

Tipping their hats to our veterans

RACHAEL STAMP

Special to the Times

COVENTRY — Blackrock School is using this month to help support Veterans.

Second grade teacher Valerie Bishop said the month of November is a month for fundraising.

She said they would donate all that they received to the Coventry Veterans Council who has recently asked for community donations for funding. The council funds the annual Memorial Day parade.

“Our goal for this month is to raise \$500,” said Bishop. “At the end of the month we’ll give it to them.”

She said they started this month of fundraising with “Crazy Hat Day” on Friday. Bishop said each student donated a dollar to wear a fun hat to school. She said she was pleased with the outcome of the first fundraiser.

“The kids really liked crazy hat day,” said Bishop. “They knew that it was for the veterans and they were more excited about raising money.”

She said local veterans have visited the school and given talks about their sacrifices. She said students have really connected how important it is to honor the sacrifice they’ve made and support them.

“The kids in this building are the most generous and caring kids that I’ve seen,” said Bishop. “They know the veterans and have a personal connection to them.”

She said the school’s month-long fundraiser is called “Nickels for Our Nation’s Heroes,” in which kids collect and donate nickels every day.

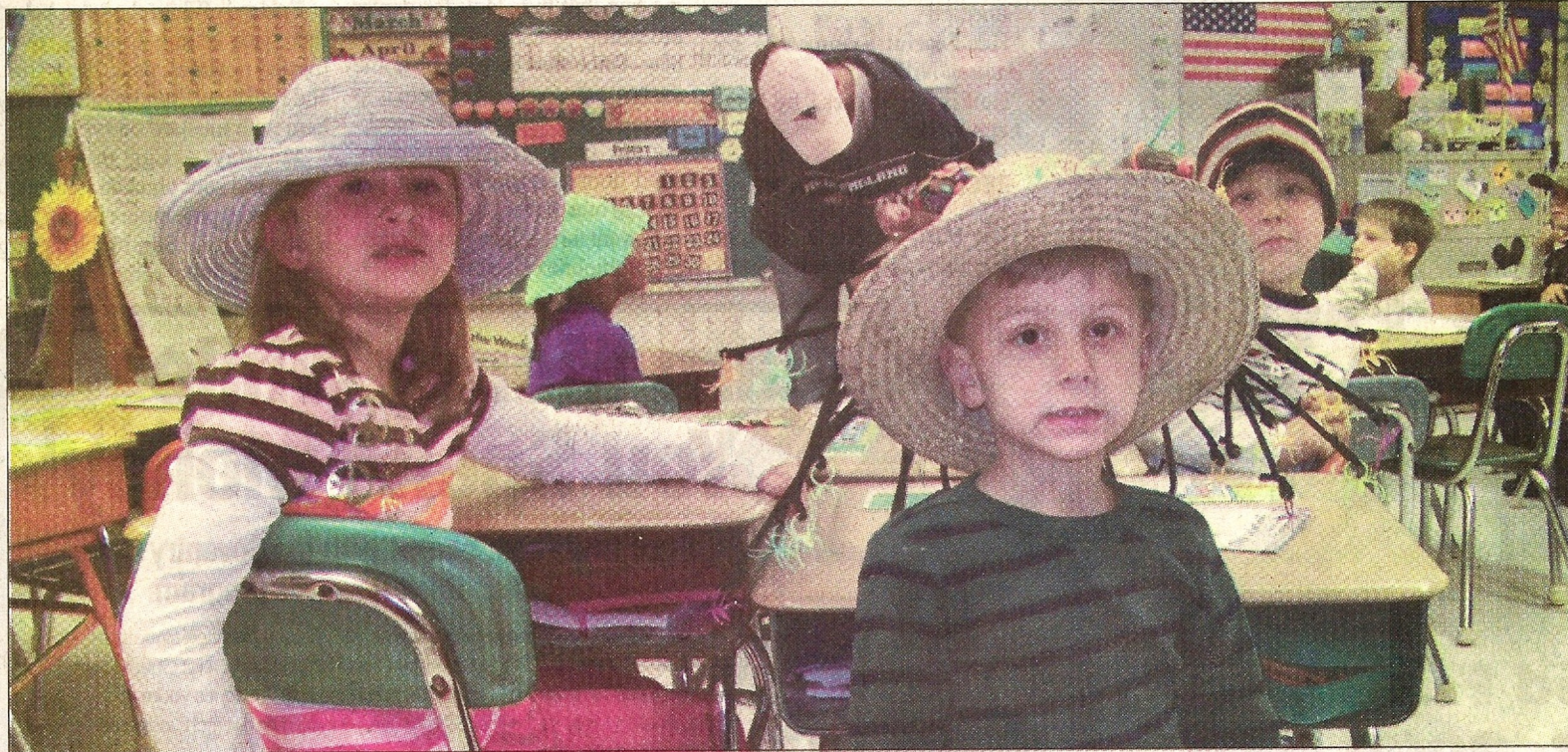
“It’s going to be a lot of fun,” said Bishop. “We’ve already collected \$60 and that was our first day.”

She said the “nickels” fundraiser was a friendly competition, with announcements about whose class was collecting the most, that she hopes flourishes.

“The kids are so excited to see how much money they can raise for veterans,” said Bishop.

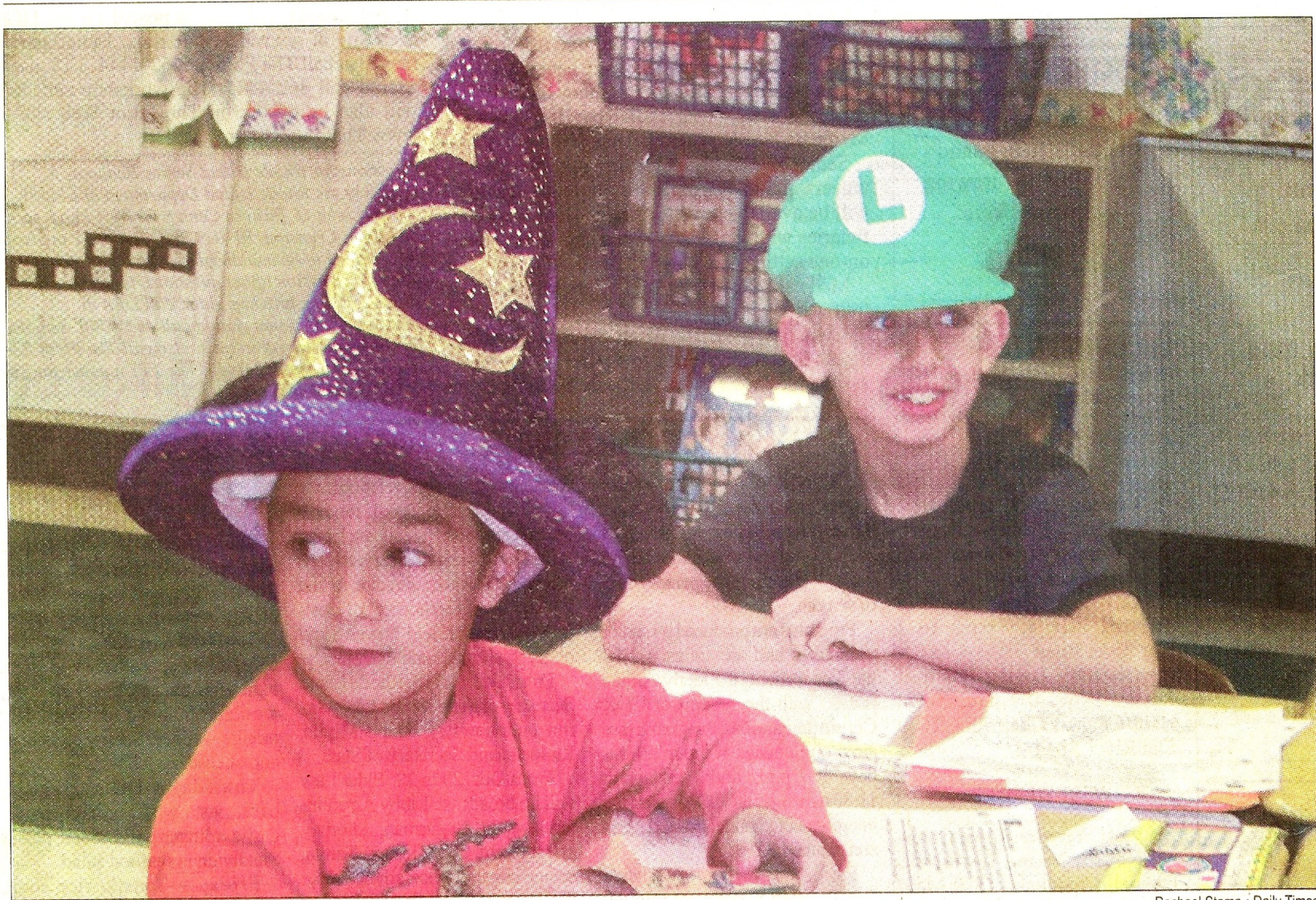
She said different grades would also have different contests that would help them to learn about veterans. Preschoolers through second graders will be competing in a flag coloring contest while third and fourth graders will be creating posters explaining who veterans are and what they do. Bishop said the older grades will participate in an essay contest that explains why we need to respect veterans and why it is important to honor them.

“At the end of the month, we’ll give the money we’ve made to the veterans,” said Bishop. “We’ll announce the winners of the contest as well.”



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Olivia Gilbert and Joseph Labonte may be a bit camera shy Friday, but they were definitely excited to raise money to benefit the Coventry Veterans Council.



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Cole Cidade (left) and Shawn Ricci and their fellow students at Blackrock Elementary School wore "crazy hats" on Friday. Each hat signified a one dollar for the Coventry Veterans Council, kicking off the school's month of fundraising.