Open Letter- ESAA Teachers Defend Remedial Math Lab Program

(Editor's Note: Following is a recent letter to Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District, regarding the new elementary school guidance and remedial math labs which are new in Edenton-Chowan Schools this year.) Dear Congressman Jones:

We would like to introduce ourselves to you as Jo Wheeler and Ginny Summers, presently employed as Math Lab teacher and Guidance Counselor at White Oak Elementary School in Tyner.

We are writing to you in regard to the future of the Math Lab and Guidance Programs in our school. The reason for our concern is that we feel these programs are extremely valuable, yet they might not be funded for next year. Both programs are funded through ESAA (Emergency School Aid Act).

The Math Lab is set up to work with remedial math students. The students are one grade level or more behind in math. Remediation is necessary because these students fell in the 1-50 per cent in the nation in math. Our lab consists of 65 remedial students in grades 1-4. They are scheduled in the Math Lab for a maximum of five hours of remediation a week. Our goal is to bring these students up at least one grade level by the end of the year.

These children receive individualized instruction in their own deficient skills, progressing at their own rate. Individual instruction that they would not be able to obtain in a classroom situation. We are giving set up to meet the these children actual feeling experiences in the world of mathmatics. To them, math is magical, they have found that all of a sudden math is fun. They experience success, feel good about themselves and are excited about the possibility of actually becoming the hands of a clock, feeling how it is to become a fraction. and concocting their own recipes when studying measurement. Now, math

has come alive. Math is no longer restricted to a pile of numbers in a book, numbers to be added and subtracted stages successfully. only. We have taken their

The strategies to meet

ourselves into actual discussions, films and invaluable. We help the fractions when learning DUSO. DUSO stands for children pass through these about parts and wholes. This developing understanding of whole beautiful process is self and others, and is a not only restricted to the program with stories, songs, lab, but shared with the puppets and role playing classroom teacher. Close activities. DUSO the contact between the lab and dolphin, a favorite puppet of teacher helps us, as the children, shares these remedial math teachers to activities with them. The supplement the classroom DUSO program is divided into developmental stages teacher. That remedial child gains

why their child is in the lab

and how they can help at

home. Sometimes home

just as valuable as school

ones. We have interested

weekly conferences, beg for

parent tutor in our lab.

Baker and Agnes Blount.

working! We

Guidance Program.

program has

agencies

that all children experience, math lab and classroom as follows: learning experiences that 1. Understanding and are invaluable. Not only is it accepting self

critical to keep close contact-2. Understanding feelings with that classroom Understanding others 3. teacher, but also with the 4. Understanding inparents who are aware of

dependance 5. Understanding goals and purposeful behavior Understanding 6.

learning experiences are mastery, competance and resourcefulness Understanding 7.

parents who do come in for emotional maturity 8. Understanding choices suggestions of how to help at and consequences

stages successfully to limit problems they might meet later in life. Basis of all elementary guidance is PREVENTION!

Other strategies used are small group counseling for special problems or concerns. These may include groups to enhance self esteem, or groups dealing with how to make friends.

Individual counseling is ongoing at all times. Children may be selfreferred, teacher-principal referred or parent referred. This gives the children individual help with immediate concerns.

The most important people in a good guidance program are those significant people in the children's lives, teachers and parents. One person cannot run a successful The DUSO program is program alone, and we are

supportive personnel. Together we consult about different ways to deal with children, classroom management skills, and ways to continue guidance

activities in their own classrooms. Parents at White Oak expressed a need was set up.

developed to help parents to be more satisfying.

The elementary guidance program is needed not only in themselves and are at White Oak School but in every elementary school. Our main goal is to prevent academic, social, and emotional problems. The more we do at the elementary level the less portunity to continue with problems and money will be

fortunate here to have needed at the secondary level when the problems become more serious. through years of habit and

neglect. Children at White Oak are learning to feel good about themselves and they take more pride in their school work. They are awarded for for guidance themselves their academic and so a parent program achievements failures, so they are striving S.T.E.P., (Systematic to do better. They are Training for Effective learning to share ideas and Parenting) which was are learning from each other. They are being given and others who want their . chances to succeed, so they relationships with children risk trying new tasks more frequently. They are learning to have confidence

opening up to new experiences. It is wonderful to see these changes, but it is only a beginning and we have a long way to go. What we would like is an op-

these programs so these on paper come to life. children are given every . If you would like to come chance to succeed in this world.

The purpose of this letter is to give you a better understanding of our programs and the need for em. We realize that this may appear as an appeal for nothing but the renewal of not our jobs but it is also an appeal for the children so that they can continue to receive these special experiences that they are now getting.

As you are our local Congressman we would appreciate any support that you can give our programs in the manner of renewal.

We understand that you are an extremely busy Congressman, but we would like to extend an invitation to you to come out to White Oak School and see these things we have written down

out to White Oak please give . us a call at your convenience. The number is 221-4078. We are looking forward to hearing from you

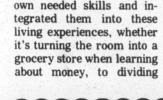
Sincerely, Ginny Summers -Jo Wheeler

Fashion Show Set

The Perquimans County Jaycettes are sponsoring a fashion show - "Fashions A' Flutter" on March 19 at 8 P.M. to be held at the Hertford Grammar School

in Hertford. Tickets are \$2 - anyone under 12 will be admitted free. Proceeds go into a recreation fund for Perquimans County. The winner of a School Clock is to be chosen at that time and door prizes will be given away.





these needs are varied. Classroom guidance sessions are held in each classroom once a week. Here all of the children are exposed to role-playing,

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