

First In A Monthly Series:

# Learning Can Be An Enjoyable Experience

SECTION B

# Mirror-Herald Living Today

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By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Womans Editor

What is East School doing to meet the needs of its 388 students?

Principal Connie Allison, in his 28th year as a school administrator - teacher with 18 years in Kings Mountain, affirms what other members of his faculty, East alumni and P-TA President Eddie Robbs and the students themselves told us.

"East School is tops in our book."

School spirit is evident in the classrooms we visited and the young people we interviewed. The kids are learning while enjoying themselves, too.

In fact, Mr. Allison's pet peeve is the person who says that "kids aren't learning as much these days," referring to the "good ole days," perhaps, when only the three R's were concentrated on by teachers in the classroom.

"Kids are exposed to much, much more," said Eddie Robbs, a former student of East School who says that returning to the campus now is just like going into another world in comparison with the years he was a student. Methods of teaching has changed, for the better, says Eddie. Both Robbs and his wife (Judy Ivey Robbs) attended East School and their daughters, Shelley, a fourth grader, and Amy, a second grader, like East as much as their parents.

"Our girls couldn't wait for school to start," said Eddie. He listed as major changes on campus an auditorium, lunch room addition, and renovations to the old building which gave a completely new look to the school, Mr. Allison's office, which has been paneled and beautifully renovated, used to be Eddie's fifth grade class room and a rest room area was formerly the principal's office.

The teaching staff is also more qualified today and the whole education process updated at East, affirm the Robbses.

And, Mr. Robbs can't say enough about the P-TA which

started off the new school year under his leadership with 180 members at the first meeting, the largest turnout ever.

Major project of the P-TA for the Fall is a big Fall Festival on Oct. 22, featuring a Halloween horror house, fish well, wheels of fortune, cake walks, and crowning of a King and Queen of East from class Princes and Princesses from Kindergarten through Fifth grades. Penny-a-Vote contests are underway in all the classrooms to decide the top winners. Becky Fain is VP, Sue Galney is Secretary and Kathy Butler is Treasurer, rounding out the list of officers.

To a question, President Robbs said he admits he was a little skeptical at first about open classroom and team teaching but now that he has observed this method of instruction highly recommends it.

Assistant Market Manager at Winn-Dixie, Mr. Robbs is going back to school also. He has already graduated in Business Administration from Cleveland Tech night classes and is now studying Industrial Management.

Three team teachers - third grade teacher Barbara Brennan, second grade teacher Kay Jolley and first grade teacher Margaret Smith, are excited over the new Primary Reading Program initiated by Governor Hunt and voted by the General Assembly with start of this school year all over North Carolina. East received three teacher aides plus funds for each reading teacher to buy necessary materials. Another boost to the East program are the 16 volunteer parents who visit the classrooms every day, spending from one hour to four hours, to listen as children read orally in practice reading sessions, giving slow readers a chance to "catch up" and individual attention to them. Pre-reading tests were given at the beginning of the program to show skills in which the youngsters are weak and post-tests will be made at the end of

Photos By  
Tom McIntyre

the school year to show reading progress.

"Our goal," said Kay Jolley, a teacher at East for seven years, "is for every teacher in the primary grades to have an aide."

Kay said the key to effective team teaching is obtaining teachers who can plan and work together, and she said the East administration does that job effectively.

Miss Jolley recalled her first teaching job at East, a fourth grade class of 26 children in a small, "tight" room. Today, she works in a team situation with 23 children and in more expanded quarters.

Kay also is highly pleased with the changes East School has undergone during her tenure, noting the library expansion (now 4100 books plus audio visual equipment); more work areas, expanded cafeteria, to name a few.

Miss Jolley said she was also a little skeptical at first about the effectiveness of teaching in the open classroom but that results of the tests of students in the elementary school prove that "open classroom teaching and team teaching is highly effective and recommended." Her team teachers concurred.

Another "first" at East School this year is in the library program where a full-time librarian has been employed in the person of Susie (Mrs. Grady) Howard, for 25 years a vocational teacher at Kings Mountain High School, instructing in typing, record keeping and accounting.

It's a "different world" for Mrs. Howard, who says that she misses her former students and high school environment but loves her new role in the teaching profession in elementary field.

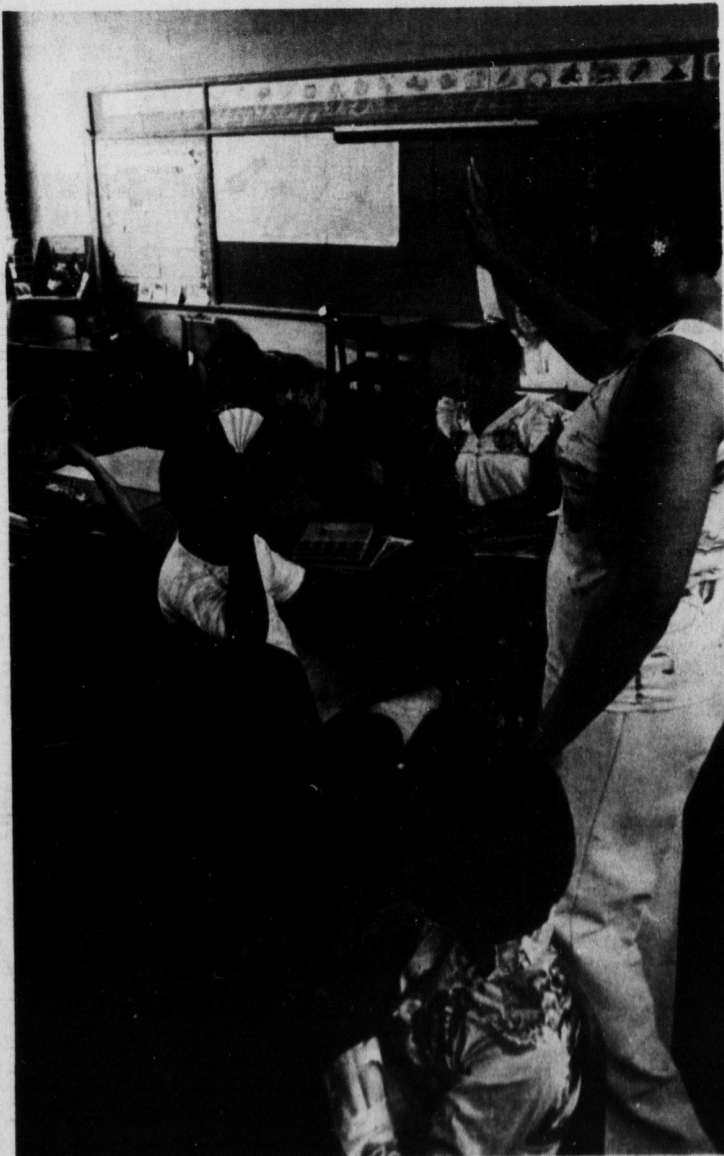
Storytelling with each class is a brand new experience for the veteran teacher, who interjects within the stories educational

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STORYTIME IN LIBRARY - East School first-graders can look forward to being entertained even during library time. Mrs. Grady Howard, librarian, reads the student tales from a story book, shows them

the illustrations accompanying the stories. In library youngsters see films, learn how to select books and how to make their own booklets.



TESTING STUDENTS - Mrs. Marilyn Cabaniss asks her fourth-graders "how many were able to finish the test?" and gets a small reaction. Then she explains they weren't supposed to be able to finish unless they were very fast learners.



IT'S LUNCHTIME - LeAnn Morrow, 5, a student in Mrs. Victoria Logan's kindergarten class at East Elementary School, shows us the proper method for eating a cheeseburger. Even during lunchbreak the kindergarten students go on learning table-manners, etc.