

Focus on connections

CHSSCS SIXTH GRADERS — Bud Lavine, Emma Jordan, and Trey Cunningham — focused on fishing while on a family-classmate-faculty fishing trip to the Avon Pier. Keith Matthews and the crew at the pier are credited with hosting the event in support of the visit that's purposed to invite families to remain active in their child's academic life. (S. Day photo, DCS)

Keeping school-family connections strong with annual outing to pier

Cape Hatteras Secondary School of Coastal Studies sixth graders went fishing on the

Avon Pier, Friday, September 25. The entire class, with their teachers and important guests. What's the value in a class fishing trip?

Plenty — and that's not including any fish that were caught. Sixth grade math teacher Scott Day explained, "This is a kickoff field trip designed to encourage the community and family members to remain active in the school even though the children are getting older."

The fishing trip is basically a "welcome aboard" to family — inviting them to play an active role in the education of their student.

Thanks to buy-in from the community and participation from family and friends last year, the event was repeated this year — making the 2009 trip

officially the "second annual."

Key to its success is the gracious hospitality of Keith

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OUTING

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Mathews and the crew of the Avon Pier.

"We had parents, grandparents, and family friends join the school staff and members of the Coastal Studies Institute to enjoy the afternoon," noted Day. "This year we included an aerial photography fly-over provided by Dwight Burrus from Burrus Flying Service. Dwight was kind enough to take teachers Amber Bradshaw and Melissa Herman up to get some pictures of the children on the pier."

Day's sixth graders will see Burrus again. He typically speaks to Day's classes in a yearly classroom visit for a seminar on local history and how his career in the Coast Guard has impacted his life.

Often, parents who are involved with their child's school in the elementary years lose connections once their student enters middle school and upper grades. Usually, it's just logistics — kids have more teachers, they're more autonomous, and parents are unsure of the new school environment.

However, maintaining strong ties as young people enter adolescence is essential to families to whom it's important to continue supporting their child/ren academically and socially. This trip gives family an opportunity to interact with their child, their child's classmates and teachers — and maybe to catch a few fish.

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