

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

A project last year to raise money to start a bakery at McDowell Middle School has already become a seasonal favorite for the Logan Elm community.



Students in Beth Fox-Bowers' Resource Classroom are using math, science, reading and writing to create the products sold in the Logan Elm Woodland Christmas Shoppe.

The eight students, in 7th to 9th grades, made seven types of wood crafts for sale this year: a hanging snowman and Santa log slice in two sizes; a Santa fence picket; a small ribbon snowman; and a large log snowman. Prices ranged from \$3 to \$25.



Beth said the projects required the students to use their math and science skills. For example, they used fractions to paint the snowman log slices: the hat was a quarter of the wood circle and the beard was half.

"They taped off the correct space, painted them and then added the eyes," Beth said.

With a second year of production and sales under their belt, the students — Emalee Akers, Noah Cremeans, Cameron Groce, Nevaeh Perkins, Colton Riddle and Daiden Ross — continue to review what works and what doesn't.

For example, Beth said, the large hanging snowman, which was their most-expensive item at \$25, was a big seller but they only made two.

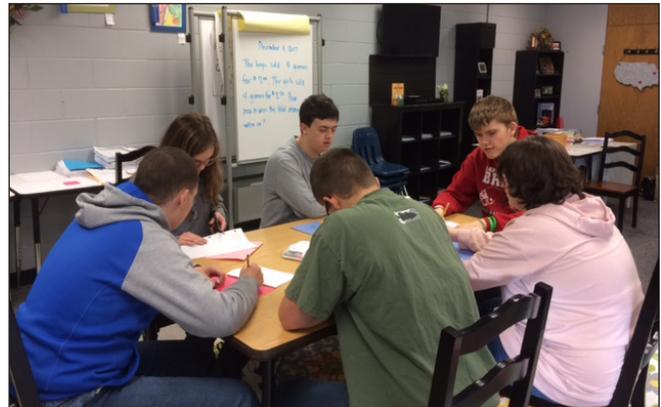
"They know that next year, they want to make more of those," Beth said.

In the 2016-17 school year, the proceeds from the crafts were used to buy supplies for the LE Bakers, a student-run bakery.

This year, the students are donating the proceeds to a charity, giving the \$500 they earned to the Circle Area Human Society.

Last year's products were so well received that Beth

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Students in Beth Fox-Bowers' Resource Classroom write thank you notes to customers who bought crafts from their Logan Elm Woodland Christmas Shoppe.

was getting inquiries about this year's sales at the beginning of October.

"We never had to open a shop or advertise."

The students got to work making the crafts the Monday after Pumpkin Show, spending every day for a week measuring the wood pieces before moving on to sanding and painting.

Besides math, students used science to learn how to make the whitewash needed for the wood pieces and during the sales period they practiced money-counting skills and working with customers.

"It gave the students the opportunity to meet people and conduct themselves in the appropriate way for business," Beth said.

This week, with the sales period concluded for another year, students are spending time writing thank you notes to customers.

"That incorporates reading and writing into the project," Beth said.

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