

## Board approves new policies

By Jennifer Joyner

School uniforms and corporal punishment may be a part of students' school day during the upcoming school years. On Dec. 9 the Nash-Rocky Mount School Board approved the school uniform and corporal punishment policies. In addition, the board swore in new members and denied the application submitted by the charter school.

Under the school uniform policy, it is up to the individual school whether to adopt school uniforms. To adopt the policy, the school must have the approval of 70 percent of the parents. The school system will provide uniforms for students

who cannot afford them.

Corporal punishment, as proposed, will be a form of disciplining students that principals may opt to use. Twenty-six of 27 schools have approved corporal punishment as an alternative to short-term suspension. Board member Jean Almond said that "administrators will vigorously pursue other (punishment) alternatives" before opting to use corporal punishment.

The school board also voted to reject the application submitted by Robert Mauldin for the Rocky Mount Community Development Foundation. The application had been sent directly to the North Carolina Board of Education rather than first being submitted to the local board.



Photo by Stash Figlewski

**LENDING A HELPING HAND--**Junior Alicia Williams helps prepare a Thanksgiving basket for the needy.

## Ribbons suggest sobriety

By Jennifer Joyner

Student drinking is a problem in many high schools, and the SADD club works to prevent students from drinking and driving.

On Nov. 22-24, SADD officers Robbie Bowling, Philshaunda Thompson, Rebecca Williford and Katherine Stephenson attended the SADD convention at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel. Advisors Aletha Hudson and Margie Holt attended, also. Workshops were set up for both advisors and officers.

To help the Salvation Army, SADD

members and faculty rang bells at K Mart, Target, and Harris Teeter from Dec. 7 to Dec. 21. On weekdays the volunteers rang bells from 5 p. m. to 7 p.m. and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any student or faculty member who wished to volunteer was encouraged to sign up.

The week of Dec. 16-20 marked the SADD club's Red Ribbon campaign. The week consisted of many activities to help prevent drinking and driving. As the highlight of the week, red ribbons were tied on the antennas of students' and faculty's automobiles to remind them not to drink and drive during the holiday season.

## Students help needy

By Jamika Murray

The Student Representative Assembly made dreams come true for some of the less fortunate families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

On Nov. 25 and Nov. 26, SRA advisor James Sledge gave out Thanksgiving baskets to needy families. Different classes and clubs had filled the baskets with food.

Thanksgiving was not the only holiday when students helped people. The SRA set up a program called Adopt a Child for Christmas. Classes had the chance to help a child in need. Students provided toys, clothing and goodies for the child that they adopted. "I think that adopting a child is a very good idea, because it's always

good to help someone less fortunate than you. It's good to know that people care. I feel that it should continue to be a Gryphon tradition," said senior Meteea Jenkins.

Social Services provided names of the children to be adopted.

The SRA sponsored a door-decorating contest, also. The doors were decorated by December 16 and the winners were announced later. Senior Jacqueline Draughn said, "I feel the door decorating contest is a good way to get the school into the Christmas spirit, but we need to have school spirit in order to get into the Christmas spirit. Also, let's not think about ourselves this Christmas, but think about other people."

## Latin Club inducts new members

By Ben Clack

December 5 was a day of transformations for the Latin Club. Magistra (Latin for teacher) Ford-Potter changed from a teacher to a genie and ordinary students suddenly became Latin Club officers.

The Latin Club moved to a new level. In the past Latin Club was a school-sponsored club; this year the two new Latin teachers, Magistra Ford-Potter and Magistra Tobie, have enrolled the Latin Club into the Junior Classical League (JCL) with other eastern North Carolina Latin clubs. With this new association came new traditions, especially with the December 5 inductions.

The proceedings started as the students filed in and were seated according to their Latin ranks. Magistra Ford-Potter was dressed as a genie and was surrounded by the inductees.

The entire service took place in candlelight. During the service apple seeds were placed into a flame; an ancient ritual



Contributed photo

**SALVE!--**Latin club members, pictured from left to right, include Magistra Tobie, Nicole Langley, Magistra Ford-Potter, Jennifer Joyner, Imali Sirisena, Shannon Plummer, Logan Keelan, Sohilia Thorne, Kelly Griffin, Chris Siewers, Brent Rowe, Alicia Williams, Chaquita Avent, Jeff Tobias, and David Mitchell.

which symbolizes knowledge. The officers inducted were these: Imali Sirisena, president; Lea Gessaman, vice-president; Shannon Hackney, treasurer; and Sohelia Thorne, secretary.

Sirisena said, "The Latin Club inductions were pretty interesting. There was a great deal of symbolism involved. It was really different from any other club induction that I've ever seen."

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