

Constitution Week at KDS

Most Americans know that July 4th is our nation's birthday. Far fewer Americans know that September 17th is the birthday of our government, the date in 1787 on which delegates to the Philadelphia Convention completed and signed the U.S. Constitution. The ideas on which America was founded--commitments to the rule of law, limited government and the ideals of liberty, equality and justice--are embodied in the Constitution, the oldest written constitution of any nation on Earth. Constitution Day is intended to celebrate not only the birthday of our government, but the ideas that make us Americans. Thus, it is most appropriate that students, teachers and administrators of this school founded by the Daughters of the American Revolution observe and celebrate Constitution Week.



The Gunter Mountain Chapter, NSDAR celebrated Constitution Week by highlighting this great document in all three KDS Schools. Proclamations were signed by the principal in each school and Constitution facts were provided for the daily announcements. Teachers were provided a packet with the copies and the history of the Constitution. Gunter Mountain Chapter members put up bulletin boards and posters. They also provided patriotic stickers, activity sheets, and bookmarks for the students. The Constitution Week poster below was displayed in the Jacobs Building directly above a bulletin board created by the fourth graders.



Joining Principal Tim Isbill signing the Constitution Week proclamation were middle school students Skyler Pittson, Kaleb Pitt and Emily McBee.



Katrina Ponder assisted in putting the bulletin board together.



Teresa Sutton's kindergarten class created a classroom constitution. The students worked together to come up with a list of rules and then voted for the top four. Debates were held to determine which would be the best.

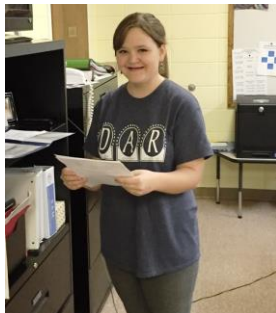
Elementary Counselor Kim Smith led Constitution Week activities for fourth graders in guidance class. The activity included "Our Founding Documents", a video created to be much like a game show. The video examined the Declaration of Independence, The Constitution and the Bill of Rights, then quizzed them in game show fashion. Each child was also given an "exit slip" which assigned one of the documents to write about. The "exit slips" were then used to create a bulletin board.



The Stephens Chapter, NSDAR visited Annie Conwell's 3rd grade classroom during Constitution Week to help develop a deeper understanding and respect for the flag and the Constitution. Chapter member Julea Motes and her niece Tori taught the students the correct way to salute and say the pledge. Ms. Motes explained what each part of the pledge means, and what our constitution stands for.

The students watched a School House Rock video on the Preamble and Constitution. Activities pages, a flag pin, and pencil were all provided for each student. The lesson ended with cupcakes.

This is an annual visit that the students always enjoy!



Eighth grader Erin Martin, who is also the KDS SGA Reporter, represented the Gunter Mountain C.A.R. as she read a Constitution fact each morning of Constitution Week during the morning announcements.

Ann Whitt and Margaret King of the Huntsville Chapter, NSDAR visited Deedee Eller's kindergarten class to help the children begin to understand about our country's freedoms and the Constitution. They showed posters and talked to the children about the founding fathers who wrote the Constitution using a quill pen, and that it explains the rights our country has promised us. Each child was given a copy of the preamble after they practiced reciting it together. Everyone learned to say the hard word "preamble".

As a follow up in class, the children and Mrs. Eller made a constitution for their classroom. Everyone signed the bottom.



Some high school history students in Glenda Baker's classes dressed up as our Founding Fathers in celebration of Constitution Week. They also wrote a new version of the Bill of Rights geared toward teenagers. Some ideas were very thought provoking; others were just as one might expect from teenagers.

