

BACK TO SCHOOL



Mayor Allen Joines speaks during the second annual AKA Community Day at Carver High School. Joines read a proclamation declaring Aug. 15 AKA Day in Winston-Salem.



Students and parents wait for the start of AKA Community Day outside Carver High School on Saturday, Aug. 15.

Mayor proclaims Aug. 15 AKA Day during community event

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Both gymnasiums on the campus of Carver High School were filled with pink and green on Saturday, Aug. 15 for the second annual AKA Community Day.

This year's event, sponsored by the Phi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., featured vision and dental screenings for school-age children, the WSSU Mobile Health Unit, Financial Pathways Mobile, educational displays, cultural exhibits, crafts, games and face painting.

The AKA Community Day also included performances from the Carver High School Cheerleaders, the Emmanuel Baptist Church Mime Team, African dancers, as well as a number of musical selections and other performances.

School supplies and backpacks were also given away. Before receiving the backpacks students had to go to each exhibit and receive a sticker.

At the start of the event, Mayor Allen Joines read a proclamation from the city declaring Aug. 15 AKA Day in Winston-Salem. Joines applauded the Phi Omega Chapter for its dedication to community service.

"The city of Winston-Salem would like to thank the AKAs for all they do in the community," said Joines. "The AKAs are known for their community work, and I'm glad that we have a chance recognize the organization for all they do."

Kenyetta Richmond, chapter president, also spoke during the event and was surprised with the turnout. Before the event started, a line was wrapped around the gymnasium.

"We had an amazing turnout this year. The line started to form almost an hour before the event was set to begin," Richmond said.

According to Richmond, close to 300 backpacks were given away during the community day.

"I'm very proud of what we were able to do today for this community," said Richmond. "Community service is

very important to this organization."

Deanna Taylor, member of the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Board of Education, was impressed with the event.

"I'm very impressed," said Taylor. "It just gives me a good feeling to know that someone cares so much about our community and our children."

"The AKAs do an amazing job of giving back to the community, and we are truly grateful for all they do."

Taylor, who has been with the Board of Education for almost a year, said even in her short time on the board she can see a change in the community support of the youth and schools in the community.

"It's a beautiful thing to see our community come together," said Taylor. "Even in my short time being here I can see how the community has come together and rallied behind its youth."

The Phi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. was founded in the early 1920s for members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority who wanted to remain active in the communities in the Triad area.



Sharon Frazier gives out prizes to students during the Amazing Summer Escape Grand Finale at Hanes Mall on Saturday, Aug. 15.



A representative from the PTA speaks with students and parents during the Amazing Summer Escape Grand Finale event on Saturday, Aug. 15.

WS/FCS students wrap up Amazing Summer Challenge

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Students from a number of schools in Forsyth County gathered at Hanes Mall on Saturday, Aug. 15, to wrap up an "Amazing" summer of learning and fun.

To mark the start of the 2015 school year, the Amazing Summer Escape Challenge held a school supply giveaway and celebration for the participants in the summer program for students.

The Amazing Summer Escape Challenge is a program designed to encourage students and families to participate in summer learning activities within their communities. Each student enrolled in the program was to complete a journal of summer learning as well as a passport documenting their summer activities.

Different learning packets were distributed to students from pre-K to sixth grade. Packets had to be completed before the start of the 2015 school year. A summer fun checklist was also given to each student.

On the checklist were a number of activities the students had to complete to add to their passports. The activities ranged from having a picnic, to catching lightning bugs and everything in between.

During the grand finale of the program, students with completed passports were entered into a drawing to win \$500. Activities also included a back-to-school fashion show, student performances and informational exhibits.

Students were also asked trivia ques-

tions to win surprises. Many of the parents and students who stayed through the majority of the event won drawstring bags for participating.

Sharon Frazier, district and Title I parent involvement coordinator for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, spoke with students about the upcoming school year and about the importance of summer learning.

"The students in the program have really been working hard on their passports and learning packets," Frazier said. "This program really helps keep the kids' minds sharp so they are ready for a new school year."

Before enrolling in the program, students had to pledge to learn strong and stay active and safe all summer long. Frazier said she believes the program really helps the kids stay on track for the next year.

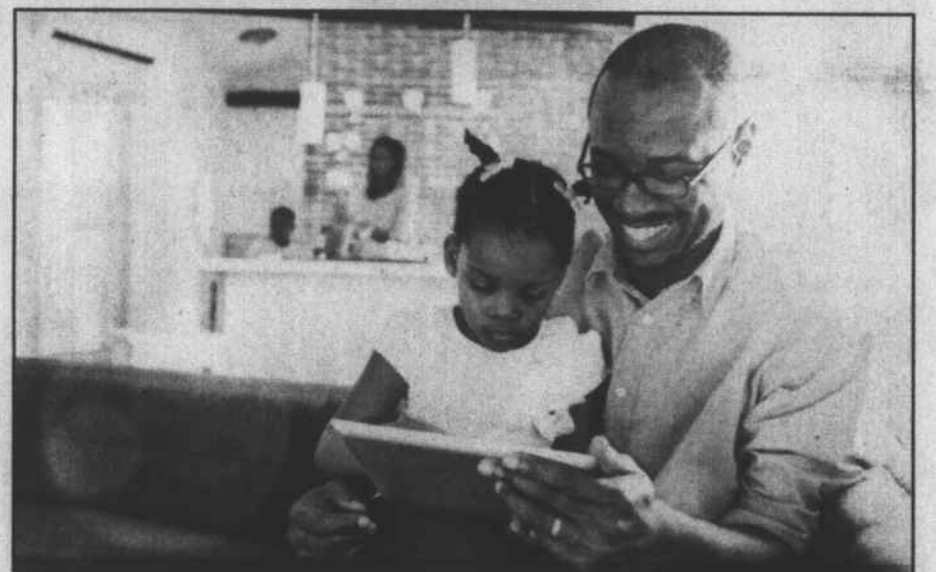
"It is important the kids stay on track during the summer. It makes the start of a new school year less stressful," she said.

Many parents who were completing their school shopping stopped by to find out more on the ASE program and seem interested in the program for next summer.

Jasmine Williams of Winston-Salem said she had never heard about the program.

"Now that I know, I will enroll my son in the program next year," she said.

For more information on the summer program, call the ASE hotline at 336-703-4294. The first day of school for students in Forsyth County is Monday, Aug. 24.



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