

CCCRA PRESS RELEASE
OCTOBER 12, 2018

Elementary students celebrate National Walk to School Day on Quanassee Path

Over 500 elementary students and staff enjoyed walking a mile on the Quanassee Path during National Walk to School Day on October 10. While a slight drizzle preceded the scheduled time for the walk, the sky cleared and the fourth-grade students led the parade of students through town, then down the hill across from the museum and Cherokee Homestead Exhibit to walk up the hill toward the middle school.

Fourth grade students took turns carrying the “Take the Quanassee Path to Good Health” banner during the walk. The students' enthusiasm was obvious, as described by shop owner Holly Tiger. “The students seemed to be having the best time walking. They were talking, laughing and evidently having a good time.” Other business owners and visitors in town seemed to enjoy seeing so many happy children walking along the sidewalks in downtown Hayesville.

Communities across the United States participated in National Walk to School events, and the hope is that these events will lead to ongoing activities to promote walking throughout the year. Since Hayesville's elementary students are driven to school or come on a bus, the staff determined having the students all walk during the school day was the safest way to participate in this national event.

Actually, school personnel and Clay County Communities Revitalization Association partnered several years ago for the first “Take the Quanassee Path to Good Health” event. CCCRA received a Kate B. Reynolds Foundation grant which funded Quanassee Path enhancements and bookmarks for the students. The banner, which has been carried by students during each walking event along the trail, was supplied by Active Routes to School. The banner inspired a donor to pay for the permanent “Take the Quanassee Path to Good Health” sign located along Hwy. 64 Business. Volunteer Tommy Davis assembled the materials and installed the sign at the Cherokee Botanical Sanctuary entrance.

This year's event was organized by Physical Education teacher Amy Shelton. Computer Lab teacher Kristi Ingram indicated the school is planning to walk to another site along the Quanassee Path in the spring. Ingram said, “Many of the students have never been to Spikebuck Mound and we think it's important for our students to know about their community and what it has to offer.”

The Quanassee Path, developed by CCCRA, is a 2-mile Cherokee history trail that links five sites in Hayesville: Cherokee Homestead Exhibit, Cherokee Botanical Sanctuary, Spikebuck Mound, Cherokee Cultural Center at Moss Library, and the Old Jail Museum. Clay County residents and visitors are encouraged to walk the trail with family and friends, enjoying the scenery and health benefits from walking. Quanassee Path brochures, highlighting the route, may be picked up at the library and local businesses, or downloaded from the CCCRA web site: www.cccra-nc.org.

If you would like to help purchase more bookmarks for the students participating in future QP walking events, you may make a donation by mailing a check to: CCCRA, PO Box 1533, Hayesville, NC 28904 or visit our Web site: www.cccra-nc.org to donate through PayPal. CCCRA

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