

## Appreciation Day a Rousing Success

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The Lees-McRae College athletic department hosted Banner Elk Elementary School Appreciation Day this past Saturday in Williams Gymnasium, part of an

on-going series of special events taking place during home basketball games this season. The series has been a tremendous success, providing the College with the opportunity to strengthen the all-important relationship between itself, its student-athletes and the surrounding community. "It's always good to partner with our friends from Banner Elk Elementary and promote good, healthy entertainment with our own intercollegiate student-athletes," praised Director of Athletics Craig McPhail. "The stands were packed and the atmosphere was electric with the jump ropers and the unicyclists, making all of us glad to host such a great event."

The athletic department was pleased to welcome students, faculty and staff from Banner Elk Elementary as its guests for the day, and all were invited to participate in the fun and games that occurred during media timeouts throughout the Bobcats' doubleheader against Belmont Abbey College.

Everyone in attendance was treated to a special halftime program during each game, as the Physical Education Club from C.H. Tuttle Elementary School – located in Maiden, N.C. – brought out its unicycles and jump ropes to entertain the near capacity crowd with its outstanding talent and youthful exuberance.

"I think the families and students in attendance had a lot of fun," said Banner Elk Elementary principal Debra Wilcox. "We certainly appreciate all the efforts of the [Lees-McRae] athletic department, especially those of [Athletic Operations Manager] David Shervington in putting this event together. It was great to see our students so heavily involved in all the games during timeouts, and I could tell they really enjoyed it."