

# Students To Help Shakeeka And Shelley

By Teresa Simmons  
Post Staff Writer

While many young people are thinking about the purchase of their next designer jeans, a group of students at Hidden Valley Elementary School are planning a fund raiser on behalf of two little girls who need liver transplants.



Friends Jarma Chisholm, LeTilia Robinson and Valerie Woods are planning an event to aid two children who need liver transplants. (Photo By Teresa Simmons)

Both Shakeeka Richardson and Shelley McConnell are in desperate need of transplants. Because of the expensive procedure, Jarma Chisholm, LeTilia Robinson, Valerie Woods, Christine McKensie, Alisha Kirkpatrick, and Tammy Brown are planning a fund raising event with half of the proceeds going to Shakeeka and the other half to Shelley.

"We were sitting at lunch on day," Chisholm explained, "and we were just talking about ways of helping people." One idea for raising the money came from Valerie Woods. Perhaps, local disc jockeys would consent to playing a benefit basketball game. They could play the game in the Hidden Valley gym.

Of course, permission must be granted. Dr. Bruce Irons, principal of Hidden Valley School, seems to think the idea a

marvelous one. "It makes me feel good that they came up with this idea all by themselves," he said. "They have really been pushing me to get approval from the School Board also. This will be a good example in leadership for them."

So far, the Hidden Valley PTA president has approved the process, according to Dr. Irons. "Now

the process of asking the others in the PTA remains."

Dr. Irons' actions were quick in receiving consent from the proper authorities. The group of concerned elementary friends must fill out a form two weeks before the basketball event and send it in to the school superintendent, Dr. Jay Robinson.

The task before them now is to call radio sta-

tions for volunteers, to set the date for the basketball game and publicize the event. Jarma, LeTilia, Valerie, Christine, Alisha and Tammy have little doubt that the event will be a triumph. When something is done from the heart and with love, it usually turns out to be successful.

Contributions to the Shakeeka Richardson Liver Transplant Fund may be sent to the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, 951 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte. To contribute to Shelley McConnell's fund, send donations to Shelley McConnell Liver Transplant Fund, 3601 Central Ave., Charlotte, N.C. 28203.

## A Major Decision

### Closing Schools For Weather

Special To The Post

Winter is back upon us and with it comes the potential need to periodically close schools because of inclement weather. In CMS, two methods are considered whenever the weather is threatening - delayed opening and complete closing.

Under the delayed opening procedure, schools would delay their normal opening time by two hours. Such a delay, however, would not affect the time of dismissal which would remain on the normal schedule.

If the weather is severe enough to close schools entirely, all schools will be closed. Usually, however, administrative offices, including the Education Center, will remain open.

In both instances, the decision to close or delay the opening of school is a

major one. Primary "first-alert" responsibility is placed in the system's Security Department which monitors weather conditions as early as 3:30 a.m. If inclement weather develops, Security personnel notify appropriate administrators who activate the CMS "Road Runners." The Road Runners (mostly CMS Transportation Specialists) actually drive roads to check conditions. Additional input is received from the National Weather Service, the Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies.

A consensus of opinion dictates the decision on whether to delay opening or close. The decision is made at 5:30 a.m. (or earlier if possible) and all media outlets are notified by 6 a.m. If you do not hear from us before that time,

you can confidently assume that there will be school in CMS that day.

If schools have been closed for a day, it can be assumed that they will reopen the following day unless we tell you otherwise. If schools are to be closed or delayed an additional day, we will make such an announcement following the procedure outlines above.

Infrequently, schools are forced to close during the school day. In those instances, the safety of the students is of primary concern. But, there are some logistical considerations which have to be studied as well, primarily the question of whether or not we have allowed sufficient time for buses to be refueled and serviced in order to insure their making the run home.

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