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*Lincoln,
meet
Mr.
Lincoln*

Presidential
portrayal
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Fox Hill student Lincoln Armstrong shook hands Monday with Danny Russel, who performed as President Abraham Lincoln at the school.

Danny Russel, in his role as Abraham Lincoln, greets Fox Hill Elementary School fifth-grader Donovan Clinkscales and classmates after presenting a program on the former president's life. It was a reward for students in Grades K-5 who collected \$630 in pennies to buy books for the school library.



CHARLIE NYE / The Star

'Mr. Lincoln' pays a visit



Lincoln Armstrong, a Fox Hill second-grader, stands with his namesake, President Abraham Lincoln (Danny Russel).

By Gretchen Becker

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Bright-eyed second-grader Lincoln Armstrong introduced himself to the man portraying a former president during a visit to a Washington Township elementary this week.

Danny Russel performed at Fox Hill Elementary as Abraham Lincoln, who made a name for himself in Illinois in 1858 in the famous debates over slavery with fellow U.S. Senate candidate Steven A. Douglas.

"I was named after the Lincoln-Douglas Debates," Lincoln told Russel.

"Is your middle name Douglas?" Russel asked.

"I'm not telling," Lincoln said.

Lincoln and other children in kindergarten through Grade 5 watched Russel as part of a reward for their Lincolns for Lincoln program.

During the week of what would've been the president's 200th birthday in February, students collected

pennies to buy books for the school library, said Janet Pfadt, media center specialist.

"Because it was the 200th anniversary, there were many new books about Lincoln," Pfadt said.

The school raised \$630, enough for more than 15 books for the library, paperbacks for classrooms, and a bronze bust of Lincoln. The reward for the students raising the most money was to "meet" the 16th president.

Carrying a Bible, feather pen and a copy of Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address, Russel played the role during a 30-minute presentation that taught the students about his life. It included his parents' anti-slavery beliefs, the deaths of his sister, parents and children, and his belief in the importance of religion.

Russel also talked about Lincoln building two cabins with his father, the elections he faced, the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation.

★ Call Star reporter Gretchen Becker at (317) 444-6198.