



**GARY STEWART / THE HERALD**  
Kings Mountain teachers Jewel Kendrick, Carla Bennett, Jenny Hollifield and Carol Elliott, left to right, were recognized for receiving National Board Certification at Monday night's School Board meeting.

## Board recognizes KM teachers

The Kings Mountain Board of Education used a brief meeting Monday night at Central School to recognize four teachers who have attained National Board Certification.

Recognized with certificates and a \$500 bonus from the school system were West teacher Carla Bennett, East teacher Jenny Hollifield, and Kings Mountain Middle School teachers Carol Elliott and Jewel Kendrick.

Achieving national certification also results in a 12 percent pay increase from the state of North Carolina.

Supt. Bob McRae pointed out that attaining certification from the National Standards Board is a "rigorous process." He said Kings Mountain's percentage of national certified teachers is higher than the state average.

McRae also recognized three School Board members for participation in the N.C. School Boards Association Academy for School Boardmanship. Larry Allen received a Level 3 Certificate of Excellence, Shearra Miller received a Level 4 Certificate of Distinction, and Ronnie Hawkins received a Level 5 Graduate Diploma.

In other action Monday, the Board:

- Heard first reading of revisions to various policies which were approved by the Board over the past 18 years. Asst. Supt. Ronnie Wilson said the revisions are necessary due to changes in state law. The matter will come up for vote at the March meeting.

- Approved summer baseball, softball and basketball camps at KMHS.

- Approved numerous student transfers and personnel matters.

# Update from KM Schools

Some updates from your school system:

-Soil testing on the proposed site for the 5-6 school resulted in no concerns.

Completion of the survey is the only step left before final purchase of the site is made. Ride by the site on the new road from Phifer to Highway 74. I think you'll see what should be a very nice location for a school. I understand that an assisted living facility will also be built on this road. It sounds as if the location will soon become a vital part of our community.

-The Board of Education recently recognized four teachers in our system who have achieved National Board Certification in the last few months. Karla Bennett of West School, Jenny Hollifield of East School, and Carol Elliott and Jewel Kendrick of Kings Mountain Middle School successfully completed the lengthy process. National board certification provides further verification of the high quality of performance in these ladies' classrooms.

-The school year slips by quickly. Seniors at KMHS are already looking towards end of the year activities. Graduation exercises are clearly our most important single event of the year. I am asking Mr. Weathers, his staff, and the senior class to give direct attention to returning much needed dignity to that event. I hope the community, especially the families of the graduates, will assist us in that effort. I want this event to be very special for our graduates, however I also want them to know that proper decorum is still not only appropriate but also expected.

-Remember that school missed due to inclement weather causes schedule alterations. Days which are begun on a delayed schedule do not have to be made up, however days completely missed do. This Friday, February 18, is our first make-up day and will make up the day of school we missed on

January 18. The missed days of January 24 and 25 will be made up, as stipulated in the published calendar, on Friday, March 10 and Monday, April 17 respectively. It is our board's position - and a very good one, I believe - that days missed should be made up prior to the end of the year testing. I think that is one of many strategies which have combined to enable us to do well in the state's ABC accountability program. Please be certain your students attend school on these make-up days.

-It's not too early to plan for important state testing this spring. Writing tests will be given in March. These involve students in the 4th, 7th, and 10th grades. End of grade and end of course tests will be given in May. It's very important that students prepare diligently for these tests by attending school regularly and being very serious about their work. At testing time, it is important that students are well rested before taking the tests. For a number of years the local recreation department has worked with us to avoid the scheduling of youth baseball games after 7 p.m. on the nights before these tests are given. I am pleased to say that the YMCA is continuing that level of cooperation this year. Kudos to our teachers who

work so very hard each day to help our students prepare to do well.

-Our new technology specialist, Cheryl Lutz, and her staff are working to upgrade our system's website. Over the next several months we hope to provide a well developed site for use by our community. You can access the site at [www.kmids.k12.nc.us](http://www.kmids.k12.nc.us), and I invite you to do so. It's in an infant state at this time, but plans include adding our board policies and up-to-date weather announcements in the future. You'll also be able to link to sites for our individual schools through our district site. Suggestions can be given to Cheryl, and we'll be glad to consider them.

-Spring activities include our annual KMHS musical, cultural arts performances, and spring sports events. Take time to attend as many of these as you can. You'll be impressed with the talents of both our students and their teachers. Admission price, when there is one, are usually a bit easier on the pocketbook than the typical night out, and you'll certainly be entertained. Enjoy!

I hope the remaining three months of the school year are productive for you and your family.



**Bob McRae**

Superintendent  
KM Schools



**ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD**  
The Renaissance Club at Kings Mountain High School held an awards ceremony Monday to honor students for their scholastic achievement. "Pure Gold" winners at the event were, front left to right; Cheryl Greene, Melita Betler, Heather Causby, Manisone Phanthalack, Basit Gangoo. Rear, left to right; Anna George, Joshua McDaniels, Marylee Dilling. Not pictured; Stephanie Saucier, Wendy Neisler, Ola Moore, Brad Bridges.

## Renaissance awards given

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

Over 300 Kings Mountain High School students took part in ceremonies Monday celebrating their academic achievement. Part of the Renaissance Program, the presentation saw awards given to outstanding Renaissance students for the grades they earned last semester.

An academic incentive program, Renaissance operates on a basis of three "cards" which students receive according to their Grade Point Average and attendance. The Gold Card designates a student who has made a GPA of 4.0 or better for the semester. A Silver Card is for those with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.999. Bronze Card holders have improved their GPA by an increase of at least .5.

There are currently 366 Renaissance Program students at Kings Mountain High School. The mission of the organization

is to "acknowledge the educational achievements and outstanding contributions of the students and staff member of our school through a process of reinforcement, recognition, and reward."

Renaissance Club membership has soared at Kings Mountain High this year. According to Gay Henderson, there are 47 new senior members, 38 new junior class members, 24 new sophomore members. The freshman class has the highest number of Gold Card members with 64.

"Renaissance makes the students aware of their Grade Point Average and gives them something to strive for," Henderson said. "It also makes them aware that attendance is part of academic achievement."

Being a member of the Renaissance Program brings students more than a card and recognition. Other Renaissance perks include special pizza parties, T-shirts, free attendance at

sporting events for Gold Card holders, coupons, and free parking on campus. Many of the incentives are made possible through sponsorship by local businesses.

"Being a Renaissance member makes students stand out among their peers," said media specialist Julie Rikard. "It also teaches the students successful study habits that they can carry on to their next level of educational achievement."

Monday's Renaissance recognition ceremony saw 12 seniors receive special trophies for their hard work and good school citizenship. Called the "Rare Gold" group, these seniors have been Gold Card holders ever since they started attending Kings Mountain High School.

A successful combination of staff and students working together, the Renaissance Program achieves superlative results for the current school year as well as the future.

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