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"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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Family Development Top Priority With Pembroke Housing Authority

PEMBROKE - Recent changes in the federal regulations that dictate the occupancy requirements for public housing programs include a new component effective January 1, 2001, for the residents of Pembroke Housing Authority. This new component, referred to as "Community Service", is unique in that it requires certain adult members of resident households to perform an average eight hours of community-service work per month. Although Congress liked the idea and passed the regulation, not surprisingly many residents and housing authority staff have serious reservations concerning community service.

After careful review, the Pembroke Housing Authority Board of Commissioners adopted a Family Development policy to comply with the wishes of Congress. The new program entitled Family Development promotes the idea of strengthening a family's quality of life through involvement in community and family oriented activities. "We decided to take this angle to eliminate the negative image immediately portrayed by the title given to the regulation by Congress - community service. We also wanted to enhance the communities in which we live by providing for our residents opportunities to comply with this requirement while directly involving them in day-to-day activities specifically related to the development of their families," states Lemark Harris, Executive

Director of the Pembroke Housing Authority.

The Authority partnered with community organizations to provide access to their agency so that the residents could go and volunteer and support their cause. "We are grateful for the support and time given to our school says Molly Locklear, Assistant Principal at Pembroke Elementary School. "We have always welcomed volunteers at our school."

Reggie Strickland is a long time volunteer for the school. As a Commissioner with the Pembroke Housing Authority, he quickly endorsed the Family Development program for the Authority's residents. "I realize how important it is for our community to interact and work together for the benefit of our young people. In a small town like Pembroke, we all need to work together to support our schools to better educate our young people," says Commissioner Strickland. "I visit the school each Tuesday and help with the library's needs. I'm sure these young ladies will enjoy the experience as much as I do."

Several residents are involved in the Family Development program. "These residents are making a difference in their community in a manner that is becoming to their self-esteem and quality of life," says Lemark Harris. "We hope that our community will join us and support our program."



Prospect Schools Activities

Superintendent's Choice

Jerry Chavis of the 8th grade art class won the 2000-2001 Superintendent's Choice Award for his art. A reception was held at Centura Bank on January 18, 2001 for all the art winners in Robeson County. Jeffery's artwork was an abstract expressionism of a lion done with colored pencils.

Congratulations to our Prospect Award winner of the 2000-2001 Superintendent's Choice Award. Jeremy Chavis is shown above with the Principal of Prospect School David Locklear.

Kindergarten News

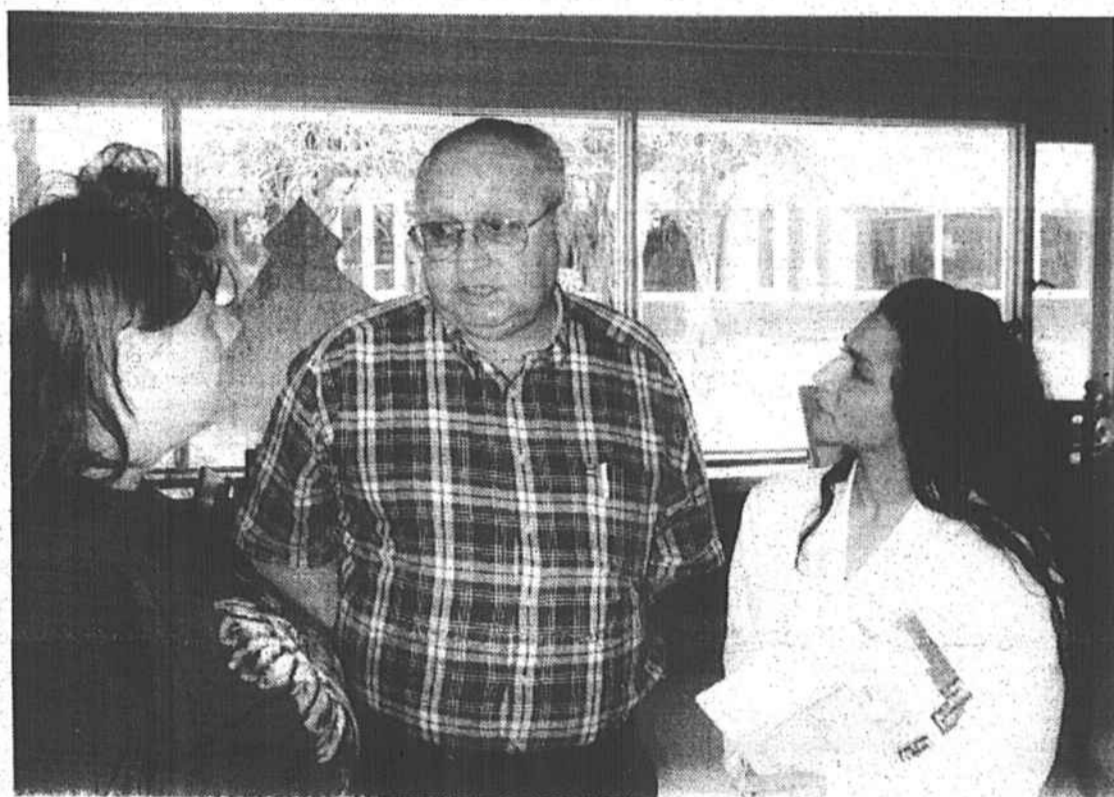
The Kindergarten classes at Prospect have been actively involved in writing and book making projects. The students are using bog books, the PSRC word list, creative artwork, and sentence writing to construct books.

The boys and girls enjoy re-reading their books when they are published and displayed.

Their most recent writing activities focused on winter and the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

First Grade

The first graders had an involved week of learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. The classes read books, saw videos, and role played some of the events that occurred during Dr. King's life. Through these activities, the children gained a better understanding of how Dr. King helped make things better for people of different races. To end the unit, students wrote what they would do to make the world a better place. Stories varied from wishing that everyone would get along, to wishing everyone had a house and enough food for their family.



Commissioner Reggie Strickland welcomes residents of the Pembroke Housing Authority to the Pembroke Elementary Library.

American Red Cross plans Dance

The Robeson County Chapter of the American Red Cross is planning a Valentine's Dance for Friday, February 9 from 8 p.m. until 12 midnight. Refreshments will be served. Bring your sweetheart and enjoy this fund raising event. Tickets are \$15.00 per couple or \$10 per person. The event will be held at the Southeastern Agricultural Center Farmer's Market, I-74, Lumberton, NC. For further information call 910-521-3640.



Purnell Swett High School's Army ROTC proudly extends its services in participating in the Veteran's Day and Christmas parades, assisting special Olympics, the arts festival, football and basketball games, graduation or any other situations in which they are needed



Junior Lynn Harris

The Faculty and Staff of Purnell Swett High School have encountered numerous challenges to make efforts in improving EOC scores and academics. Through several evaluations, workshops, and other means of improving academics, some teachers and staff have felt a sense of frustration and stress.

As an effort to improve EOC scores and academics, ninety-two Purnell Swett High School staff members participated in a very enriching workshop at Sea Trails Conference Center at Sunset Beach January 12-14. The teachers, assistants, and administrators dedicated their weekend away from home to better prepare themselves in the pursuit of educating students.

The workshop included topics which dealt with teaching in the 90 minute block schedule, cooperative learning, learning styles, and team building. The workshop presenter did an excellent job and the staff received very useful information and strategies to use in their classroom. The presenters included Dr. Linda Emanuel, Jean West, Vickie Taylor, Caroline Williamson, Debra Stuckey and Olivia Oxendine.

Principal Wesley Revels felt that the workshop was quite effective and encouraged everyone to work smarter with their strategies and approaches as they teach students how to master skills in their selective courses.

Teachers are commended for their dedication and hard work. The faculty and staff believe that their efforts will reap much desired results in the near future.

Army JROTC, The Green Scene

The Army JROTC Department



Purnell Swett High School Faculty and staff attend a staff development workshop January 12-14 at Sea Trails Conference Center at Sunset Beach.

Local Teacher Receives National Board Certification



Jane O. Chavis

The National Board for Profession Teaching Standards released on November 30, 2000 that Jane O. Chavis achieved National Board Certification as an Early Childhood Generalist teacher. She is a 22 year veteran teacher for the Public Schools of Robeson County. Ms. Chavis graduated from Pembroke State University with a degree in Early Childhood in 1978. She later received a Master's degree in Early Childhood from the University North Carolina at Pembroke. Ms. Chavis is a resident of Pembroke and will soon celebrate her 30th wedding anniversary to Robert Earl Chavis. They are the proud parents of five children Angelica, Summer, Robert Jr., Phoebe and Angel (who is also a national certified teacher). Ms. Chavis attends Mt. Olive Pentecostal Church and teaches kindergarten at Union

Chapel School. Ms. Chavis stated that her incentive for attempting the process was the challenge. It's her philosophy that one should strive to do their best whatever profession he or she might be in. The children deserve this and our profession demands it. She expresses her many thanks to her principal Ms. Virginia Emanuel, her family and friends for their support in this endeavor.

The National Board Certification process is a professional development experience available to teachers who are interested in improving their teaching practice. Certification at the National level signifies that the teacher has met the highest standards established for the teaching profession. The rigorous standards set forth for certification requires teachers to reflect on their teaching practices and the impact it has on student learning. The certification also attests that a teacher has been judged by his or her peer as one who meets high and vigorous professional standards. At this time, there are only 22 National Board Certified teachers in Robeson County.

National Board Certification reaps a variety of benefits for certificate holders. It assists in the achievement of personal as well as professional awards. It serves as a validation tool that lets you know that you are indeed meeting the standards set forth by the teaching profession. Other benefits include salary supplements, credits toward license renewal and

has been very busy during the past semester working to be better citizens and participating in many JROTC extra curricular activities. The cadets successfully completed JROTC Summer Camp, (Camp Victory), at Fort Jackson, SC. This one week long military camp included everything from math and science instruction to land navigation and repelling. Six honor graduates were selected from this physically and mentally challenging course from the Public Schools of Robeson County and six honor cadets were from Purnell Swett High school. Camp Victory Honor cadets Colbi Locklear and Paula K. Lowery were congratulated by the department.

Early in the semester cadets in positions of trust and responsibility were promoted to the grades called for by their job. At the top of the list were Lieutenant Colonel Colbi Locklear, Battalion Commander and Cary Hunt, Battalion Executive Officer. Top enlisted cadet selected was Command sergeant Major Brandy Hunt, Battalion CSM. All these accomplishments have helped the battalion maintain its honor unit with distinction status.

The cadets participated in three parades during the first half of the school year, beginning with the Regimental Review in Pembroke on Veteran's Day. Ram cadets also provided a firing detail and color guard for ceremonies in the Town Park honoring the veterans. The battalion finished the year 2000 with performances in the Pembroke and Maxton Christmas parades. In keeping with their commitment to community services, the Ram cadets provided assistance to LRDA

in conducting the fall pow wow and also maintained their units section of Deep Branch Road under the North Carolina Adopt-A-Highway Program.

The Ram Drill team and Color Guard participated in the Scotland County Drill meet in October and did a highly commendable job. To date the Color Guard and Honor Guard have provided support details for 27 school and community activities. The Raider team participated in the NC State Raider Challenge Competition at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC in November 2000, and managed to participate in six rifle matches and conduct a field trip for all classes to the new Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC.

Other service learning projects remaining for the year are support for the Robeson County special Olympics and Special Arts festival.

The department is busy planning a 29th JROTC Military ball that will be held at the National Guard Army in Lumberton on March 24, 2001. For the first time they are inviting all past cadets from 1972 until the present for a formal reunion.

PSHS Business Law experiences Busy Schedule

Business law has been busy this semester. Guest speakers to Ms. Karen Strickney's class included: Ronnie Sutton, NC House of Representatives, Darek Hunt, Solomon Smith Barney and J.W. Jacobs, Robeson County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Improvement Team.

The class toured the Robeson County Detention Center, and sat in the Pembroke Court room to

watch Judge Herbert Richardson in action.

The class participated in North Carolina Economic Council Stock Market Simulation. Ms. Karen's class placed fifth in the state. Between the 8 classes all placed in the top 100 in the state. Afterwards the Business Law class conducted a custody mock trial.

Harris Selected As Student of Excellence

Junior Lynn Harris was recognized with the student of Excellence Swrd December at the Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education.

The Student of Excellence Award is a Chamber of Commerce initiative to recognize students for their contributions to their schools and communities.

Students who apply must have a 3.0 minimum grade point average. Each chamber honors their students with a plaque and other rewards for meritorious service and achievement.

Lynn Harris is involved in many activities which include treasurer for the Native American Student Association and junior class secretary. She is also involved in varsity sports which include basketball, volleyball and track.

Lynn is also a member of the Living History Club, the Art Club and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. She has attended the Broyhill Leadership Conference and Legislator's School. Her community services includes volunteering at Carolina Care, counseling for Children's Bible ministries and tutoring elementary students.

Lynn plans on attending Duke University and pursue a degree in law.