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ly maintenance and getting the buildings ready for the kids and teachers.”

Union County Primary School Principal Troy Collins waited outside with the parents and students who eagerly gathered under the canopy waiting for the clock to strike 7:30 so the students could begin their new journey.

“I’m ready for the first day of school, ready to get it over with,” Collins joked. “This is a whole new experience especially for the students starting Kindergarten and their parents. That’s why we are all out here; to help them out and make their first day as smooth as possible.”

Union County Schools Assistant Superintendent Jeremy Williams also waited in front of the school with Lance and Collins.

“We’re ready,” Williams said. “We’ve got a new setup at the Primary School with the new entrance. We hope this alleviates a lot of the traffic problems that we’ve had in the past.”

“We’ve got a bunch of parents here ready to drop their kids off but the doors don’t open until 7:30 so the teachers can get ready,” he said.

Those big yellow school buses came rolling in; nervous and excited children came marching off the buses.

As the doors opened at the Primary School, some students came inside and ate breakfast, others waited in the gymnasium and mini-theater, while others went to their classrooms.

All-in-all, the first day brought some changes for the school system.

Those changes include a new pick up and drop off area at the Primary School.

Union County Primary



Friday was a busy day at Union County Schools as classes resumed and the 2012-2013 School Year began. Photos/Todd Forrest and Lowell Nicholson

School Assistant Principal Millie Owenby was on hand to help Becky Dyer and Debbie Thomas at the new drop off spot beside the gym.

Dyer and Thomas waited at the end of the breezeway to open car doors and assist parents and students.

Owenby described the new drop off system and how it will operate.

“The vehicles will come in from the barn side off the Glen Gooch By Pass next to the county garage,” Owenby said.

“Then this afternoon we’ll have all the kids in the gym as a holding area. We’ll have teachers on cell phones out here and inside the gym and we’ll load five cars at a time. We’ll be out here around 2:40 p.m.”

The first day didn’t go off with out a hitch. That new drop-off and pick-up system still had a kink or two to overcome.

Vehicles began lining up at 2:10 p.m. and the last student wasn’t brought out of

the holding area until nearly 4:30 p.m.

According to the staff at Union County Primary School, the situation has been remedied and all the kinks will be worked out soon enough.

The first day of school is over, all the tears are shed and problem areas brought to the surface. The students are off on the next leg of their journey in education. Tune in May 2013 when the tears and laughter start all over again.

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them in any way that we can and that we love all people, not just the ones who fill our pews on Sunday mornings,” Pastor Dyer said.

Harmony Grove volunteers were busy providing ser-

vices during the Health Fair too. They supplied food for those attending the Health Fair as well as for the professionals who volunteered their services.

They opened the childcare area for the people who were receiving professional services while those services were being administered.

They also made sure the children were entertained.

There was a fire truck in the back parking lot to hose the kids down and keep them cool during the heat of the day.

A professional cosmetologist was on hand to provide hair care services for those who were in need of a haircut or other personal hygiene matters.

The Health Fair also provided gift bags of toiletry items to help with those in need of those personal items and to help with the overall cost of those items.

X-treme Christian Outdoors set up an archery range in back of the church complete with age appropriate bows and arrows for the kids. Many of which had never had the chance to draw

back a compound bow and shoot under supervised conditions at targets that simulated real game one would find in the great outdoors.

There were train rides, hot dogs, cotton candy, face painting and good old fashion mountain hospitality for the kids to enjoy while mom or dad were busy with the individual attention that each needed.

Jesus said, “Bring the children unto me,” and that was the order of the day during the Health Fair.

Harmony Grove has an unbelievable clothes closet ministry and while the Health Fair was in session so was the closet. Approximately 50 families found clothes for their personal needs. One family had recently lost their home to fire and the closet was able to practically supply their entire family with clothing.

Also, the community event couldn’t have come at a better time for many since school is just now starting back.

If you are in need of clothing please feel free to drop in on Tuesdays between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. or call (706) 835-1449 for more details.



The Health Fair was a needed “shot in the arm” for the people of Union County and the surrounding area.

It met the physical and spiritual needs of the many people who came in search of personal help. The local ambulance service actually had to answer calls for two different incidents while at the Health Fair. One person was literally having a heart attack when they arrived at the church.

Two people received salvation through the love they encountered upon arriving at the Health Fair and many will keep receiving care long after the Fair ends.

“We aren’t just turning our backs on those who got help this week,” Pastor Dyer said. “The medical professionals are following up with their care and the pastors are keeping in touch with those who want to learn more about Jesus and salvation.”

Pastor Dyer praised all those who volunteered to make the Fair a success.

“I would like to thank our Health Fair coordinators, Jamie Timmins and Terri Post, for their tireless efforts to make this thing happen so smoothly,” said Pastor Dyer.

In Jesus’ ministry, he healed the sick, fed the hungry and then told his followers to do likewise.

Harmony Grove Baptist Church was a shining example of that command this week and those who benefited from this Health Fair can vouch for that.

Love motivates the members of this church, an example for all to follow whether you believe in the teachings of the Bible or not.

It’s a lesson we all can learn from as we all learn to love one our neighbors as we love ourselves.