

# A different kind of sharing



As a 3rd grade teacher at Creekside Elementary in Limestone County, Abbie Broam shared the month-to-month excitement of her first pregnancy with her 23 students since the start of their school year together. As her March due date drew closer, Abbie planned a party for her class to have one last “hurrah” before taking maternity leave. However, as the COVID-19 spread across the U.S. and school systems responded by closing, the party never happened and she wasn’t even able to say goodbye to her students.

First time parents, Abbie and John Broam had many happy expectations for the March 21 delivery of their son, Parker, with OB-GYN Dr. William Stroud at Madison Hospital.

“The delivery was super easy because of my wonderful labor and delivery nurses and Dr. Stroud,” said Abbie.

Under normal circumstances a waiting room would have been full of excited grandparents and other family members anxious to hold Parker. Instead, because of the COVID-19 restricted visitor policy, the gathering of family occurred outside. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and even their dog Sophie held posters and balloons in the parking lot below the hospital room window where Abbie and John stood looking down.

“John held Parker so everyone could see him while I talked on the cell phone to our family below,” said Abbie.

Then they FaceTimed John’s parents in Germany who had planned on being present in the days leading up to Parker’s arrival, but were unable to fly due to the international travel restrictions. To complete the celebration, Abbie FaceTimed her 3rd grade class, so they could meet Parker, too.

Now at home and still observing social distancing, the new parents are enjoying the one-on-one time with Parker while using FaceTime with family and friends.

