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DeSana MS Principal Terri North adds her photo to the capsule.

KATHLEEN STURGEON/HERALD



Posted Monday, August 15, 2016 12:00 am

COMMENT

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CUMMING, Ga. — The presidential election, the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro and Pokemon Go are all things the current students at DeSana Middle School will remember from 2016.

Students from each homeroom had a chance to make history Aug. 12 when they put items or pictures of memorable events into one of eight time capsules.

DeSana Principal Terri North said a time capsule is a "historic cache of goods or information usually intended as a method of communication with future people and to help future archeologists, anthropologists or historians."

Because DeSana opened on Aug. 4, these students will be the first to complete their middle school education all the way through at DeSana. They will also be some of the first to attend Denmark High School, which will open in August 2018.

Once the three classes graduate from Denmark, North said the students will be invited back to DeSana to open the capsules in the springs of 2021, 2022 and 2023.

"They will certainly tell the story of this day and time in your life and in the life of our school," North said.

Many chose to go with pop culture references, including a Kylie Jenner lip kit, a photo of an iPhone and a Starbucks gift card.

Others went the more political route with a photo of Harambe, the gorilla that was shot and killed after a child fell into his enclosure, photos of the 2016 presidential candidates and a photo of Ibtihaj Muhammad, the first U.S. athlete to compete in the Olympics while wearing a hijab.

Technology also played a big part in the chosen items as earbuds, a picture of an Apple Watch and multiple flash drives were all placed into the capsules.

A common theme was school pride as miniature dragons, representing the school's mascot, multiple DeSana T-shirts and lanyards were also added.

Students explained their choices citing how important technology is in our lives through apps like Snap Chat and Pokemon Go; how Michael Phelps is one of the greatest Olympians of our time; and how they are curious to see how they change by including class pictures.

North said she was intrigued by some of the kids' choices, however some she expected, like Pokemon, Olympics and presidential candidates.

"They gave a lot of thought to the choices," North said. "I liked how they explained that selfies are truly of their generation. Who knows what it'll be in 2023 and if selfies are still around?"

Each homeroom in the school was allowed to put two things into the capsules. Teachers could help, but mostly the ideas came from students.

The staff and teachers had the chance to enter their own items into two staff capsules.

"We wanted not only the students' perspective, but also the teachers," North said.

Her favorite item was from a teacher who put in a dragon fly drawing that represented change, both with a new school opening but also for the students transitioning to middle school.

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