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2/3/10



## Students pass Rotary ethics test

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From left, Spalding Drive Charter School Principal Christine Young, speaker Robin Ferst, Rotary Club of Sandy Springs President Betty Ferdinand and Justin Daniels of Justin Daniels Legal Services for the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy hold the book "Big Brother, Little Brother" at the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs luncheon last week.



With ethics a hot topic in the 2010 state Legislature session, the Sandy Springs branch of Rotary International encouraged students' integrity by inviting four Spalding Drive Charter Elementary School third-graders to interpret the club's own Four-Way Test.

Rotarians take the test at the end of each luncheon meeting, before they reenter the working world, by asking themselves four questions to apply to each business transaction.

"Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" Rotarian and Spalding Drive Principal Christine Young said at the club's meeting last week at Hammond Glen Senior Community.

Club president Betty Ferdinand said the test was adapted for young readers and pasted into dictionaries, which the club gave to all Sandy Springs third-graders in October.

"In work and play, tell the truth, be fair, help others and think of others," she said.

Semaya Fontaine, 9, the first student to read her essay out loud, said being honest is a matter of cause and effect.

"You should tell the truth because if you don't there will be consequences," she said. "If you get in a bad situation, you should tell the truth because you might be in danger. For example, you wanted to go to your friend's house but you did not tell the truth about who is watching you. They might be dangerous."

Will Fuss, 8, said being fair is "a good virtue" because of its usefulness.

"You can sort out arguments and make people happy," he said. "If two people are fighting over one apple or one orange, you don't snatch it from them and scold them. You ask for it and cut it in half. Both people will get a fair amount and be happy."

Max Bickers, 8, warned of the dangers of not being helpful.

"If you don't help someone, they could get hurt. If they were playing on the monkey bars they might fall off and break an arm," he said. "You can be helpful by helping your mom. I make popcorn for my brothers so my mom doesn't have to."

Avery Koval, 9, said thinking of others translates easily into action like a food drive for the homeless.

"You should think of others before you think of yourself," she said. "Don't be selfish. Be caring and selfless."

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