Foster, adoption info session to be held at library

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ARDHALE — November is National Adoption Month and Randolph County Department of Social Services will host an informational session on foster and adoption programs at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at Archdale Elementary School.

Randolph County DSS especially needs homes equipped to take teenagers, sibling sets of two or more, or children who have special needs. If you want to make a difference in a child’s life by becoming a foster and/or adopting, attend this information session or contact a Foster Care Licensing Social Worker at 336-683-8862 or email foster.adopt@randolophc.gov . For more information visit: www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/ or the Randolph County website at www.randolphnc.gov/Departments/SocialServices.

Archdale Elementary students hone their skills

By Debbie Hightower

At Archdale-Trinity Elementary art teacher Chloe Mintel was recently named 2017 Rookie Art Educator of the Year. Here, she poses with some avid artists in one of her classes.

Mintel named Rookie Art Educator of the Year

ARCHDALE — After discovering a nice, straight line of first-graders in Mrs..Getter’s class at the hall at Archdale Elementary School, teacher Chloe Mintel invited them into her classroom — and the world of art.

If you watch her working during weekly art sessions, it’s easy to understand why Mintel was named 2017 Rookie Art Educator of the Year. She accepted the award last weekend during a North Carolina Art Educators Association professional development conference in Wilmington.

Originally from Raleigh, Mintel appreciates the family atmosphere enjoyed by teachers and staff at Archdale Elementary. Since January, she has divided her time between Archdale, Trinity and Trinity elementary schools.

Her Archdale classroom is stocked with various media forms including pencils, pastels, paint and even Sharpie markers.

Before turning them loose to work, Mintel let them know the correct sitting positions. Her students’ horizons were opened — they could draw with pencils and gourds of various shapes.

Students applauded after a drawing lesson using pumpkins and gourds. Her “art studio” at Archdale Elementary School is stocked with various subjects such as music, art and theater. A report by Americans for the Arts indicated that participation in art activities don’t just spill over into academic achievement. Young people who participate regularly in the arts — three hours a day, three days each week throughout the year — are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair, or to win an award for writing an essay or poem, than children who do not participate.

Mintel fosters the students’ ability to collaborate — a skill they don’t often use with other subjects. Children who learn to work together at a young age gain a skill that will serve them well, regardless of their chosen career.

She believes art should be fun and accessible. Mintel explained, “Given the opportunity, students can take an idea and run with it. You don’t even know that they can do that.”

Staff writer Debbie Hightower may be reached at dhightower@archdaletrinitynews.com or 336-683-3578.