Students at John Lawrence Elementary School painted rocks on which they put inspirational words during Random Acts of Kindness week. Pictured here, first-grade students Jayden Yanez, left, and Gavin Skipper retrieve their rocks from a box held by their teacher, Robin Coggins, before secretly entering Leah Redding’s fourth-grade class to hide them.

Kindness rocks
at John Lawrence Elementary

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

Students at John Lawrence Elementary School became RAKtivists during Random Acts of Kindness week held last month.

According to School Counselor Shannon Freeman, the kindness-filled week gave students a chance to learn and put into practice positive character attributes.

Each day students and staff focused on a different word, its definition and examples of ways that the students could put them into practice with their peers, family and others in the community. Attributes included Acceptance, Gratitude, Encouragement, Courtesy and Patience.

Second-graders brought in colorful circles on which they documented their kind acts at school, at home and out in the community. The collected papers were displayed on a “gumball machine” in the second-grade hallway.

“I helped my mom with my new baby brother,” wrote Claire.

On Courtesy Day, students in first-grade teacher Robin Coggins’ classroom tried to do something nice for someone else and then describe their endeavors during a morning journaling session.

“I sat with a new person at lunch,” wrote Hunter.

As part of the RAK celebration students painted rocks in art class which they decorated with inspirational words that included hope, gratitude and love.

While Leah Redding’s...
ROCKS FROM THE FRONT PAGE

fourth-grade class was in the cafeteria, and first-graders in Coggins’ class hid the inspirational rocks in their classroom.

Said Coggins, “We have a lot of children here who don’t have to practice random acts of kindness. It comes natural to them.”

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