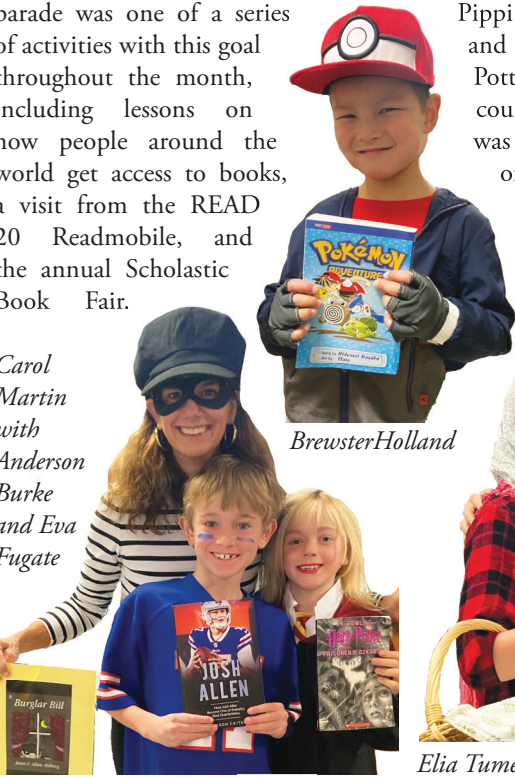


Characters, Carols Create Memories at LMS

The end of 2022 saw the halls of Lookout Mountain School filled with costumes, songs, and plenty of smiles and laughter as students took part in fun events to enrich their school experience. From storybook characters to Christmas carols, it was a festive month to close out the year!

First, students participated in the LMS Character Parade. Librarian **Whitney Fessler** revived this event, which had not taken place in over 10 years, to celebrate and foster a love of reading for the students. The parade was one of a series of activities with this goal throughout the month, including lessons on how people around the world get access to books, a visit from the READ 20 Readmobile, and the annual Scholastic Book Fair.

Carol Martin with Anderson Burke and Eva Fugate



Brewster Holland

During the parade, students in all grades attended school dressed as their favorite literary characters, and they marched in a school-wide assembly in the gym while holding the book they were representing. Mrs. Fessler shared that the kids were excited to show off their costumes, which included, “Amy March from ‘Little Women,’ Lyle Lyle Crocodile, Biscuit, Pippi Longstocking, and more Harry Potters than I could count!” The book fair was the culmination of these activities celebrating reading, and thanks to the help



Elia Tumey and Simone Hawkins



Fifth-grade class



Eleanor Hoover and Emma Mixon

of co-chairs **Maggie Estes** and **Lesslie Meier**, as well as a team of parent volunteers behind the scenes and the support of our wonderful community, Mrs. Fessler was happy to report that it was the most successful book fair to date, and it would be a significant benefit to the LMS Library.

Next, students were absolutely thrilled for the return of the LMS holiday musical program! Due to COVID-19

First-graders also looked adorable, wearing holiday reds and blues as they gleefully performed “Mr. Snow Miser, Mr. Heat Miser” and “Blue Christmas” from “The Year without a Santa Clause.” The second-graders initially made Mrs. Huffine hesitant when selecting their songs from “Home Alone;” they were insistent that in addition to “Rockin’ around the Christmas Tree,” they wanted to attempt the very complicated “Carol of the Bells.” Mrs. Huffine said that, “They blew me away! Their determination, combined with their pride in knowing they chose the song, was all the motivation they needed to do a fantastic job!” Third grade sang “Welcome Christmas” from “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” as well as “Where Are You, Christmas,” featuring beautiful solos from fifth-graders **Eleanor Hoover** and **Emma Mixon**. Fourth-graders wore holiday pajamas and robes as they showed off the new lighting system in the auditorium during their performance of “Hot Chocolate” and “When Christmas Comes to Town” from “The Polar Express.” Mrs. Huffine laughed that during their first practice with the new lights, they were so amazed that they forgot to sing! And, of course, the fifth-graders were the stars of the program, donning tacky Christmas sweaters while introducing each grade’s performance, dancing around the stage as Snow and Heat Misers, elves, bandits,



Cyra Poureshmentalemy and Rachel Wiese

considerations, this beloved tradition had to take place virtually in 2020 and was pushed forward to a spring program last year, so it was wonderful to see the



Kindergarten class performing a holiday favorite

LMS Auditorium decked out in art teacher **Ryan Patterson’s** beautiful holiday decorations, including a huge movie marquee above the auditorium entrance to greet family and friends to the show! This year’s program was “A Holiday Movie Spectacular,” and music teacher **Katie Huffine** shared that she, Mrs. Patterson, and Mrs. Fessler “had fun brainstorming and reminiscing about our favorite holiday movies as we carefully chose songs for each grade level.”

And what excellent choices they made for the program! Kindergarteners were dressed in their holiday finest for their first-ever program, singing “Jingle, Jingle, Jingle” and “We Are Santa’s Elves” from “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.”

and reindeer, and bringing down the house with their musical selections from “Christmas Vacation!”

Mrs. Huffine perfectly captured the spirit of the holiday program - and of this whole last month of school - saying, “Every year I am blown away by the support of the Lookout Mountain community, from donations towards auditorium upgrades and technology to everyday parent involvement. This community is indeed special, and it is truly an honor to serve the students and families at LMS.” These certainly are events that LMS students will remember for a lifetime, and it is a joy to see them creating such wonderful memories!

by Meredith Brown



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