



Michelle Todd-Davis talks about the importance of parent involvement during an event held at the Arts Council Theater on Tuesday, Aug. 23.



Local school board chair Dana Caudill-Jones addresses parents during an event designed to encourage parents to get more involved in their children's education on Tuesday, Aug. 23.

# School board encourages parents to get involved

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year, members of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS) Board of Education met with parents and others with a vested interest in local schools to discuss the district's core values.

Throughout the summer months, school board members worked with parents, teachers, administrators and others in the com-

munity to create a list of words that will be associated with the overall mission of the district. Afterward, several stakeholders decided that student-centered, collaboration; accountability, integrity, high expectations, and equity are what the district should value most.

School board chair Dana Caudill-Jones said, "This district will live by these core values every day throughout the school year."

During the event held

inside the Arts Council Theater, parents also learned about various childcare offerings and other activities for children. Parents and guardians were also encouraged to become more involved in students' education by joining the PTA and building working relationships with teachers and administrators.

Caudill-Jones said parents are the most important part of the WS/FCS team. She mentioned what parents do for students each

and every day that no teacher or administrator can replicate.

"I can say personally my parents were always my greatest supporters and what you bring to your child no teacher can really do. You are our rock stars and our unsung heroes," she said. "You make the difference and we want more of you in our schools."

To wrap up the event, parents and guardians took to the stage to discuss the importance of getting

involved and how they will support their children's school this school year. Michelle Todd-Davis said it is important that parents recognize and address the needs of children in the home as well as in school.

"I think it's time we cut some things out. We need to start communicating more with our children," Todd-Davis said.

Stella Holmes, who is responsible for her grandson, said she is all in when it comes to helping educate her grandson who

attends Gibson Elementary School. As a member of the parent involvement team at Gibson, Holmes said any time she is asked to do something at the school, she does it.

"I volunteer at the school, I'm a member of the PTA, and I feel like family is very important," she continued. "It's up to the family to help these children and keep them on the right path."

## BOOK REVIEW

# You know your own mind

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

After thinking things through, you have your opinions and while you're willing to listen to what others say, you're also willing to defend what you believe in. And, as in the new book "The Firebrand and the First Lady" by Patricia Bell-Scott, your friends don't necessarily have to agree with you.

Eleanor Roosevelt's Camp Tera, nestled near New York's Hudson River, was initially meant to be a temporary, leg-up place for Depression-era women who were destitute and totally without resources. Though she was young, educated, and married, Pauli Murray was there because of ill health.

Recovery-time aside, Murray's tenure at Camp Tera was beneficial: a friend had told her that Roosevelt answered all correspondence, and Murray took that to heart. In 1938, a few years after she was kicked out of Camp Tera for "disrespecting the first lady," she wrote a protest letter to Roosevelt, requesting intercession in FDR's stance on anti-lynching laws. Activism was Murray's passion and the answer she got wasn't what she'd wanted but it did, as promised, come from Roosevelt.

Murray was born in 1910, the feisty granddaughter of a mulatto slave whose stories of injustice she grew up hearing. Murray lost her mother when she was just three; a few years later, her father was institu-

## The Firebrand and the First Lady



Portrait of a Friendship

Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice

Patricia Bell-Scott

"The Firebrand and the First Lady" by Patricia Bell-Scott  
c.2016, Alfred A. Knopf  
\$30.00 / \$39.00 Canada  
480 pages

tionalized, then murdered; and her brother was lobotomized. She, herself, had health problems and was often severely underweight; during one of her hospitalizations, she finally admitted that she was attracted to women, which was then considered to be a mental health issue.

It took awhile for Murray to tell Roosevelt all that. Before she did, and because of that first protest note, the two corresponded for years in letters that offered guidance, outrage,

and rebuttal. The women didn't always agree, but they always seemed to attempt to understand one another's take on issues. Murray supported Roosevelt in her widowhood. Roosevelt encouraged Murray in her activism.

It was a support that Murray imagined she felt long after Mrs. Roosevelt's death.

I would not, under the broadest of terms, call "The Firebrand and the First Lady" a pleasure read.

That's not to say that this book isn't a pleasure - it's just not something you'd pick up to relax with. Author Patricia Bell-Scott goes deep into the politics and work of both Roosevelt and Murray (more the latter than the former) and that can be very dry. It's informative - Bell-Scott tells a story that's been largely hidden for decades, about a woman who left her mark on social issues in many ways - but it's far from lively. Adding more details of Murray's personal life might've helped; that's what I was hungriest for, but didn't get enough of.

I think this is an important work of history and definitely worth reading but you'll want to be in the mood for it, particularly if you usually like lots of energy in your stories. If you're a scholar or historian reading "The Firebrand and the First Lady," though, the pace is something you probably won't mind.

Terri Schlichenmeyer has been reading since she was three years old.

# Residents encouraged to follow basic mosquito control measures to dodge Zika virus

SPECIAL TO  
THE CHRONICLE

As summer temperatures in North Carolina are upon us and Zika virus has been locally transmitted in a small neighborhood in Florida, the Forsyth County Department of Public Health wants to encourage residents to take basic mosquito control and protective measures against mosquito-borne disease. Whether you're traveling out of the country or just enjoying the beautiful North Carolina weather at home, be sure to use repellants and other general protection measures against biting mosquitoes.

Mosquito-borne diseases are most commonly acquired from June to September, but the Asian Tiger mosquito can be seen in Forsyth County through October. Residents of Forsyth County can "Tip and Toss" to eliminate mosquito breeding areas and take preventive measures to reduce the likeli-

hood of mosquito bites.

As of August 12, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has reported 33 travel-associated Zika virus cases. The first travel-associated case of Zika virus in Forsyth County was reported in March 2016. Forsyth County Health Department is home to one of several Vector Control Programs across the state and continues regular mosquito control activities around the county.

"Mosquito control is a community effort that everyone should participate in," said Marlon Hunter, Forsyth County Health Director. "We can use the 'Tip and Toss' practices to protect ourselves and our neighbors from mosquito bites this summer."

Basic control measures include reducing habitats for the pests and reducing exposure to them.

Tip and Toss:

\*Reduce mosquito

breeding opportunities by emptying standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths at least weekly.

\*Be sure to tightly secure screens on all openings on rain barrels used for water conservation.

\*Clean up any trash or leaves that may be around your home or in rain gutters.

Reduce exposure and use preventive measures:

\*If you are traveling, be sure to visit the CDC website for updates on regional disease transmission patterns and outbreaks ([www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)).

\*Wear appropriate clothing like long-sleeved shirts or hats.

\*You can also tuck in shirts and pants, and wear closed shoes instead of sandals.

\*Be aware of peak exposure times and places.

\*Use the appropriate insecticides and repellants for skin and clothing.

For more information on preventing mosquito-borne illnesses visit: <http://www.forsyth.cc/PublicHealth/> or call the Environmental Health Division at 336-703-3225.

Dr. J. Sadler, DDS

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**WALK A MILE TO SAVE OUR BABIES**

**SEPTEMBER 29 2016**

Join the Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition and other concerned agencies and citizens on Thursday, September 29, in commemorating September as Infant Mortality Awareness Month as

**"WALK A MILE TO SAVE OUR BABIES"**

To learn how you can get involved in the fight against infant mortality, call the Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition at 703-3260 or visit the website [www.helpourbabies.org](http://www.helpourbabies.org).

Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition