinson is offering students resume-writing assistance on Dec. 4-6 from 3-4 p.m. with help from the Jefferson County Community Action Council, plus she has also developed a Google classroom called “Job Fair Resumes for 11th and 12th Graders” to provide further aid. Students attending the job fair should have their resumes handy and come learn about the wide range of jobs available in their fields of interest.

The group has sent 120 letters and flyers to local businesses, schools and related groups seeking participation and anyone interested may contact Robinson at Julie.robinson@iclsd.org or call the school at (740) 264-1163.

Key Club Assists Urban Mission

Members of the Indian Creek High School Key Club pitched in at Urban Mission Ministries annual Thanksgiving distribution, helping about 100 families stock their cupboards. Pictured are, from left, Allison Pethel, Taylor Bowers, Jordan Hiles, Carley Penner and Maddie Swickard.

GRANTS

(Continued from Front)

“I feel very pleased and thankful toward the JCESC to provide these grants,” she said, adding that it was her first such award. “I am always looking for better ways to meet my students’ needs and this is a great boost.”

Turnbull’s project, which is entitled “Preschool Sensory Development,” will provide sensory items for 75 preschoolers.

“The goal of this project is to help those students with sensory needs be more comfortable in the preschool classroom,” she commented. “I am very excited about receiving this grant. Sensory items are so important for so many of our students, yet can be very costly. To have a grant provide these items for us is wonderful!”

JCESC Superintendent Dr. Chuck Kokiko was impressed by the range of project ideas and said the educational service center was pleased to help bring them to fruition.

“The JCESC is appreciative of our member school districts and enjoy giving back when the opportunity presents itself. The mini-grants are a way to have a direct impact on the classroom,” he said.
Fifth-graders rose to the challenge and read an entire novel in one day in a special literary event on Nov. 27.

About 180 students at Indian Creek Middle School took part in the One Book One Day Challenge, which encourages intermediate and middle school students to complete a book in just one day, and finished a 234-page tome with some help from school and community members. Michele Fabbro, district librarian, spearheaded the event which kicked off with an assembly featuring award-winning author Shelley Pearsall. Pearsall’s novel, “All of the Above,” was used during the challenge and celebrity readers were on hand throughout the day guiding students through the chapters.

Guest readers included Pearsall, District Superintendent Dr. T.C. Chappellear, Mingo Junction Mayor Ed Fitthen, Pastor Jeff Greco, WTOV-TV personalities Jessica Haberley and Jeff Oechslein, ICMS Principal Dr. Holly Minch-Hick, ICMS Assistant Principal Ryan Finley, Hills Elementary Principal Michele Minto, middle school head cook L’Tanya Martin, Indian Creek High School football coach Andrew Connor, ICHS students Brennan Norris and Ally Bevilacqua, DARE Officer Sam Pinkerton and former Hills Elementary teachers Ashley Vitello and Mary Louise Morgan, as well as ICMS fifth-grade and related arts teachers.

Fabbro said it was a great way to build interest in reading and the students had a great time.

“Our fifth-grade students, along with staff, friends and celebrity readers, read one book in one day,” she said. “The day also included reading and writing workshops, a lunch menu from our book section and a special art project, building the world’s largest tetrahedron—our next big challenge. It was a great day.”

The special art project coincides with Pearsall’s story, which tells the true tale of four inner city students’ quest to build the world’s largest tetrahedron, or triangular pyramid. Fabbro said the goal is to best the largest structure ever formed, which was astonishing 3,000 pieces.

“They’ve worked on it throughout this project and each class has a section that we’ll put together. Our hope is to complete it before the end of the school year and we’ve got our work cut out for us.”

She thanked everyone for their support and said the project was funded through the school library department and a Best Practice Grant from the Jefferson County Educational Service Center.

Nearly 200 fifth-grade students at Indian Creek Middle School completed the One Book One Day Challenge on Nov. 27 and read more than 200 pages with help from guest readers. Author Shelley Pearsall took part since students used her novel, “All of the Above,” for their quest and is pictured with a group of pupils during the literacy challenge.

ICMS Students Complete Reading Challenge

Twenty members of the Indian Creek Middle School National Jr. Honor Society did their civic duty by assisting with a recent Thanksgiving food distribution.

Twenty students headed to Mingo Social Services on Nov. 14 and helped distribute food items to about 275 local families. NJHS Advisor Cathy Dibenedetto said the group has participated for many years and the youth were happy to give back to the community.

“The students were honored to be a part of this community project and help families in need during the holidays,” she said. “They carried the very heavy bags of food to the cars and told them ‘Happy Thanksgiving.’”

Their volunteerism culminated an ongoing food campaign of their own at the school, which raised about 3,000 items to help the MSS pantry in October.

NJHS Members Lend a Hand with Food Distribution

Dibenedetto said projects such as this hopefully impress upon the youth the importance of community service and would inspire them to continue such efforts well into the future.

“The students take pride in volunteering in the community and doing good for others. They look forward to helping out in any way they can,” she commented. “They understand the importance of giving rather than always receiving. They are grateful for [MSS Director] Sophie Schoolecraft and all the volunteers that work so hard all year round so that families can have a better holiday. They feel privileged to be a small part of this wonderful project.”

The NJHS has also assisted with similar programs at Christmas and Eastertime, helping nearly 300 families at each event.
Wintersville Elementary Supporting Food Pantries

Students at Wintersville Elementary School are getting into the holiday spirit by supporting local food pantries. Third- and fourth-grade student council members are conducting the organization’s annual food drive, which runs from Dec. 3-13. Non-perishable items will be collected during that time and will be delivered to the Wintersville Good Neighbors Food Pantry and Wayne Township Food Pantry later this month.

Advisor Makenzie Householder said the purpose is to teach children the importance of giving and providing a community service. “Student council members and the students of Wintersville Elementary look forward to the canned food drive every year,” she explained. “They sort and tally all of the items donated each day and they truly love giving back to others.”

Some incentives are in place to generate even more participation with contests and dress-up days planned over those few weeks. Householder said a homeroom contest will be held based on the percentage of items raised while the second week will include crazy hats, wacky clothing and a holiday theme.

“The school has been collecting for the past 10 years, if not more,” she said. “On Thursday, Dec. 13, the student council will be loading up the items and delivering the food and money we also collected from penny wars.” The penny wars campaign was held this fall and raised about $840 to divide between the two pantries. Each class raced to fill buckets with the most pennies, all the while attempting to sabotage each other by adding silver coins and dollar bills. Non-penny funds subtract from the amount collected and forces the classes to add even more copper coins.

Meanwhile, about 20 students will take part in the food delivery and Householder said they learn a lot from the project. “The students of Wintersville Elementary enjoy giving back and knowing many of our community members benefit from their kindness makes it even better,” she concluded.

Hills Helping Jefferson County Humane Society

Hills Elementary School is helping its furry friends at the Jefferson County Humane Society by conducting a special collection.

The school is accepting a wish list of cleaning supplies and pet food to assist the animals in a project between the second-grade school play and the Hills Destination Imagination team. Second-grade teacher Kim Carnahan said items will be accepted at the school throughout the week and also collected during the performance of “Arf on the Rooftop” Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. Destination Imagination members will be in charge of collecting the contributions, which will be delivered to the shelter at a later date.

Items include paper towels, dryer sheets, strong kitchen trash bags, hand sanitizer, liquid hand soap, Dawn dish detergent, Clorox wipes, high-energy laundry detergent, scrub brushes, bottle brushes, pill pockets, copy paper, peanut butter, hot dots, puppy milk replacer, kitten milk replacer, Purina Kitten Chow dry cat food and Fancy Feast canned kitten food.

“We do a Christmas play every year for the second grade and this one is about a dog pound being full and children wanting a dog,” she explained. “We thought we could do something to help the humane society and my sister and her D.I. team go out there and visit.

Christmas in Mingo at Hills on Dec. 12

Christmas is coming to Hills Elementary School, which will host “Christmas in Mingo” festivities on Dec. 12.

The 10th annual event is being presented by the Mingo Business Association, Soffite Community Federal Credit Union, Scheutz Funeral Home, Pesta’s Country Market and attorney Fran Carinci with special thanks to Bobby Pizzoferrato and John Balzano. The venue was moved from the Mingo Knights of Columbus to the elementary school gym and doors open at 4:30 p.m., while the program starts at 5 p.m. and features songs, stories and even a visit from Jolly Old Saint Nick.

Organizer Jim Freiling said holiday music will be provided by Pizzoferrato with Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla set to read “The Night Before Christmas” to kids, much like he did during the inaugural event in 2008. Santa Claus will also be on hand with a gift bag of goodies and Freiling is hoping for a great turnout.

“Bobby Pizzoferrato will provide Christmas carols and invite kids to sing and we’ll also have Alvin and the Chipmunks and Smiley from Eat-N-Park,” Freiling added. “Sheriff Abdalla will read ‘The Night Before Christmas’ and we wanted to get the local police and fire departments involved to be Santa’s elves.”

Pizza and other treats will be on hand and Freiling said the event has drawn several hundred participants in the past.

“We’ve had about 100 kids and they bring their parents and grandparents, so we’ve had about 200-250 total. It’s a good time and so much fun.”