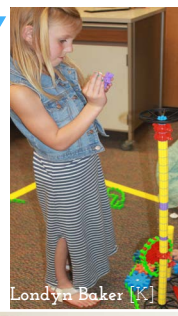


# Operation GAMEDAY

Elementary students relax, take time to play

For just a day, the pencils were put away and the papers were shredded to pieces. The elementary gameday is one of the most exciting days for students who get to bring their board games to school and play with their classmates.

"Operation was my favorite. I liked it because it was really hard and it makes it more interesting," **Zoe Davis [1]** said. "My favorite part about playing them is because some of the board and card games were hard."



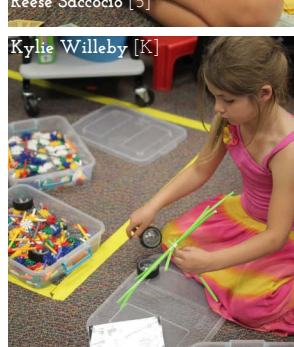
Londyn Baker [K]



Reese Saccocio [5]



Couri Willeby [K]



Kylie Willeby [K]



Seth Berry [K]



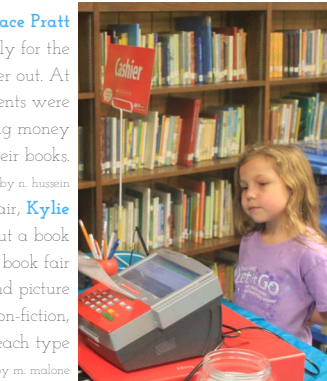
Austin Moss [5]

Her books selected, **Grace Pratt [2]** waits patiently for the cashier to check her out. At the book fair, students were responsible for bringing money to purchase their books.

photo by n. hussein

At the book fair, **Kylie Wallace [4]** checks out a book about monsters. The book fair contained chapter and picture books as well as non-fiction, offering something for each type of reader. photo by m. malone

Young philanthropists, **Grace Pratt [2]** and **Layton Fancher [2]** pose in front of a box for donated books. Students donated books to schools in Van, Texas after a tornado ravaged the town May 10. photo by n. hussein

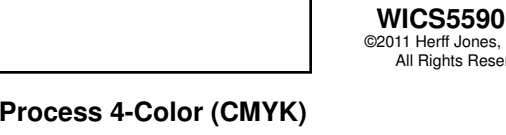
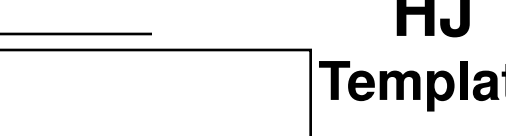
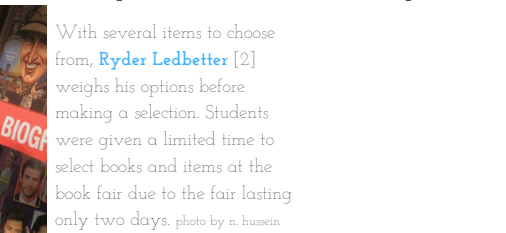


# Novel

# IDEA

Elementary school hosts annual book fair, students pick out latest novels, unique items

With several items to choose from, **Ryder Ledbetter [2]** weighs his options before making a selection. Students were given a limited time to select books and items at the book fair due to the fair lasting only two days. photo by n. hussein



# HAPPY DAZE

Students enjoy free time in class, during school events



Water gun locked and loaded, **Whitni Rayson [4]** fires a barrage of water upon unsuspecting students. For the splash pad field trip, students brought their own water toys and equipment. photo by i. rodriguez



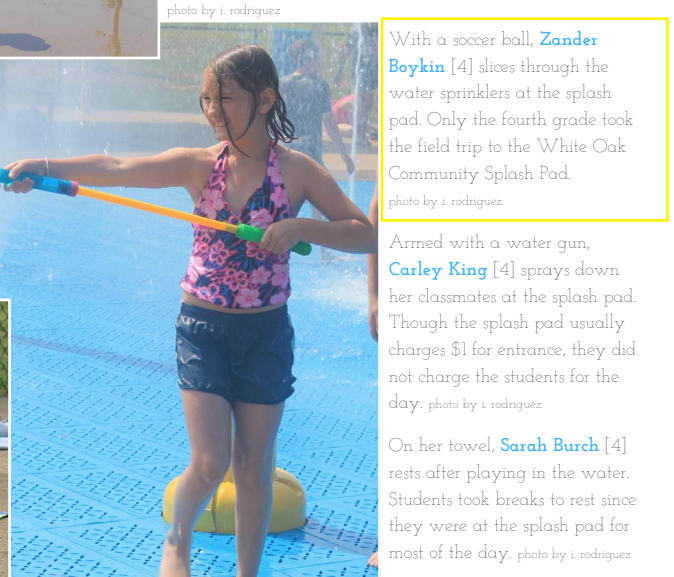
Racket at the ready, **Nick Johnson [4]** prepares to return an incoming tennis ball. Students could use the splash pad, play sports or use the playground. photo by i. rodriguez



With a soccer ball, **Zander Boykin [4]** slices through the water sprinklers at the splash pad. Only the fourth grade took the field trip to the White Oak Community Splash Pad. photo by i. rodriguez



On her towel, **Sarah Burch [4]** rests after playing in the water. Students took breaks to rest since they were at the splash pad for most of the day. photo by i. rodriguez



Armed with a water gun, **Carley King [4]** sprays down her classmates at the splash pad. Though the splash pad usually charges \$1 for entrance, they did not charge the students for the day. photo by i. rodriguez

# BRIGHT & Bubbly

Pre-k students enjoy free time outside

As a reward, pre-k students blew bubbles outside in the primary faculty parking lot. The bubbles were a break from the normally indoor class schedule which included learning shapes, colors, numbers and letters. Teachers also taught their young pupils social skills and began reading readiness. Even though pre-k was split into morning and afternoon classes, both sets of students received free time with bubbles. In addition to these free days outside, students also spent time creating arts and crafts. bubble photos by n. hussein



Nathan Treadway [PK]



Jaci Salter [PK]



Makynzie Johnson [PK]

# BROKEN Locke

Coach injures foot after challenging student to sack race on field trip

"I thought he was going to be in a lot better shape because the OLD MAN could normally whip my tail in everything else, but he couldn't HANDLE THESE SKILLS."

Jeff Steelman [8]



"When I landed I knew my foot was HURT, so the loss didn't really bother me. Not being able to run for TWO AND A HALF weeks hurt a lot more."

Heath Locke

Looking at the cannon pin, Dalton Sumrow [8] learns about the cannons from the Civil War. After the instructional period the cannons were fired without ammo to simulate the sounds they'd hear during the war.

Smoke trailing, Mason West [8] fires an old revolver with blanks. The re-enactors guided the eighth graders through the care, loading and firing of the gun to show what the life of a Civil War soldier would've been like.

Struggling, Olivia Sipes [8] hands off the cannon ball to a fellow classmate. Only blanks were fired from the cannons though there were cannonballs for students to hold.

Laughing, Natalia Rincon [8] and Ashlee Wyatt [8] race each other in sacks. The sack races were one of the many activities that students could participate in at the re-enactment.



Guns to the sky, two re-enactors fire for the crowd of spectators around them. The re-enactors fired cannons as well, but they all used blanks so that they kept everyone watching safe. "They had a whole technique, probably ten steps just to shoot one bullet," Yaroub Hussein



# BLAST FROM the PAST

Eighth grade gets historic experience at Civil War re-enactment

story by i. rodriguez

The sound of firing cannons fills the air and rings in the students' ears while the ground shakes as the Union troops fire at the train passing by. Unlike any history lesson they'd received before, the eighth graders learned about and experienced parts of the Civil War.

On May 1, the eighth grade class took a field trip to Jefferson for a Civil War re-enactment and other history briefings.

"Sure, you can be in social studies class and they tell you to read a book, but the cool thing about that trip is that you get a better understanding because it's right there in front of you," Yaroub Hussein [8] said. "You have people that are more experienced with the topic that are telling you about it. It definitely got me closer to enjoying history."

The students split up into stations, where they watched history in action with men portraying Union and Confederate officers explaining what happened as if they lived it themselves. Their in-depth knowledge of the Civil War presented history in a way the students had never experienced.

"At each station, they would tell us the history behind it and everything," Emily Mitchell [8] said. "In history class they can only teach you so much about the Civil War era, but that trip went into detail."

The re-enactors showed the students their collection of Civil War-era guns, knives and flags. Some of the re-enactors even

allowed the students to shoot blanks from their guns.

"I liked watching this old guy make bullets," Braden Clark [8] said. "He had this little pot over a fire and he'd drop lead in there and melt it down. Then he put it in this shaper, and it'd make a ball. He'd break the extra pieces off and then it'd be a bullet."

The students learned how soldiers lived with their limited resources. Comparatively, the students came to realize that many of the movies they've seen don't tell the story exactly right.

"The Confederates and the Union both wore blue uniforms for most of the Civil War," Clark said. "It showed me that not everything we see in the movies is what actually happened."

Although the movies weren't completely accurate, the history briefings given to them by workers and re-enactors made it seem like they'd traveled back in time.

"My favorite part was probably listening to the history briefings," Hosanna Johns [8] said. "It was just some extra information you didn't learn in the classroom."

Outside the classroom, the students experienced the different cultures of the time. This extra information provided a better, deeper understanding of the trials of the Civil War.

"You got to see all these different cultures and how they worked like the Indians and the navy," Hussein said. "You actually saw how they worked back then."

Dribbling down the court, **Landry Seimears** [11] focuses on keeping the ball in control while a Sabine player stumbles to the ground. Sabine and White Oak had a stiff rivalry that showed every time they played each other. photo by i. rodriguez



# Making the RIGHT PLAYS

Varsity girls' basketball forges deeper bonds after second year lacking seniors

story by j. lowman

Tensions high, a time out is called and the scoreboard reads 42-42. The crowd has never been so pumped. The girls' focus is on coach **Desiree Hutchins-Boyet**, who could still be heard above the cheers and chatter of the crowd. As the clock winds down, Hutchins calls a play to take the lead. The team won by three points after only three official practices and went on to have a successful 18-10 overall record. "At the beginning of the fourth quarter, Hallsville had an 8-0 point run and we began to kind of freak out, but coach Hutchins called a time out and settled us down," **Allison Goll** [11] said. "She told us that if we were going to win, we would have to lock down on defense and move the ball around on offense until we got a good shot. We had **Kayla McCoy** [11], **Audrey Lunstedt** [11] and **Makenzie Goll** [11] step up and make some amazing free throws to tie the game, then Kayla added two more to give us the lead. Coach Hutchins really pushed and inspired us to play better." Tragedy, broken fingers and a lack of seniors were obstacles that these girls had to overcome to be successful leaders. "The last time we had seniors was 2013," McCoy said. "It's been a struggle, especially last year because we were new to varsity, but the older varsity members helped us adjust to the change from JV to Varsity. By this year we still struggled, but we were stronger." The struggles of the varsity team caused most of the underclassmen to step up themselves, some even earning their

spots as players on varsity. "I became so close with the varsity team in half a season and they make me feel comfortable," **Kyla Weeks** [9] said. "McCoy and Makenzie are the two people who I think have stepped up the most because they gave advice and helped the underclassmen understand what's going on when they were confused." Though the upperclassmen played a large role in the development of skills for the underclassmen, Hutchins and the other coaches worked every player to improve their game. "Hutchins has helped me most with becoming a better overall player," Makenzie said. "She emphasizes good, tight defense and to let that lead to my offense. She told me I contribute to our offense by playing good defense. She truly wants us to be the best." Every coach hopes for their athletes to play their best, but they can't force changes to be made. Players have to be willing to do it themselves and be coachable first or they'll never improve. "At the beginning of the season, we struggled with a lack of leadership and seniors pushing us to do our best which resulted in less encouragement throughout the team," **Landry Seimears** [11] said. "However, after many team meetings, the varsity team got together and all five of the juniors took up the leadership role. We didn't have seniors to push us. We have had to push each other. We have had our ups and downs, but through this I really think that we have grown closer as friends and teammates."



Avoiding a defender, **Makenzie Goll** [11] pulls away from a player as she goes for the shot. Goll played most any position and was an asset to the team for making her difficult shots. photo by m. malone

Looking at another player on the team, **Kyla Weeks** [9] passes the ball. Weeks was moved up to varsity in the middle of the season and was immediately taken under the upperclassmen's wings. photo by a. ike



Eyes on the basket, **Audrey Lunstedt** [11] shoots a three-pointer during warm-ups before the game starts. Lunstedt started and normally jumped for the ball, helping gain control of it from the start of the game. photo by a. ike

Arms wrapped around each other, the varsity girls gather at the center of the court to pray before their game. The girls did this ritualistically, believing that it helped ensure their luck before they played. photo by m. malone

Muscles tense, **Landry Seimears** [11] looks at the basket as she prepares to shoot a free throw. Seimears played every position except the post and strived to do well every time she played.

In mid-air, **Makenzie Goll** [11] jumps above a defender to bank a shot into the basket. During play-offs, many of the girls came down with the flu, but they insisted on playing even if they were sick. photo by m. malone

Gathered around Coach **Desiree Hutchins-Boyet**, the girls listen as she explains what they need to change to improve their playing during a time-out. Hutchins used time-outs to help the girls catch their breath and explain if there was a change in the game plan. photo by n. busson



After a successful play, **Landry Seimears** [11] and **Makenzie Goll** [11] high-five at the end of another won game. The girls were known to support each other constantly and always help each other to improve as players. photo by m. malone

Pulling away from a Sabine player, **Bella Sacco** [10] looks to pass the ball before five seconds is called on her. Players aren't allowed to hold the ball without moving or passing for longer than five seconds so they wouldn't waste time. photo by m. malone



Pulling back from her shot, **Makenzie Goll** [11] shoots over the front of the rim in a playoff game. Goll was known for her ability to make difficult shots. photo by m. malone

Running, **Maci Teague** [10] goes to pass the ball down the court. Teague struggled with shoulder problems throughout the year that kept her from playing. photo by m. malone

Special Instructions  
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Special Instructions  
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