


FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
 by Dr. Barry Harding
 Public Schools of Robeson County



Our third annual "Showcase of Schools," scheduled for this Saturday at Biggs Park Mall, promises to offer parents and the general public an even more detailed demonstration of projects and programs taking place in our schools than did previous shows. When the first exhibition took place in 1998, it was, of course, a new effort with a certain amount of experimentation taking place by the various schools to see how best to highlight their schools. After a couple of years of experience, though, the people at those schools are more familiar with what needs to be done to set up an effective booth to properly show off the things that the school is proud of and wants the public to see.

From the very first Showcase, though, the idea was to not only give parents and the general public some information about what is going on in our schools but also to encourage parents, community and business support for the Public Schools of Robeson

County. It's an example of making our system more customer-oriented.

Beyond parents being able to see what their child's current school is doing it also gives them the opportunity to see what the next school their child will attend might be involved with. If the child, for example, is about to complete his or her education at an elementary school and the parent knows what middle school the child will be attending next year, then they have the opportunity visit the booth of that school and get an idea of the type of projects which that school may be undertaking. It gives them a kind of

preview of what they might expect. On hand at each booth Saturday will be principals, teachers and other school personnel as well as members of the school's PTA who are in a position to discuss with the parents what the booth is displaying from a parent's viewpoint. Remember, the idea of the event is to help promote the

understanding that parents are true partners in their children's education and that they can best be partners if they are well-informed. Viewing the programs on display in the booths and asking questions of those overseeing them is one way that can be accomplished.

In addition to the booths, a variety of entertainment will be available at center stage in the mall. Besides providing visitors with a change of pace, the entertainment will provide an excellent example of what our outstanding Arts Program is accomplishing with our students.

Please try to find some time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. this Saturday to visit with us at Biggs Park Mall during the "Showcase of Schools." A lot of effort has been put into preparing the displays and whether you're a parent or grandparent of a student or of a child who will soon be entering school or just a citizen interested in education, I think you'll be impressed with what our schools are doing to work towards progress for Robeson County through education. Another thing you'll see is the pride that those in the booths feel about the programs they're displaying.

Many residents of Brittany, the northwest section of France, speak Breton, which is related to Welsh, in addition to French.

Power Wheelchairs Available for seniors and disabled

The Senior Wheels USA Program makes available Power (Electric) Wheelchairs to senior citizens (65 yrs old & up) and the Permanently Disabled at no cost to the recipient, if they qualify.

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If your need is for use in your home, please call for more information to see if you qualify. Call toll free, Leon Johnson at 1-800-246-6010.

School meetings

Lumberton Junior High School's Advisory Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 5th at 6:00 p.m.

The Lumberton Junior High PTO will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 5th. All parents are urged to attend.

Weinstein to lead new Senate rural development committee

Raleigh - State Senator David Weinstein will serve as co-chairman of the new Senate Rural development Committee during the 2001-2002 General Assembly. Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight announced this week.

Basnight said the new committee would help the Senate find ways to provide rural areas with the tools they need - such as roads, Internet and other infrastructure - to make their economies stronger. Weinstein, D-Robeson, will co-chair the committee with Sen. Steve Metcalf, D-Buncombe.

"David's leadership on rural issues make him a natural choice to lead this committee," said Basnight, D-Dare. "But his genuine desire to help people is his biggest asset, and I am delighted and grateful that he is willing to serve our state in this capacity."

Weinstein, who was sworn in this week for his third term representing

Senate District 30, chaired the Senate's special tobacco settlement committee during the 1999-2000 session. He helped create a nonprofit foundation to provide funds for job training and other programs to help the state's struggling tobacco-dependent communities, and also worked to make sure tobacco farmers received direct financial aid from the settlement.

"Our state's rural areas are struggling," Weinstein said. "This new committee will help make sure all our residents - no matter where they live - have the same chances for success."

Weinstein will also serve as vice chairman of the Finance Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources. He will sit on several other committees: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources, Insurance/Consumer Protection, Transportation, and Pensions/Retirement/Aging.


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