When I grow up I want to be …

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

ARCHDALE — It’s never too early to think about careers. That’s just what students at Trindale Elementary School thought as 12 volunteers exposed third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students to careers such as an engineer, police officer, nurse and vitamin salesman.

The students prepared questions to ask professionals, such as what sparked a desire to choose that job, if there was any special clothing or equipment required, how much education or training they received and what they like about their job.

Student visitors were surprised when Lt. Christie McCorquodale and Sgt. Amy Thayer of Randolph County Emergency Services told them emergency dispatchers work holidays, weekends and never close.

Sgt. Jim Sparks of Randolph County Sheriff’s Office said he became a law enforcement officer because he wanted to help people.

“If you want to learn about things you should read books,” he said. “The more books you read the smarter you’ll get.”

Trindale school guidance counselor Erin Starr said this is the second year the school has held a career fair.

A landscape supervisor for the City of High Point, Alan Sparks was one of 12 volunteers who talked about their careers with third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students who visited the Career Fair in the Trindale Media Center.

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“That really seems to motivate them to find out about some jobs that they wouldn’t encounter on a daily basis,” she said.

“At career day it was a very fun experience,” wrote third-grade student Thu Vu afterwards. “My favorite was probably the Cake Wizard because I want to be an artist and I like decorating things. You can ask questions there about different jobs. There were also school nurses and police officers.

“I hope when you get in third-grade you will enjoy career day,”

Career Fair presenter Preston Clevton explains to student participant Khasif Khan how his job as a city planner relates to world geography.

The Career Fair gave students exposure to careers they wouldn’t normally encounter. Here, a student takes notes as she talks with Sergeant Jim Sparks of Randolph County Sheriff’s Office.

“It’s giving your arm a little hug,” said nurse Sharon Heimly as she explained the purpose of a blood pressure cuff. Many students recognized the school nurse who takes care of students at Trindale and Trinity elementary schools and Trinity High School.