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The Kid Zone team won first place in the competition at the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) fall conference. Pictured are the Martinsville Kid Zone team members third-grader Lauren Foster (left) and fourth-grader Taylor Carter. Not pictured are fifth-grader Roderick Ross and fourth-grader Kayla Cabiness, who attend Henry County schools.

NSBE students earn regional honors

Students in the Martinsville-Henry County chapter of NSBE Jr. (National Society of Black Engineers) brought home several awards from the NSBE Fall Regional Conference, held Nov. 5-7 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Kid Zone team won first place in its competition and will represent the region at the national level in March in St. Louis, Mo. Martinsville Kid Zone team members third-grader Lauren Foster and fourth-grader Taylor Carter, both students at Patrick Henry Elementary. Henry County Kid Zone team members are fifth-grader Roderick Ross and fourth-grader Kayla Cabiness.

Martinsville High School

sophomore Darius Simington won the essay competition for his writing on "What it Takes to be a Leader." He received a certificate and \$200 scholarship.

The NSBE step team also won first place in the region. Members are Martinsville High School sophomores Devante Martin, Kenya Moore, Chantel Spencer and Khadija Tarpley, freshmen Tajuana Carter, Bre'Osha King and Terrica Hairston, and Celena Thobbs, who attends school in Henry County.

Tajuana Carter also won third place in the science fair competition.

The Math Counts team won third place in the math com-

petition. Members are Martinsville Middle School eighth-graders Dayna Hairston, Amber Dillard and Joe Mitchell, and Mariah Carter of Henry County.

The local chapter also won Chapter Awards, including: being the most involved NSBE Jr. chapter in the region; having the largest percentage of chapter members attending the conference; and having the most confirmed NSBE Jr. grade-point averages in the region.

The local chapter sent 65 people to the conference, thanks to a grant that chapter adviser Helen Howell obtained from the National Science Foundation to pay for air

travel for the students.

During the conference, students participated in hands-on labs dealing with osmosis, diffusion and moving molecules; heard guest speakers and a presentation by the Engineering Department at the University of Pittsburgh; and attended a college and career fair to learn about educational opportunities and jobs in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

Region II is made up of 67 NSBE Jr. chapters in Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and Washington, D.C. The first-place winners will compete against five other regions at the national convention.

SIGN OF THE SEASON



At an awards assembly Tuesday at Albert Harris Elementary School, Marlene Smith's second-grade class performed a Thanksgiving-themed acrostic poem, with each student reading a rhyme for each letter to spell out the word "Thanksgiving." Taking part were (from left) Tiana Moore, Leticia Garcia, Yaniya Reynolds, Pri-van Patel, Aveon Turner, Antonio Price, Sophia Ruiz Telles, Ania Carson, Alexis Plunkett, DeCorieon Jennings, Tania Dalton, Cameron Dillard, Jennifer Cedillo, Cleon Dillard and Solomon Hodge. (Contributed photo)