

Teacher eyes multi-level classes at Morrisville

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transition, Fornaro notes, takes place at a crucial time in the formation of a child's self-worth.

Won't sharing class time with kindergartners be less challenging for the student who excels? One educational expert, William Glasser, says no. Instead, the exceptional student will have a chance every day to do what he does best, to lead by putting his superior skills to use by working with the less advanced students in a one-on-one situation.

Glasser, author of "Schools Without Failure," says lessons simply heard result in a retention level of 10 percent. Hearing and reading a lesson raises retention to 50 percent. Actually performing the lesson raises retention to 80 percent. But the best way to raise retention, says Glasser, is to teach the lesson. The rate then rises to 95 percent.

While this may seem like a lot more work for the teacher, Fornaro explains that even here, she comes up a winner. "It's much more interesting and challenging to teach a larger, more diverse group," she says. "There's nothing like watching the face of a first grader when a math concept clicks. But I also enjoy the nurturing part of being with kindergartners."

She adds that she also will spend less time on smaller details. Things that normally have to be explained to new kindergartners will be learned naturally by a "follow the leader" mentality, she points out. Fornaro says putting older student helpers to work not only would save her time, but also would give those natural leaders another chance to shine. "Do you have any idea how many shoes a kindergarten teacher ties in a day?" she asks.

Fornaro's research also shows that competition in the multi-level classroom actually decreases. The advanced student, she discovered, attains a nurturing quality that tempers his or her drive. The younger or less advanced children feel less pressure to perform, and gain maturity through a natural tagging-along process. The result is an atmosphere described by Fornaro as "kind of like a family environment."

Even after receiving support from Morrisville Elementary principal Caroline Massengill, what are Fornaro's hopes that multi-level education will be approved by parents? "I honestly don't know," she admits. "You can't force multi-level education on anyone. Not the parents, not the students, not even the teachers. It has to be something

everyone wants."

The fact that Morrisville already has a reputation for progressive teaching makes Fornaro optimistic. Hundreds of applicants are turned away every year due to overcrowding.

Fornaro hopes to launch a multi-level program on the same volunteer basis as the year-round concept of schooling. It would consist of two K-1 classes on just one of the four available tracks. She acknowledges that the process will begin only if she receives an enthusiastic response from enough parents.

Fornaro has the background to make it happen. She is well known for her dedication and received the Teacher of the Year Award from the Morrisville PTA this year.

In the field of education, Sharon Fornaro may be termed by some a crusader. But her many boosters say first and foremost she is a child advocate. She hopes the concept is embraced at Morrisville for one reason: to benefit the children.

With any luck and a "yes" vote from an avid group of parents, Fornaro could see a multi-level pilot program introduced at Morrisville in the 1996-97 school year.



OUT OF SIGHT—Five Morrisville businesses, including this septic tank service on Church Street, are affected by an addition to the town's

zoning ordinance and must use fencing or landscape vegetation to hide their goods and equipment from public view.

Town toughens appearance rules

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The deadline for installing required screening is January 1, 1996.

The ordinance also says businesses must not create any "unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises." Any modification of the sites or the buildings housing the businesses will require site plan approval by the commissioners.

Under the measure, com-

missioners also "may impose any other conditions, safeguards and procedures...it deems necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the town."

As long as the ordinance requirements are met, non-conforming businesses may continue to operate unless they cease operation for a six-month period. Four garage op-

erators are affected by the ordinance addition: William Myers of 610 Airport Blvd., Martha Brandon of Church Street, Mack C. Baker of 808 Church St. and Margaret P.

Green of 1303 Church St. Also affected is a septic tank business operated by Charlie Otto Lyons at 804 Church St.

Chamber seeks mass transit stops

The Morrisville Chamber of Commerce board of directors is asking the Triangle Transit Authority to include two Morrisville rail stations in the authority's mass transit plan.

In addition to endorsing the overall plan, the chamber board proposed rail stations on Morrisville Parkway and McCrimmon Parkway. The board also recommended Morrisville as the site for terminal operations.

A chamber seminar on "How to Use the Small Claims Court" has been scheduled for Aug. 18 from 8 to 10 a.m. in the Town Hall. John Kennedy, a representative of the Wake County Small Claims Court, will be the featured speaker.

The seminar is open to members as well as the general public. Reservations are required and the cost of the seminar is \$5 per person.

Here's a warning if you ever meet Congressman Fred Heineman. Don't call him Congressman. "Call me Chief," the retired Raleigh police chief told a June

Chamber Briefs

breakfast meeting of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce.

Why Chief? "I always want to be associated with an honorable profession," smiles the freshman legislator.

"This is the hardest thing I've ever done in life," Heineman says of life in Congress. "People think being chief was hard. That was a piece of cake."

A member of the House Judiciary Committee, Heineman insists he'll serve no more than three terms. "If I don't get re-elected, I'll go fishing forever," he says.

"Issues and Eggs" breakfasts sponsored by the chamber will continue on July 14 with an appearance by Wake County Commissioner Leo Tew. Wake County School Supt. Jim Surratt will speak on Aug. 11.

The breakfasts are held at the Sorrento restaurant in Triangle Factory Shops and begin at 8 a.m. Reservations must be made four days before each event by calling 380-9026. The cost of the breakfast is \$7.

Triangle Factory Shops will host the chamber's next "Business After Hours." The event will be July 25 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in fountain area near the food t. Members are asked to call 9026 to advise the number attending.

Ray Lech hits the road in August. The chamber president will be in Myrtle Beach, S.C., for an Aug. 3-5 meeting of the Carolina Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. Then he'll go to Charleston, S.C., Aug. 12-16 for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Management Institute.

A list of businesses in Morrisville, Research Triangle Park and Raleigh-Durham Airport is now available through the chamber. The list includes the company's name, what it does, physical address, mailing address, phone number, contact person, SIC Code and the number of employees. The list already includes 891 companies and continues to be updated. It is available for \$10 to members and \$40 to non-members. Mailing labels are available for an additional \$12.

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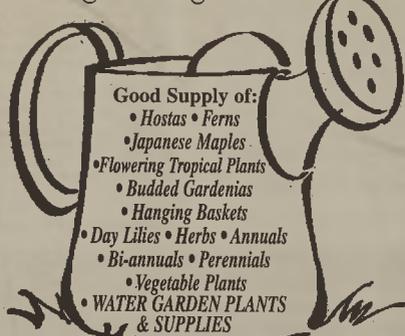
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Published monthly by
Kirkland Newspapers, Inc.,
1533 Hermitage Court,
Durham, NC 27707
Phone (919) 489-1527
Fax (919) 489-7801
Third-class postage paid at
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