



**(L-R) front row: Principal of Viewmont, Judy Jolly, Mariey Peterson, Jayden Pressley, Abhi Patel, Jaiden Sipe, Estefany Valdez, Morgan Bangs, HPS Superintendent, Dr. Hart. Back row: Diane Gammon, Jamie Cooke, Deborah Reid, Helen Devlin who represented Kiwanis, Melanie Gray, Anyea Gibson.**

## **Third Graders Receive Gift of Dictionaries from Kiwanis**

The Hickory Kiwanis Club recently donated 397 dictionaries plus a few extras for potential new students—to all third grade students in Hickory Public Schools. As a chapter with the Kiwanis International, a global organization of volunteers, Kiwanis is dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

According to Helen Devlin, a Hickory Kiwanian and faculty member at Hickory High School, the Dictionary Project has served as one of the organization’s featured projects for the past six years. “Our sole mission is to support children, and this opportunity provides another method to reach out to our local students,” she said.

Devlin’s recent distribution of dictionaries, on behalf of the Hickory Kiwanis, started out at Viewmont Elementary School, where she arrived with boxes filled with dictionaries for every third grader. The enthusiastic students were anxious to write in their names—personalizing their new gifts.

“For some of our children, this may be their only book,” said Viewmont Principal, Judy Jolly. “This gift serves as a fabulous resource for our students—and clearly parallels with our Literacy First Program. We are very grateful.”

HPS Superintendent, Dr. Walter Hart, who joined the children for the special event, shared in their excitement in receiving the gift of dictionaries. “We are so very appreciative of Kiwanis—their support of our schools and our children,” he said.

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