



Local alumni went back to school last week during American Education Week to present programs in the Kings Mountain Schools, a special program of the Kings Mountain Unit NCAE. David Lynn, composite engineer, above, is presented a certificate of appreciation from student Todd Dixon after Lynn shared his computer expertise and talked about various careers in Cindy Hovis' Principles of Business class at Kings Mountain High.

Citizens help in schools

By CINDY HOVIS
KMHS BUSINESS EDUCATION
The Kings Mountain Association of Educators celebrated American Education Week with the kick-off of the "I've Been Back to School" Program, a year-long effort to increase community involvement in the schools.

During the past week, community leaders and other professionals from the local area spoke to students on the elementary, middle school and high school levels on the importance of education in their community service and careers.

At North Elementary School, second graders in Peggy McDowell's and Carol Dye's classes and third graders in Connie Phifer's, Ann Futterer's and Pat Regan's classes listened as Sgt. Mark Simpson of the Kings Mountain Police Department explained the need for learning reading, math and communication skills in order to be a successful police officer.

Also, at North School, fourth graders in Roxanne Gaffney's, Valerie Boyd's and Jan Sabetti's classes watched as city commissioner Al Moretz demonstrated the use of measuring devices in his career as a civil engineer.

At East Elementary, students in Dorcas Beasley's fifth grade class had a special visitor, "Pepper, the Fireman's Dog," a Dalmatian belonging to John Wright of the

Kings Mountain Fire Department. Excited fifth graders, under the direction of Assistant Chief Bud Ware, and Lt. Bill Herndon, participated in a video-question and answer program dealing with fire safety. Firefighter Lenny Wright wore full firefighting gear to demonstrate its use to the students.

At Kings Mountain Middle School, newly-elected Kings Mountain school board member Shearra Miller spoke with the 8th grade students in Ann Bennett's personal services lab. She spoke of the importance of gaining information concerning a variety of careers when making education and work goals. Mrs. Miller also brought some of her custom made flags, a hobby that has developed into a profitable cottage industry.

At Kings Mountain High School, students in Grace Costner's and Gary Blake's Fundamental Math and Algebra I classes listened to Al Moretz explain the importance of correct mathematical calculations in the construction of structures that insure public safety. Moretz demonstrated a variety of mathematics formulas and calculations he typically uses on his job as a civil engineer.

Susan Gosselin's English Classes listened as newly-elected city commissioner Philip Hager spoke of the value and the importance of staying in school. He related the hardships faced by those individu-

als who choose to drop out of school.

David Lynn, a composite engineer with BASF Corporation, brought his computer and showed some of the ways computer technology has increased his effectiveness and efficiency in his career in Cindy Hovis' Principles of Business Class. Lynn also brought a form he used to evaluate employees on the basis of job performance and attitude and explained the importance of developing positive attributes such as creativity, dependability and problem-solving abilities.

This week, Ms. Hovis' Business Law students will review a personal injury case with Robert Jenkins, an attorney with Tim Harris and Associates of Charlotte. Jenkins will also discuss the challenges of law school and answer students' questions concerning business and criminal law.

Chris Minnix, a disk jockey and account representative of WC-SL/WGNC of Cherryville and Gastonia spoke with English students in Sheila Wyont's and Julia Wood's and Annette Parker's classes and with business students in Cindy Hovis' and Kathy Goforth's classes on the importance of setting personal and professional goals. Minnix also emphasized successful mastery of communication and keyboarding skills.

The Kings Mountain Association of Educators will continue inviting speakers from the community into classrooms of interested teachers through this school year. The KMAE faculty representatives from each school will be offering information to any interested teacher within the next month. The positive response from students, host teachers and guest speakers who participated in last week's kickoff celebration demonstrates this year's American Education theme, "Schools and Communities: Partners for a Strong America."

School program gets \$1 million

A \$1 million grant to Cleveland County for its Community In Schools program to help bring families out of the cycle of poverty, has been awarded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem.

The grant, one of the largest to the county, will support five year Family Resource Centers at Marion School in Shelby, Washington School in Waco and East School in Kings Mountain.

The grants are part of Opportunities for Families Fund, one of the largest initiatives in the history of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and one that has drawn widespread state and national attention.

Each of the five programs funded takes a different approach.

Cleveland County will focus on public schools, particularly at-risk children, as a means of involving the entire family. Forsyth County, an urban Piedmont county, plans a broader approach that will also examine racism and cultural diversity. In the western part of the state, the mountainous counties of Mitchell, Avery and Yancey plan to focus on economic development and jobs creation. Scotland County, in southeastern North Carolina, plans to focus on poverty-stricken neighborhoods. In Warren County in the northeastern part of the state, the approach will be to establish a family institute to work intensely with poor families.

"Each of these five projects has approached the problem of breaking the cycle of poverty for families with a unique approach and model for change," said Mary Mountcastle, president of the Foundation and chair of OFF committee.

County Manager Lane Alexander said the county effort grew out of Cleveland Challenge, a cross section of community leaders who set priorities on problem solv-

Yule program at State Park

The Living History Farm will be the backdrop for a Christmas program at Kings Mountain State Park on Sun., Dec. 15.

Visitors will make ornaments to decorate the old-fashioned Christmas tree at this mid-19th century farmstead. Musicians will provide holiday music, and refreshments will be served.

The fee is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children ages 6-12. The program will last from 1-5 p.m.

Kings Mountain State Park is located off Highway 161 south of Kings Mountain. For more information, call the park at (803) 222-3209.

Band to give Chevy pickup

The Kings Mountain High School band will give away a 1991 Chevrolet S10 pickup truck on Thurs., Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at the KMHS cafeteria.

Approximately 137 tickets out of 300 have been sold at \$100 each. The remaining tickets are still available and can be purchased at the door before the drawing on December 5.

The informal evening will include entertainment by the KMHS pep band, refreshments, and door prizes.

Any person interested in supporting the band's Aril trip to Florida by purchasing a ticket may do so by contacting Mrs. Ellen Gaffney at 739-0773.

Head Start adds program at Bethware

Patti Norman, Director of Cleveland County Head Start, announced today that the program will open a new classroom to serve 20 children and families at Bethware Elementary School after Christmas.

The program will serve children who turned four on or before October 16, 1991, from families with low to moderate income. Preference will be given to those most in need of comprehensive pre-kindergarten services. Three-year-olds with special needs who would benefit from two years of service may be given consideration also.

Interested parents may call the Head Start office for more information at 734-5660.

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