

## Press Release

January 29, 2004

### World Champion Arm Wrestler Visits PreK Students

Moultrie, GA – Colquitt County Pre-Kindergarten students are studying the letter “s” this week, and one little boy, Mason, has a personal connection with someone associated with the letter – his “strong” grandfather, Mr. Cleve Dean of Pavo, Georgia. Mr. Dean visited with his grandson’s class recently, and the students in prek teachers Keri Wilkes’ and Ann Parker’s classes were really impressed with his



accomplishments and big arm and chest muscles. A world champion arm wrestler for the past 25 years, Mr. Dean brought a video of one of his championship matches and the belt won to show the students. The kids oohed and aahed at the display of strength. Mr.



Dean’s message to the students was clear, “Believe in yourself and have a plan for your life. Say no to drugs. Maintain a balance of physical, mental, and spiritual strength.”

Dean grew up on a farm where lifting heavy feed and fertilizer bags was the norm. When asked how he got into arm wrestling, he stated it was by accident. He’d seen a match on television and found out about a local competition. This was in 1977. Back in those days Dean commented that he would average about 40 tournaments a year. He has won numerous titles and has traveled all over the world, citing Italy as one of his favorite places. This fall he is planning a trip to Brazil to defend his title as the World Champion.

Several students challenged Mr. Dean to a friendly arm wrestling match, where he demonstrated his technique. Because of their morning with Mr. Dean, these students have experienced the letter “s” and the word “strong”.

PreK Director Joy Webb commented, “We enjoyed having Mr. Dean visit our students. His message applies to children and adults of all ages. I hope other schools in our system will invite Mr. Dean to share his advice with their students.”



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