

Local Students Write President

Students in Mrs. Diana Little's social studies and language arts sixth grade classes at Kings Mountain Middle School recently wrote letters of support to President Bush. Excerpts from some of the letters follow:

"I hope the war is over soon. Every time I look at the news I feel sorry for the people over there. I give my support to you and the soldiers. We hope they come back safely." --Debbie Dalton.

"I really don't think that each and every person over there could get through without your smarts. I just want to say I love all of the men and women over there and I love you for your caring and support." --Andy Ross.

"I might not have any relatives fighting in the war. But I still watch the war so I'll know what's happening. I still hope we win." --Tabitha Parker.

"I think war is a great idea because if we wouldn't have gone to war Iraq would take a lot more countries in the Middle East. Keep on making those great decisions." --Jason Putnam.

"I wanted you to know that you have my support and love. All the people in Saudi Arabia also have my support and love. I think what you are doing is right on." --Melanie Hope Beam.

"I don't know much about missiles or bombs but I hope none of Saddam Hussein's men don't get killed, or none of our men get killed. I hope our men get to come back soon. I wish this had never started." --Tamra Barrett.

"I know that a lot of our men will be injured, but I think if we try hard we just might get it through Saddam's head that we do not want war or we do not want our brothers, sisters or parents to go. Tell the men I wish them good luck and I hope they come home soon." --Tim Weaver

"As a citizen of the United States, I will pray and pray every day for God to help you make the right decision." --Tabatha Carman

"I am showing my support to you and the troops over seas. I went camping the other day and I put a flag on my tent. My friends like it. I think it is a good idea to go to war. Saddam is a strange man." --Jimmy Boheler.

"I would really like for you to pass on to the soldiers that all of America is praying for them. So keep your trust in God and He'll make a way." --Mychuwan Logan.

"The war really has me worried. I feel for the people over there, and their families. I think Saddam Hussein has really gone crazy. I also am afraid they'll start a draft and, if they do, my older brother Larry will have to go." --Lyndi Stone.

"I think you are doing the right thing, because Iraq thinks they can take over the world. But we are going to prove them wrong." --Clay White.

"I am concerned about the war. I wish they were not out there. We are wishing you good luck to win the war." --Bryan Odums

"I love the troops over there. I'm so glad that you're going to try to get them back home carefully." --Calvin Carroll.



MATH FAIR WINNERS AT KMMS-Pictured are winners of the recent Math Fair at Kings Mountain Middle School. The students are pictured in front of a prize-winning computer project by Ross Thomas. Back row, from left, Pam Ruppe, Burgen Hall, Ross Thomas, Misty Smith, Felicia Davis, Susan Smith and Laura Smith. Front row, from left, Becky Taylor, Jacob Moschler, Nathan Mayse, Crissie Johnsonbaugh, Autumn Edsall and Nicole Setzer. Not pictured are Allison Hardin and Carrie Hardin.

Looking At Effective Schools

As we have begun to study what research tells us about effective schools in general, it has caused us to also begin to take a closer look at our own school system. Effective school research promotes the concept that all children can learn, regardless of socio-economic class, race, or gender. If you subscribe to that theory, as I do, then it is only a short step to understand that you must analyze your own system carefully in order to discover which groups need the most attention. In educational circles these days we call that disaggregating the data. As we have begun to do this in the Kings Mountain District Schools we have discovered some enlightening information which I will share with you today.

The following data currently applies to our school system:

-White children consistently score higher than Black children on all measures of achievement. This does not mean that our Black children are not as smart or do not work as hard. It does mean that we need to pay more attention to their special needs as we try to teach them.

-Girls, on the average, score higher than boys on the California Achievement Tests in Grades 1-8

-Students who were absent from school one week or less during the year score higher on achievement tests than those who were absent more than one week.

-The general rule is that the higher the parent's level of education, the higher the student's achievement test score. This does not mean that every parent needs to have a graduate degree.

It does mean that the emphasis on education evidenced by the parent's completion of at least a high school education directly predicts how supportive of the child's education that parent will be. 24% of our students come from homes where the parent(s) do not have a high school education.

-Our students score below the state average on high school end-of-course tests for courses which they are required to talk.

-Our students score above the state average on high school end-of-course tests for courses which are electives.

-Our Asian students score below the other students on tests for subjects which require developed reading

BOB McRAE

Superintendent
Kings Mountain Schools



skills; however, they score higher than other students on tests for subjects where reading is not an essential.

-80.2% of our drop-outs are White; 18.1% are Black; and 1.7% are Asian. A disproportionate percentage of drop-outs are White. 54% of our drop-outs are males 46% are females.

-Our overall per pupil expenditure is \$46.54 below the state average.

Individual schools are beginning to explore what the data indicates in their particular situations. Further disaggregation needs to occur. For example, it is not enough to know that our Black children typically score lower than our White children. We also need to know if Black males typically score lower than Black females. When we assemble all the pertinent data, we can be in a better position to plan an instructional program which is truly geared to the belief that all children can learn.

I think we often get in the habit of looking at our students as just one group. There are usually distinct differences between the sub-groups of our students, differences which need to be realized and addressed. We certainly do want to see all of our students as one in terms of our efforts for them and our offerings to them. But we also want to see each of them as an individual in terms of how we plan to best enable them to be successful in school.

I hope the data above helps you understand our system more completely. We plan to put it to use to improve the achievement of our children and, thereby, improve their chances at begin successful when they finish school.

Chamber Wants Names Of Service People

Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Loretta Cozart wants to compile a list of service people serving in the War in the Gulf and names of their local kin so that the Chamber and city can plan a huge pep rally showing support for the military.

Citizens with friends and family serving in the Gulf are asked to call the Chamber office, 739-4755, anytime and give the information on the answering machine.

The pep rally will be held in the next three weeks.

TOWN BOARD MEETING-Grover Town Board will meet Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in Town Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

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