



Assistant Principal Cindy Rash poses with teacher/author Jen-Ai Childress and Principal Chris Massenburg.

**Book**

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"Mommy says cancer is when things just keep growing in your body that shouldn't be there," London tells her classmates.

Childress read the book to Cook's student body on Oct. 16 as she sat in a rocking chair labeled "The Author's Chair." The chair is normally used by her own students when they read something they have written in her classroom. She told them that the story had a deeply personal meaning.

"My best friend in the whole wide world has cancer," she said.

That friend is Melody Whitaker Hall, whom she met while attending Bennett College. Hall was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006. She fought it into remission, but it aggressively returned in 2010. Hall has Stage Four cancer; the disease has spread to other parts of her body and is incurable. In 2013, she was given 18-24 months to live.

Childress and Hall's other Bennett classmates take turns taking Hall to chemotherapy. She said they are amazed by her courage.

She wrote the book in

collaboration with Hall, who signed off on the story and the illustrations by California artist Eman Faulkner.

Hall, who lives in Gastonia, has a five-year-old daughter, Lauryn Hall, who Childress says has been courageous through her mother's ordeal. Childress wrote the book for Lauryn and other courageous children.

"The kids are the ones that are the silent sufferers after their parents are gone," she said.

Childress plans to write a series of books that will follow London though her mother's struggle, including titles that will show how she copes after her mother passes away. Her next book will be entitled "Kids Wear Pink Too." It is a character education workbook for children whose parents have breast cancer. She plans to use proceeds from book sales to start a non-profit that will give scholarships to students at black colleges whose parents have had breast cancer.

Childress lost her own mother to colon cancer in 2010 and said writing has been therapeutic. By design, she released "London Giselle Hall presents My Beautiful Mommy," in October - Breast Cancer Awareness

Month.

Childress' fellow Cook educators are impressed with her debut book. Khedeja Evans, who, like Childress, teaches kindergarten, introduced her during the assembly, saying that last year, during a similar gathering with a visiting writer, Childress turned to her and said she was going to write a book.

Evans said that teachers on the kindergarten team have seen her go through every step of the process in the book's creation and are so proud they want to "squeeze her every day."

During the assembly, things came full circle, as Childress became the visiting author.

"This is more than just an author who is coming to talk to us today," Evans told the children. "This is someone who we see every day who is showing us we can be whoever we want to be."

Cook Principal Chris Massenburg said he, too, was proud of what Childress has accomplished.

"She's a great example for the kids here of what we're trying to promote: kids reaching their full potential," he said.

For more information, or to order the books, visit [musabooksllc.wix.com/kidswearpinktool](http://musabooksllc.wix.com/kidswearpinktool).

# Anti-death penalty group will honor Womble

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Former NC Rep. Larry Womble will be honored on Friday, Nov. 14 for his leadership on the death penalty.

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty will fete Womble at its 20th anniversary awards banquet at the Friday Center at UNC Chapel Hill. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. The dinner will begin at 7:15 p.m.

For years Rep. Womble was the face of the efforts in the N.C. House for a moratorium on executions and later was the champion of the Racial Justice Act in the House, which became law in 2009.

"He was untiring in his enthusiasm for acknowledging and righting the wrongs of the death penalty. He could always be counted on to not only be ever-present in leadership but to always bring a spirit of warmth, kindness, and humor to his leadership," said PFADP Executive Director Stephen Dear. "He fostered support from religious leaders and a diverse coalition of advocates and citizens."

NC Sen. Floyd B. McKissick Jr. of Durham will receive PFADP's Leadership Award for his sponsoring of the NC Racial Justice Act of 2009 in the NC Senate. Also receiving PFADP's Leadership Award will be Former Durham Mayor Pro Tem Howard Clement III, who successfully championed PFADP's resolution for a moratorium on executions in 1999, making Durham the first major city in the state and one of the first in the country to call for a suspension of executions.

In 2012, with Clement's support,



File Photo

PFADP will honor Larry Womble next month.

Durham became the first major city in North Carolina to pass a resolution calling for repealing the death penalty. PFADP will honor Mr. Clement with its Leadership Award. As of today 45 NC local governments and 2,100 congregations and businesses have passed repeal or moratorium resolutions.

PFADP will offer its Faith in Action Award to Baltimore-based Ecumenical Leaders Group of the Central

Maryland Ecumenical Council for its efforts in mobilizing support for repealing Maryland's death penalty, which was repealed last year. Dead Man Walking author Sister Helen Prejean will be on hand to receive PFADP's Rev. Robert E. Seymour Award for her years of advocacy for death penalty repeal.

Tickets and sponsorship information are available at [pfadp.org](http://pfadp.org).

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The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636  
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

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No more straight-party voting - individually choose all of our Democrats!

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Go Early Vote! Oct. 23 - Nov. 1.

November 4, 2014 is General Election day - polls open 6:30am to 7:30pm.

Voter ID is NOT required until 2016.



### 2014 DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES

US SENATE	Sen. Kay Hagan
US HOUSE 12 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT (Vote twice!)	Rep. Alma Adams
US HOUSE 5 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT	Josh Brannon
NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 31	John Motsinger, Sr.
NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 32	Sen. Earline Parmon
NC HOUSE DISTRICT 71	Rep. Evelyn Terry
NC HOUSE DISTRICT 72	Rep. Ed Hanes
NC HOUSE DISTRICT 74	Mary Dickinson
NC HOUSE DISTRICT 75	David Gordon
NC HOUSE DISTRICT 79	Cristina Vazquez
COUNTY COMMISSIONER AT-LARGE	Ted Kaplan
COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT A	Walter Marshall Everette Witherspoon
BOARD OF EDUCATION AT-LARGE	Katherine Fansler German Garcia Elisabeth Motsinger
BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 1	Vic Johnson Deanna Taylor
BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 2	Laura Elliott Deanna Kaplan
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT	Susan Frye

#### NON PARTISAN - BELOW ARE REGISTERED DEMOCRATS

NC SUPREME COURT - Martin seat	Judge Sam Ervin IV
NC SUPREME COURT - Hudson seat	Justice Robin Hudson
NC SUPREME COURT - Beasley seat	Justice Cheri Beasley
NC COURT OF APPEALS - Martin seat	Judge John Arrowood
NC COURT OF APPEALS - Hunter seat	Judge Lucy Inman
NC COURT OF APPEALS - Davis seat	Judge Mark Davis
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE District 21	Judge George Bedsworth
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE District 21	Judge Denise Hartsfield
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