

Students get look at life in Middle Ages

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"The fighting..." said the 9-year-old, who fashioned a medieval costume for the festival from a black turtleneck and pants, a piece of leather and his mother's old belt.

Instead of having a Christmas party, students sampled food and desserts popular during the Middle Ages at an afternoon feast at the school. Their medieval menu included chicken, hot dogs to represent sausages, shortbread cookies, tarts and wassail.

"We thought this was a great way to get away from the Christmas tradition, which not everybody celebrates," said fourth-grade teacher Connie Burton, who was dressed in a purple medieval-style gown. "The Medieval Festival brings together everything we've tried to teach them. It gives them exposure to people who have a unique interest that we can't give them."

"We're not re-creating the Middle Ages," said Brewer, who manages a bar in Raleigh. "We're re-creating a dream. It was a time when honor and chivalry were important, and courtesy was a little more commonplace than today."



DUELLO LESSON: Holt Elementary School student Megan Rogers tries her hand at duello as Linda Goldman (left), as Baroness Cerdwyn Ferc Owain, and Shane Brewer, as Mikhail Kazimirovich Pome-

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shanov, look on during a medieval demonstration for the school's fourth-graders conducted last week by the Society for Creative Anachronism.

Students get look at

Club re-enacts era's history, celebrates chivalry, honor

By ELIZABETH WADE HALL

The Herald-Sun

The crowd cheered as Mikhail Kazimirovich Ponomeshanov fell to his knees, the victim of Baroness Ceridwen Ferc Owain's silvery foil.

Ponomeshanov, better known as Shane Brewer, 26, lost his duel last week with Owain, also known as Linda Goldman, during a medieval fighting demonstration at Holt Elementary School.

Brewer, Goldman and other members of the Society for Creative Anachronism gave the school's fourth-graders a look at life during the Middle Ages. The club studies and re-enacts the period's history and celebrates medieval ideals such as chivalry and honor.

The students have been studying the period of European history between ancient and modern times for the last nine weeks.

Members of the society wanted the students to remember more about the Middle Ages than armor and fighting. So the group also gave them some hands-on experience with medieval music, weaving, spinning and dancing.

"A lot of neat stuff happened during the Middle Ages off the battlefields like dancing and cloth making," said Goldman, a high school French teacher in Randolph County. "Everyone

had their own role."

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DUELLO LESSON: Holt Elementary School tries her hand at duello as Linda Goldman and Shane Brewer, and Linda Goldman



MEDIEVAL WEAR: Shane Brewer (left photo), a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, helps Holt Elementary student James Davis try on a helmet. Jennifer McCann (left in above photo) and Sarah Scott Brett, members of the group, show students some of the clothes worn in medieval times.



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SHANE BREWER

MEMBER OF SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM



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GETTING INTO THE MEDIEVAL SPIRIT: Holt Elementary students William Anderson (left), in the "jester" costume, and Scott Rhule, in the "archer" costume, watch a medieval program at the school performed by members of the Society for Creative Anachronism.