



Submitted photo

Fifth-grader Hallie Meyer recently discovered these signs posted in her yard as a reward for learning her addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts at Trindale Elementary School. In addition to the signs, Hallie was honored at school with a briefcase full of board games and items for a celebration with her family.

# Trindale celebrates math masters

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

ARCHDALE — Trindale Elementary School fifth-grader Hallie Meyer, 10, was ecstatic when she returned home one afternoon to find a sign proclaiming a tremendous achievement in her front yard.

"I tried, I practiced I refused to fail. I mastered my math facts at the Dale!" Just before she left school, five

teachers honored her achievement of learning addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts. Hallie was presented a briefcase full of items to support a family celebration of her achievements.

Brooke Barham, an AIG (Academically and Intellectually Gifted) teacher at Trindale was inspired to create the incentive program as the school year began.

"Whenever we started this Mr. Henderson said, 'We are going big,' " Barham said. "With the help of all the other staff we implemented this program in third, fourth and fifth grade to help and encourage children to master all of their math facts."

Principal Todd Henderson took it over the top by ordering the large

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sign plus smaller neon math "signs" to award students' achievements. As each child proved their mastery of the benchmark he delivered and posted the signs to their address.

Hallie is student council president and a good student, but her mom Kimberly Meyer was super-proud of her latest achievement.

"The nice surprise in the yard was the recognition for doing a really great job at Trindale," said Meyer. "I think anything to make learning fun is pretty cool. She just couldn't believe it. You couldn't miss it. People saw it and asked her about it. I think it was such a neat way to give recognition to children."

The award briefcase contained board games, popcorn and a cake mix. Hallie made the cake herself and garnished the

top with sprinkles in the shape of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division signs.

Barham believes that acquiring math facts is a basic skill that will follow students throughout their education.

"Learning their math facts reduces the possibility of careless mistakes in everything," said Barham. "Instead of children counting on their fingers, they know that 7 plus 6 is 13. The more they do it the better they are going to be at it. I think that the kids have really been motivating and encouraging each other. A lot of students have stepped up their game to get to the point where they get it."

Jezer Gomez was the first fifth grader to be so honored. In all, 15 students at Trindale Elementary School have earned rock star status through the Math Facts program.

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