Students and staff at Braxton Craven School wrapped up a week of Red Ribbon activities designed to help students make good choices in their lives. The door of Phillip Ball’s classroom was declared the first-place winner in the door decorating contest for “Don’t Follow the Pac. Be Drug Free.” Pictured here are volunteer door judges, from left, Assistant Chief Darren Pierce of Gulf-Rand Fire Department, Archdale Police Chief Shannon Crackdick and Todd Cutler of Randolph County School Board.

Red Ribbon week at Braxton Craven

Students answer #whysayno

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — Sixty boxes of sidewalk chalk, hundreds of square feet of asphalt and more than 116 man-hours of effort yielded a huge anti-drug effect for 350 sixth-graders at Braxton Craven Middle School. Students participated in a variety of drug awareness and prevention activities during Red Ribbon Week late last month.

On a Monday, students wore red in honor of Red Ribbon week. Tuesday was crazy hat day. Participants wore neon on Wednesday because “My future is too bright to do drugs.” Students and staff showed up in ties and scarves on Thursday for “Tie up a drug-free future” and, on Friday, everyone wore team apparel for “Team up against drugs.”

According to school counselor Susan Neeve, all the activities were designed to help students make good choices so they can live above the influences of negatives in their lives such as drug abuse and peer pressure.

“They ask tough questions,” said Neeve. “One comment that was eye-opening for me was a student who answered the question ‘Why not do drugs?’ with ‘Because I don’t want to be like my mom.’”

Each classroom decorated doors with slogans that promoted the anti-drug message. The door of Phillip Ball’s classroom was declared the first-place winner in the door decorating contest for his decoration that read, “Don’t Follow the Pac. Be Drug Free.” When Neeves reached inside the door, sound effects from the
RIBBON
FROM THE FRONT PAGE

On Tuesday, physical education teachers Elliot Childress and Lynn Small led students in writing messages on the walls of their classrooms. "A lot of students are coming out and putting a lot of effort into it," said Noonan. "We wanted them to know that we care about their future." 

I know that drugs were bad before, but this is making me think about it even more," said Strickland. "You don't want to do it. If you do it, even once, you can become addicted." 

I know we're not going to impact all 100 of them, but if we save the lives of two or three of them, it will all be worth it," said Noonan.

Red Ribbon door entries ranged from thoughtful to creative, as seen by Ashland Police Chief Todd Collier's response. Although some of the doors were entertaining, all contributed a serious impact with their anti-drug messages.

Pictured here, door judge Donna Perez was drawn to the door of Mrs. Southard's room. The message "When it comes to drugs, Mrs. Southard's class has many weapons." 

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