

C.L.L.E.

council for life long engagement

May 2011

“Why do I need to know math? I’m never going to use that!”

Recently, the Council for Life Long Engagement hosted the second math fair of the year for Mrs. Kathman’s 5th grade class at Nativity to help dispel this common belief.

Mr. Tom Pontius, a Deupree House resident, shared with 5th graders at Nativity how he used math on a daily basis for his job. Mr. Pontius began his presentation by explaining that a commodity is an article of trade or commerce, especially a product as distinguished from a service. He also explained that

for the stock exchange, a commodity could be defined as any unprocessed or partially processed good, such as grain, fruits, vegetables or precious metals.



Mr. Pontius discussed another hot button issue with the students – gas prices and the cost of oil. Students expressed concerns of oil running out someday and Mr. Pontius discussed alternative energy sources that are becoming more popular, such as electric cars and wind power. As a special treat, Mr. Pontius showed the students a few “math tricks” to help do long multiplication in your head quickly. The students were eager to learn the tricks to help

them on their upcoming tests! Mr. Pontius really enjoyed his time at Nativity stating, “The kids were so attentive and asked so many good questions.”

Mr. Bob LaShelle, a Marjorie P. Lee resident, also shared how math played an important role throughout his career. Mr. LaShelle was the general manager at Pogue’s department store for over twenty years. With this experience, Mr. LaShelle was able to guide students through four different math problems which involved percentages. Questions ranged from sales tax, commissions, tax returns and deductibles. The 5th grade students were very interested and worked together in groups to come



up with the correct responses. Mr. LaShelle was impressed by how much the students were able to understand and noted how well they worked together. The students were grateful for Mr. LaShelle’s presentation –they now know how to use math to ensure their money is handled accurately!

Upcoming sessions:

- Art Around Us: Jack Fix, Deupree House resident
- Know Your Audience: Miner Raymond, Deupree House resident

If you are interested in getting involved in CLLE, call Laura Lamb at the number listed below.

Encourage and enable elders to share their knowledge and talents with school children to reverse any negative aspects of ageism.