Wheatmore High School students write, Hopewell Elementary students read

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — Having their own books at home is the key to student literacy, but what if the books they need are in Spanish?

Students in Lisa Mishoe’s Spanish 3 class at Wheatmore High School came up with the only logical solution — a do-it-yourself writing project.

Recently they did just that, delivering 500 copies of student-made titles to students in Hopewell Elementary School Spanish immersion classes.

Kylee King and Khali Winningham had never written a book before they collaborated to produce “un nuevo para sombrero Senior Bacon.”

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Kaleigh Moore, left, was one of about 25 Wheatmore High School Spanish students who visited Hopewell Elementary School to distribute books to Spanish-immersion students there. Moore’s original title in Spanish is about an elephant who is a secret agent.

Photo by Debbie Hightower
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“We made them on the My Story Book Creator,” said Winningham. It was a labor of love according to King who added, “It took so many hours — like about two days.”

As Senora Elizabeth Barrios introduced the class, Wheatmore High School teacher Kelly Ivey explained the reason for their visit. “We have some books for you,” she said. “Yes!” exclaimed Gavin McPherson. Each student received their own package with multiple titles to take home.

Authors Kelli Morgan and Gabby Wishon co-read their title “ El cerdo que jugaba basquetbol,” Ivey quizzed members of the class as to its meaning. “What do you think was the main idea,” she asked them. “It was about a pig who played basketball,” said Haley Hicks. “How can a pig play basketball?” Hopewell Elementary is the only school in the area with a Spanish immersion program. During their recent encounter, it was difficult to tell who was more proficient in the Spanish language — students in Andrea Gil’s second-grade Spanish immersion class or the Wheatmore High School Spanish 3 students.

Some of the Wheatmore High School students who visited Hopewell Elementary School last week had never written books at all, much less in Spanish. Students in Lisa Mishoe’s Spanish 3 class who collaborated to make their own original title included Kylee King and Kahlia Winningham.

Each student in Andrea Gil’s second-grade Spanish immersion class received their own pack of books made by Wheatmore students to take home. This eager student couldn’t wait to start reading them.

Students in Andrea Gil’s second-grade Spanish immersion class played a game with their Wheatmore High School guests. Jillian Wolfe and Easton Dewitt lead a guessing game for which the answer was the Spanish word “queso,” which means cheese.

The books helped to promote literacy and Spanish language for students from both schools. Here, Estafani Moreno draws the attention of Eli Bailey when she reads her original title “Juanito el pirata.”

Even more important than the books was the friendship that developed between the Wheatmore and Hopewell students. Shown are new friends Hannah Pevne, left, and Jessica Garcia.