

NEWS RELEASE

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Arlington (March 4, 2015) – Second grade teachers, Ms. Bonds, Mrs. Donaldson, Mrs. Neilson and Mrs. Stringer at Presidents Elementary found creative ways to teach students the district social studies learning standards. The standards for second grade include being able to describe the connection between families and the whole community; describe the geography of their community; explain communities and how to be a good citizen; explain about government within a community; the importance of leaders; and how one person can change the community.

On two separate occasions, Mayor Barb Tolbert and Superintendent Dr. Kristine McDuffy were invited to speak to all of the second graders about their job, how they serve the Arlington community and even some personal information. The students were polite and very focused while listening to both speakers.

Following the presentation, several students in each class were chosen to ask some great questions. When asked what one of her favorite parts of her job is, Mayor Tolbert said she enjoys working on projects like developing local parks that our community uses. At the end of her time with the children, Mayor Tolbert asked the second graders who would like to be a mayor some day. Of course, they all raised their hands!

Both speakers were asked about how they run school board and city council meetings so they could better understand the procedures and what is accomplished in those meetings. The students were also curious about the offices where the mayor and superintendent work. Dr. McDuffy invited the children to take a tour of the district office in the coming weeks so they could see her office. Each class was given a tour through the district office to see the department locations and learn about the responsibilities of those departments.

The students were excited to learn that both Mayor Tolbert and Dr. McDuffy mentioned Monopoly as one of their favorite board games. When Dr. McDuffy was asked, "What things are impossible about your job?" her reply was, "I don't think of things being impossible; some things are just harder to accomplish than others." This was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn first hand about their own community leaders.

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