



Jessica Selby • Daily Times

Maureen Nadeau's fourth-grade class at Oak Haven Elementary School in Coventry last week walked to Summer Villa, an assisted living home, where they met their pen pals whom they have been corresponding with since February.

Cov. kids make a trip worth writing about

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COVENTRY — Age didn't appear to matter when it came to writing about their interests, hobbies, pets and day-to-day activities.

In fact, Deb Hakanson, a behavior specialist at Oak Haven Elementary School in Coventry, said it made things more interesting for the two very different generations of pen pals.

This past February students in Maureen

Nadeau's fourth-grade class at Oak Haven School started a pen pal program with several residents of Summer Villa, an assisted living home in Coventry.

For several months, the two exchanged letters. Hakanson said the residents and kids shared a lot about their lives and their families; "every letter anxiously awaited by each other."

Up until last week, Hakanson said she had

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Kids meet pen pals

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been the primary source for the letter exchange, collecting the letters from students at the school and delivering them to the residents at Summer Villa, and vice a versa, but this week, the pen pals finally met.

The students walked from their neighborhood school up the street to Summer Villa and finally got to meet their pen pals face-to-face.

“At first the kids were a little shy, then Mary Halsey, the activities director there, started their Karaoke machine, which broke the ice and everyone in the room became one big family,” Hakanson said. “We stayed for almost two hours because the kids didn’t want to leave and the residents didn’t want to see them go either.

“This has been such a wonderful experience for everyone involved,” she said.