Reading Camp engages students

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — More than 180 students from five area elementary schools were hoping to punch their ticket to the next grade during Reading Camp held recently at Trinity Elementary School.

Assistant Principal Justin Pugh was excited about the elite lineup of Reading Camp staff members, which included exceptional children’s teachers Christina Pond and Nicole Nelson; AIG teacher Amy Eads; reading specialists Renee Faircloth and Tabitha Bentley; and Assistant Principal Maria Broos.

Pugh also voiced his appreciation for a shipment of brand-new books from Randolph County Schools specifically for use during the 2017 Reading Camp session. In addition to providing the books RC educators whipped up a brand new curriculum.

“Angela Harris at Randolph County Schools, along with K-5 literacy team spent a lot of time coming up with a new curriculum this year,” said Pugh. “The lesson plans for each day are engaging and really kept them moving around throughout the day.”

Pugh wasn’t the only one excited. One third-grader in Hopewell Elementary School teacher Jill Burgess’ group was especially enthusiastic about Reading Camp.

“We get to do something called Three Passages,’ she said. “One was about a giraffe, one was about the solar system and the third one was The Emperor’s New Clothes. Sometimes we do Brain Break. It’s fun coming to this school.”

SEE CAMP/PAGE 13
CAMP

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

After picking up lunch in the cafeteria, which provides lunch to other area children Monday through Thursday, Burgess’ class enjoyed a picnic outside.

During the three-week curriculum participants participated in daily activities that included Reader’s Theater and poetry performances.

Trindale Elementary first-grade teacher Kim Morgan explained that she enjoys the opportunity to work with smaller groups of students at Reading Camp.

“They enjoy it ... it’s a little more laid back. The small class size is a big plus.”

In working with her group Bentley gave her students choices about what to read.

During daily theater readings students took turns spending a moment in the spotlight to perform plays and read poems for their group. Bentley also took time to incorporate elements of fun.

She said real camp like experiences were being incorporated for the students, “We are reading and singing campfire songs and stories.

“Reading is a long process for many of our students,” she continued. “There are many, many small skills that impact read-

Reading Camp was to improve their reading lexile level but, whether or not they attended, educators recommend that students continue reading each day over the summer.

“Kids need to keep up their learning and reading over the summer to keep them from losing what they have learned,” said Morgan.

“Summer camp is a great way to reinforce reading skills. We want our children to love reading and enjoy it! Reading books can take us places we may never be able to go. I do feel the extra time is beneficial for them and will help them when they go to the next grade in August.”

Staff writer Debbie Hightower may be reached at dhightower@atnonline.