

All schools have new starting times this fall

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

With the first day of classes approaching, students in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system are being reminded that all schools will have new start times for the 2003-04 school year.

Elementary start times are staggered. One group starts at 7:55 a.m., another at 8:20 a.m. and a final group at 8:45 a.m. Middle schools start at 7:30 a.m., and high schools begin at 8:45 a.m.

There are a few exceptions. The paired magnet schools - Ashley and Diggs elementary and Hill and Paisley middle - will all start at 8:15 a.m.

The first day of school for those on the traditional calendar is Aug. 11.

District administrators said that the new schedule would affect more people than students and their parents.

"It's important for everyone in the county to understand that traffic patterns, especially around schools, will be different than to what people have become accustomed," said Ken Kucirka, director of auxiliary services for the school district.

"We urge drivers to be aware of buses on the road and of traffic around our schools, but also to be aware that the times of the heavy traffic around schools will be different than in the past."

Parents who have questions or concerns about their bus schedules or their routes should call 661-RIDE (7433).

The new bell schedule is:

Elementary schools

- 7:55 a.m. - 2:25 p.m. - Children's Center, Clemmons, Jefferson, Kernersville, Lewisville, Old Town, Rural Hall, Sedge Garden, Southwest, Union Cross and Walkertown.

- 8:20 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. - Brunson, Cash, Cook, Forest Park, Gibson, Griffith, Abraham,

- Latham, Meadowlark, Moore, North Hills, Piney Grove, Sherwood Forest, South Fork, Spears, Vienna, Ward and Whitaker.

- 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. - Bolton, Downtown, Easton, Hall-Woodward, Kimberley Park, Konnoak, Mineral Springs, Old Richmond and Petree.

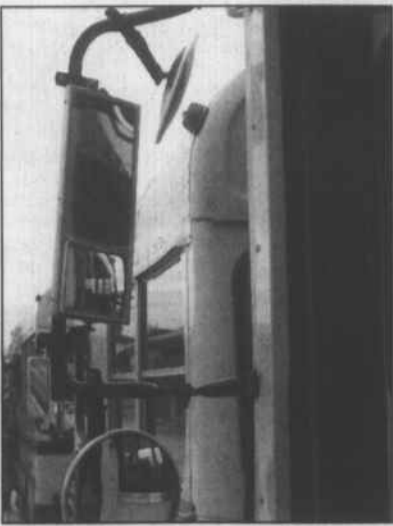
Paired Magnet Schools

- 8:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. - Ashley Elementary, Diggs Elementary, Hill Middle and Paisley Middle.

All middle schools, including Kennedy Learning Center and Lowrance, will run from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All high schools, including Forsyth Vocational, will go from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Year-round schools started July 21 and have already adopted the starting times.



Iraqi vet tells kids about war

David Boyd spent much of his childhood at Reynolds Park

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

Cpl. David Boyd remembers when he spent countless afternoons and summers of his youth playing at Reynolds Park Recreation Center. Having spent most of this summer fighting in the war in Iraq, Boyd returned to Reynolds Park to share his experiences as a member of the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Marine Division.

Originally stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Boyd is in the process of transferring to Camp Lejeune. Boyd, a rifleman, returned to Winston-Salem last month, and, he said, "It's good to be home."

Boyd spoke candidly with the youngsters about his deployment to Iraq, which lasted from January until June. Hands shot up around the room as youngsters lobbied to have their questions answered.

"Were you scared? Did you carry a gun? How long did you go without taking a bath? What kind of food did you eat? Did you shoot anybody?" were among the questions asked of Boyd.

"(Iraqi civilians) were so happy to see us because they knew we were getting rid of Saddam (Hussein). He's that bad of a man," Boyd said. "He (Saddam) killed a lot of his own people and did a lot of bad things to them."

Boyd said a number of Iraqi soldiers surrendered themselves, their weapons and their uniforms. Boyd kept a hat, which was taken off by an Iraqi soldier upon surrendering to the U.S. military.

Boyd's unit also encountered boys, as young as 12 years old, fighting in the Iraqi militia. Boyd explained that kids growing up in Iraq aren't as fortunate as kids who live in America. He encouraged the youngsters to take nothing for granted in life.

"You should appreciate what you have here (in America). You don't have to grow up like that. You don't have to grow up playing with guns. You don't have to do any of that. You've got it made. Over there, they feel like they have to fight," Boyd said.

Boyd's father, Sgt. Jimmy Boyd of the Winston-Salem Police Department, accompanied his son on his visit to Reynolds Park. The two corresponded by letter during the younger Boyd's recent tour of



David Boyd greets members of his young audience.

duty. At one point, a letter arrived from Baghdad from Cpl. Boyd on a piece of cardboard, Sgt. Boyd explained. It

was proof that his son was still alive. "I'm extremely happy that he is back, alive and safe."



Jimmy Boyd and his son, David.

There were many prayers that were sent up by so many people," Sgt. Boyd said. "I think it's seemingly fitting for him to come back (to Reynolds Park) and show the kids that they can grow up and be what they want to be."

Boyd, who was recently awarded a medal for good conduct, never expected to see combat when he joined the Marines after graduating from high school in 1999. The "Marines' style," said Boyd, is what attracted him to that branch of the military.

Boyd said he doesn't give much thought to the controversy in this country over the war. For Boyd, it was a matter of fulfilling his obligation as a U.S. Marine.

"It's my job to fight, and I have to back up the president, so that is what I did," Boyd said.

Agency will probe kindergarten readiness with \$80,000 grant

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Forsyth Early Childhood Partnership will conduct a study that will assess factors contributing to kindergarten readiness in Forsyth County. The study is being funded by a two-year \$80,000 grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

The Winston-Salem Foundation provided initial funding for the project. FECP will conduct a longitudinal study on the impact that growth and developmental factors, child care settings and educational services have on school readiness in the county.

Dr. Ron Montaquila, executive director of the partnership, said the goal of the study is twofold: to determine a better plan for early-education programs and services for young children and to create a model by which other communities can learn and work.

The study, which will begin in 2003, will follow a group of children from their

early-education experience through kindergarten. Children from different genders, ethnicities and incomes who participate in poor, moderate and high quality early childhood education programs will be examined as part of the study.

For more information on the study, visit www.forsythchild.org.

Recall

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ified for the ballot, it was slated for the next statewide election, which was then the March 2004 presidential primary. That promised a disproportionate Democratic turnout - a mix of liberals and minorities considered the proposition's natural opponents.

But when anti-Davis troops gathered enough signatures to force a recall on Oct. 7, suddenly Proposition 54 became the other standout issue on the ballot.

While the accelerated timetable could help the initiative's chances because opponents have less time to rally, a jolt of traditionally Democratic voters could benefit Davis.

"I think it will have a net effect for the anti-recall folks," said Barbara O'Connor, a communications professor at California State University-Sacramento. "It provides a moral imperative for those who don't want to recall the governor, but aren't inclined to vote."

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