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GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Literacy celebrated at Littleville!

Huntington – Littleville Elementary School students, staff and families highlighted their focus on literacy last week with a Family Literacy Night and a ‘pawsome’ school-wide assembly.

On Tuesday, December 5, 70 Littleville families participated in a literacy night based on the books of Jan Brett. The families were able to experience five different activities including decorating gingerbread cookies, creating a family mural, designing a gingerbread house, making a gingerbread game, and listening to a reading of Jan Brett’s “The Gingerbread Baby” read by principal, Megan Coburn. Parent Kristina Cortis said, “Literacy night was amazing! Although Oliver and his friends love Bingo for Books it was so special to have a change this year. Oliver (and every other child I know) enjoyed it tremendously! It was well thought out, organized, original and clever.” Each child was also able to bring home three gently used books to add to their home library.

The next day, 120 students from Littleville Elementary experienced a presentation by Jim Helms and his colleagues from DogPals. The handlers and their dogs showcased their obedience and agility skills. This presentation was an award for completing their November reading log for Littleville’s “Pawsome Reading Challenge.” Students in grades K-5 who completed their required reading for grades K-5th, were able to watch the dogs perform and then were taught how to meet and greet a dog. Dog varieties included an Australian Shepard, Newfoundland, Standard Poodle and Pembroke Corgi, the students learned about the breeds and the jobs that they do. The Newfoundland, a big, black, drooly, gentle pup who is a working dog, has been trained to rescue people in trouble in water, pull boats back to shore and she even pulled a cart of Christmas trees this past weekend! One student, Zach Still said, “The dogs were so cute! It was cool to see Cooper, the Australian Shepard, jump through the hoop.” Another student, Sophia DeBarge said, “I liked the fluffy black dog especially when she tried to weave through the poles!” Students and staff alike enjoyed the show and hope to keep completing the challenge to see other dog presentations organized by the literacy team at Littleville Elementary.

Littleville students are taking part in a yearlong ‘Pawsome Reading Challenge’ and are working hard to complete monthly reading goals. Every student received a chain necklace during the kickoff last fall, and they earn charms to add to their ‘dog tags’ as they read. The reading challenge was funded by the Gateway Education Foundation through an application written by literacy teachers Gail Gingras and Margaret Petzold.

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(Photos below)
Photos: (top) – the Wright family had fun creating and playing a Gingerbread board game at Family Literacy Night. (below): Jackson Renaud visits with Jim Helms and “Cooper”.