

Kids Stuff

Super readers shine in trivia challenge

By ANGELA COOPER-McCORKLE

Slam, sprint, score! Seven superb readers from Dutch Hill Elementary School showed reading was as thrilling a sport as anything on a field during their last practice before a major competition.

The team members from "Green Reading Machine" huddled up and slammed their hands down on the floor. They were using a secret strategy, spreading out the number of fingers that matched their answer to trivia questions.

During competition, once the team agreed on an answer, a member would sprint to the judges' table and score a point each time they answered correctly.

The Dutch Hill team spent three months practicing for the "Mega-Fun, Biblio-Trivia, Rockem-Sockem Third Grade Reading Challenge" put on by Sno-Isle Libraries.

They read six books, including one about a book-loving mouse, another about magical chickens, and a third about training dragons.

Alexandra Larson, 9, liked dashing off answers on sticky notes. Hudson Raper, 9, said his favorite part of the challenge was running answers to the judges. Elizabeth Burns, 8, and Ethan Tregoning, 9, said they loved reading the books best.

Josie Cort, 9, was engrossed in "I Survived the Eruption of Mount St. Helens" by Lauren Tarshis. She read the tale based on local history three times. She wasn't the only one drawn to the volcanic volume: Lourdes Martez, 8, was also spellbound by the story and its 11-year-old heroine.

Reading books was just the beginning. Each child had to specialize in one and learn to collaborate with each other for the massive trivia challenge.

The trivia was Breckin Davison's favorite part. The 9-year-old said the hard questions were what he liked best.

The students, led by teacher Linda Donaldson, learned a few tricks as well as tons of trivia. Donaldson taught them letters in sign language so they could confer on answers without other teams hearing.

They needed lots of practice for the difficult questions such as how far away was the closest grocery store from the eruption site of Mount St. Helens. The answer: 20 miles.

"Those are the ones that made my tummy turn upside down," Donaldson said.

About 1,500 students from 50 schools participated. At Dutch Hill Elementary, the Green Reading Machines out-answered six other teams to advance to the semi-finals at Snohomish High School.



Photo by Angela Cooper-McCorkle

Pictured left to right: Breckin Davison, Josie Cort, Allie Larson, Ellie Burns, Mrs. Donaldson, Hudson Raper, Lourdes Martez and Ethan Tregoning. Missing from photo is Molly Hammer.

The team wore green bowler hats for luck and stuck one penny on for each correct answer.

The kids put pennies in their shoes for luck, too.

At the semifinals, seven was a lucky number for the Green Reading Machines, who finally earned the win after seven tie-breaker rounds against Monroe's Fryelands Elementary.

They returned to class happy but ended up heavy-headed with 52 pennies on each hat!

At the March 28 finals, the story didn't have a perfect happy ending for the Green Reading Machines, but it did end with a valuable lesson. "Dutch Hill competed val-

iantly, but it came down to a tiebreaker between Stanwood and Silver Firs, with Stanwood taking the title," Sno-Isle Libraries spokesman Jim Hills wrote in an email.

So the team got to use one more special skill that will serve them well all of their lives, the art of conceding graciously.

In class the day before, Donaldson shared that while feeling disappointed in defeat was normal, congratulating the winners with good grace was a must.

The spirited seven practiced compliments and while they did not end up earning top honors, they proved they had serious trivia chops and were tops in good sportsmanship.

Kids Fishing Day

The annual Kid's Fishing Day at Lake Tye in Monroe will be held on Sunday, April 29 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kids age 12 and under will have a chance to catch rainbow trout up to 10 pounds, and prizes will be awarded. An adult must accompany children.

The derby is held at the south end of Lake Tye in a special netted area.

This event is hosted by Sky Valley Trout Unlimited and area businesses as sponsors.

The event teaches children to become responsible stewards of the environment through the wholesome outdoor activity of fishing. It is an excellent opportunity for you to spend time with your child.

Lake Tye is located at 14964 Fryelands Blvd. in Monroe.

For more information on the Kid's Fishing Day or how you can help with Sky Valley Trout's worthwhile projects, contact Gary Bee at 206-818-2991 or Jeff Shirley at 425-359-7756.



Frog Fest April 21

This is a fun, family event Saturday, April 21 at the Evergreen Arboretum, 145 Alverson Blvd. in Everett, from noon to 2 p.m. Learn how to create a frog habitat. Also in honor of Earth Day, students will plant native plants in the new Native

Garden and also take a plant home! The instructor will be Thayer Cueter, known as The Frog Lady.

Meet in the Arboretum Native Plant Garden. Reservations are required. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. 425-257-8597.