

MAY THE FOURTH



Julian Fernandez, 5, celebrates a win in the Star Wars light sabre toss with second-grade teacher Jasmine Evans.

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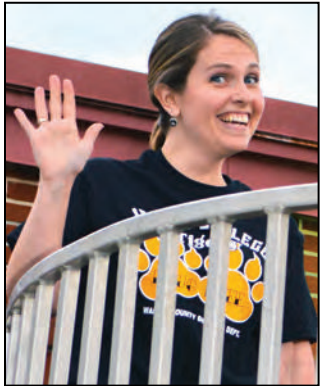


Isham "Turtle" Laxson as Darth Vader is pictured with his sister Zara Laxson sporting her Princess Leia hair buns

Irving College Elementary raises \$10,000 with its annual festival

BY MARGARET HOBBS
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A May the Fourth Spring Festival was held at Irving College Elementary Friday, with a nod toward the Star Wars Day of May the



Irving College School principal Rachael Graves bravely takes her place in the dunking booth. Festival attendees voted monetarily for her to win the opportunity. Fifth-grade student Addison Knox was the first to dunk her into the cool water.

Fourth. The date was chosen for the phrase "May the Force be with you," with several fans of the movies at the school.

PTO co-presidents April Rubley and Tia Taylor were excited with the "Star Wars" theme, with a personalized photo booth for guests to enjoy, as well as some fun games.

"We all love 'Star Wars,' but our PTO Secretary Beth Burnett is a huge fan," said Taylor. "She pushed for the theme and everyone seemed to have fun with it. We have a huge movie standup in the lobby welcoming guests to the school."

Most of the activities were held outside of the school, with several large inflatables on the lawn, with assorted carnival type games. Children could pick-up-ducks, play corn hole, target practice with a Nerf gun, play the fish bowl game and try their luck with the light sabre toss.

Second-grade teacher

Jasmine Evans had a nice size R2D2 surrounded by light sabres, guarded closely by Jedi master Yoda on her game, which was a hit with the children.

"I saw this as an opportunity to have some fun with the theme," said Evans. "I love 'Star Wars,' and it seems the younger generation is coming on also."

A dunking booth was the center attraction, with several political candidates taking their turn in the wet seat. Money containers were available for donations ensuring a spot for the teacher receiving the most donations.

It seems principal Rachael Graves is loved a lot, with her jar almost full of assorted denominations of money.

Graves was a good sport and took her turn, being dunked the first time by fifth-grade student Addison Knox.

"Yeah, I'm so glad I was able to dunk her first," said an excited Knox.

An interesting slate of auction items were on display in the school gymnasium, some designated as silent auction items, with others offered up for the highest bid.

The third-grade quilt made by teacher Betty Clendenon features photos of her students, and it always brings a hefty price at auction.

This year was no different, with the collectable bringing \$1,000. With several fun baskets with specific themes, such as camping, games, chocolate, gardening and an "As Seen on TV" basket and several homemade desserts on tap, visitors generously placed their bids.

A meal of hamburgers, hot dogs and homemade desserts was available in the school cafeteria.

Approximately \$10,000 was raised from the effort, with much of the funds going toward technology, with the goal to purchase more Chromebooks for the students.



Five-year-old Kirsty Bruce, a kindergarten student at Irving College School, takes aim at a target using a Nerf gun.



Grandmother Mira Woodlee helps Peyton Rucker make a dessert selection.



Second-grader Camden King has a blast on the inflatables set up on the front lawn of the school.