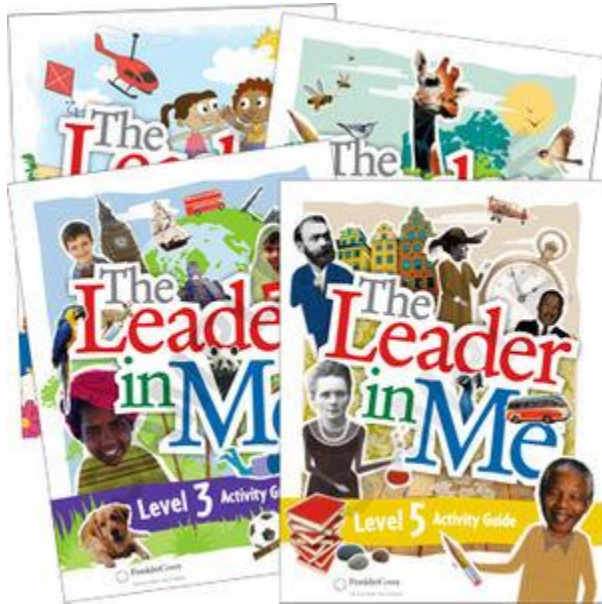


Cherokee Elementary showcases leaders

C and G Newspapers

By Thomas Franz✉

🕒 Posted March 30, 2016



CLINTON TOWNSHIP — As part of a three-day symposium hosted by FranklinCovey Education at Macomb Community College, approximately 60 educators from across the country paid a visit to Cherokee Elementary School on March 22 to learn about the school’s “Leader in Me” program.

Cherokee Principal Lynn Mair said the visit gave the school an opportunity to show how it implements leadership practices through instruction.

“The program has really become the basis for everything we do as a building,” Mair said. “It’s really building those leadership skills so students are engaged and empowered in their learning. It’s so they have those collaboration and academic skills because that’s a big focus for goal setting, so that they can turn around and be contributing members in society.”

Cherokee, which is in its second year of being a Leader in Me school, was one of eight schools selected throughout metro Detroit to host visitors as part of the symposium. Erie Elementary, another Chippewa Valley school that has been a Leader in Me building for three years, was also selected.

The symposium also included several guest speakers and breakout sessions for educators to share their ideas on leadership in schools.

At Cherokee, Mair said her students presented on different topics based on their grade level.

Kindergarten students presented on leadership in math. First-graders discussed being a family of leaders, and second-graders gave presentations on literacy. Third-graders discussed their specials classes, like music or art, while fourth- and fifth-graders talked about being leaders today and tomorrow, Mair said.

“We really used what we’ve learned through training and developing a common language, by reaching out to families in the community, to embed these practices,” Mair said.

“It is our mission to aspire to be great and be an inspiration to others, and the kids talked today about how they believe in themselves and they believe in the greatness of others, that there’s greatness in each of us, to achieve their own goals and help others achieve theirs, and help lead to a better tomorrow.”

Mair added that the school spent last year setting the culture for implementing the Leader in Me program. This year, the school has implemented programs such as WIGS (Wildly Important Goals) and HATS (Helping All to Succeed).

“This year has been a very big empowerment year for embedding the habits in goal setting,” Mair said.

To further promote goal setting, Cherokee students use leadership binders to track success and goals, and those binders are shared with parents by the students during collaborative conferences with teachers.

“We’ve really had an opportunity to share those with our families and help our students along that way,” Mair said.

While spending the morning of the Leader in Me visits discussing those programs with visitors, Mair also mentioned an increase in fundraising by students during an annual fundraiser for the American Heart Association. In three years of the fundraiser, Cherokee has gone from donating \$2,300 in the first year to \$9,600 this year.

“They’re empowered and want to make a difference,” Mair said.

For more information on the Leader In Me program, visit www.leaderinme.org.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Thomas Franz covers Macomb Township, Chippewa Valley Schools and the Macomb County Board of Commissioners for the Macomb Township Chronicle. He also covers sports primarily for the Shelby-Utica News. He has worked for C & G Newspapers since 2013 and attended Michigan State University.
