

# A "Wonder"-ful Lesson Learned

By Mr. Scott Webster

My fifth graders have been reading the book, Wonder, written by R.J. Palacio. The book tells about the struggles and triumphs of August Pullman, a fifth grader who was born with facial deformities. He's about to attend school for the first time ever, and the students at Beecher Prep are in for some valuable lessons. "Choose Kind" is the overall theme of this novel, and that tied in perfectly with our "Compassion Project."

A generous benefactor purchased seventy miniature Christmas trees to help spread kindness and cheer to the residents at the Sunrise Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, located in Virden, Illinois. Every student in my class was responsible for decorating three trees. The students worked diligently to complete the project by December 4<sup>th</sup>, the day the trees were hand delivered to the residents by the students.

Compassion and Kindness...two simple words that have a lot of meaning. The students had the opportunity to spread a little Christmas cheer to others and to "live" the theme of our novel, Wonder.





























