



Loudoun County Public Schools Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2024

ASHBURN, Va. - Tal Oyewunmi, a fifth grader at Tolbert Elementary School, was Mayor of Leesburg on Friday, Feb. 9. Principals of elementary schools located in the corporate limits of the Town of Leesburg were invited by the mayor to nominate a fourth or fifth grader to be entered into a raffle for “Mayor for the Day.” The winner was randomly selected from all fourth and fifth-grade nominees from Leesburg’s public schools.

Tolbert Elementary School principal Susan Mullen said Tal was recommended by two of his teachers and was selected as the Tolbert nominee because he is “kind, is great with his peers and always tries his best.” Tal was asked why he was interested in being Mayor for the Day, and he said, “I thought I would get to see the town’s facilities and learn some pretty cool stuff.”

The day started with meeting Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk and a guided tour of the Leesburg Town Hall. Tal then received personal tours of the Leesburg Police Department, Leesburg Executive Airport and the Leesburg Water Treatment Plant. Tal enjoyed many aspects of the day, particularly meeting a police K-9 and flying a flight simulator.

When asked what it meant to her as an educator and elected official to participate in such a program, Burk said, “It means everything to be able to connect with young people and hopefully get them interested in public service.” In recognition of his civic interest, Tal was asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the February 13 Loudoun County School Board meeting.

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