

# The Robbins Elementary Fourth Grade Students Are Advocates for Pets!

(Barbara Ross, Vice President, PRC)

The Robbins Elementary School fourth graders recently completed 6 weeks of lessons about pet responsibility and advocacy taught by volunteers from the Moore County Citizens' Pet Responsibility Committee (PRC). On March 9th, all of the classes gathered for a Pet Responsibility Celebration Assembly. Throughout the classes and during the Assembly the students were attentive listeners and eager learners.



Hillary and Journey

In Lesson 2, the students learned about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets. They were asked to write "Speuter" stories about why they wanted their pets to be spayed or neutered. Nine students submitted excellent stories and received a framed certificate, a paw print medallion dog tag and an activity book, 'Animal Rescue'. The families of these students were invited to attend the Assembly. The parents were all very, very proud of their students.

During the Assembly, Speuter, the Pet Responsibility Mascot, shared the story about her life as a stray cat. She was rescued by a caring family and is now an advocate, telling others to spread the word about the importance of being responsible and of spaying and neutering pets.

Kadence and Benjamin received vouchers for the Sandhills Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic for their own pets. Others who, either did not have a pet, or have had their pets spayed or neutered already, will be ADVOCATES by giving the voucher to a friend or family member for their pet. These students were Bennett, Serena, Bree,

Robert, Nicole, Rubicela and Thomas.

Eleven students were recognized for submitting great artwork and excellent messages on Clinic Bags (to be used by the Sandhills Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic in Vass for medication and information).



Winners of the Clinic Bag Awards



They each received an art sketch pad and colored pencils.

There were two very special guests at the Assembly, Hillary Gonzales and her service dog, Journey. Hillary is a Veterinary Technician at Carthage Animal Hospital.



Students signing The Promise

She shared information about how Journey, as a service dog, is different from a therapy dog. Journey alerts Ms. Gonzales to her diabetes medication needs. Ms. Gonzales also talked about her career as a “vet tech”. She demonstrated how veterinarians ‘examine’ pets.

At the end of the Assembly, all the students signed the Pet Responsibility “Promise” . . . to be responsible, kind and to be an advocate for animals. All students received goody bags that included a Pet Responsibility bookmark, Pet Responsibility sticker, pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener and candy: Life Saver, Kit Kat Bar, and a Hershey’s Kiss. Each piece of candy has a special meaning!

Ms. Laurita and 4th grade teachers, Mses. Salyer, Galloway and Cruz, each received St. Patrick Day flowers as a thank you for sharing their students with the Pet Responsibility team and for being



Bill Russell with Fleece and Fourth Graders

so welcoming and supportive of the Pet Responsibility program.

The Robbins students learned a lot and are now prepared to tell others about being responsible pet owners!

PRC volunteer Bill Russell, who presented the program to one of the fourth grade classes, shared with

them his journey to have his dog, Fleece, certified as a therapy dog. Fleece was certified after the program ended and Bill brought her back to the school to meet the students.

For more information or to volunteer for the PRC, visit [www.mcprc.org](http://www.mcprc.org)

*Contributed by Angela Zumwalt*  
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mittee

Photos by Mary Ann Root

## Speuter Story Contest Winners

