

JROTC shows appreciation, gives troops chance to communicate with family over holiday season

Grimsley's JROTC demonstrated patriotism by sending calling cards to American troops fighting in Iraq. The calling cards are a way by which the troops can keep in touch with their families.

By Willie Gibson
Reporter

Students and teachers made efforts to support the troops fighting in Iraq. Ms. Karen Cobb's medical careers class and Sergeant-Major Richard Dunlap's JROTC class were adamant about demonstrating their patriotism.

Taking the initiative to support the troops were Ms. Cobb's classes, who designed greeting cards to show the troops the extent of their gratitude. They sent out approximately 300 cards on Nov. 12. Monticello-Brown Summit Elementary School added their own cards to those

of Cobb's medical careers classes. Not only were Grimsley and Monticello showing patriotism, but Eastern Guilford High School also joined in the effort.

Also, Dunlap's JROTC class collaborated as a team and collected 15-minute calling cards donated to soldiers, so that they could call home. All over North Carolina, families of troops have expressed concern about their loved ones' safety while they are away fighting. Efforts such as the calling cards have relieved many families of the stress they have been suffering. Ms. Katy Jones, the Family Assistance Coordinator for the North Carolina Army National Guard, was pleased to present the calling cards to the 113th Field Artillery unit, already deployed in Iraq.

Since the JROTC cadets must devise a service learning project, this year Dunlap determined a project involving the troops would be best. Each month, soldiers are able to



Forgay photo

JROTC Cadet Ashley Lowe and Family Assistance Coordinator for the NC Army National Guard, Katy Jones, are just two who participated in the project to send holiday calling cards to US troops.

make a morale call home. The call is wired from Iraq or Afghanistan to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Since the long distance calls between Iraq or Afghanistan and

North Carolina are so expensive, Dunlap hoped to lighten the financial burden on the troops.

In addition to the calling cards, the JROTC's efforts also

included a food drive; all of the goods they received were donated to the United States National Guard and sent overseas to the troops stationed in Iraq.

Middle college gives students opportunity to excel

Middle college has proved to be an effective way for those students who are not comfortable in normal high schools to excel, providing smaller working environments and a comfortable work schedule.

By Chris Izzard
Reporter

Community members often perceive middle colleges as educational sites for students who do not meet academic requirements, struggle with attendance, or behave poorly.

Presently, these institutions of learning have earned respect since their students achieve success both in the classroom and in society. Some students even choose to

reenter a public high school, feeling confident that they can perform well with their improved attitudes about learning. Middle colleges with single-gender populations, like those at Bennett College and North Carolina A & T, have been recognized for significant growth of students' scores on standardized tests.

Student enrollment at Bennett and A & T is 116 students each. As a result of their small classes, students can expect more individualized help and find it easier to interact with each other. Class sizes remain small because the two middle colleges only accept students who are 17 or 18 years of age but are still in the ninth and tenth grades. An interview involving the par-

ent, child, and a team of staff members ensues before admission is granted.

Middle colleges offer numerous opportunities for students to improve in a limited amount of time. Both of the single-gender schools offer mentors, actual college students, to provide moral support to newcomers. Summer school is also available to any students who want to earn additional credits toward their graduation requirements. Bennett's program even offers a daycare center for young mothers who want to further their education. Middle college students enjoy access to the respective college facilities, including the library, cafeteria, and computer labs.

One of the four white students in the A & T middle col-

lege, junior Josh Price appreciated the chance to be accepted into the program. He attended Grimsley during his freshman and sophomore years.

"I liked it there, but I was skipping classes and hanging with the wrong people, and my grades were slipping," said Price.

Originally, he interviewed at the middle college located on Greensboro College's campus, but his interviewer advised him that A & T would be a better match for him.

"I like the small classes. My biggest one just has ten kids," said Price.

While the middle college at A & T is on block schedule, the sequencing is different from most block public schools.

Students attend one class for 45 minutes and then take another class for 45 minutes. Then they return to the first class for an additional 45 minutes, followed by the second class for the same amount of time. After an hour lunch break, students continue the same procedure with two more classes split into two sessions each.

"The block schedule works better for me because of the breaks and the fact that we only have four courses a day with homework. Hey, and we get to eat lunch on campus for free," said Price.

Since studies have shown that males and females have

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Many eagerly anticipate the arrival of the computer giant, while others are averse to the idea of Dell setting up shop in the Triad.

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Working for the Money

Many teachers hold other jobs in order to bring in some extra change, working as everything from Santa's Little Helpers to tax return agents.

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Sacrificing Sustenance

In order to maintain proper weight, Grimsley wrestlers must compromise enjoying holiday meals for the sake of their sport.

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