

## **CCCRA Press Release**

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### **Hayesville students experience Cherokee culture at Cherokee Homestead Exhibit**

Hayesville Elementary School fourth graders walked through the fog to reach the Cherokee Homestead Exhibit on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> where they came to learn about the Cherokee who lived in the area for thousands of years. Presenters from Clay County Communities Revitalization Association (CCCRA) and the community provided opportunities for students to learn about the Cherokee culture in a variety of fun, interactive activities.

After instruction from Danny Keith, students had the opportunity to throw a rivercane spear at a chunky stone and discovered stickball requires a lot of skill. Learning about the seven clans was fun when the students got to test their knowledge by playing a matching game. The students learned about Cherokee artifacts and symbols depicted on the retention wall at the exhibit while participating in an activity lead by Vicki Beggs.

After learning from Sally Jordan how the Cherokee made their homes out of rivercane and locust poles, the students tried out their weaving skills on platforms made by Jim Glock. Eleanor Moyer taught the students the “three sisters” method of farming by having them act out the roles played by corn, beans and squash in the mound gardens.

A visit to the museum enabled students to identify locations in Clay County that retained their Cherokee names and view artifacts discovered in Clay County. Getting to see the life size basket weaver enhanced this experience. Reba Beck and Ron Wallace invited the students to come back with their parents so they could explore the remaining rooms at the museum.

Fourth grade teacher Keisha McClure commented, “We enjoy coming to the Cherokee Homestead Exhibit each year. The students benefit from learning about the Cherokee through the various activities you provide for them. Thank you from all of us.”

Educational programs at the Cherokee Homestead Exhibit are made possible by donations from CCCRA members and the community. Since 2009, 11,880 students have participated in learning activities provided by CCCRA at the Cherokee Homestead Exhibit. Should you like to see these programs continue to be offered to Hayesville's students, you may make a donation by mailing a check to CCCRA, PO Box 1533, Hayesville, NC 28904 or visit our website [www.cccra-nc.org](http://www.cccra-nc.org) and donate through PayPal. CCCRA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. You will receive a receipt for your tax-deductible gift.