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First Graders Rewarded In Yankeetown School Reading Program



Melody Carson (in the hat at the right) tells her students that they are to have fun, however they absolutely must not shoot water at each other in the face. If they do, then they will have to sit aside from the group for five minutes. The other two adults in this picture are Ruth Ruppert of the Inglis Yankeetown Woman's Club and Debbie Woodard, a paraprofessional teacher's assistant.



(above) Ruppert shows the children the gallon jugs that will be used to measure the Kool-Aid spit contest. In this game, students put Kool-Aid in their mouths and travel to the jug and spit it into the jug. Then, the students return and their team members go and perform the same task. The team with the most transported Kool-Aid wins.

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Woodard is a target here, however she found an opportunity to return the cooling action of squirting water on the students.



First grade students in Melody Carson's class at Yankeetown School were the first best readers to enjoy a day of fun with water on Thursday (May 18) for their success in the Red Hot Minutes Reading Program. Ruth Ruppert of the Inglis

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Yankeetown Woman's Club and Debbie Woodard, a paraprofessional teacher's assistant, assisted Carson in helping the children safely enjoy squirting water at each other, sliding down an inflatable slide into a pool of water, and participating in water-oriented games for fun. This was a reward for the students' success in having an adult read to them, or for them reading, at least 900 minutes during the nine-week grading period. Yankeetown School has children in pre-K through eighth grade. Some grade levels have more than one class.



Almost every class improved on their reading percentages this most recently past nine weeks, Ruppert said, over the previous nine weeks. The first place trophy in the most recently past nine weeks went to Carson's first grade class. Those students are Leland Roberts, Anna Green, Aryanna Rushing, Brayden Bolin, Ashlynn Porterfield, Colton Best, Nathan Kennedy, Kyra Dykes, Johnny Carbaugh, Jayse John, Amber Shearer, Savannah Seamen, Zack Hall, Jessica Baker, Ely Robinson, Frank Huggins, Alesha Adams, Jacob Gerber, and Aiden O'Bry.



(above) in this game, the students compete to see who can transport the most water from one point to another, while the recipient player holds a jug on his or her head as the place to put the water.

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This inflatable slide is for the first graders. Not only were they the class with the most minutes of recorded reading, but the slide is for relatively small children.



Some of the water-oriented toys are on standby here. Yankeetown School is a very small school. It has total enrollment of about 250 students. It is located in the southernmost section of Levy County. The other top readers in the school are scheduled for a similar set of fun-oriented water activities in the early part of next week.

Photos by Jeff M. Hardison © May 19, 2017 at 1:47 p.m.