

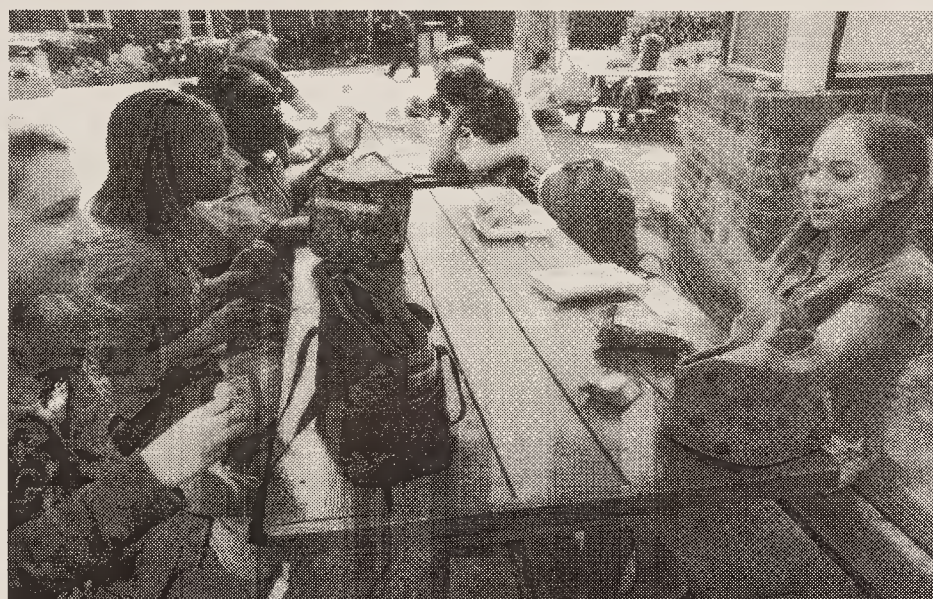
Academic achievements, campus renovations, general spirit on campus make Brady beam with pride

BY DJ Brewington
Reporter

Since Principal Anna Brady's arrival, she and the administrative staff have worked very diligently to encourage school pride, to improve academic test results, to decrease the number of school fights, and to cease the littering on campus.

When Brady arrived in July of 2008, she immediately took charge. With much to learn about the school's persona, faculty, and student body, she spoke openly with the Student Council representatives and asked them about some of their school concerns. In essence, they wanted a safe environment, better communication throughout the school community, and qualified teachers who could offer them with enjoyable learning experiences.

After acquainting herself with students, Brady met with the School Leadership Team, which includes selected members of the staff and faculty, parents, and administrators.



Principal of the Year Anna Brady is pleased with the student body's appreciation of diversity within the Whirlie community. Segregation was a lifestyle of the past, but students now think in terms of Whirlie blue and white instead of the color of anyone's skin. Elliott photo

She surveyed the Leadership Team to identify problems on campus and asked them to brainstorm for solutions to the issues.

Meeting with the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) was next on Brady's agenda. After examining the feedback she received from all three groups, she drew some conclusions.

"We needed to make a difference in order to

transform our school culture, which meant building relationships with students and staff and making sure there was consistency within the various expectations," said Brady.

Positive changes in the school have occurred since Brady's arrival. Maintenance issues were addressed including the repair of ceilings, the refurbishing of the Voca-

tional building, and the reorganization of custodial responsibilities. Crimes have been cut in half, 60 percent in some categories.

Recently recognized as a School of Distinction in North Carolina, Grimsley has new signs and banners on display to "demonstrate our pride and show that we are a School of Excellence. It really makes a difference," said Brady, "especially when

you're coming down Aycock Street, and you see that beautiful sign that simply reads 'Grimsley High School.' We're not simple; we're just elegant."

"Even though we have succeeded in making our school a much safer place, we still have work to do. Projects, such as a new track and a new cafeteria building, which will allow for six more classrooms in the old cafeteria, are still works in progress," said Brady. Completion of the construction should be in 2012.

Better optimizing our students' schedules so that they can take the classes they want is yet another goal of the principal and her administrative staff. Additionally, she hopes to expand opportunities for our diverse population of students and to decrease segregated groups on campus.

"This is something that I don't think I can do alone," said Brady, "but what I would like to see is more of our students integrating. We have a very beautifully

diverse student body, and what I dream of seeing one day is more people of different races and cultures together and not looking sodivided."

Brady repeatedly reminds members of the school community that the improvements on campus between 2008 and now could never have happened without the help of administrators, the student resource officer (SRO), students, teachers, and parents. During her time here, she was nominated for and won the Clendenin Award, which recognizes an administrator who exhibits outstanding service to children, students, and youth through the PTSA.

Along with the assistance of everyone within the school community, "We can make a difference and continue to transform this school back to the School of Excellence it has been known for," said Brady. "Clearly, Grimsley will continue to expect and demonstrate excellence every day."

Hurricane Earl proved hungry for attention, rumbling its way from Caribbean to Canada

BY MARY CLAIRE HURLEY
Reporter

Brewing up just days before Labor Day Weekend, an approaching, frightening storm ended many vacations. Hurricane Earl was the third hurricane this year and named the second worst hurricane of the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Its gusting winds and powerful rain stretched along the east coast. The storm was thought to be a Category 4 with winds reaching 140 miles per hour, but it weakened to a Category 2 storm with winds at 105 miles per hour. Tropical Storm Fiona closely followed. Officials urged thousands of residents to evacuate, but many remained and boarded up their homes.

As the hurricane approached, many flights were cancelled. After the storm dissipated, Governor Bev Perdue encouraged tourists to keep their Labor Day plans and to "have a little fun and spend some money," as noted on WCNC.com on September 3.

Surfers did not allow the storm to frighten them into missing out on the huge waves. As the storm continued to sway between harmful and less powerful, the Federal Emergency Management Agency was uncertain about issuing mass departures.

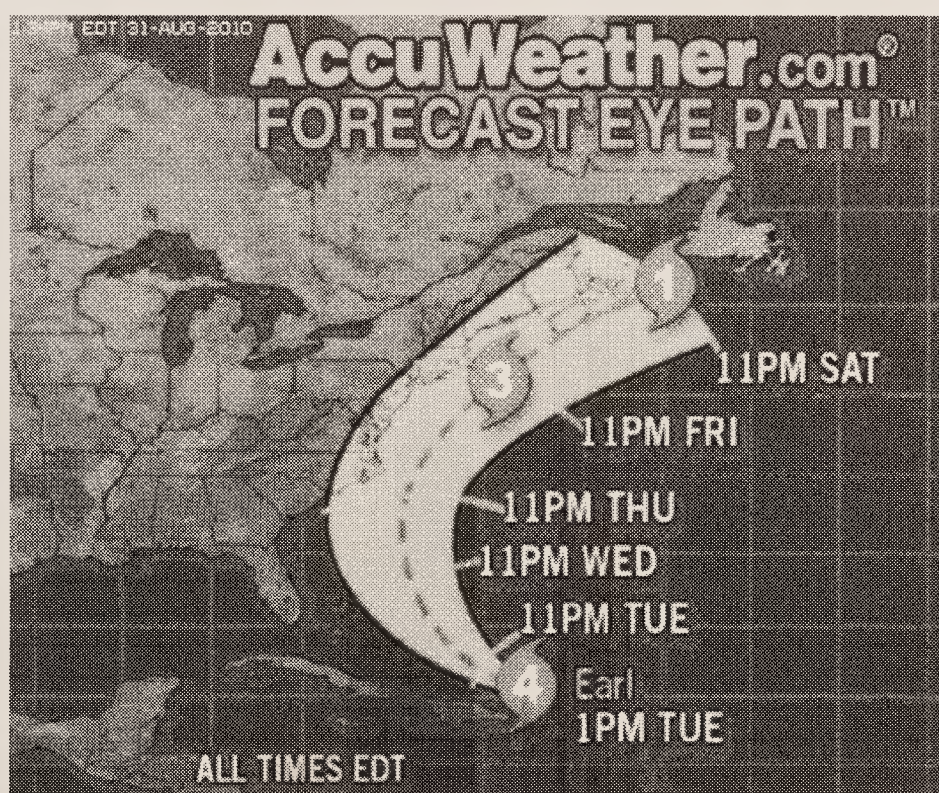
"Evacuations may be required if the storm does not move to the north or to

the east," said Craig Fugate, director of FEMA. Cars began lining up to board ferries to leave Ocracoke Island, for it was the only way to evacuate unless one owned a private boat or plane. The ferry ride was two and a half hours long, which caused much frustration for the ferry services as the mandatory evacuation took place.

As the storm sideswiped the North Carolina coast on September 2, waves were predicted to reach up to 18 feet; however, some waves actually grew 25 to 30 feet, which caused roadway mayhem as the waves flooded the streets. Rough waters and winds caused beach erosion, and an old and already teetering pier on Hatteras Island collapsed on Thursday. Fortunately, the pier closed prior to the storm, so nobody was hurt. The center of the storm extended the winds by 80 miles, and Tropical Storm Fiona's winds expanded 200 miles.

According to an article by Monica Yancy for WCTI12.com, Progress Energy spokesman Jeff Brooks claimed that 226 power outages were reported in the area between New Bern and Morehead City. On Thursday, 340 customers of Dominion Power Company were left without power, and by the end of the storm, an estimated 6,600 homes had no power. As a result, many counties delayed or canceled school for September 3.

"There will need to be more order and



Hurricane Earl causes damage as it approaches the east coast. Fortunately, the disaster relief workers discovered that destruction was not as severe as originally expected. Internet graphic

preparation for future hurricanes. Experts did predict a busier-than-usual hurricane season for 2010, expecting a season harsher than 2009," said Fugate.

Along with North Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New England, and Canada, as well as islands around the

Caribbean, experienced the hurricane. FEMA's website claims damage assessment teams collaborated and determined within the US alone, repair costs will run a little less than \$100 million.

In retrospect, the hurricane did less damage than expected in most places.

"We dodged a bullet," said Perdue.