

# STATE & LOCAL

## Neighborhood Schools: A Low-Cost Solution or a Return to Segregation?

Aleighta Page, Staff Writer

The Wake County School Board is currently contemplating a plan to redistrict schools and send students to “neighborhood schools.” Neighborhood schools, also referred to as community schools, establish schools in the neighborhoods where students live. On the surface, this appears to be a lovely, community bonding idea. Unfortunately, the real world is much larger and stretches far beyond the bubble and comfort of well-bonded neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods are generally composed of similar people, incomes, lifestyles, and religions. “Neighborhood schools are a concept that came out of a campaign of Richard Nixon in 1970, when he wanted to split the South,” noted Rev. Dr. William Barber at a January 19th school board meeting. After the progress of the civil rights movement, it appears Wake County is taking a step back in time. Dividing the county into neighborhood schools will create a lack of diversity and be a step back toward segregation.

The current status quo of Wake County is to have students bused to their school from home in order to have racially and economically diverse schools. But some bus rides are more than an hour, and opponents of the busing system claim that students spend unnecessary amounts of time on the bus.

Additionally, a law in North Carolina states that a school should not have over 40% of students on free and reduced lunch. With the propositions of neighborhood schools, many schools might surpass this limit, and a high percentage of low income students could be harmful for the well-being of students and schools in these neighborhoods.

Karen, a current Meredith College student and a former student of Green Hope High School, does not believe busing in students creates a healthier school atmosphere. She argued that “the students bussed in are not able to participate in sports unless someone is willing to pick them up from school.” This leaves many students unable to join their classmates in

extracurricular activities and isolates them. Karen reported that for one student the join the basketball team the basketball coach had to drive one of the bussed students home each day.

In contrast, Kenneth, a current NC State student and former student of Wakefield High, is a strong advocate of bussing students. He had an hour long bus ride to and from school, and he used the rides to study for exams or do home-

work. He argues that “if people took advantage of the time on the bus, they could have entire afternoons to do whatever they please.”

The debate as to what will be occurring in the schools is nowhere near over. Stay tuned in to the community as to what changes will occur. Keep in mind that a decision made today has the ability to have effects for many years to come.

## Walkin' in a Winter Wonderland . . . One Month Late!

Caitlin Griffin, Staff Writer

Wake County may not have had a White Christmas this year, but residents of all ages got a special surprise on Friday, January 29 when an uncharacteristic winter storm dumped up to eight inches of snow and ice all over the Triangle. Although local meteorologists Greg Fishel and Mike Maze could not stress enough how unusual it was to foresee a storm system one full week in advance, many Triangle residents laughed it off as just another faulty forecast. However, the doubters ate their words mighty quickly when the first off-and-on snow flurries began falling in the area around 7 p.m. on Friday night and didn't fully stop until early Sunday morning.

Over the weekend, many Meredith College students were seen celebrating across the street at the Brickhouse and gossiping about whether they would actually have to turn in that paper or take that test the following week. Thankfully, the snow fairy graciously granted many Raleigh college students' wish for an official snow day on Monday! Students spent the rare free day sledding, building snowmen, and snapping memorable photos for the yearbook. Perhaps it was the largely-advertised N.C. State Snowball Fight that inspired the Avenging Angels to hold their



A Meredith Snow Day, photo by Caitlin Griffin

own powder puff snowball fight on the old soccer field. Overall, weekend snow accumulations varied between four and eight inches at any given place around the Triangle. The unfortunate downside to all of the fluffy fun was the high number of messy traffic accidents throughout the weekend. Since many roads remained icy, students with 8 am classes were relieved to hear that Meredith would operate on a delayed schedule the following day. The college officially re-opened on Tuesday morning at 9:30 am. Wake County Public Schools definitely got the long end of the stick this time with three official snow days (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) and a one-hour delay on Thursday morning... but at least college students don't have to make up missed classes over spring break!

### STAFF

herald@meredith.edu

#### Editor

Courtney Angers  
angerseco@meredith.edu

#### Assistant Editors

Mariamawit Tadesse  
Amy Hraby

#### Ad Manager

Kristen Gallagher

#### Staff Writers

Krishna Chagarlamudi  
Jillian Curtis  
Erin Etheridge  
Kristin Gallagher  
Meghan Grady  
Caitlin Griffin  
Calley Jones  
Aleighta Page  
Anna Turner  
Mengjie Zhang

#### Layout Editor

Ashley Matthews

#### Literature Advisor

Suzanne Britt

#### Design Advisor

Dana Gay

The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the College and through independent advertising. All advertisements should be sent to herald@meredith.edu.

The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the College administration, faculty, or student body.

The policy of this paper requires that submissions be made by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication, allowing time for consultation between staff and contributors; that articles not exceed 700 words; that letters to the editor not exceed 200 words; and that contributors sign all submissions and provide necessary contact information. The editor and staff welcome submissions meeting the above guidelines.

Published by Hinton Press