

For Immediate Release
November 28, 2018

Contact: Alisha Evans, Communications Director
65 Gilreath Road NW, Cartersville, Ga. 30121
alisha.evans@bartow.k12.ga.us
770-606-5800 x3815



PRESS RELEASE

REMEMBERING ELIZABETH KAPLAN

BARTOW COUNTY, Ga. (November 28, 2018) – The Bartow County School System family mourns the loss of Elizabeth Kaplan. The third-grade student at Pine Log Elementary School was better known as “Eli” and will be remembered for her spunky, adventurous spirit as she fought not one, but two battles with cancer in her short lifetime.

“She had no fear it seemed,” says PLES Counselor Francie Livingston. “Eli was willing to try anything academically or socially. She was also the definition of love, as she loved her family and school fiercely, especially Ms. Allison Gilbert.”

Gilbert taught Elizabeth in kindergarten and second grade. “She was a hero to Eli,” adds Livingston. “But little did Eli know, she taught Ms. Gilbert and PLES even more about living life with grace, humility, passion, and fire.”

“Elizabeth was the smallest in the class but she had the biggest heart,” says Gilbert. “Elizabeth loved helping me. She would come in and say, ‘Do you have anything you need me to do for you?’ She was like my own personal paraprofessional. When I would ask the students what they wanted to be when they grew up, Elizabeth would always say, ‘a teacher.’ Although she is no longer with us, we will always cherish the memories we have of her.”

School officials notified third-grade families of Elizabeth’s passing, offering parents and guardians the opportunity to visit the school Wednesday and discuss the situation with their child with or without the help of a professional school counselor.

Thursday, November 29, additional counselors and grief counseling opportunities will be available at PLES for students and the entire Pine Log community.

“We want to open it up to the community because Eli and her family were loved by all, not just her school family,” says Livingston.

In September, PLES and several other schools within the Bartow County School System held fundraisers for Elizabeth’s family, raising more than \$12,000. Donations are still coming in. If you would like to donate, please contact PLES.

###

