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Beall Elementary finds treasure with Lions Club

FOR THE FROSTBURG PRESS

FROSTBURG — Frostburg's Beall Elementary students find treasure in the school office thanks to the Frostburg Lions Club.

The "Treasure Tower," funded with a grant from the Frostburg Lions Club, rewards students for positive behaviors during the school year.

Students have the opportunity to earn one token per month to be used to obtain a prize from the Beall Treasure Tower. Throughout the month each student receives "gold stars" for notable examples of respect, responsibility and safety. When students accumulate the number of coupons set as a goal for their grade, they receive the "Treasure Tower" token.

Bob Stevenson, principal of Beall Elementary said, "The tower is a unique reward, and positively reinforces these qualities in our students." Stevenson said the "tower is something new this year."

Stevenson approached the Lions Club at one of the organization's children's eye screenings at Beall Elementary. The Treasure Tower is not a school board budgeted item and had to be funded from outside sources. "We asked the Lions for assistance," Stevenson said. "They gave us a grant for the entire

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Joe Mills,
Frostburg Lions Club member

program for the 2007-08 school year."

The grant to fully fund the program was a unanimous decision by the Lions Club. "Good citizenship in our youth is important," said Leon Fatkin, former president of the Frostburg group.

"The Treasure Tower is an easy and fun way to teach these traits." The \$1,000 grant, Fatkin said, "is why we raise funds."

The tower, manufactured by Treasure Tower Rewards, is fashioned after the old time penny gumball machines, providing one prize per token. The prizes "eggs" contain a wide range of safe prizes that students receive randomly. "They don't know what their prize will be," said Stevenson. "It's like a surprise in every pack."

Teachers and staff at Beall Elementary concur with Stevenson, several indicated that this was a great innovative way to keep the students on the "right track."

The Frostburg Lions Club,

formed in 1945, has sponsored many programs relating to citizenship over the years. Treasurer Cindy Powers said, "This is unique. Where was this kind of incentive, when we were in school?"

Lions visited the school Beall elementary recently to present the first \$500 check, but weren't allowed to get goodies from the Tower. "No gold stars," joked Lion Joe Mills, "we didn't get any gold stars."

Mills a 52-year veteran member of the Frostburg Lions Club said, "This is the kind of program we need to sponsor, we need to support the kids in our community."

The tower sits prominently in the school office, where students can see it on a daily basis, thus keeping their appetite for the hidden treasures. The tower, taller than many of the students, stands as a reminder that respect, responsibility and safety are good citizen traits and are rewarded all throughout life.

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