

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING

Children throw surprise party for officer

Officer Ken Johnson of the Blue Ash Police Department got a surprise birthday party complete with decorations, a cake and the singing of "Happy Birthday" last week at Blue Ash Elementary.

"It's not often I get a birthday party anymore," Johnson, 56, said.

It all started when Johnson and Officer Allison Norton visited the children enrolled in The Champions after-school program conducted by Knowledge Learning Corp. They taught the kids how to use 911 and about gun safety.

After the presentation, Justin Ruksenas, 7, asked Johnson for his phone number so he could call and sing "Happy Birthday" to him on his birthday, May 11.

Pam Aberman of Blue Ash, who works for the program, decided to invite the officers to return on the 11th and surprise Johnson with a party. This time, the officers brought a Taser to show the kids. The children presented Johnson with a green-frosted cake and a card. They also gave him cupcakes to take back to the station to share with his colleagues.

"Boy, you are old," Justin said when he found out

Johnson's age.

"This is one of the nicest things they could have done for my birthday," Johnson said. "It made it special."

Justin, a first-grader, is the son of Indra and Audrius Ruksenas of Blue Ash.

Other Good Things

■ Three Cincinnati students received 2009 Ohioana Robert Fox Awards for Young Writers on May 9 at the Ohioana Book Festival at the State Library in Colum-

bus. Two of them attend the School for Creative & Performing Arts. Stephanie Moore, a ninth-grader, and junior Brianna Lundy took first and third place for poetry, respectively. Kristen Spiker, a senior at Mother of Mercy High School, took the second-place prose award.

Everyone knows about good things happening. Send your suggestions (with photos if possible) to rgoodman@enquirer.com. Phone: 513-768-8361; Cincinnati.Com/share.



Provided

Justin Ruksenas, a first-grader at Blue Ash Elementary, gives Officer Ken Johnson a green cake on his birthday. Johnson makes periodic presentations to the children.