

Three Elementary Schools Place Huntsville as Alabama's Biggest Winner



Students at McDonnell cheer as they learn what they won.



Students at Chaffee Elementary are surprised with their winnings!



Mtn. Gap students find out about the prizes!

Students from Chaffee, McDonnell and Mtn. Gap Elementary Schools were surprised to learn that they were winners in Keep America Beautiful's (KAB) "Return the Warmth" competition. Schools in Alabama won 5 of the 50 awards given nationally. Huntsville ranked as the state's biggest winner with 3 of the 5.

During April and May students saved their plastic bottles and brought them to school. They were rewarded with a pizza party or popsicle party before the end of last school year. At special assemblies this year they found out what their efforts earned for their school and for the community.

A roving reward patrol visited each school to announce what the schools won. Forming the reward patrol were: Mayor Loretta Spencer; Joy McKee, director of Operation Green Team, Ronnie Harris of Buffalo Rock, representing Aquafina; Charles Long general manager of Sam's Club in South Huntsville; Dina Fortney, business manager of Sam's Club; Stan McGuire, general manager of Sam's Club on University Drive; and John R. "Doc" Holladay, executive director of The Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Huntsville and Madison County.

Each of the schools collected more than 1,000 pounds of plastic bottles which can be used to make fleece clothing. 2000 fleece coats are on their way to Huntsville to be given to local needy children as part of this competition. The coats will be delivered to Operation Green Team which will partner with local TV personality Lee Marshall to access the appropriate recipients.

Students faces lit up as they heard Mayor Spencer and Director of Operation Green Team Joy McKee tell them about winning \$1000 Sam's Club gift cards for each of the schools. The mayor continued by telling them that with the generous support from Sam's Club and Aquafina that they were making a difference in the life of a child that would not have a coat during the winter.

To top off the surprises, students found out that they also won a fieldtrip on America Recycles Day to a performance by Steve Trash, an environmental magician, compliments of The Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Huntsville and Madison County and Allied Waste Industries!