



Superintendent's Message
Dr. David Daigneault

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Math-a-Thon Benefits St. Jude

By Renee Geiger
GES Teacher



Photo by Martha Liberto

Math-a-Thon participants (L to R) Back row - Kade Robertson, Alexis Triplett, Jemire Harris, Ashlyn Lee & Front row - Kalyse Jeffers, Damiyon Horton, Anna Ferguson, Robby Stephenson. Kade Robertson and Anna Ferguson were top fundraisers for GES.

In the last 17 years, GES K-3 students have raised over \$270,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, participating in Math-a-Thons as their fundraiser. The coordinators for this annual event are Renee Geiger K-1 and Candy Cole 2-3. The school became involved with the St. Jude Math-a-Thon because some of our students were patients at St. Jude.

Math-a-Thon is a free, education-based fundraising program for grades K-8 that benefits in the care and treatment of patients at St. Jude. The program enhances students' math skills while teaching them the importance of helping others.

Each year, thousands of schools participate in Math-a-Thon, helping to raise millions for the patients of St. Jude. It costs \$1.6 million A DAY to operate St. Jude, and public donations provide more than 70 percent of their funding. Students' participation in Math-a-Thon makes it possible for St. Jude to treat patients regardless of a family's ability to pay. St. Jude is the ONLY pediatric cancer research center where families NEVER pay for treatments that are not covered by insurance.

The success of the St. Jude Math-a-Thon at GES K-3 is based on student and parent involvement. The coordinators hold an assembly to promote

Math-a-Thon. The students view the DVD, hosted by Nickelodeon stars. Sponsor Form envelopes are distributed and students are encouraged to begin fundraising. Prizes are rewarded according to monies that are raised. All student participants earn a certificate of appreciation. Those students who raise \$35 will receive a St. Jude t-shirt; \$75 will receive the t-shirt and backpack; students who raise \$125 or more will select one of various prizes. GES K-3 has also been awarded prizes according to the amount of money raised by the school.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was founded 50 years ago by the late en-

tertainer, Danny Thomas, who believed that no child should die in the dawn of life. The hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering research and treatment of children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Today, the overall survival rate of for childhood cancer is almost 80 percent. It is the first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Center devoted solely to children. It is also the leader in the research and treatment of blood disorders and infectious diseases in children.

GCTC Finishes 2nd in Ford AAA Contest

By: Ricky Jones
Automotive Instructor

Congratulations to Clayton Walls and McKenzie (Lane) Tillman, students of Grenada Career and Technical Center, for finishing 2nd place in the Ford AAA hands-on competition. An exciting thing to see walking into the competition shop was 10 Ford Focus cars of all different colors. After a brief reading of the contest rules, the announcer stated, "Gentlemen, start your engines if you can!"

Teams from all over the State of Mississippi went to the cars in a mad dash. Walls and Tillman started their car after 30 minutes (first) in the contest, completing their search for 10 bugs (defects). They closed the hood which let the contest judges know that they had completed working on their car. Then they took a 1 mile road test to the point of no return (final judging). As the duo and judges combed the car, looking for defects to be fixed, they received two demerits for the wiring harness under the



Lane Tillmon, Automotive Instructor Ricky Jones, and Clayton Walls display the awards won at the recent Ford AAA competition.

hood not being in its place and the trunk lid pull cable not attached to its plug. These two demerits pushed them to 2nd place.

"These guys did a great job!" said Ricky Jones, their automotive instructor. Clayton and Lane each won five thousand dollars in scholarship money, a tool

set, a hand held code/data scanner, and a job offer from Watson Ford in Jackson.

Thanks again to Kirk Auto World for providing the Ford Focus car for the students to use to prepare for the competition. It was very beneficial in their preparation.

Graduation Rate Continues to Improve

Grenada School District is dedicated to improving our graduation rate and decreasing the number of dropouts. In order to qualify for graduation, GHS students must pass all course work and four State tests. These SATP (Subject Area Testing Program) exams include US History, Biology I, Algebra I, and English II. The 2013 graduating class of over 240 students will receive their diplomas on Friday, May 24, at 7:00 p.m. in Charger Stadium (weather permitting-Rain Date-May 25) culminating many years of study and hard work. This year's class numbers more graduates than last year and marks a continuous march of improvements in our District. GSD has developed a learning environment that emphasizes academic achievement. We track each aspect of teacher and student performance to provide adequate feedback for flexible instructional adjustments.

Our graduation rate has improved significantly since 2005. In 2013, our graduation rate has risen to 68.7%, an improvement of 21.2%. Although we still have room for growth, GSD is on the right path. This improvement is due to several initiatives implemented to increase our completion and graduation rates.

These achievement results have been obtained through a collaboration of teachers and administrative staff to increase our students' levels of learning. Careful planning, organization, addressing our academic goals, and an immense amount of focus have resulted in great improvement in our graduation rate and academic skills. We are so proud of the efforts of all of our students and staff!

Tutoring programs, grant initiatives, motivational strategies, subject area remediation, and positive behavioral classroom management are several initiatives that have contributed to our growth. Teaching the curriculum objectives, targeted ongoing testing, and meticulous analysis of test data enable our teachers and staff to constantly monitor student progress and adjust teaching strategies as needed.

Dropout Prevention Coordinator Lynne Russell states, "The effectiveness of our strategies to improve our graduation rate is ensuring that all students reach ambitious levels of performance as evidenced by our improved graduation/completion rates."

Our ongoing goals and commitment for progress for every student at every school drive our quest for excellence. Educational achievement provides the vehicle for success for our students and our County in today's economy, giving all of our community's children the foundation for a successful life. Our District's achievements are the result of our focused goals and hard work. We are looking forward to continued growth in the 2013-14 school year!