



And the Beat goes on.....

Brandon Dixon, a fifth grader, spoke last Tuesday to the Durham students and staff during our recent Jump Rope for Heart kickoff. Brandon shared his heart story with us and thanked everyone for helping him by caring and raising money toward the prevention of heart disease and stroke.

We asked Brandon's mom if she could tell us in more detail what exactly happened to Brandon since he was so young when all this occurred. "My son Brandon Dixon was born with a heart defect called Hypoplastic Left Heart Ventricle Syndrome. The left side of his heart did not develop all the way. He had his first surgery "the Norwood procedure", by Dr. Frasier, when he was nine days old on October 24, 1996. His last procedure was the "Fontan". He has also had a Cardiac catheterization surgery as well. On his last visit to Texas Children's Hospital, the doctor said they were going to try to get the left side of his heart to do more than the right side. He currently has a shunt in his left pulmonary artery to prevent it from closing. His next Doctor's appointment will be this June to meet with Dr. Altman." (Wrote Mrs. Dixon)

We are grateful to have Brandon along with caring students and parents who understand the value of life and reaching out to help others less fortunate than ourselves. As you continue to fundraise for The American Heart Association I would personally like to thank you for all you do to help others.

I, too, have been touched by heart disease, my grandfather died suddenly in front of my eyes at the age of 13 of a massive heart attack. I continue to be passionate about the education of young children and the effects heart disease has on family and friends.

I would like to thank Brandon and all those who continue to reach out to fight against heart disease and stroke.

Keeping the beat,
Mrs. Evans
Physical Education Teacher