

Students receive free dental care during “Big Smiles” program

COLONIAL HEIGHTS - Students at North Elementary School left with even brighter smiles on Friday thanks to a two-day visit from mobile dentists with Smile Virginia.

Big Smiles Virginia PC, known in business as “Smile Virginia,” is a group of mobile dentists who seek to improve the quality of children’s lives by providing free preventive and, where appropriate, restorative dental services to children sometimes left without care.

With their signed permission forms, North Elementary School students of all grade levels were provided with dental exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, x-rays, and sealants, where applicable. Additionally, restorative services such as simple fillings, pulpotomies (a root canal on baby teeth), extractions of baby teeth and pulp caps were offered.

No child was turned away, and those who received care were given a “report card” for their parents’ review, and copies of x-rays were available to family and dental offices.

This is the first year Smile Virginia collaborated with students of all grade levels at North Elementary. School principal Travis Ridley notes he is extremely thankful his students were given such a great opportunity.

“The Big Smiles program has been a great success for the students at North Elementary,” he said. “Students have been able to receive all types of services from complete exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings to crowns.

“We would like to extend big thank you to all the local dentist for their time and services, he added. “The Big Smiles program helped keep all the North Stars smiling and healthy while never missing school.”