

Computers help students stay on task

By RENEE WALSER
Of The Herald Staff

Thanks to the imagination of an administrator and the progressiveness of the school board, Kings Mountain has a new program for elementary students that's being called "state-of-the-art."

East Elementary students in third through fifth grades are participating in a program, instigated by Principal John Goforth, which uses computers to help teachers instruct in the classroom.

What is so different about this program is the students are divided into groups and rotate around the room to various activities, one of which uses the computer to direct the student through lessons on his or her individual level.

"It's not as boring (as instruction by a single teacher in front of the class)," Goforth said. "And it makes the child more responsible for his own learning."

For instance, students in one corner of the room may be working on spelling words using dictionar-

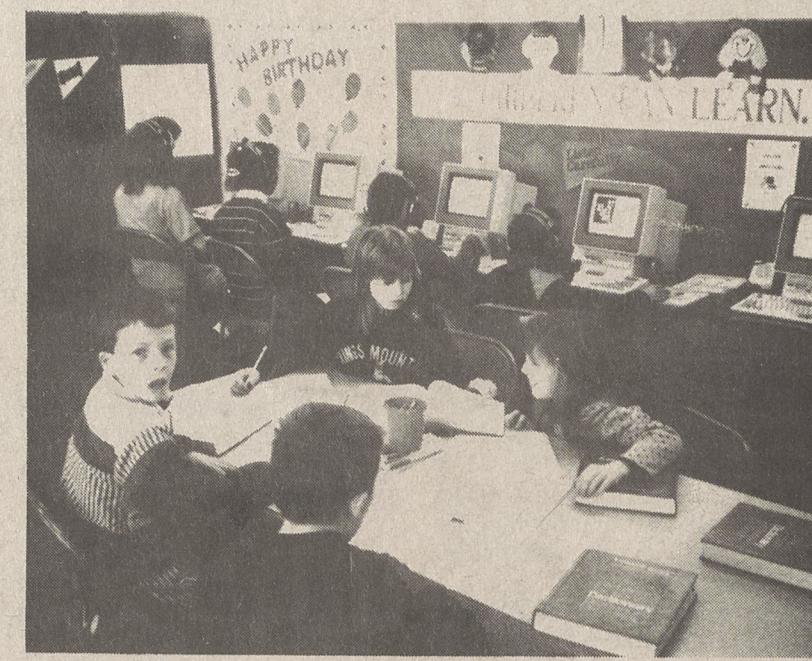
ies. They can help each other, while a teacher in another area of the room works with a group on science. Still, a third group of students sit at the computers learning reading or math.

Most of what computers have been used for in this country as far as education goes is in a lab situation. East will have that, too, for mainly first and second graders' use.

Goforth said he got the idea because Superintendent Bob McRae asked his administrators to think imaginatively about education. McRae and the board supported Goforth's project, and though expensive, Goforth thinks it will be well worth the money spent on the 42 PCs and main-frame computer used in the program.

Goforth said the best thing about the program is it "lets the teachers off center stage." It's a type of cooperative learning, he said, and he's been told business and industry need workers to cooperate, work toward a common goal.

Josten's, a leading organization



Students in a classroom at East Elementary School stay on task with the help of computers. The new program was started by Principal John Goforth one month ago and has met with enthusiasm from teachers and students.

of computer technology in integrated learning systems, has told Goforth this his month-old program is probably the only one of its kind in the southeast.

"We feel very unique in that as-

pect," Goforth said.

Working with the computers, which are programmed at each student's working level, has obvious advantages for slower students, such as one-on-one instruction. There are advantages for accelerated students, also, Goforth said. The slower students do not hold the faster children back. They can go as fast as they want.

Reports are made regularly to teachers, principal and parents. The reports tell what areas the students are weak in, so teachers can perhaps concentrate and target those areas. The students receive a grade, and any grade above 80 percent is excellent, Goforth said, because the work is slightly difficult. And teachers can tell if students are just guessing or not taking enough time to answer questions.

For the teacher, Goforth said, it's harder to manage. The program takes more planning on their part.

"But I know the teachers like it," he said.

One reason is the teachers have smaller groups to work with.

"This eliminates the discipline problem," Goforth said.

"It's more fun for us," said fifth-grade teacher Dorcas Beasley. "We feel like the kids enjoy it more. We don't hear that 'Ahhh' when they are told to get out their science books."

It's obvious the children like the new system. Goforth said they had a rule that students who did not do their homework did not use the computer. They have had few problems with homework since that rule went into effect.

Goforth is hoping that the new program will excite students to stay in school. He said that by the time a child is in the third grade, if he isn't stimulated, he might be a "mental drop-out" by eighth, ninth or tenth grade.

The East project is a pilot program for the school system. "We want to have this for all schools," Goforth said, "but first we have to make sure that it's successful -- it's so expensive."

City officials attend seminar

City officials are in Chapel Hill attending a seminar for newly-elected officials underway through Friday at the Institute of Government.

Mayor Scott Neisler, City Manager George Wood, Mayor Pro Tem Norma Bridges and her husband, Bobby Bridges; and new council members Phil Hager, Jerry White and Jim Guyton and Mrs. Guyton are in attendance.

FILING

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Scism says, if elected, he will also push for more jobs for young people.

Hoyle, in an announcement speech in Shelby, said his would be an "issues-driven" campaign. "The only things I'll attack are problems," he pledged.

Using the occasion to outline his agenda, Hoyle stressed the need for truly responsive representation in Raleigh. He spoke with special urgency about the crime and social decay triggered by addiction and pressed for a concerted assault on the drug culture. "Let's punish the pushers, the dealers, and the scum who poison our children and kill their dreams," he said.

Hoyle emphasized a renewed commitment to public education, which he ranks among the state's most vital resources. He said it is crucial that students receive an education commensurate with the challenges they will face as responsible adult citizens.

Equally high on Hoyle's agenda is the jobs issue. Citing Cleveland, Lincoln and Gaston counties' lead in industrial development, he warned against resting on laurels. He said that an even more aggressive approach to economic stimulation is necessary to assure a properly trained and gainfully employed labor pool. Specifically, he said the state needs to keep roads in good repair, provide modern, thoroughly efficient water and sewer services and demand that parks be clean and pristine.

COUNCIL

From Page 1-A

City council approved plans for the park last March but the project failed to win a federal matching grant needed to halve the city's cost to \$30,000.

Recreation officials in January brought plans back to the council, wanting to reapply for the grant. The council approved initiating the grant application over objections of Commissioners Al Moretz and Elvin Greene, who said they won't support a park the people don't want.

Recreation Director David Hancock said at the January meeting that the recreation committee, chaired by Councilwoman Norma Bridges, wants to develop a greenway along the creek from Cansler Street to Kings Mountain High School. He said that in response to neighborhood concerns that new park plans would include a posted dawn-to-dusk schedule. A quarter mile dirt road on Hillside Drive would be closed and a parking lot would be eliminated to cut down out-of-neighborhood use.

City council meets at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers at city hall.

After the February meeting, the board will meet in executive session to discuss three contractual matters.



NATIONAL HAT DAY - Bethware third graders recently celebrated National Hat Day. Show in their hats are, front row, left to right, Tasha Locklear, Carrie Sizemore, Franklin Gunter, Jordan Wollak, Miranda Hensley, Amber Dotson. Second row, Leslie Broome, Sandy Hamrick, Michael Hawkins, Miranda Logan, Kristin Hildebrand, Jenni Reed, Wade Wiggins, Monica Franks, Kenny Moore, Miranda Dixon. Back row, Julianne Hambright and Betty Moss.

Molly took up the fight

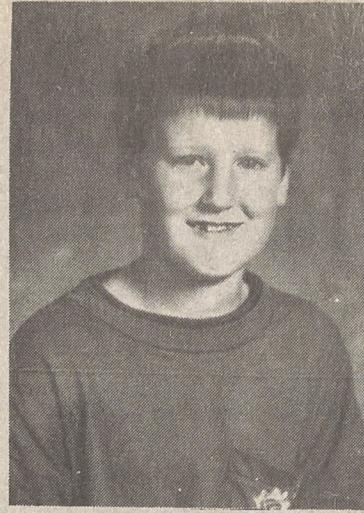
(Ed. note - Grover 5th grader Joshua Joel Rountree won first place for his essay on "Famous Women of the American Revolution." The contest was sponsored by Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter DAR. Rountree's winning essay was on Molly Pitcher.)

By JOSH ROUNTREE

Molly Pitcher was an honored person of the Revolutionary War. Molly Pitcher won her fame and nickname at the battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, in 1778.

Molly's real name was Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley. She was born on a dairy farm near Trenton, N. J. Molly's father was a German immigrant and his name was John Ludwig. She grew up to be a stocky, short farm girl. She was not all that pretty, but kind and hard working. When Molly was 15 she went to Pennsylvania to find work as a housemaid. Soon after she became a housemaid, she married John Hays.

Molly's husband, John, fought in the Revolutionary War with the American artillery. She went to the army camp to take care of John and the other soldiers. Molly sewed,



JOSH ROUNTREE

washed, and cooked for her husband and the other soldiers. The Battle of Monmouth was on June 28, 1778, and that was where Molly Pitcher won her fame and nickname. Molly ran back and forth from a well all day, bringing water to the hot and thirsty fighters and also tending to the needs of the wounded. Seeing her with the pitcher of water, they cried in thanks. The soldiers said, "Here she comes with her pitcher." Soon, they were just saying "Molly

Pitcher." That's how she won her battle name.

Through the battle her husband was overcome by the heat and he fainted beside his cannon. A short while after John fainted, Molly took over the cannon and took his place, loading the cannon and firing it like the other soldiers as long as the battle raged. Today there are monuments at her grave and at Monmouth, N. J. honoring her as a brave and courageous fighter. There are also songs honoring her.

The rest of her life did not go so well. After John died in 1789, she remarried to George McCauley. He and Molly were very poor and unhappy. Molly had to earn a living by taking care of children, scrubbing floors and washing. A long time after that in 1822, many people remembered that this humble scrubwoman had fought for independence just like a regular, hard-working soldier. So the General Assembly passed "an act for the relief of Molly M'Kolly." The act gave her a soldier's pension until she died in 1832. Molly received \$40 each year from her grateful country in honor of her services.



WEST SCHOOL TALENT SHOW - Pictured are participants in the recent West School Talent Show. Front row, from left, Kendrick Burris, Holly Courson, Matthew Echols, Jamie Mabry, Tyler Maxey, Elizabeth Logan, and Virginia Neisler; second row, Abbey Hancock, Ashley Cook, Meagan Spicer, Kerri Brutko, and Christy Burgess, back row, Taylor Myers, Shakara Young, and Lakeisha Jordan. The winners were Virginia Neisler, first grade; Meagan Spicer, second grade; and Lakeisha Jordan, fourth grade. The Parent Involvement Day was attended by 177 parents. The 252 students invited parents and friends for lunch, to enjoy Science Fair projects, and to attend the 1 p.m. talent show on February 14.

Deborah Sampson courageous woman

(Ed. Note- Nerissor Wray, 5th grader at East School, won first prize in the DAR-sponsored essay contest for her essay on "Deborah Sampson, Famous Woman of the American Revolution.")

By NERISSOR WRAY

Deborah Sampson was born December 17, 1760 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. She lived in a very poor family. When she was 10 years old, she went to live with the Benjamin Thomas family. Later on she became a school teacher.

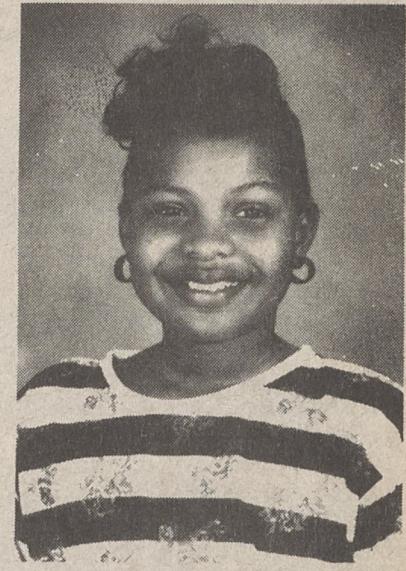
When the American Revolution began, Deborah wanted to fight. At 21, she made a soldier's suit, tied her hair back and wrapped her chest with a cloth to resemble a man and joined the army in Burlington, Massachusetts. She signed under the name of Robert Shurtleff.

At West Point, Deborah joined the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment Army. So other soldiers wouldn't find she was a woman, late at night she took her baths in the Hudson River while others were asleep. Soon her regiment was called to fight. Her assigned job was hard. British soldiers were stealing American's cows. Deborah and the others had to stop them. Deborah was hit in the head with a bullet and two musket balls but she refused to go to the hospital. A soldier rode her six miles to the hospital on his horse. Hurt badly, Deborah was more afraid of the hospital than pain. She was worried someone would find she was a woman. That night in the hospital while everyone was asleep, she took one of the muskets out of her leg with a metal probe. The other one was too deep. She left the hospital before she was fully recovered.

Her next job was simple. She was to work for General Patterson at his house. A few months later she went to Philadelphia. The American soldiers were to be paid \$6.67 every month. Congress had no money to pay the soldiers. Some of the soldiers went on fighting, others refused to fight and took over the State House.

The Congress moved to Princeton, New Jersey. Deborah and over 1,000 other soldiers went to Philadelphia to calm the angry men. Deborah's shoes wore out through the winter and she didn't have money to buy shoes. Her feet left blood in the snow and she soon became ill.

Again, soldiers took her to the hospital. This time Deborah slept for several days. Nurses and doctors thought she was dead. As a nurse passed by, Deborah groaned,



the nurse heard her and ran for help. Dr. Binney took her pulse but didn't feel anything. The doctor tried to feel her heart beat but the cloth around her chest was in the way. Benney was surprised when he removed the cloth that Robert Shurtleff was female. The doctor didn't tell anyone but he took her to his home to stay with his family. Deborah still wore her uniform. They never knew she was a woman. When Deborah was well again, she went back to her regiment.

The war was ending. Deborah was sent to West Point. Peace had been made and the Americans had won the war. When she arrived at West Point General Patterson called her to his office. When she came in the office the general looked at the letter on his desk from Doctor Binney. General Patterson laughed and said, "There couldn't be any women in my army." The general thought Deborah would laugh also but her face turned red. The general asked if she was a woman. She admitted it and told him her real name was Deborah Sampson.

On October 23, 1783, she was given an honorable discharge from the Army by the orders of George Washington. She went back to Massachusetts to live with her uncle. She fell in love with Benjamin Gannett. They were married in April 1784. Mrs. Gannett had three children, Earl, Mary and Patience. Deborah and Benjamin adopted a fourth child named Susannah Shepard. Susannah's mother died and her father couldn't take care of her.

A book about Deborah's life in the Army is called "The Female Review." It was published in 1792.

Deborah died in 1822. The back of her tombstone says "Deborah Sampson Gannett, Robert Shurtleff, the Female Soldier."

Students win history awards

Nine Kings Mountain 5th grade students and four KM Middle School students won awards for history essay writing from Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The winners read their essays at the recent meeting of the DAR. Betty Masters, contest chairman, introduced the winners. She said only one winner from each grade could participate in the District competition and those winners are:

Eaton sales declined in fourth quarter

Eaton Corporation today announced net income of \$33 million, or \$97 cents per share, for the fourth quarter of 1991, compared to net income of \$36 million, or

Other winners are: Bethware - Bridget Barrett, first, Russell Kiser, second; East - Nerissor Wray, first; Grover - Josh Rountree, first; Lisa King, second; North - Alice Ann Howard, first; Ben Bumgardner, second, and West, Linda Phannareth, first, and Jon Ruff, second.

\$1.05 per share, in the fourth quarter of 1990. Sales in the fourth quarter of 1991 were \$866 million, compared to sales of \$876 million in the fourth quarter of 1990.