

Snow brings Guilford County Schools to standstill

By Jessica Gurvis
Reporter

Last Tuesday after the first snowflakes fell, Guilford County students stayed home from school, making what was originally a three-day weekend into a four day break. However, as the snow continued to fall and temperatures plummeted below freezing, students were given a second unexpected winter break. Soon that excitement changed to boredom as students were out for 12 full days and several shortened days.

To make up for the time that students have spent playing in the snow, they will instead have to attend school 30 extra minutes each day starting February 14. Classes will begin 15 minutes earlier and end 15 minutes later than normal. Five minutes will be added to each class period.

By law, students in North Carolina must attend school for 180 days or 1,000 hours. With some school districts already losing excessive unplanned days because of snowy road conditions, officials are looking for ways to meet state requirements. With the extension of the school day, Guilford County School students will only go to school 174 days this year. After Hurricane Floyd devastated eastern North Carolina, the state legislature gave affected counties the option of requiring students to go to school either 180 days or for a total of 1,000 hours. The legislature offered this

option to Guilford County after it was declared a federal disaster area.

The school board thought about sending students to school on six of the teacher workdays scheduled for this semester and five days of spring break. Because of the extension, students now have all of their spring break back and will not have to come to school on the teacher work days.

It began Tuesday morning, January 22, 2000, when the people of Greensboro and surrounding cities thought they would wake up to a light cover of snow on the ground, but instead they found a winter blanket of more than twelve inches. Forecasters say this was the biggest snow fall in the last thirteen years to hit the Triad.

Governor Jim Hunt, a resident of Raleigh, declared a state of emergency Tuesday, and said that he would use the National Guardsmen to clear snow if necessary.

By first light, Greensboro had thirty-five plows on the street, with crews working twelve-hour shifts clearing and salting the roads. They plowed the primary streets, which include Wendover, Market Street, Friendly Avenue, Holden Road, Freeman Mill Road, Bryan Boulevard and Florida Street. But the residential streets remained unplowed, leaving perilous travel conditions with ruts of snow and ice. The road conditions caused the 586 Guilford County buses to remain parked in-

Continued on page 3



After the first snow, an enormous snowman stood in front of the fire station on Westover Terrace. Due to the snow, Guilford County students missed 12 full days of school. Students enjoyed their unexpected break, but cabin fever was soon to follow. *Bass photo*

State sets high goals for EOC tests

By Ashley Kelly
Reporter

The State Board of Education is putting more weight on the End of Course test in order for students to take them more seriously. Some EOCs will now count 25 percent of a student's final grade in a course.

The Board of Education proposed this new idea because they are trying to find ways to make students take EOC tests more seriously. They have targeted English 9, US History, ELPSA, Biology, and Algebra I, all courses required for graduation. The Board of Education will vote in February, and if they approve the new policy, it will go in

effect as early as the 2000-01 school year.

The Board of Education considered two other options. One is that the EOC's would count for 33% of the second semester grade instead of 10%. This change would greatly affect a student's overall grade in a particular course, but not as dramatically as the second option, which stated that a student would have to make a certain score on the EOC in order to earn credit for the course. This option was solely based on the student's performance on the test. Dr. Marty Ward, Director of Guilford County Testing and Measurement, says, "What worries me is the possibility of students not passing the

course based on one test, rather than the student's overall performance. I was less worried about the 33%."

Similar methods of this proposal, such as the Exit Exam have already been put into effect. The Exit Exam is an exam that determines whether a student may graduate to the next grade level, which is ultimately what the EOC proposal is trying to accomplish. The Exit Exam will not replace the EOC, but will motivate students to take state test more seriously.

Grimsley has received \$67,000 in equity funding that will go towards preparing students for the EOC test.

Continued on page 2

Greensboro welcomes unique high school

By Regina Sechter
Staff Writer

The American Hebrew Academy will be the only school like it in the United States. In September of 2001, the school will open in Greensboro.

The Academy will be a Jewish boarding school located on 100 acres of the former Jefferson Pilot land between Hobbs Road and Jefferson Road. Other Jewish boarding schools in the country are orthodox, the most traditional and strict branch of Judaism, whereas the school

coming to Greensboro is not. The school will be open to all branches of Judaism and practice of the religion will be left to the individual student's willingness. According to Dr. Alvin Mars, the school's Headmaster, the aspect which makes the school so special is that it is not committed to just one movement of Judaism. "For some the school is religious. For some the school is strictly higher learning. The great part is that it's open to all different types of people," says

Continued on page 3

Featured Inside

Stars and Bars
Should the Confederate flag still fly above South Carolina's state capitol?

page 4

Drop-out rate
Dropping out of high school isn't as simple as it seems. The reality is much more complex.

page 11

Indoor track
With their teamwork and athletic ability, this year's team has proven to be one of the best.

page 14

News 1
Editorial 4
Features 8
Sports 14