FORT WORTH COUNTRY DAY’S KINDERGARTEN RODEO CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

FORT WORTH, Texas (January 28, 2019) — Fort Worth Country Day (FWCD) celebrated 50 years of hosting its Kindergarten Rodeo on Friday, January 25. A nod to the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, the event features kindergarten students dressed as cowboys, cowgirls and rodeo clowns riding stick horses and cavorting as calves and steers in a stylized program.

Sixty-eight students from the Class of 2031 participated in this event with faculty, alumni, parents and fellow FWCD students in attendance. The program began with a Grand Entry performance and the “Star-Spangled Banner,” followed by students demonstrating their skills in traditional rodeo events, such as bareback bronc riding, the calf scramble, trick roping, bull riding, steer wrestling, barrel racing and more. The students also paid homage to the great state of Texas through songs such as “Deep in the Heart of Texas,” which has been performed in all rodeos, and “I Am a Cowboy.” The K-Rodeo was the brainchild of the late Melinda Miller, FWCD kindergarten teacher.

The Kindergarten Rodeo coincides with the students’ studies on the Lone Star State and the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo to bring Old West studies to life. While learning about Texas history, the students are exposed to and encouraged to think about life as a cowboy/girl. Through the years, kindergarteners have also visited with world champion bullfighters, rodeo clowns and cowboys to learn what it’s like to work and perform in a rodeo.

“Mrs. Miller was a rare individual who realized that the reticent child would only perform in a non-threatening situation. In this program, there is room for the rambunctious cowboy or cowgirl to explode across the room, while providing the opportunity for the meekest to prance daintily in a controlled manner,” said Dan Bloch, FWCD middle school science teacher and Kindergarten Rodeo banjo player for the past 50 years. “It has been interesting for me to see what the wild bull rider or timid rope twirler in kindergarten grows into by the time they reach me in fifth grade.”

The inaugural Kindergarten Rodeo took place in 1969 and featured 36 students who participated in bronc riding and steer wrestling. On its 45th anniversary, the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo recognized the Kindergarten Rodeo for its ingenuity and longevity. In the past half-century, more than 2,500 FWCD kindergarteners have performed in this beloved tradition.

ABOUT FORT WORTH COUNTRY DAY
Since 1963, Fort Worth Country Day has inspired the passion to learn, the courage to lead, and the commitment to serve through a program that fosters the intellectual, physical, emotional and ethical development of its students. Situated on 104 acres in southwest Fort Worth, Fort Worth Country Day’s 220 faculty/staff members lead and teach grades JK-12. Offering a comprehensive college-preparatory curriculum, Fort Worth Country Day focuses on the 3A’s—academics, arts and athletics—to bring balance to students’ experiences, provide opportunities to explore multiple interests, and thrive in a compassionate community. To learn more about Fort Worth Country Day, visit www.fwcd.org or www.Facebook.com/FortWorthCountryDay.

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