

# HardisonInk.com

---

## Creekside Christian School crowns royalty at homecoming



**2016 Creekside Homecoming Queen Emmagrace Keith (left) pins the sash and crowns 2017 Creekside Homecoming Queen Elizabeth Plummer.**

**Story and Photos By Terry Witt**

**Senior Reporter © Feb. 4, 2017 at 12:27 p.m.**

**OTTER CREEK --** Creekside Christian School in the Town of Otter Creek celebrated its homecoming Friday (Feb. 3) with the crowning of royalty, a blowout basketball victory over an Archer school and a parade drenched in bright winter sunlight.

# HardisonInk.com

---



**Creekside Christian School students vote for homecoming royalty using county voting booths.**



**Elizabeth Plummer casts her ballot in the Creekside Christian School homecoming election as Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones observes. Plummer was crowned homecoming queen later that afternoon.**

# HardisonInk.com

Students and faculty voted in the homecoming election to start the day of festivities with Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones setting up voting booths and a vote-counting scanner.

The Creekside Otters boys' basketball team defeated Family Life Academy of Archer 29-9 with Joel Jones Jr. scoring many of the points for Creekside on drives to the basket and from behind the 3-point arc.



**Kevin Maldonado drives through traffic to score for Creekside or Creekside Guard Joel Jones Jr. squeezes through defenders to score on an underhand shot.**

Crowned as Homecoming Queen was Elizabeth Plummer and as King Joel Jones Jr. Crowned Princess was Kerstin Saunders and Prince Lawson Byrd.

Matthew Still was crowned Duke and Charlie Harris Dutchess while Ragean Harris was crowned Little Queen and William Osteen Little King.

# HardisonInk.com

---



**Chiefland VFW Post 5625 Honor Guard members Kary Colson (left) and Joe Elko proudly display the American flag.**



**Creekside Christian School cheerleaders enjoy their ride in the parade.**

# HardisonInk.com

---



**Harley Meeks, a homecoming contestant, sits atop her float waiting for the parade to begin.**



**Smokey Bear makes an appearance in the parade for the Florida Division of Forestry.**

Creekside Christian School is in its 16th year of existence. The current student enrollment is 92 students in grades Pre-K through twelfth grade.

“We almost have more people in the school than in the town,” said Principal Ginny Keith.

Most of the students come from Williston and Bronson with a few from Chiefland.

# HardisonInk.com

The school uses the Accelerated Christian Education curriculum to teach students reading, writing and mathematics. The school has 10 students for every one teacher. The teachers don't stand in front of the class to teach. Students learn at their own pace at individual work stations. When they need help with their studies they raise a Christian flag. When they need to get up and leave the room they raise the American flag.



**Homecoming Queen Elizabeth Plummer and King Joel Jones Jr. are introduced.**



**Princess Kerstin Saunders and Prince Lawson Bird receive their recognition.**

# HardisonInk.com

---



**Dutchess Charlie Harris and Duke Matthew Still receive their crowns.**



**Little King William Osteen and Little Queen Ragean Harris are honored.**

The system is designed to encourage academic success as well as moral character, according to Keith. Every school day begins with devotions and students participate in a church service on Tuesdays.

Students must master every subject before they can move on to the next academic level. They must earn an 80 percent score in each subject to meet the school's academic requirements.

"What I like about it; when our kids take algebra 1, they learn it. They master it," Keith said. "They have to be able to do it. Our kids who have graduated from here really do well in college."

# HardisonInk.com

---

Bill Keith, who founded the school, said churches were very much a part of education in the early days of this nation, but the public school systems have drifted away from including moral instruction in the lives of students.

“The churches started the early schools,” he said. “If you go back and study the history of education in America, churches had a big part of that.”

Keith said he was serving as the pastor at Otter Creek Baptist Church when he was led by God to establish a reading program in the community. The first reading class for children and adults was taught by Carol Bixby.

He said he had noticed that some public school students attending Sunday School couldn't read as late as their fourth or fifth grades. He saw a need for an alternative school in the Town of Otter Creek.

Creekside Christian School didn't have much money when it first began, but he said generous donors from the community gave the school a chance to take root.

The curriculum taught by Creekside teachers relies on students becoming accomplished readers. They are first taught phonics, which breaks down the language by sounds, and later are taught sight reading of words, sentences and paragraphs.

Students must have a mastery of reading to use the educational system employed by the school. That's why reading is emphasized early in the educational process.

Keith said if the school can provide a good academic education for students, as well as to provide those children with a sound moral base, then those students stand a better chance of becoming successful and productive members of society.

“Our whole system is based on character building,” he said.