

New Look

All library/media centers in Perquimans County Schools have had a facelift except Perquimans High School. Some remodeling has taken place, walls were painted, curtains were hung, carpet installed, reading areas set aside with comfortable chairs, cushions, and pads. Wall plaques were made depicting the favorite storybook characters of the students. Everything has been provided to make the libraries aesthetically appealing.

Perquimans County has been awarded a IV-C Adaptor Grant-Project PROMISE--for media production in grades five through eight. Teachers, students, and media specialist/librarians will be involved in training for basic visuals and simple photography.

Perquimans County library/media centers in the four schools are opened to students and staff members from 8:00 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. The media collection is available throughout the day for all students and personnel during the instructional day. In the elementary grades, classes are scheduled for a weekly period. In grades seven through twelve where classes are departmentalized, teachers can schedule their students for individual or group use.

A professional library is provided in all schools with educational books and professional magazines.

Library/media center personnel actively promote the use of media in instruction by providing information assistance and guidance in the effective use of all available resources within as well as outside the school.

Staff Training

The last group of teachers and other school personnel has finished the Madeline Hunter Staff Training. After four years, all administrators and teachers have now attended the workshops and taught the observation lessons required for the training.

The training has consisted of seven days of workshops focusing on improving the teaching skills of teachers in the schools and five observations and conferences based on topics discussed in the workshops. For administrators, the training has improved their ability to observe and conference teachers. Helping a teacher grow professionally is a responsibility of the administration.

The staff training has proved to be the most useful comprehensive staff development activity in the county's history.

Community Perquimans Schools Central

Recognizing that the schools are actually owned by all of us, the Community Schools Program of the local school system encourages maximum use of the school facilities at night, on weekends, and during the summer months.

The program, in conjunction with the community college, has expanded its Adult Education Program into the strongest in the seven-county area served by the College of the Albemarle. One of the most highly developed phases of the Adult Education Program is General Education. Through this process local citizens have been able to obtain a high school equivalency diploma.

The facilities are put to good use by the entire community, not only students. For instance, the gymnasiums are open nights and on weekends. The auditoriums are available for civic, church, theatrical and senior citizen groups.

Interagency cooperation is marvelous, especially through the Parks and Recreation System. Through all the above efforts, Perquimans County has better citizen involvement.

New "Student"

This past fall a new "student" joined the ranks at Perquimans County Union School. Her name was J. D. She just wandered into the schoolyard one day. At first, she just hung around the school and played with the students when they went out for breaks and recess.

Eventually, she became the responsibility of the students; Mrs. Dillon, the eighth grade science teacher; Mrs. Leete, the eighth grade math teacher; and Mrs. Carpenter, the guidance counselor. All took special interest in J. D. Then one day we realized that J. D. was "with child."

While we were awaiting the expected delivery, some students constructed a makeshift doghouse of old science projects. Later a doghouse was donated by Mr. Sutton's industrial lab. After weeks of preparation, J. D. gave birth to six pups. The students gave up their breaks to take care of the puppies. They were named Happy, Sugar, Bear, Rhaul, and Honey. One of the puppies died.

J. D. and her puppies have gone now. They are scattered to their various homes. We enjoyed them while they were here.

The 1981-'82 school year at Perquimans Central saw the culmination of a two year self-study for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The process involved hours of hard work and discussion by all members of the faculty and staff.

This study enabled us to develop a better understanding of our present program and the needs of our students and community. By critically examining our present program it has enabled us to ascertain our strengths and weaknesses so that we could develop a plan for total school improvement.

A team representing educators from Eastern North Carolina conducted an on-site visitation to validate our study. We feel that the self-study and subsequent visit provided many opportunities for professional growth.

During the 1982-'82 school year many physical improvements were completed in the building.

Bathrooms were renovated by installing new brick partitions and the walls and floors painted bright, fresh colors.

The library was repainted and decorated with cartoon characters. Carpet was installed in two areas to increase comfort in the TV viewing and informal reading areas. All library funds this year were spent in the area of science to update audio-visual materials and equipment.

The Perquimans Central P.T.A. under the leadership of Joseph Wills, Mary Bryant, Carolyn Russell and Eva Ann White had a successful and active year.

The Fall Fun Festival under the direction of Nancy Chappell was a financial as well as a communal success.

Each class had various booths and activities the students could enjoy participating in. As a result of this activity approximately \$1,600.00 was raised for playground equipment. Two large sets of swings were purchased and installed under the direction of Phil Greenwell. The see-saws were repaired by Mr. Nathan Hurdle. Thanks to the P.T.A. our playground has been updated.

The P.T.A. also purchased material for cafeteria curtains. Linda Privott and Janice Hurdle provided the time and labor in sewing them. As a result the cafeteria has a more pleasing home atmosphere.

Hertford Grammar

Hertford Grammar School has enjoyed a year filled with many events and activities. The climax of the year was the visitation by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Committee in April. Our school has recently been recommended for membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Accreditation has materialized because of the commitment of the Board of Education, Superintendent, the school faculty and students. Many hours of writing, surveying, studying, gathering information and implementation has proven to be a most rewarding experience for us.

Many capital improvements were made in the process of getting ready for accreditation. A new production room was established in the old teachers' lounge. The lounge was moved to the 3-5 building. The media center, the center of activity of any school, has been enlarged and reorganized to better serve our students. The addition of draperies and painting has greatly improved the appearance of the library.

Our lunchroom has received much attention during the year, especially from our P.T.A. Walls were painted and hanging baskets were put in the windows, adding to the decor. The Board of Education bought brightly colored chairs to replace outdated folding chairs. Our hallways were painted and hanging baskets were added to entrances.

The curriculum has been studied very carefully during this school year. We strive to have a well-balanced curriculum and one in which students can progress at their level of performance. Many staff development activities are being planned in the next several months.

Mock Visit

The Perquimans Union School faculty and staff were visited by a mock accreditation team on May 19. The purpose of the visit was to help prepare for the accreditation team that will be coming in September.

Dr. HATHIA HAYES, our Southern Association consultant, was very positive about the work that has been done in the school in preparation for the team. She stated that there are still improvements to be made, but evidence of work done since her first visit made her confident that Perquimans Union School will be ready in the fall.

Exceptional Children

The Perquimans County School System believes in providing programs for exceptional children as a related and/or support service to every identified child. We believe in providing each child with the most appropriate education in the least restrictive educational environment. The instructional program is composed of regular classes, consultative services, resource programs, home instruction, or self-contained classes to be based on the individual's level of functioning, rather than chronological age.

We have had a very successful year in the programs for Exceptional Children due to the cooperative school staff and the dedicated school staff.

The Honorable Vernon James, North Carolina General Assembly, House of Representatives, discussed legislative issues concerning programs for Exceptional Children at one of the parent group meetings. The parent group has been supportive of the exceptional children's programs. These parents have been most cooperative in the planning and implementation of their children's programs. We continue to encourage parental support.

The Perquimans County School System was fortunate enough to obtain a Title IV-C adaptor grant that has been used to purchase needed supplies and materials for exceptional children. The Elsmere curriculum meets the needs of handicapped students by providing instruction in five essential skill areas: Academics, Socialization, Independent Living, Pre-Vocational and Vocational. A goal of the project is to prepare handicapped students to become viable, working citizens, employed in their communities.

Another Title IV-C grant was awarded to the exceptional children's program in the area of microcomputer instruction. The project was designed to train teachers and students to utilize the microcomputer as an instructional aid. Software will be purchased to be used in the microcomputer programming in the area of remediation as well as curriculum expansion.