

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

by Dr. Barry Harding  
Public Schools  
of Robeson County



It was back in 1995 that our Board of Education adopted a resolution which we agreed to take part in the effort to keep Robeson County Clean and Green. Ever since that time, our schools have been involved in a project which contributes to a feeling of pride by our citizens, which can attract tourists and invites industry, creates jobs and increases income for our citizens. Beyond that, though, the board saw the project as an opportunity to ingrain in our students a special feeling of involvement and responsibility where they could be a part of an effort to make the county a better place to live- thus making them better citizens.

Ever since that first year, our schools have conducted various activities promoting the campaign. Poster and essay contests, for example, offer prizes to students in various grades thus assuring that

they're competing against others their age. Students are asked to sign pledge cards agreeing to help out in the project. This year, 10,000 pencils are being provided to students in elementary schools encouraging them to take part. Litter barrels are being provided at each school to collect trash. Schools are encouraged to conduct campus cleanup drives- often with competition among classes to see which does the better job. The competition results in a feeling of pride in the appearance of their schools. Litter bags are available for students who drive cutting down on highway litter. Ways to participate are only limited by the imagination of our principals and teachers. An example would be the 37,000 cans

that were collected by students at Tanglewood and their parents last year. Beyond these activities, it's hoped that the students' enthusi-

asm would carry over into their homes where parents, affected by that enthusiasm, might also take part.

I referred earlier to the fact that working for improvement in the county's appearance will instill in our students a feeling of responsibility- a feeling that a relatively small amount of effort can result in a great service to the area and its people. In education, we place a great deal of concentration on preparing our students for entering the work force or continuing their education. They need to also understand the importance of being a good citizen and a good neighbor. Being involved in a program like this is a tangible way for them to understand what it means to work with others for the betterment of the community. While courses on the principles of good citizenship are taught in the classroom, it's important that those principles are put into practice. While becoming involved with the Robeson County Clean Community Plan may not, by itself, make a student a good citizen, becoming involved with such a program implemented for the good of the county and being a part of its success can give our students as interest in other things which may also benefit themselves, their families and the entire area.

I hope that "Robeson County Spring Clean" beginning on April 17th will see all of our students and employees joining with all Robeson County citizens in making it a tremendous success.

### Boy Scouts plan Spring Camporee

The Boy Scouts of Robeson County will have their Spring Camporee on May 4-6, 2001 at the Lumber River State Park. The theme this year is a "The Lumber River Natural Obstacle Course." For more information please contact Chuck Ricks at 739-4877.

### Robeson County Spring Clean April 17th- April 30th, 2001

Will you please help clean up, fix up and beautify. Help make Robeson county the cleanest county in North Carolina. Robeson County Committee of 100

## Indian Education to Hold Parent Elections

The Indian Education Project of the Public Schools of Robeson County will hold parent committee elections on Thursday, April 26, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at each of the Robeson County public high schools. All parents of Indian students are encouraged to attend.

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