

McLean County Unit District No.5
1809 West Hovey Avenue
Normal, IL 61761-4339

Office of the Superintendent

Ph.: (309) 452-4476
FAX: (309) 452-7418

Focus on Students

Nothing can compare with the spirit of children, the compassion of children, or the commitment of children. Recently 5 fifth-grade gifted students from Carlock were faced with the challenge of designing and implementing a leadership project. The assignment had them looking at leaders in history to determine common characteristics, defining their own leadership qualities, and required that they create and implement a project that would help others. Their classroom teacher, Mrs. Decker, had recently visited Africa as part of the Carlock Danvers Growing Project and arranged for a speaker to talk with her fifth-grade gifted students about the lack of available reading materials for the children in Zambia. This spurred Tyler Becker, B.J. Koebel, Jacob Kokotek, Eddie Koranek, and Kirsten Whitaker into action.

The students decided to hold a book fair in conjunction with their school winter music program. They contacted the Scholastic Book Company and made arrangements for the books to be delivered. Once the books arrived, this small band of fifth graders joined IMC Specialist, Pat Romance at 7:30 A.M. Tuesday, December 14 to set up the displays. They assisted Mrs. Romance in selling the books the night of the winter program and stayed until 9 P.M. to make sure the money was counted and books were in order for additional sales the next day. The students were at school until 4:45P.M. again the following day to hand-pick the books to be sent to Africa, help load up the Scholastic Book displays, and get their library back in order.

This small group of students raised money to purchase \$1550 worth of books, and received a matching donation of books from the Scholastic Book Company. This report might better be titled a Great News Report! It is great news for the children in Zambia, great news for this group of students, and great news for the Carlock community. Congratulations and thank you to Tyler Becker, B.J. Koebel, Jacob Kokotek, Eddie Koranek, and Kirsten Whitaker for their initiative and their real understanding and demonstration of leadership. An additional thank you goes to Mrs. Romance who went above and beyond our expectations in her work on this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Greene
Director of Elementary Education

"Educating each student to achieve personal excellence."