



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



(from left) Nikita Gupta, Addison Gill, Christopher Garcia and Izaak Galindo, all first grade students in Tamie Land's class at Victoria Walker Elementary, show off "The Gingerbread Man Loose In the School," the books they received through the Storybook Christmas project from Gamma Nu and Epsilon Psi, chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for women educators. The purpose of the annual project is to share the joy of reading with first graders. Participants in the Gentry Leadership Lock-in, sponsored by Communities In Schools of Baytown, pose with FOX Channel 25 anchor/reporter Melinda Spaulding after she spoke to them about college and career choices and about the power of words.

## Gentry Holds Lock-In

Seventy-six young ladies at Gentry Junior School participated in a Leadership Lock-in, including a visit from Fox Channel 26 anchor/reporter Melinda Spaulding, who willingly signed autographs for the girls. The lock-in, open to all girls at Gentry, was sponsored by Communities In Schools of Baytown (CIS) to help them learn leadership skills.

Faculty and parent volunteers, including Watch D.O.G. Dads; PTSO members; Thresa Caldwell, Goose Creek CISD social work interventionist and Dianah Hicks, counselor, assisted CIS staff JaSara Scates, interim program coordinator for CIS; Robby Castillo; Troy Cayton and Earlicia Holman, helped to coordinate the event.

Spaulding presented information to the students about the power of words and college and career choices. She also had them participate in a mock news report to allow them to explore the field of broadcast journalism. Rhonda Wright, a Gentry parent, spoke issues they might be facing, encouraging them to help each other out and to connect with the school.

"I learned how to make new friends and be a leader," said Bryane King, sixth grade Gentry student.

Richelle Sandoval, a Gentry teacher, discussed dressing for success, allowing students to match clothes to occasions they might attend.



Students at the recent Gentry Junior School Leadership Lock-in tell about their Christmas memories around a fire pit campfire.

Nekebra Stephenson held a Poetry Café, and Denice Massengale facilitated a necklace craft project. Another group of teachers taught a short etiquette lesson.

"I learned that table etiquette is really important on special occasions and about different jobs," said Caroline Wells, sixth grader.

Team building activities, line dancing, karaoke, volleyball and basketball were also available for the participants. Sitting by a firepit "campfire" in an area decorated with trees and lights, the young ladies talked about their Christmas memories.

"It was a lot of fun," said Scates. "We asked them to come in with an open mind and to attempt new things. Most of them participated actively throughout the lock-in."

To show their appreciation to the adults who participated, including Murrell Stewart, Gentry principal, who kept his

energy level up the entire night, the students wrote thank you notes.

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