

A festive night for elementary, middle school students

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ROANOKE RAPIDS — William R. Davie Middle and Everetts Elementary schools teamed up Friday night to bring back the Winter Festival for the community at the school.

The festival consisted of games and activities for students.

William R. Davie Middle School Principal Pamela Chamblee said it was a unique way to give kids from both schools a chance to interact and have fun.

“This is an opportunity to give the kids on both sides an opportunity to come together and get to know each other a little better, and improve their socialization skills,” she said. “This is also a good outing and opportunity for the parents to mingle with the teachers outside of a parent conference.”

Chamblee said since Everetts Elementary School was housed within William R. Davie Middle School, the children ride buses together and live in the same neighborhood. It is about bringing all the children under one roof, she said.

“We want the middle-grade students to serve as role models for the elementary students,” Chamblee said. “We want them to get to know who each other is and to increase their social and emotional skills.”

Everetts Elementary School Principal Medicus Riddick said this was the first year both schools worked together for the event.

“They started it a while back and then they had two or three years that they were off and didn’t have it,” he said. “This year when I came on board, I decided — since I had done something similar at my previous school — I gave the suggestion of the two schools getting together to collaborate putting it on.”

Riddick said the focus was to try and pull in the community and to be more involved with the schools.

Eighth grade math teacher Reddick Patrick operated a game station, where children picked a rubber duck with a number on the bottom to win a prize.

“We have face-painting, we have a cake walk, we have a raffle, we have candy drive, we have a pool of ducks, we have all sorts of things going on here,” he said. “I like seeing the kids having fun, because they don’t get a lot of chances to get this kind of excitement from the community.”

Everetts Elementary School third grader Markeyon Bellamy said he came in fourth place for selling the most tickets.

“I liked the game where you throw the fishing line over the board and playing basketball,” he said.

Bellamy said his favorite teacher was his reading teacher Marvelee Marsh.

“She is nice to me, she teaches me, and she is a very good teacher,” he said. “She mostly teaches reading because reading is the thing that helps you pass your grade.”

Chamblee said she wanted to show appreciation for the parents and community for coming out to the event.

“We have food that was donated, and of course people volunteered their time, and that really means a lot,” she said. “Hopefully this is just the start of a continuation of a beginning of a mentoring effort with our kids.”

This is not the only event in the works, according to Riddick. He said the elementary school is looking to do a Spring Festival as well as a May Day in the coming months.