

# Young at heart: Pleasant Ridge students dress as 100-year-olds

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Six Pleasant Ridge Elementary School classrooms were full of 100-year-old students this week — 100-year-old look-alikes, that is.

In celebration of the 100th day of school on Thursday, kindergarten and first-grade students and their teachers dressed as centenarians and put what they've learned so far to the test.

First-grade teacher Lauren Clowers, who scooted into class wearing a purple muumuu and leaning on a walker, said activities throughout the day focused on the "base 10" math standard.

The base 10 standard teaches the number system in groups of 10 — as in 10 groups of 10 make 100, 10 groups of 100 make 1,000 and so on.

Clowers said the class marked each school day and recognized when a group of 10 days was complete, so students were excited to hit the 100-day mark — so excited, in fact, that a few students took their elderly roles very seriously.

"A couple came with homemade canes and walkers made out of aluminum foil and paper towel rolls," Clowers said. "There were comments like, 'I can't see the board without my glasses.'

"She had her glasses on upside-down when she said that."

Principal Jessica Birdsong called the activities a great way to apply learning standards in a new, more practical way.

"Our teachers do a great job of connecting our standards to the real world — to student relevance —and keeping it engaging and interesting," Birdsong said.

Kindergarten teacher Vanessa Hammond said her students counted out snacks like raisins and pretzels in groups of 10 until each had a complete bag of trail mix to take home.

Classes also touched on writing standards during the 100th day. Hammond said her students completed a fill-in-the-blank book of various sentences with such beginnings as "If I had 100 dollars ..."

First-grade classes got a writing prompt that asked students to discuss what life would be like when they're 100 years old.

Clowers said most of her first-graders expect to have gray or white hair. One girl expects to have 300 children, and another student hopes to have \$700,000.

As for one little boy, he said he won't be alone — he'll have his dog and his cane to keep him company.

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