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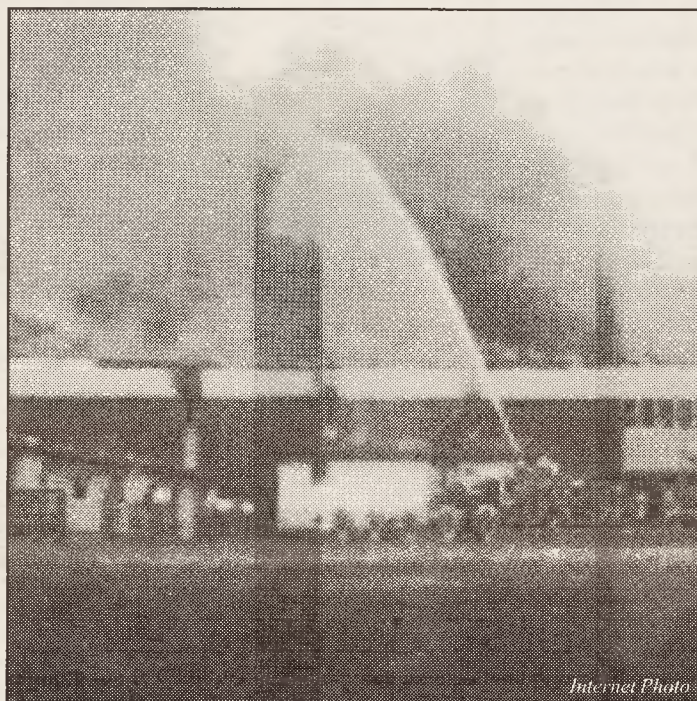
Eastern Guilford High School update

BY HALEY PHILLIPS
News Editor

More than a month after the destruction of Eastern Guilford High School by fire on November 1, plans for the school's reconstruction remain unclear. Officials are certain, however, that a new building will not be in place for over a year.

"They are trying to find a builder, you've got to worry about demolition, then they've got to clean the site and find an architect. They are at least two years out from being able to have their own building again, I assume," said Instructional Improvement Officer John Eldridge.

Guilford County Board of Education members recently voted 9-2 to create a village of portable classrooms at the site of the former Eastern Guilford campus. Students will attend classes at the village for two years beginning in 2007 until a new school is built on the same site. Several students and parents were upset at the decision to move to portable classrooms, supporting instead a move to a single location at McLeansville's Carolina Corporate Center by next semester. Board members decided against relocating to the cor-



Internet Photo



Internet Photo

Before and after: Eastern Guilford High School before the November 1 fire (left) and during the devastating event. Students have been attending classes separated by grade since the school's destruction and will not be reunited for at least two years.

porate center because of its cost and because of doubt that the site would be ready in time.

Eastern students are currently attending classes at two different sites. Ninth and tenth graders are housed at the former Central North Carolina School for the Deaf in Brown Summit, while upperclassmen have resumed classes in two buildings of GTCC's East Wendover campus. Arts and Advanced Placement classes are only offered at the Brown Summit

campus, requiring some students to make a daily nine-mile trek between the two campuses.

"Eastern is now on two school campuses, so from our perspective it is as if we have opened two new schools in the middle of the school year. We have had to collect all the materials needed," said Instructional Improvement Officer Debra Barham, who works with Eastern Guilford.

Finding resources to replace those materials de-

stroyed in the fire has been difficult for the Eastern Guilford community. By all accounts, companies, such as Collegeboard, as well as other high schools have been very accommodating.

"One of the challenges is finding resources in the middle of the school year, which is not a normal time," said Barham. "What has really helped a lot is our other high schools have shared their materials, and that has helped out a tremendous amount."

Weeks after the fire, Eastern students and teachers continue to adjust following the tragedy.

"I think the adjustment for teachers is similar to that of students. It's like being a student at a new school. All the teachers and students at Eastern Guilford can now empathize with new students at a new school. The same issues that a transfer student would go through, an entire staff and student population have gone through," said Barham.

JROTC students bestow gifts upon needy children

BY ADAMLONG
Staff Writer

Thousands of children across the nation are not fortunate enough to receive the latest electronics, the newest toys, or name brand clothing. In fact, these impoverished boys and girls receive substantially little compared to the extravagant devices and gifts most of us unwrap during the holidays.

December is a month to show kindness and caring to others and especially to show generosity. The Grimsley Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps is doing just that. The Army JROTC is participating in the Guilford County Department of Social Services "Celebrate the Children" program.

"Celebrate the Children" is a program initiated to gather gifts from volunteers to give

to county youths who otherwise would not have presents during the holiday season. The program attempts to alleviate the sadness of local children through the governmental department with the most association with the poor, Social Services.

Grimsley's JROTC cadets, under the leadership of Sergeant Major Dunlap, have selected five area children to bestow their collected gifts upon.

Grimsley students are encouraged to donate presents for these five by December 14. The cadets will wrap the presents on that day, and send them off to be received by the needy young children.

Sergeant Major conceived of the JROTC's participation in the program while visiting an area laundromat. There he saw a Christmas tree decorated with angels. Upon consulting the owner about the tree,

he learned of the holiday charity Social Services was operating. It was then that he decided to involve his many cadets.

"We have so many resources around here, so why not use them?" Dunlap said in an interview. "This is a great program because so many children do not have a Christmas at all."

Dunlap's cadets make a habit of doing good deeds for the

community. Earlier in the year, the JROTC organized a canned food drive. The drive raised over 400 pounds of food for charity. Success of this program has fueled their continued efforts for the poor.

"The cadets are enthused about helping," said the Sergeant Major.

After the "Celebrate the Children"

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