

And "Caring" Attitude!

Ms. Harper Disciplines Students With Mild Humor

By Teresa Simmons
Post Staff Writer

Once you walk into Delcia Harper's third grade class, you can't help but smile. It's as if she is disciplining her students with mild humor. They smile easily and aren't a bit embarrassed when reprimanded.

Instead, they sense her caring attitude and the gleam of respect within their eyes is evident.

These are just a few reasons Ms. Harper was voted as "Teacher of the Year" in the Myers Park-Harding area. Competing against 18 other superb teachers, Ms. Harper became one of the six finalists in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System's "Teacher of the Year" running.

Ms. Harper is also a Post Achiever, not just because she is a good teacher, but because she demands more than average work from her students. Somehow she finds the talents within each child and carries them to the hilt. She provides special programs and contests for students to rattle their imaginations and ambitions.

In each case, the nucleus of Ms. Harper's creativeness is love for her students. "They seem to have a sense of honesty and sincerity which allows me to take a closer look at life and to enjoy the smaller things in life I have a tendency to forget since I became an adult."

"I like the way Ms. Harper teaches. She makes everything easier to understand and she is a nice teacher."

-Ashely Garner, student

For the "Teacher of the Year" competition, Ms. Harper compiled a scrapbook concerning various techniques she used to educate. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1979 with a degree in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Creative Arts. She has been teaching for five years and for four of those years she has written the script, music and lyrics for a musical production for the students of her school, Selwyn Avenue Elementary.

Poetry, music, physical education and dance are intermingled in Ms. Harper's plays. Last year, the name was "Rhythm in Our Pockets." This year her theme will be the Olympics.

"Sometimes ideas pop into my head in the most



DELCIA HARPER; "TEACHER OF THE YEAR"

...Creatively reads to her students!

weird places. Sometimes while I'm driving I'll think of something. Interaction with my co-workers also helps me with creative techniques."

"I like to use manipulatives...hands-on before abstract. There are so many kids on different levels, you have to practically plan individual instruction for each one."

This, in turn, allows Ms. Harper to aid in the blossoming of each child. "I try to concentrate on the child's gift and each child has at least one. Like Andy, he is an extremely talented artist."

"Ms. Harper is a nice teacher and her work is easy to understand. I get to draw more and I like her homework passes." (reward system)

-Andy Driver, student

Ms. Harper coordinates the Black History Month Contest at Selwyn Elementary School each year. "We have three to four winners each year and we take them to Chuckie Cheese for pizza and to play video games," Ms. Harper commented.

Even within the classroom setting, there is much interaction and reward systems to stimulate interest. In an estimation contest, for instance, students must guess how

many pieces of candy are in a jar. Whoever comes the closest to the actual number, wins the candy.

As the day draws to an end, the students seem to say good-bye not only to their teacher but to friends as well. Some come over to kiss Ms. Harper good-bye.

As the bell rings, often the day does not end for Ms. Harper. "I try to be involved in their extra-curricular activities as well. Take Johnny Wylie, for instance. Now he is a singer."

"I've learned how to write in cursive and I know that I want to work on my diploma. I'll wait a little

while for my master's degree."

-Johnny Wylie, student

Ms. Harper is the daughter of Dr. Mary T. Harper, professor at UNCC and Joseph Harper, assistant principal at East Mecklenburg. She is a member of First United Presbyterian Church. She is a Deacon, the pianist and directress for the Youth and Young Adult Gospel Choirs. She is also pianist and directress for the South Tryon Presbyterian Gospel Choir.

She considers her membership in the Charlotte Interdenominational Mass Choir and music, in general, as a comfort. "Being a

member of the CIMC relaxes my mind," she concluded.

Ms. Harper would like to publish a children's literature book and is now in the process of writing children's music and creating aural units in various areas.

"Ms. Harper is nice."
-Roderick Barris, student

Shop
**THE
CHARLOTTE
POST**

Advertisers...
They Can
Save You Money!

SSSSSSSSSS

BUY - SELL - TRADE

ALLSTATE AUTO SALES

"WE FINANCE"

Walk In - Ride Out
No Credit Check

Phone: (704) 596-0995

5415 N. TRYON STREET
Charlotte, N. C. 28213

**WE SALUTE
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**

For
The Progress Blacks Have
Made In The Fields Of

BUSINESS

Rev. & Mrs. Thomas Rorie

THOMAS FASHIONS

N. Graham St.

Hutchison Shopping Ctr.

376-7699

**WE SALUTE
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**

For The Many Achievements
Made By Blacks In Business

John Phillips
& Staff Of.....



**M&P
AUTO PARTS**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

2137 Beatties Fd. Rd.

University Park Shopping Ctr.

394-3116

....ACCURATE
....DEPENDABLE
News Coverage
**THE
CHARLOTTE
POST**
376-0496

Coupon Must Accompany Order
\$3.00 Minimum After Discount
Offer Expires February 23, 1984

50% OFF
PROFESSIONAL DRY CLEANING
SERVICE

Clip this coupon and get
50 percent off
our professional dry
cleaning services

Pick up your dry cleaning until 11 p.m.
everyday.

**TRYON MALL
CLEANERS**
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

451 Sugar Creek Road
(Next to Tryon Mall Theatre)