

# A day for the dr. of kids' reading

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**HARVEYS LAKE** - Lake-Noxen Elementary School students weren't sure how many candles would be on the giant "Cat in the Hat" cake if Dr. Seuss were in their cafeteria to join the celebration marking his birthday.

"I think he's 62," said Chris Barbacci.

"No, it's 75, or 86 or something like that," said Josh Roberts.

Fortunately, students didn't have to know the exact age of America's most renowned children's author to enjoy the special day. "I'm not sure how old he is but I know lots of the books he wrote: *One Fish Two Fish, The Foot Book, Green Eggs and Ham* and *I'm Not Going to Get Up Today* are some of them," said Alyssa Boston, a fourth grader, who said she still reads classic Dr. Seuss books along with chapter books. "I think fourth grade is a good age because I like to read them; they rhyme, they're funny and they teach good lessons."

The day's activities marked the culmination of a month-long program designed to foster a child's enthusiasm for reading. "Throughout February the kids were encouraged to read books at home as a part of Read Across America," said

Kathy Becker, who coordinated the Dr. Seuss day fun.

"Our first graders also participated in the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program, where they get to read for 10 minutes a day for a week and then at the end of the week they may choose to keep one of the books they've read."

A total of 62 students participated in the RIF program this year and the books were donated by UGI Corporation, said Becker. "Programs like RIF, Read Across America and Dr. Seuss Day promote reading in a way the kids can appreciate," she said.

Adults dressed in costumes portraying characters from Dr. Seuss's cherished tales, *The Cat in the Hat* and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, helped make the books come to life. The story book creatures played pranks on the students as they ate a lunch of green eggs and ham. "It was pretty good, actually," said Tyler McDonald about his afternoon meal. "But the cake was the best part."

While most of the students agreed the unusual treat was the highlight of the party, the grown-ups knew Dr. Seuss would have been most pleased to see the joyous faces of Lake-Noxen students as they listened to stories read by parents and volunteers who visited the school.

LAKE-NOXEN PHOTOS BY KASIA McDONOUGH  
DALLAS PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

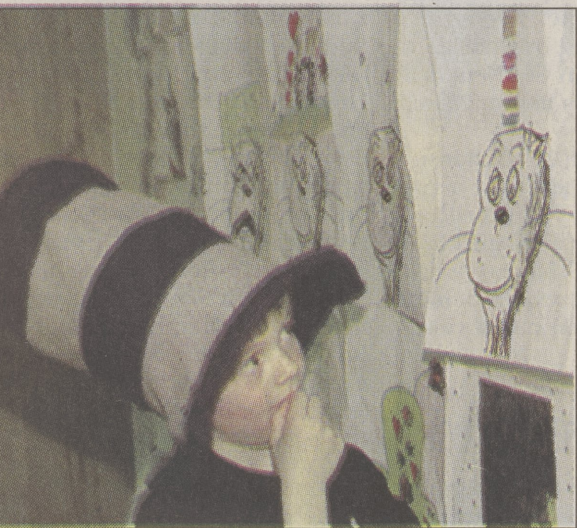


Clockwise from left: Tyler McDonald and Cody Lamoreaux enjoy a lunch of green eggs and ham while the Grinch has a little fun; Takowa May was all smiles as she sampled green eggs for the first time; Lake-Noxen students greeted the Cat in the Hat enthusiastically. Seated from left: Amy Heindel, the Cat in the Hat (Mrs. Dianne Heindel) and Shane Stark. Standing: Matthew Meletsky, Dillon Chewey, Joseph Chase and Jessica Butzink; Mrs. Sue Yogodzinski, a Lake-Noxen teacher, gets a pat on the back from the Grinch, who was played by her husband John.



'Tux' pays visit to Dallas Elementary

Carley Tomko knelt down to get a better look at the books.



Chad Oswald was fascinated by a wall of Cats in the Hats.



Tux, the mascot for the Wilkes-Barre Penguins, came along to entertain the two fourth grade classes, which gathered in Mrs. Cooper's classroom for the event.



Parents got into the act, too. Sylvia Maas, left, and Trudy Clemens.

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