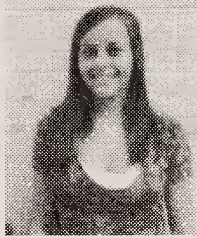


Take a gander at the elite display of royal family trees from countries around the world. **pages #6-7**

## the high LIFE

“The war on drugs has proven to be a corrupt and superficial waste of tax dollars. Meanwhile, the focus should be directed to more important issues like hunting down mass murderers and sex offenders and sending them to jail.”



Mila Smith

p. #3

### News

Get close and personal with three new teachers who recently joined the Whirlie Dream Team.

page #2

### Opinion

Should the US government cease wasting precious tax dollars in its war on drugs?

page #3

### Features

Check out the “A-list” of warmest and most stylish coats of the season for students on a budget.

page #8

### Sports

Obesity among NFL players causes concern as coaches, trainers, and physicians notice poor health of players.

page #11

### Index

News	2
Opinion	3-5
Spread	6-7
Features	8-10
Sports	11-12

## Whirlie Team acquires new players

BY LINDSEY STADLER  
Reporter

Three new additions to the Grimsley High School staff include Vonja Crowell, Kandace Wright, and Katherine Connor. Crowell is teaching Honors World History, Wright is instructing Exceptional Children, and Connor is teaching both Honors Civics & Economics and Honors World History. The staff welcomes these new educators since the teachers and students have experienced such over-crowded classes.

“I have a passion for what has happened in the past and desire to change the future,” said Crowell, who attended Winston-Salem State University and completed her student teaching at R.B. Glenn High School in Kernersville. “Student teaching was a learning experience.”

Crowell commutes from Danville, Virginia. Her outside interests include reading, especially about history. What confuses her most about the school is the computer program NCWISE, but she claims her new colleagues have been very helpful to her.

“I like the change in schedule mid-week and enjoy extra time to plan. Change is good,” said Crowell on her thoughts about Whirlie Wednesdays.

EC instructor Wright attended North Carolina Central University and holds an undergraduate degree in psychology. She has previous experi-



Joining the staff this winter are one new teacher for Exceptional Children and two new teachers in the social studies department. Staff and administration formally welcomed them at a November staff meeting. Left to right: Vonja Crowell, Katherine Connor, Kandace Wright. Kirkman photo

ence in sales, marketing, and human resources.

“Grimsley is a great school with really outstanding teachers and students,” said Wright. “Since I was very young, I have been working with individuals who have a variety of special needs. I initially chose Psychology because I wanted to be a Child/Family Therapist; however, that is not the road I followed.”

Wright enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, writing, playing Scrabble and traveling. She has never lived in Greensboro. She grew up in Elon and currently resides in Burlington. Wright previously lived in Maryland, Georgia, Virginia, and even South Korea.

“Teachers here all have high expectations of their students. They are really good at what

they do and how they do it,” said Wright, who observed four teachers on Wednesday, December 9. “The majority of students seem to enjoy being at school, and from what I have observed, have been actively engaged in their classes”

Wright is thankful for her colleagues who have been extremely helpful and welcoming to her. Like Crowell, she is still learning the system, claiming that she will “get the hang of Whirlie Wednesdays soon.”

Connor, the second of two new social studies teachers, attended UNC-Chapel Hill.

“I participated in the “We The People Competition” about the US Constitution in high school, and that basically set my decision to earn a history and political degree,” said Connor, who completed her student teaching at Chapel Hill High School. “It was a fun

learning experience with a great mentor teacher. I was an assistant coach for the women’s varsity soccer team, too. It was a lot of work, but well worth it.”

Assistant Principal Misty Walker and social studies teachers Sam Westbrook and Larry Williamson have been most helpful to her.

“The opening weeks have been challenging, but also rewarding,” said Connor.

She has lived in Greensboro most of her life and attended Northwest High School. One of her outside interests is coaching the Northwest High School swim team.

Trying to learn all of the rules and regulations is a challenge for any newcomer on campus.

“I’m just waiting for a practice tornado drill or lockdown, so that I can see what I actually need to do,” said Connor.

## MUGS embraces diversity, friendship

BY MILASMITH  
Features Editor

Student activities and clubs are integral parts of every good school’s program since they provide opportunities for the young people to express themselves, to learn respect for the rights of others, to work toward common goals, and to interact with peers.

Whirlie organizations focus on everything from special interests like art, languages, and photography to community service. These programs promote essential characteristics, such as leadership, self-control, respect, and moral courage. The lengthy list of the 64 clubs offered on campus recently extended once again.

Mixing Up Grimsley Students (MUGS) is a newly estab-

lished club on campus encouraging students to interact and become acquainted with peers they have not yet met. Seniors Rachel Swier and Katherine Phillips started MUGS to promote cultural awareness and diversity among members of the student body.

In a new era when flexibility and creativity pave the way to success, both cultural awareness and the answer to “Why is cultural diversity important?” ring very large bells. Cultural awareness reinforces simple morals like honoring the beliefs and differences of others. Encouraging students to interact will facilitate understanding, cooperation, and productivity. Most importantly, it brings about a true spirit of camaraderie; thus, new connections emerge, re-

sulting in endless possibilities for the school’s population.

MUGS will formulate its goals for the year by choosing dates when students will make an effort to mingle during lunch with new acquaintances and begin new friendships. Other projects include developing a pledge, making banners and other advertisements, and visiting middle schools.

“Although we are a very diverse community, there are clear separations between races and gender, which breed intolerance. As a club, we hope to learn more about each other, help Student Council develop a ‘Mix-It-Up Day,’ and ultimately to build a community free of bias, bigotry, and racism,” said Swier.

MUGS is currently working with the National

Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) in efforts to organize events and programs for the club. According to their website, <http://www.nccjtriad.org>, NCCJ is a “human relations organization that promotes understanding and respect among all cultures, races and religions through advocacy, education and dialogue. NCCJ does not advocate for any particular group or philosophy, but works to build mutual respect among all people—regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic background or faith.”

No specific requirements exist for students to join the club; anyone interested is welcome. One can find additional insight regarding MUGS through its Facebook group called “MUGS Grimsley.”