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Lyle School sends banner to Iraq

By Star Courier staff

KEWANEE -- How hot is it in Iraq? Does it snow there? How do American servicemen celebrate Christmas there?

Those are some of the things the first-graders at Lyle School want to know, and they're hoping to get the answers from Spc. Kenneth Girkin.

Girkin, a member of the Galva National Guard unit, is deployed in Iraq. His daughter, Caitlynn, is a first-grader at Lyle.

The faculty at Lyle decided to let their students get involved in a personal way with the U.S. campaign in Iraq, and adopted Spc. Girkin as a sort of school project.

Each of the students wrote a letter to Girkin. Each class posed a question: Do you have snow there? Where are you in Iraq? How do you celebrate Christmas in Iraq? Is it hot in Iraq? When will you come home?

The Lyle faculty created a banner wishing Spc. Girkin a merry Christmas. On Wednesday, Spc. Girkin's wife, Catherine, came to the school and joined all the students and faculty for a photo with the banner.

After that, each student signed it.

The banner was to be sent off to Iraq, and the students and teachers hoped Spc. Girkin would receive it before Christmas.

In a letter to Spc. Girkin that will go with the banner,

the students and teachers wrote, "We would like you to know that you and all the troops have the full support of the school family here at Lyle Elementary!"

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