

Village School students paint coats of arms to conclude study

ROYALSTON — Students in the 4th-6th grade class at the Village School in Royalston have just completed a study of heraldry, as part of their year-long study of the Middle Ages. The climax of the project was to paint coats of arms on wooden shields, made and donated by Nine Points Woodworking in Worcester.

The class learned that medieval knights went into battles with shields emblazoned with their coats of arms for a simple practical reason: it helped them to be identified, and might save their lives. If a defeated knight was identified as important, it would be better for an enemy to ransom him than to kill him.

The children learned the meaning of various images or "devices" used in medieval coats of arms, and then designed their own, usually including a symbol to show whether they were a first, second or third child. Fifth-grader Fraser McBeth commented, "I was surprised by how many different symbols there were, and that they all meant something."

Once the finished designs were transferred to the



COATS OF ARMS — Students in the 4th-6th grade class at the Village School in Royalston display the coats of arms they recently painted on wooden shields. The hands-on project concluded their study of heraldry, as part of a year-long study of the Middle Ages.

School photo

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wooden shields, the children painted them, using (mostly) traditional heraldic colors. The Middle Ages is just one of the year-long, hands-on themes that underpin the language arts and social studies curricula at the Village School.

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