

EDUCATOR PROFILE



ELIZABETH ALLEN

Mrs. Allen's Been Teaching 37 Years

Teaching Helps You From Getting Old

Elizabeth Allen says she can usually recognize students from the past by looking at their eyes. Perhaps that feat wouldn't be so unusual if she had taught only a handful of students. But Elizabeth Allen has a lot of folks to remember. She has been teaching for 37 years!

Allen, who teaches fourth grade at Grover Elementary School, just doesn't feel like quitting the profession she has enjoyed for so long.

"It's kind of energizing," she said. I guess I think that if I quit, I'll get old."

But if teaching active youngsters day in and day out doesn't make her feel old, nothing will. Allen has taught different ages of children throughout her career, but she enjoys teaching fourth graders the most.

"I enjoy teaching this age child," said Allen. "They have a little individuality and still have a curiosity about them."

Allen started her career as a student teacher at the age of nineteen. She fell in love with the job and decided it was for her. She also decided that Grover Elementary would be her teaching home. She has taught all but two of her 37 years there.

"I started out in a mobile unit, called the hut - like a one-room school house," she said. A lot has changed at the school since those times,

but Allen says that it is the staff there that keeps her going. "I love working with the people here," Allen said. "I have never regretted staying."

The schoolhouse is not the only thing that has changed at Grover School. Allen has taught two generations of families at the school. Children she now teaches in her class are often the children of parents Allen taught years ago. She notes that she usually won't get back-talk from those students because their parents have already told them how to behave with their former teacher.

Allen has fond memories of many of those former students and she enjoys seeing what their children are like as pupils.

"It's kind of nice to see the generations go on," she said.

There have been other changes for Allen since she started teaching. She says that because of the breakdown of the family unit today, she sees more of its effects in the classroom. Allen notes that children's attention spans are shorter because of the lack of positive family influence and the prominent role of TV in their lives.

"In the old days, children were motivated," said Allen. "That's not as easy to do now."

But Allen sticks with the work - and the children she loves. The job, she admits, is stressful and can be tiring, but she is in it for the rewards.

"My daughter has always told me I have a hangup about education," she said. "But I do think it can have an influence on the world. Sometimes you don't know what influence you will have, but I've been in the business long enough to see the influences and rewards. I know that something took."

So Allen will continue the work she has done so successfully for all these years. She doesn't plan to put away her teaching materials until "it no longer has the thrill about it or the challenge," she said. In fact, knowing that she can retire at any time puts things in a different light for her. "After 30 years, when you know you can retire, it puts things in a different dimension."

With 37 years of her life devoted to teaching, Allen says she has only one regret. "I wish I had kept a diary. That's the one thing I regret is that I didn't keep a diary of all the funny things the kids say."

But Allen has her memories, and so do her former and present students at Grover Elementary.

Elizabeth Allen taught elementary school in this area for 37 years.

Career Club Regionals

Central Students In Competition

By CINDY HOVIS, Business Lab, Central School

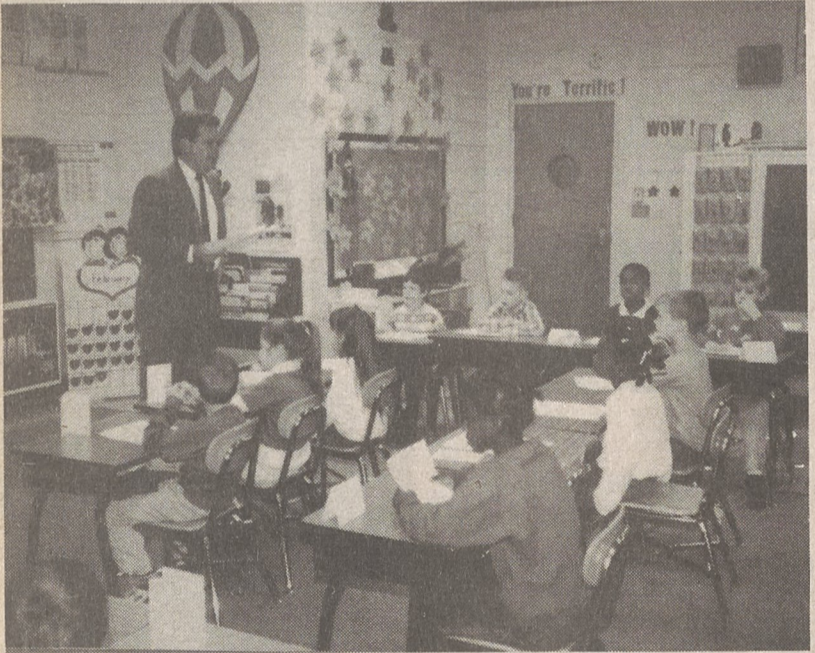
On Thursday, March 2, 11 students represented Central in the District Six Regional Career Exploration Club of North Carolina Regional Competitions. These Students were accompanied by CECNC sponsors, Betty Davenport, Personal Services teacher, and Cindy Hovis, Business Lab teacher.

Nine of the students participated in "Career Cluster" competition. These were Stephanie Phillips - Public Service, Heather Perry - Personal Services, Molly Subler - Marketing and Distribution, Crucetta Jefferies - Business and Office, Cindy Robbs - Fine Arts, Teresa Lyman - Hospitality and Recreation, Stacy Reynolds - Heal Occupations, Teresa Hinson - Consumer and Homemaking, and Jayda Biddix - Communications and Media. In this event, students were given a job simulation in their particular career area and required to research career information concerning this job. Central is very proud to report that Molly Subler won third place in her regional event!

Two Central students also participated in special events. Chuck Kaylor competed in the CECNC Creed Event, reciting the Career Club's creed in dramatic presentation. Jada Brown competed in the Performing Arts Event, singing her version of "Love in Any Language."

Central's CECNC sponsors also had learning experiences at the Regional Competition. Betty Davenport judged the Creed Competition while Cindy Hovis judged the Career Skit Competition. Both sponsors agreed while all Central students obviously had a wonderful time at the Competition, the Event also gave the students a chance to develop self-confidence and to learn about a variety of careers.

CECNC member Teresa Lyman related to her sponsors on the bus trip back to Central, "I've never done anything like this before and I had a really good time. But next year, 'they' better watch out - I'll be ready for them!"



SPEAKS TO CLASS - David Brinkley, local insurance man, spoke to Mrs. Bridges' class at North School about saving money last week. North second graders have been learning the American economic system.

North School News

Policemen Speak On Drunk Driving

By CINDY CRAWFORD

Kings Mountain Chief of Police, Warren Goforth, and Captain Bob Hayes did a very nice thing for North School. They came to the school to teach us the wrongs of drinking and driving.

Mrs. Connie Bell's fifth graders have been studying the effects of drugs and alcohol on a young person's body. Mrs. Bell asked the police to tell their role in drinking and driving. We found out that if you drink and get caught you take a breathalyzer test. If your score is .10 or over, you will have to go to the police station. Mr. Goforth said it may take \$830 to get you out of jail.

The class also found out about the new D.W.I. car for Kings Mountain. This car serves a very good purpose for our health and others. This car gets drunk drivers off our streets. We went out to take a look at the car. It was very interesting.

We also got to see some weapons and protection the policemen use. One of the weapons was handcuffs. The captain showed us how they work by putting them on Steven Bell, a classmate.

If you are think about drinking and driving, please don't. It an get you in a lot of trouble with the police, and hurt a lot of people.



CHECK AWARDED - Beverly Bollinger (right), winner of the Project Graduation logo contest, receives a check for \$100 from Phil Reid, Chairman of the graduation festivities. Jackie Ploek (left), a member of the skiing committee and co-chair of decorations, looks on.

Project Graduation Promotion

Bollinger Wins Logo Contest

Beverly Bollinger, a senior at Kings Mountain High School, recently won the logo contest held to create a theme for Project Graduation, the drug free/alcohol free party to be held May 30th at the county fairgrounds. She was awarded \$100 by project Chairman Phil Reid for her "Rated PG - Project Graduation" theme.

Competing with fourteen other entries from Kings Mountain, Shelby, Crest and Burns high schools, Bollinger's entry was chosen for its originality and promotion of the drug-free theme. Her logo will be used on Project Graduation T-shirts, billboards and in newspaper advertisements.

Bollinger never suspected that her entry would win. "I sat in drafting one day and put something down to start off," she said. When she received the news that she had won, she was startled. "I didn't think I'd win," she said. "I was so hyper, I couldn't sleep. I was calling everybody."

She already has decided how to use the prize money. "I'm going to pay for my prom dress," she said.

For now, Bollinger and others are continuing their efforts to make Cleveland County's first annual Project Graduation a success.

Organizers say the party will provide the opportunity for area seniors to celebrate their graduation without drugs or alcohol. In fact, Chairman Reid of CODAP (Community Organization for Drug Abuse Prevention) hopes Project Graduation will send a positive message that drugs aren't necessary for a good time.

Activities planned for the party include bands, local disc jockeys, games and plenty of food. In addition, local businesses are being asked to donate prizes to give away during the evening, with the biggest prizes being awarded late in the evening to encourage students to stay at the party.

"It's a project the entire county can get behind," said Reid.

In fact, the planning of the event has taken a great deal of manpower from individuals throughout the community, Reid noted. For Rev. Bob Collins, publicity chairman of the event, it has been hard work well worth doing. He prepared surveys to determine if student interest would support such a project and he has done much of the legwork to make it all possible.

"Had it not been for Bob, Project Graduation would not have gotten off the ground," said Reid.

Jackie Ploek, also a senior at Kings Mountain High School, is a member of the steering committee and was responsible for telling her school about the contest and generating the interest necessary to make it a reality.

With students and businesses getting involved, both Reid and Collins feel one more element is needed. "What we really need are parents and volunteers to be a part of this project," Reid said.

Anyone interested in working with Project Graduation can contact them at P.O. Box 1711, Shelby, NC 28150 or call 480-0000.

Busy Week At KMSHS

By LISA LUND

Students at KMHS have had another busy week. The girls and boys varsity basketball team competed in the Southwestern Conference Tournament at Gardner Webb college. Now both teams will continue on with their competition to the sectionals. The girls team began by traveling to North Buckum High School while the boy's varsity went to Swanoanoh.

The drama department received help from the choral groups and the band to make its most recent production, "The Music Man," a huge success. Despite the snow and bad weather which changed the dates of the production, "The Music Man," brought out quite a large crowd and impressed everyone who saw it.

In addition to group successes, there have been many individuals who have received recognition this week. Beverly Bollinger designed a logo for Project Graduation which will be used in advertisement for the event. Allison Parizo placed first in job interview competition which qualifies her to continue competition on the state level. J.J. Warlick is at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in final competition for the Moorehead Scholarship.

There are also many upcoming events for which students are busy preparing. The band is working hard in preparation for contest March 17th at Gaston College. Their trip to contest will be followed by a trip to Florida the first week in April. Finally, the steering committee for the prom is busy preparing for the big night, April 29th.

With the end of the fourth school term, the students are very busy and anxiously awaiting a summer break.

Science Fair Held At KMJHS

"There was something for everyone" is how one visitor to the annual Math-Science Fair at Kings Mountain Junior High described the event on Saturday.

The exhibits drew high praise from the judges who announced that projects of 17 students from the Elementary through Senior High level will compete on March 17 and March 18 at UNC - Charlotte in the regional competition.

First place winners at the local level Saturday went home with \$100 savings bonds while second place winners received \$75 savings bonds. Third place winners won silver dollar Statue of Liberty commemorative coins and honorable mention winners won silver half dollar Statue of Liberty commemorative coins.

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ELEMENTARY MATH AND SCIENCE WINNERS - Pictured are Elementary students who math and science awards in the annual fair Saturday. From left are O'Brien Hayes, Clay Gardner, honorable mention; Laura Smith, first place; Renee Moss, second place, and Jason Putnam, third place.