




THE CHARGER NEWS

The News of West Noble Elementary School

November 2022: Issue #3



Feature	Parent University	Teacher Highlight
 Abbey and Daisy	 Pumpkins	 Mrs. Johnson

Ruff, Ruff: It's Abbey and Daisy

By Kenia Flores, Kyly Chiddister, and Juliana Casillas- Riegsecker

Ligonier - They run around school and cheer students up. When students are feeling down they are there to bring a smile to their faces.

Abbey, a 9 year-old golden retriever, and Daisy, a 1 ½ year-old mini goldendoodle, are two four legged friends who have become very special for students and staff at West Noble Elementary School.

Jane Kidulas, a third grade teacher at West Noble Elementary School, is Abbey's mom. She said Abbey is West Noble School Corporation's first dog.

"Abbey has been coming to West Noble Elementary since she was six months old," said Kidulas. "She first started coming just as a visit at 6 months and then as a three year-old she started coming once a week."

For the last two years, Abbey has been coming to West Noble Elementary every day.

Brenda Yoder, a third grade teacher at West Noble Elementary School and Daisy's mom, said Daisy initially started

coming a few times to her classroom as a reward for her students and then came more days. She has been coming full time since last January.

Kidulas and Yoder agreed that having Abbey and Daisy at school helps the students and staff.

Kidulas said that after she initially brought Abbey a few times she noticed the mood of students and staff changed.

"Students and co-workers would ask me when Abbey was gonna come back," said Kidulas. "They liked having her at school."

Kidulas said she considers Abbey to be a therapy dog. She has had several years of training, including one year of kindergarten class and three years of obedience training.

"Abbey comes to help kids," said Kidulas. "She has never been a therapy dog outside of the school setting. She is only familiar with being at school with kids."

Unlike Abbey, Daisy has not received any training. She has only been trained



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Abbey, left, and Daisy, right, sit in front of their moms. West Noble Elementary third grade teachers Jane Kidulas, left, stands behind Abbey and Brenda Yoder, right, stands behind Daisy.

at home by Yoder and her daughter, and by learning from Abbey at school. Yoder considers Daisy to be more of a behavioral support animal.

"Usually a teacher borrows Daisy to help a student in class with behavior

Abbey and Daisy continued on page 2

Students, parents, and pumpkins



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Third grade student Ethan Reyes and his mother, Alma Reyes, decorate a foam pumpkin during Parent University.

By Ashley Flores, and Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Ligonier - Pumpkins, pumpkins, and more pumpkins. That was the theme of the first Parent University event for the year at West Noble Elementary

School

The event, which took place Monday, October 17, was full of fun activities for students and their parents.

West Noble Elementary Instructional Coach Brenda Custer said since West Noble Elementary School is a Title 1 school it is required to have these events.

"We have to have these events twice a year, so we decided to make them more fun," said Custer. "We want them to be a time where students and parents learn and have fun".

Students and parents had the opportunity to walk around to different stations. They could participate in several activities that included decorating

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Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Johnson

By Maria Murillo, Aileen Hernandez, and Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Ligonier - For the last 38 years Susan Johnson has enjoyed seeing the smiles on her students' faces, but this will be the last year as she is retiring at the end of the school year.

As Johnson, who is a second grade teacher at West Noble Elementary School, speaks about working with children, it produces a lot of emotions along with some tears.

"I didn't know I was going to be this emotional," said Johnson. "I guess it has been a long time, 38 years".

Johnson's teaching career began 38 years ago at St.

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Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Johnson counts Jordan Alswadeh's money during store time. Every Friday students turn their money earned during the week and can purchase items.

Joseph Hessen Cassel Catholic School in Fort Wayne. She was a second and third grade teacher there for five years.

Then she moved to Noble County and began working at

Day of the Dead



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Top photo, West Noble Elementary School students dress as The Day of the Dead Catrinas during Halloween. Bottom photo, students who participated in the Day of the Dead contest are shown with their prizes.

Abbey and Daisy from page 1 issues,” said Yoder.

Yoder said there was a student who was struggling with getting on the bus and the teacher used Daisy to help the student feel comfortable getting on the bus.

Abbey, just like Daisy, has also been helpful for students. Kidulas said she helped a student overcome his fear of dogs.

“There was a student who was afraid of dogs,” said Kidulas. “He would scream when he saw Abbey, but as we slowly kept introducing her, he came to love her. In just a few days the student would seek her out.”

Abbey and Daisy love coming to school, according to Yoder and Kidulas.

Yoder said Daisy knows when it’s time to go to school and she

is ready to leave.

As for Abbey, Kidulas said Abbey has a routine. She said at second dismissal Abbey starts barking in the hallway.

“She barks like crazy and I can’t get her to stop”, said Kidulas. “I don’t know if she is saying goodbye. I think that is her way of telling the students goodbye.”

Abbey and Daisy are not only good with students and staff, but also with each other.

“Their personalities are opposites on the spectrum,” said Yoder. “Abbey will just go by and people can pet her and Daisy likes to cuddle and is very affectionate. Although they are different they really like each other. They always play around with each other every chance they get.”

Teacher Spotlight from page 1

West Noble Primary - which at that time was named Ligonier Elementary. After the corporation schools realigned she moved to West Noble Elementary. Between working at both schools she has a total of 33 years teaching at West Noble Schools.

She is now a second grade teacher, but she has also been a first grade teacher, an LLI teacher, Reading Recovery teacher, and a Title I teacher.

Johnson said she wanted to be a teacher because she loves children.

“I have always wanted to make a difference in children’s lives, to be a positive influence for them, and to be able to build relationships with them,” said Johnson. “I hope I have

made a difference in my students lives.”

Johnson said she has enjoyed watching students learn new things.

“It has made me very excited to see their ‘Aha moments’ when they understand a skill,” said Johnson.

Johnson said West Noble has been a wonderful place to work at.

“My coworkers, at the primary and elementary, have been very loving and caring and have become family,” said Johnson. “The staff has always been very supportive. I will miss them.”

After she retires, Johnson plans to spend more time with her grandchildren, travel, sew and volunteer in the community.

CHARGER CHAMPIONS



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Students were recently selected as Charger Champions for the month of September for demonstrating kindness and respect. Second graders are in the top photo, third graders in the middle photo, and fourth graders in the bottom photo.

Halloween Celebration



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Teachers and staff selected costume winners for each category. All the students selected had their name placed in a bucket. An overall winner was selected for each category. Winners from left to right, Emiliano Guzman, Baylee Bernard, Bethany Bovee, Annabelle Bronsing, and Yarence Padilla.

Parent University from page 1

a pumpkin, coloring a book with the life cycle of a pumpkin, and counting with pumpkin seeds.

One of the stations that students and parents could participate in was skip counting with pumpkin seeds.

Zayden Shaw, a second grade student in Mrs. Johnson’s class, participated in this activity, with his mother, and was counting by 2’s.

“This is easy, counting by 2’s,” said Shaw. “But, it’s going to get harder because I also have to count by 5’s”.

Decorating a foam

pumpkin was another station parents and students could participate in.

Third grade student Ethan Reyes, who is in Mrs. Farkas’ classroom, and his mother, Alma Reyes, really enjoyed doing that activity together.

Reyes said doing the activity with her son was very nice, but that she also enjoyed the whole event.

“This event is great,” said Reyes. “This allows me to spend some time alone with my son because since he has other brothers it is hard for me to have alone time with him.”