

Spooky way to teach math

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Halloween proved to be a little spookier for students in one teacher's math class this year.

Luanne Foltz, a tribal member and math teacher at Jefferson County Middle School, created her annual "haunted classroom" for students in her seventh grade level math classes.

Foltz said she started the haunted classroom in the late 1990s.

"Halloween is my favorite holiday," she explained. "I like to see students being surprised or scared. All the faces with smiles are fun to watch."

Plus, she said, "I want my students to enjoy math and to see that they can still have fun while they are doing math."

Seventh grade student Inez Jones, 12, said, "It's like all math stuff. We look for different things like how many eyes are in spaghetti."

Fellow student Colton Stevens, 12, said the event helped break up the monotony of his day.

"It's way different," Stevens explained. "All my other classes all I did was just work."

In addition, Stevens said it shows students that "School is not always boring."

Twelve-year-old Chance Davies said, "I thought it was pretty cool."

"Even though you're suppose to go around getting the questions, you still get scared," Davies said.

According to Brittany Stevens, 13, "It was awesome. Ms. Foltz is always awesome, but today was awesome."

Mario Medrano, 13, said the experience of Ms. Foltz' haunted classroom was unforgettable.

"I think it was cool because you could feel the excitement," Medrano said. "When you walked in there you lived an experience that you'll never forget."

During the class period, Foltz said, each student was asked to complete 20 questions dealing with areas like estimation, measurement, adding, subtractions, fractions, geography and a few that were just for fun.

But Foltz definitely doesn't want to take all the credit for spooking her students.

"I have been very lucky in the past," Foltz said. "I have a few great volunteers—Jabbar Davis and Butch David—that have come in to help scare the students and supervise the classroom so that everything would run smoothly and the students have more fun."

Plus, Foltz said, she has eighth grade students that come in to help because they know what happens from being in class the year before.

This year's volunteers all agreed that the best part is scar-



Leslie Mitts photos



Top: Shaiandra Saunders and Marella Van Pelt in Ms. Foltz' haunted classroom.
Bottom: Mario Medrano, Colton Stevens, Brittany Stevens, Inez Jones and Chance Davies each said the class was more fun than normal classes.

ing students.

Dimitri Dillard, Anthony Stacona, Abby Scott and Bobby Ahern all helped out this year by hiding in the classroom and scare students as they made their way through the haunted classroom.

Some students even helped decorate the night before.

According to Scott, "This is a really cool thing to do."

Dillard said certain classes were better than others, and especially if the students were particularly scared.

"They wanted to have fun," he explained.

The eighth grade students also had the opportunity to scare the principals at one point during the day—something they described as the highlight.

According to 12-year-old Shaiandra Saunders, the classroom was definitely scary.

"I was scared," she said—especially when a person dressed as a skeleton started chasing her,

Saunders added.

Fellow seventh grade student Clea Ibrahim said those involved definitely worked hard to scare the students:

"Hands come out from under the tables and grab your feet," she said.

Marella Van Pelt, 12, said the classroom was only partly scary.

"It's pretty scary," she explained. "It's pretty cool, I'd have to say, and scary at the same time."

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