

Out of the Blue

TWIRP to be held in early February

TWIRP, Grimsley's annual Valentine's Day dance, will be held on February 7 at the Brian Park Enrichment Center. The dance will start at 8 pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased the week before the event.

Teacher Workdays

February 16 is a Guilford County Schools teacher workday. School will be held on February 17 because of the day off last fall due to Hurricane Isabel.

IB Informational Meeting

Students interested in participating in the International Baccalaureate Program should come to a brief informational meeting to be held February 24. The meeting will be held in the Media Center at 6 pm.

Drivers' Education Schedule

The next session of Drivers' Education will take place from February 23 to March 8. Interested students should sign up in the main office 10 days before the start of the class.

Donations for Women's Golf Team

The Women's Golf Team is collecting old cell phones, ink jet cartridges, and laser cartridges. Drop them off in the main office or in Coach Franks's room (522 in the Home Economics Building).

New teachers and administrators arrive for second semester

Four new staff members have come to Grimsley. They will each work in a different area; one with Mr. Gasparello, one in the math department, one as a Student Intervention Specialist, and one in the Exceptional Children Program.

By Sarah Hampton Cheatham
Copy Editor

Second semester brings several new faces to the faculty: Ms. Michelle Thompson, Ms. Angel Thurston, Mr. Mark Headen, and Ms. Erikka Lynch.

Ms. Thompson will spend a semester as an intern on the administrative staff as part of the North Carolina Principal Fellows Program (PFP). According to the official PFP website (http://www.ga.unc.edu/Principal_Fellows/), the program is a scholarship opportunity designed "to ensure that the best, most highly-qualified students are able to earn the Masters of School Administration degree in two years on a full-time basis and to provide a cadre of well-trained administrative candidates to all NC public school systems."

While interning, Thompson will



Ms. Angel Thurston instructs a group of teens during Student Intervention. Ms. Thurston replaced Mrs. Callaghan, who worked with students in SI until 2003.

assume many of the same duties as regular administrators and deal with students on an everyday basis.

Though many faculty members are grateful for the help the new staff will provide, some students have reservations about the

additions.

"I think it would be difficult for a new administrator to get accustomed to life here at Grimsley," said junior Haley Booe. "It might be hard for them to gain the respect of the students this late in the school year."

Ms. Thurston will replace the Student Intervention (SI) Specialist, Mrs. Callaghan, who resigned in 2003. Thurston will focus on helping students make the transition from being suspended to attending school regularly. She will also work with their counselors to set plans for improving academic achievement.

"Ms. Thurston will work with our SI program to help students who are having problems and get them back on track," said Principal Rob Gasparello.

As a result of a math allotment granted over the winter holidays, math specialist Mr. Headen now joins the math department. He will pay special attention to furthering the academic success of students struggling in their math classes.

"[Headen] will work closely with Mrs. Rohan and the rest of our math department to come up with a variety of different ways to help any math students who need it. He'll also be here on Saturdays to help out," said Principal Gasparello.

The last of the new staff additions, Ms. Lynch, will be the new assistant for the Exceptional Children (EC) program. Lynch is replacing the former EC assistant, who resigned last year. Her main goal will be ensuring that every EC student makes the most of his or her high school experience.

News from around the world

"Spirit" sends home pictures from Mars

NASA's \$400 million dollar rover, named "Spirit" and launched months ago, began sending pictures of the red planet back to earth on January 5. The robotic explorer is also equipped with scientific equipment to help researchers determine whether Mars has water and was once a warm planet. The most significant technological advance made by NASA scientists when designing "Spirit" is the robot's high-powered antenna, which allows it to beam images and messages directly back to earth without the use of Martian satellites. The rover is scheduled to explore Mars for a total of 90 days.

North Korea offers new nuke deal to US

Pyongyang has offered to stop testing and producing nuclear weapons and stop operating its nuclear power industry in exchange for several concessions from the United States. North Korea wants the US to take Pyongyang off its terrorism list,

lift economic, political, and military sanctions, and supply oil and other energy resources. The US government has refused to accept similar terms in the past, saying that they want North Korea's

nuclear arms program abolished completely instead of just frozen. Representatives of the US, China, Russia, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea held talks on the subject in August over Pyongyang's nuclear program. At present, more talks will not be held until February at the earliest. North Korea formerly insisted on a nonaggression treaty with the US before halting its nuclear program; however, they are now willing to end their program if the US agrees to their terms.

Chicago study reveals that US teens are heaviest in the world.

The study of nearly 30,000 youths ages 13 to 15 revealed that the obesity rate of teens in the



United States is higher than that of 14 other industrialized countries. About 15% of both girls and boys in the US are obese, and about 30% are considered "modestly

overweight." Teenagers in this country are more likely to eat fast food, snacks, and sugary soft drinks than those in other countries and are more likely to exercise less. Among other countries in the study, Greece, Portugal, Denmark, Israel, and Ireland were the heaviest besides the US, and Lithuania was the lightest.

Mad cow turns up in United States

On December 23, 2003, mad cow disease was detected in a dairy cow in Washington state. The disease, technically known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), caused more than 30 countries to ban US beef. The infected six-year-old cow is thought to have entered the United States from Canada in 2001. After the dis-

covery of the afflicted cow, the US government banned the use of cattle too sick or injured to walk as human food. The USDA also instituted a national animal tracking system so that diseased cows could be more easily identified. America's \$40 billion beef industry is expected to suffer tremendously from loss of revenue, although these effects have not yet begun to be felt.

Parmalat: the Italian Enron

Parmalat, based in Italy, was a food company founded by the formerly well-respected Calisto Tanzi in 1961. On Dec. 27, Tanzi was arrested as Italian prosecutors tried to discover his role in an alleged \$8.8 billion fraud scandal. As of now, he remains in a Milan jail. The Parmalat scandal is the largest corporate scandal ever seen in Europe; it is on the scale of the Enron and WorldCom scandals in the US. Seven other Parmalat executives were also arrested, and the company has filed for bankruptcy.