

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



While I would imagine that most of the some 600 high school graduates who attended this year's "Project Graduation" have already become involved in various summertime activities, I feel certain that one of their pleasant memories associated with graduation had to do with that event. It may well have been the last time that many of them will get to spend with fellow students from their school in the foreseeable future.

The event, whose purpose was to provide graduates with an evening of entertainment on this important night of their lives-while showing them that it's possible to have an enjoyable evening without having to resort to artificial stimulants, it goes beyond that. It's hoped that finding that those things are not necessary to enjoy themselves will sow the seeds in the minds of those attending and their friends to turn their backs on them throughout life. Considering the fact that these young people will make up the next generation of taxpaying, voting citizens who will become the leaders of this county, it will take clear heads unaffected

by unnecessary stimulants to carry out those responsibilities. Since peer pressure often is the impetus for getting the young introduced to these stimulants, this night of abstinence can set the stage for a more productive life for these young people as well as progress for the county.

I feel certain that these are the reasons that the people of the county-individuals, industries and businesses as well as governmental and educational institutions are so willing to get behind "Project Graduation". That's especially so since there is no funding provided for the event in the school budget. Contributions take various forms from checks from individuals who see its value to contributions of food and drink from firms who want to be a part of it to contributions of goods in the form of gifts which are awarded during the night's activities. I am reluctant to mention here the names of the various contributors for various reasons. One is that, when they make their contributions, they are not looking to get credit for them. The other is that, when you start listing people, there

is always the chance that you might forget to mention one which is, of course, unfair to the one overlooked. One which I feel really needs to be mentioned, though, is the University of North Carolina at Pembroke without whose hospitality it would be extremely difficult to produce such an event.

Purnell Swett High News

The Athletic Banquet was held on May 7, 2001 at 6:30 P.M. David McCallum was selected as male athlete of the year and Charlie Lowry was selected as female athlete of the year.

The Awards Program was held on May 18, 2001 at 6:00 P.M.

The Academic Excellence Banquet was held May 14, 2001 at 6:30 P.M.

Teacher Appreciation week was held May 7-11 as teachers were treated and honored with food, cards, candy, and other treats from various clubs, PTA, and Student Council.

Seniors in Mr. Richard Amow, Mrs. Bonnie Hunt, and Mr. Michael Stephens' classes presented their senior projects.

Band, orchestra and chorus held their annual Spring Concert May 15.

The Senior Prom was held May 4 with the theme, Today's Dreams Tomorrow's Memories. Donavon Hunt was selected as king and Crystal Hunt was selected as

queen. Secretaries week was held May 23-27. They received flowers, cards and gifts. The secretaries are: Kathy Coble, Cindy Locklear, Cindy Oxendine, Sabrina Dew, Cindy Sweat, Kathy Locklear and accounting, Peggy Locklear.

Eric Blue was selected as Valedictorian and Charlotte Johnson was selected as salutatorian.

Graduation was held on May 24 at The Givens Performing Art Center at 6:30 P.M.

The Marshals for 2001 were: Tyson Meadors (Chief Marshal), Telisha Lynn Oxendine (Assistant Chief Marshal), Adam Chavis, Kristina Chavis, Johnathan Graham, Lynn Harris, Sanford Jacobs, Larissa Johnson, Ashley Lowry, Candace Lowry, Jessica Oxendine and Laura Oxendine.

The Transition Awards Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn in Lumberton on May 11, 2001.

Students from Mrs. Gertie Mariani's class attended UNCP on May 1, 2001 to perform a lab on DNA.

Youth Mentors Are Being Sought

If you're the type of person who would like working with young people, are dependable, have a good sense of humor and would enjoy sharing ideas and talents with others, mentoring could offer you the opportunity to contribute to the development of those young people.

Monitoring is a structured one-to-one relationship that focuses on developing the assets of the mentee. It fosters caring and supportive relationships, encourages students and individuals to develop to their fullest potential, and provides students with the tools to become caring, responsible adults. Being willing to commit as little as one hour per week to mentor can make a significant difference in a child's life.

Studies indicate that at schools where there is a mentoring program in place attendance improved by 25%, academics and grades improved by 59%, disciplinary referrals were reduced by 66% and the overall dropout rate was reduced by 50%.

If you'd like to help, call Dr. Rona Leach at (910) 671-6000 Extension 268. You can make a difference.

Religious Poems Sought From Pembroke-Area Poets

Good news for sincere poets! The Bards of Burbank is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their Poetry Competition 2000, free to everyone. The deadline for entering is July 5, 2001.

To enter, send one poem 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, PMB250, 2219 W Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506, you may enter online at www.friendlypoets.com.

"We think religious poems can invite achievement," says Dr. John Scibner, the organization's Contest Director. "We're especially keen on inspiring amateur poets and we think this competition will achieve that. North Carolina has made many wonderful poets over the years and I'd like to discover new ones from among the Pembroke-area grassroots poets."

Though I am not naturally honest, I am so sometimes by chance.
—William Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale*

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