

Teacher Feature



CHERYL M. SHUFFLER/THE NEWS HERALD

Kelly Sizemore reads a St. Patrick's Day story to her pre-kindergarten class Thursday at Mountain Crest Elementary School.

MEET MRS. SIZEMORE

Find out what her husband brings for show-and-tell

A bi-weekly series showcasing Burke County teachers

Kelly Sizemore
Pre-kindergarten
Mountain Crest Elementary School



Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: This is my eighth year teaching.



Sizemore

Q: Why teach?

A: I teach because I believe every student has potential to be successful.

Every year there is a new group of children and along with that comes new challenges and new successes. I want to instill in my students a love for learning.

Q: What is your definition of a teacher?

A: A teacher is someone who imparts knowledge to students and makes learning fun and interesting. A teacher also helps the students to believe in themselves.

Q: Best thing about your job?

A: The best thing about my job is seeing the students grow throughout the school year.

Q: Best thing about your school?

A: We have a very diverse school and that we attend to each student's individual needs. Our students are rapidly becoming 21st century learners through the progress we have made by advancing our technology resources at our school.

Q: What are your students learning in class right now?

A: In Pre-K our classroom is based around structured play. We are learning how to make choices and how to interact with each other socially. We are also learning our alphabet, numbers and different thematic units each week.

Q: Where do you live?

A: I live in Morganton.

Q: Where are you from?

A: I am from Morganton.

Q: What do you love?

A: First and foremost I love my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Next, I love my husband, Todd, and my two boys. My family, friends and church are all important parts of my life.

Q: What are you reading?

is an associate agent with the Paul Mears & Associates Nationwide Agency. I have two sons. Hunter is 5 and is a kindergartener at Salem Elementary and Jackson is 3.

Q: Do you have pets?

A: Yes, we have one dog, a horse and several calves.

Q: Who or what inspires you?

A: My assistant, Rebia Horton, inspires me every day through her loving and nurturing spirit. She has set a standard to embrace each child's unique personality. I am inspired everyday to be the best teacher I can be through her.

Q: What is your favorite meal?

A: My favorite meal is chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes and corn on the cob.

Q: What challenges you?

A: I am challenged every day to meet the needs of all my students. I try to present my unit each week in many different ways so that each child can understand the information on their developmental level.

Q: What is one thing about yourself your students would be surprised to learn?

A: My students are always surprised to learn that I live on a farm. During the spring, we study farm animals and my husband always brings several animals for my students to see and touch. They really enjoy this experience.

Compiled by Cheryl M. Shuffler/
cshuffler@morganton.com

Community Foundation of Burke County

In the spirit of Adam

The following interview was conducted by Susan Pollpeter, board member of the Community Foundation of Burke County (CFBC) with Angie and Corey Benson, parents of the late Adam Benson. Susan asked for this honor as the former principal of Adam's cousins at Hillcrest Elementary School.

Question: Why did you establish a scholarship in Adam's memory at the CFBC?

Answer: The main reason goes back to Adam's senior year at East Burke. As the eldest of five children, he understood the cost of college. Adam applied for at least 40 scholarships.

He was thrilled to learn that North Morganton United Methodist Church was granting him its award that memorialized a great teacher and church member. This was so meaningful to Adam; our family wanted other students to feel this joy and affirmation.

Q: Who was Adam?

A: Adam's dream was to be a physician. Therefore, he took Allied classes, spent a semester with Dr. Mark McManus at Hopewell Medicine and completed the necessary academic preparation for East Carolina University (ECU). Adam's interests were in wrestling and cross-country. As a senior, he received the Coach's Award for wrestling. Being a determined athlete and motivator for his team, Adam returned to wrestling two weeks following surgery. In essence, he was an All-American, well-rounded young man. Additionally, Adam was active at



Benson

St. Charles Catholic Church (St. Charles). As a result, Father Ken Whittington served as his mentor for senior project."

Q: What was the cause of Adam's death?

A: Adam was accepted at ECU. Two weeks after graduation, he was determined to attend freshmen orientation on his own. The experience at ECU was astounding. However, Adam was tragically killed in an automobile accident on his way home."

Q: How were you able to raise funds for the scholarship?

A: The scholarship began with monetary gifts from Dr. Mark McManus and Charlie McManus. With collaboration from the Burke Arts Council and Morganton Federal Savings and Loan, a fund was established. Then, the youth at St. Charles began their annual car washes for the scholarship. Drexel Heritage (Corey's employer at the time) donated furniture to be raffled. Since Adam had been a server for the St. Charles Valentine Tea, coordinator Anne Bourg designated a portion of the profits for the scholarship. With dinners and gifts from St. Charles' Ladies Guild, additional monies were raised. From these fundraisers and community donations, eleven students have benefitted from Adam's legacy.

To ensure Adam's memory and impact will continue forever, the Benson family has entrusted CFBC with Adam's scholarship. Members of the Scholarship Committee at St. Charles recommend a deserving senior to CFBC to receive the \$1,000 award based on academic achievement, service to the church and community volunteerism. To contribute to the Adam Benson Scholarship Fund and/or learn more about the CFBC, call Nancy Taylor at 828-437-7105 or go to cfburkecounty.org

Dinner With The Doc

HPV and Cervical Cancer Screening
Philene Krogel, DO

Monday, March 18
at 5:30pm

Lake James Conference Room
Grace Hospital

Enjoy the free informational seminar "HPV and How it Pertains to Cervical Cancer Screening," with Philene Krogel, DO, an OB-GYN at Women's Health Group in Morganton. Dr. Krogel is board certified and a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Dr. Krogel earned her degree in 2006 from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her residency and internship in obstetrics and gynecology at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Mich. Door prizes and dinner will be provided. Space is limited. **To make your reservation, call 828-580-4661 today.**



Women's Health Group

Medical Office Building - Grace Hospital

2209 South Sterling Street, Suite 400 • Morganton, NC 28655
828-580-4661 (phone) • 828-580-4698 (fax)