A Wilde Day at Booth Middle 2009-05-22

By Cindy Morley

What Mary Wilde has done is incredible,” said State Sen. Ronnie Chance.

“She is unbelievable.”

What the Booth Middle School teacher has done is to “stir the passion for science in countless students, with many of her pupils going on to become successful researchers, scientists, doctors, and engineers and attending such renowned academic institutions as Harvard, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology,” according to a resolution presented in her honor Friday morning by Chance, State Rep. Matt Ramsey and State School Superintendent Kathy Cox.

Wilde has also led her Science Olympiad teams to an unprecedented nine National Science Olympiad titles and she has been named Georgia’s Science Teacher of the Year.

“She really is an icon nationally,” said Cox.

“She has done so much for science education. She makes science fun for the kids.

“She has been great for Fayette County, the state of Georgia and the nation.”

Wilde is retiring at the end of this school year after 25 years.

“I thank each one of you,” said Wilde, addressing students, former students, co-workers and parents in the school gym.

“It’s the kind of kids and parents we have here at Booth that make is so hard to leave.”

She has coached the Science Olympiad team for 20 years.

“It is amazing what she has done,” said Ramsey, who read the proclamation out loud as part of Friday’s ceremony.

“BE IT RESOLVED that Ms. Mary Floerchinger Wilde is commended for her decades of sacrifice, foresight, accomplishment, and contributions on behalf of education in Georgia, recognized for the positive influence she has had upon the lives and futures of countless young people in this state, and congratulated on the grand occasion of her retirement,” he said.

“My daughter had Mary Wilde for three years at Booth, and is now a junior at Georgia Tech,” said Brenda Prebore. “She still says she has never had a better teacher.”

PHOTO: They came by the hundreds to Booth Middle School in Peachtree City to say goodbye and happy retirement to a beloved teacher Friday. Even a state representative and a state senator stopped by. Sen. Ronnie Chance gives a big hug to Mary Wilde as Rep. Matt Ramsey is all smiles. (Staff Photo by Cindy Morley)
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