

THE DAVIS CLIPPER

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019

DAVISCLIPPER.COM

VOL. 127 NO. 44



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'Pumper Cars' being made available for special needs students

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FARMINGTON—In the public schools of Davis County are a group of children ranging in ages from 6 through 11 who are designated as "Special Needs Students" (SNS). These are students who struggle with various neurological infirmities that require that their teachers and physical therapists have special training. Because these SNS typically have low metabolism they are averse to exercise. One of the challenges their parents and teachers face is how to motivate these students to get upper and lower torso exercise so that their hearts and lungs will grow stronger.

On May 3, Jocelyn Taylor, the Davis County director for SNS programs, invited some

of the SNS teachers from schools in Davis County to test a unique four-wheel device called "The Pumper Car." Because of its patented design, the Pumper Car is registered by the Federal Food and Drug Administration as a "Medical Exercise Device." Using the Pumper Car provides exercise to both the upper and lower torso, which gives these children the exercise that they need to make certain that their hearts and lungs are developing properly.

The teachers who accepted Taylor's invitation to test the Pumper Car were so enthused about its potential that some of them were actually racing around the hallways the Davis County School district building in Farmington. Without exception their comment was, "how soon can we get them?"



TOM HARALDSEN

CHARLIE AND ANNA COX test their abilities on the Pumper Cars the Davis School District will receive.

There are 2,754 special needs children in Davis County schools ages 6 to 11.

Today (June 27) Douglas Keck, a vice president of Mobility For Kids, and Craig Bickmore, Executive Director of the New Auto Dealers Association of Utah, announced a partnership between their two organizations that will be

donating Pumper Cars for the Special Needs Students throughout the state of Utah.

"It is our intention," said Bickmore, "to make it possible for every school in the state of Utah that has these Special Needs Students enrolled to have enough Pumper Cars so that all of these students

will be getting the exercise that is required for their vital signs to progress."

Douglas Keck from Mobility For Kids also noted that in the four counties in southern Utah that now have the Pumper Cars physical therapists and trained adaptive program teachers are already finding significant improvement in the physiology of the Special Needs Students who are using the Pumper Cars.

Cathy C. Cahoon, who has spent 30 years working with special needs children throughout the state, shared some of the wonderful accounts of progress by these students who have been using the Pumper Car in schools in five southern Utah Counties.

"Their teachers and physical therapists have been thrilled at the

progress physically and academically that these children have achieved while using the Pumper Car," she said. "Parents too have come forward to report how the Pumper Car has given their special needs child the confidence and ability to participate in competitive games found in the curriculum provided by Mobility For Kids. Now these children can participate in games and competitions that previously were not accessible to them."

Bickmore explained that the members of the New Auto Dealers Association of Utah will select a school in their community to participate in the program.

"Our local auto dealer will contact the school

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principal to ascertain the number of special needs children in the school. Working with the Mobility For Kids foundation the decision will be made regarding how many of the cars will be needed in that school. The local dealer will then make a financial donation to the Mobility For Kids foundation to cover the cost of the cars that will be needed in their neighborhood school. The cars will be shipped from the factory to that dealer who will have his employees assemble them."

Rob Droubay, a dealer in Nephi and Delta, financed the donation of 20 Pumper Cars to local schools in Millard and Iron Counties. "As we observed the excitement in the eyes and voices of these children as they had their first

experience with a Pumper Car."

Today the annual meeting of the County School Superintendents in Utah was held at the Homestead in Midway, with 41 superintendents present. Keck, representing the partnership of Mobility for Kids and the New Auto Dealers Association of Utah announced to the superintendents present that beginning in the coming school year, they will be contacted by a local auto dealer about receiving the Pumper Car for their schools.

Shown on our cover with the Cox kids are, from left, Douglas Keck of Mobility for Kids; Julie Larsen, Davis County Director of Special Education Programs; Terry Shoemaker, Executive Director of the Utah State School Superintendents Association; Cathy Campbell Cahoon, Major Gifts Coordinator for Mobility for Kids; and Craig Bickmore, Executive Director, New Auto Dealers Association of Utah.