



Read all about it

Centertown School holds Literacy Fair

BY MARGARET HOBBS
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Reading is important to everyone. It's how we learn new things, expand our mind and develop imagination.

School officials say children need to develop a love for reading at an early age because it exercises our brains and improves concentration.

All Warren County students are encouraged to participate in their school's Literacy Fair where they get to share information about a favorite book. Centertown School recently had its Literacy Fair, with 74 students participating.

"We began the Literacy Fairs at our schools a few years back as a way to promote reading," said Centertown School librarian Kreta Slatton. "The first-place winners from each school will go on to compete in the Warren County District Literacy Fair, which will take place March 27 at the Warren County Middle School."

After reading the book, students complete a project about the book, using a display board projecting the information presented in the book. They can compete in various fiction categories, such as realistic, historical, fantasy/fairy tale, science and adventure mystery. Non-fiction categories are biography/autobiography and informational. Class projects can be presented in either fiction or non-fiction.

Fifth-grader Assala Kanakrieh chose the popular book "Wonder" by author R.J. Palacio. The plot of the book is 10-year-old Auggie was born with extreme facial abnormalities and not expected to survive. He does and enters fifth grade encountering struggles from class-

mates. "This book is about kindness and bullying," said Kanakrieh. "I enjoyed reading the book, and thought it was wonderful. It did end well, once people chose to be kind and got to know him as a friend."

Younger students enjoy books and reading, with several kindergarten students participating in the Literacy Fair.

Kindergarten student, Anna McGinness says she has been reading for some time, and she really enjoys books. She chose the book "Ducks" for her project, because she says ducks are pretty and fun to watch.

Students Sammie Johnson and Maliki Haston had fun viewing the displays set up in the gymnasium. They both particularly enjoyed "The Titanic" display by student Josee Lopez.

"I really liked how she included details about the Titanic, and that she spent a lot of time making it the best she could," said Haston.

CENTERTOWN STUDENTS ADVANCING TO THE DISTRICT COMPETITION INCLUDE:

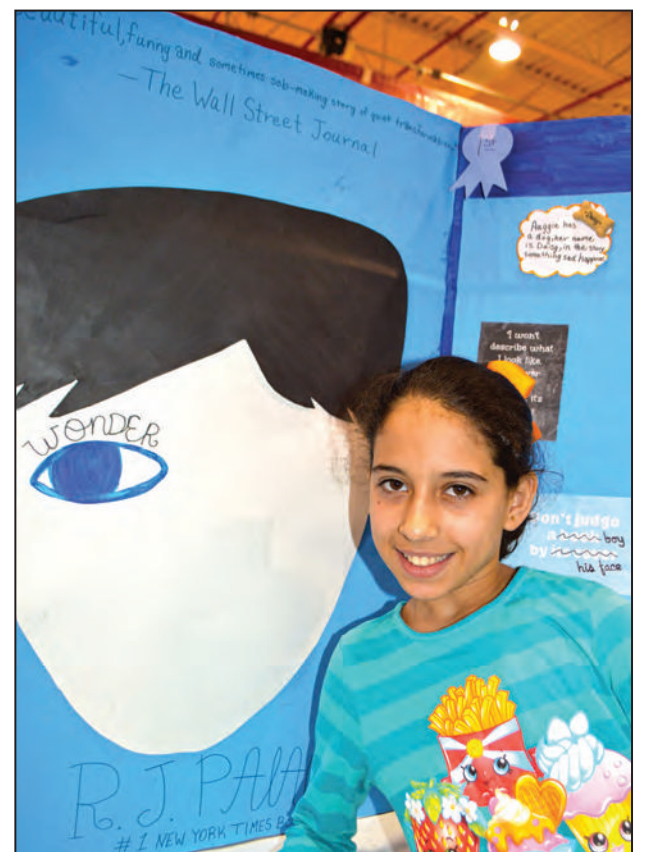
- KINDERGARTEN** – Jared Henning, Anna McGinness, Aubrey Alford and Ansley Pepper;
- FIRST** – Tabitha Potter;
- SECOND** – Preslee Winfree and Josee Lopez;
- THIRD** – Tripp Williams, Treyvion Curry-Mathis and Ms. Pepper's class;
- FOURTH** – Emma Kirby and Ms. Curtis' class;
- FIFTH** – Assala Kanakrieh, Kamus Crouch, Nicky Lambidonis and Melanie Montero;
- SIXTH** – Madison Pendergraph and Jake Mullican;
- SEVENTH** – Addison Johnson, Lauren Mansfield and Mrs. Kirby's class;
- EIGHTH** – Jaden Smartt and Centertown gifted



Margaret Hobbs photos
Kindergarten student Anna McGinness and librarian Kreta Slatton discuss McGinness' presentation on ducks.



Kamus Crouch attributes his interest in the military and tanks to his aunt who is in the military. His comprehensive display won him first place in the non-fiction category.



Assala Kanakrieh earned first place for her display on the book "Wonder" in the fifth-grade fiction division. She will advance to the district competition to be held March 27 at Warren County Middle School.



Second-grade student Josee Lopez, center, shares information with students Sammie Johnson and Maliki Haston about her exhibit on the book, "The Titanic." She won first in the non-fiction category.



"A Walk to Remember" by Nicholas Sparks is a favorite book of Jaden Smartt, center. She shares information about the book with sixth-graders, from left, Madison Pendergraph and Kristal Chisam.



"Exploring the Mighty Ocean" was a seventh-grade class project with students, from left, Liberty Simmons, Madison Johnson, Hailey Alivo, Raymond Morton and Maitlyn Grace Beddies making some final adjustments.