

Engineering Better Readers in Briceville welcomes Lt. Governor

Staff Reports

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It is that time of year again — time for Briceville Elementary School's Engineering Better Readers program to kick-off another year of reading to achieve success.

This year marks the third year Briceville Elementary School has participated in the Engineering Better Readers program, a nationwide program where a select number of schools are involved in an incentive to read type program to encourage school-age children to become avid readers at an early age.

The EBR program kick-off this year was on Friday, Jan. 13, in the cafeteria at BES

Students in all grade levels listened to guest speakers Lt. Governor Randy

McNally, Representative John D. Ragan, and Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank talk to them about the importance of reading.



Lt. Governor Randy McNally is welcomed by a Briceville Elementary School student during last Friday's "Engineering Better Readers" event. It was McNally's first "public appearance" after being named Lt. Governor Jan. 10. — Submitted

Readers

from 1A

Coal Creek Watershed Foundation Founder and Schnabel Engineer Barry Thacker and his granddaughter Katherine Long—dressed as ‘time-travelers’ Paul Revere and his granddaughter—entertained students with an American history lesson explaining how reading can be an enjoyable, lifelong pastime.

In his first public appearance since being newly appointed as Lt. Governor last week, Randy McNally made a special appearance to the school on Friday to speak to students about what reading can do to help students reach their dreams.

McNally told students that reading impacts every aspect of student’s lives, and said becoming an excellent reader would give them the tools to excel in any future pursuits they wish to endeavor.

Tennessee State Representative John D. Ragan was also a guest speaker. Ragan shared with students his own personal struggles with reading when he was a child learning how to read, and ex-



Briceville students welcomed not only the state’s Lt. Governor Randy McNally, but State Rep. John Ragan and Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, to the schools kickoff of Engineering Better Readers.

plained how he did not let a dyslexia diagnosis get in the way of his dreams to become an engineer, fighter pilot, and state representative.

Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank talked to students

about the difference between intellect and knowledge, and told students reading builds knowledge.

The objective of the EBR program, BES educators explained, is for students to

read books and pass comprehension tests. Students are then rewarded for passing the tests and reading the books. The more books they read, the more students can earn through the program.

Students save their “points” earned through the EBR reward system to purchase prizes. Prizes range from Xboxes, Playstations, tablets, iPods, Legos, scooters, to Nerf balls.

The EBR program is part of

a Schnabel Engineering funding endeavor designed to encourage students to become avid readers with a lifelong interest in reading and learning.