

GUEST COLUMN

# KM character education plan very impressive

By JOHN GOFORTH

During the marathon NC Legislative session of 2001, our legislators struggled with difficult financial conditions. One of the best bills to be enacted was the Student Citizen Act of 2001.



The statute identifies specific character traits for all NC schools to emphasize and model. Fortunately, Kings Mountain Schools adopted a Character Education plan in 1997 and was one of a handful of schools to have such an emphasis. All KM schools have individual plans that reflect the 10 traits developed by a Character Education Task Force and previously adopted by the KM Board of Education.

The co-sponsor of the bill, Senator Walter Dalton, was so impressed by the KM program that he initially intended to introduce the bill at Bethware School, but his staff was forced to move the press conference to Raleigh for convenience. It is gratifying to realize that Senator Dalton felt that KM had a solid and productive program for student citizenship.

All schools will be refining their Character Education plans of the upcoming school year. But the new statute so closely mirrors the current program that major revisions are unnecessary in most cases. Expect some small revisions, minor additions and the inclusion of many of the fine activities of the current program. Among the most visible parts of the current program are the signs on all KM school campuses, selection of outstanding students characterizing a monthly trait, and students leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the KM Board of Education meetings.

The Closing the Achievement Gap monitoring committee held its second meeting of the school year in mid-January. The committee, composed of representatives of parents, teachers, community agencies, school administrators, and media representatives, reviewed some of the current programs designed to help students and schools close any achievement gaps between identified groups of students.

Valerie Boyd, KMHS Assistant Principal, described the Project TEACH program that encourages minority students and their parents to plan for college. Project TEACH monthly activities included visits from college recruiters, representatives from the college foundation, and planning sessions to discuss how to apply and pay for college. The project opens the eyes of prospective college students and currently serves over 100 grade 7-12 students in KM.

The committee also heard project reports from KMHS teacher Lamont Littlejohn on his mentoring role with students at the high school.

First semester data from KMHS End of Course testing was also presented. The data from the testing indicated that most tested courses were improved as white students on grade level improved in 6 of 10 courses and black students on grade level improved in 9 of 10 courses. The achievement gap between white and black students decreased in 6 of 10 courses, remained constant in three courses and widened in one course. White students scored at or above the state average for white students in 6 of 10 courses. Black students scored at or above the state average for black students in 9 of 10 courses.

This monitoring committee is scheduled to meet again in May after the grade 3-8 End of Grade tests and the grade 9-12 End of Course tests. They will evaluate the progress of the closing the gap efforts and make additional recommendations to the BOE.

(John Goforth is Director of Instructional Services for KM Schools).

# North Elementary presents awards

North Elementary School recently presented awards for the second nine weeks grading period.

Principal's Pals - Keeneh Dimetros, Megan Haraszkiwicz, Trevor Blanton, Jamie Reid, Amanda Tarbush, Dierra Patterson, Amanda Chittum, Lowell Henry, Ali Prow, Morgan Robinson, Rachel Edwards, Davey Scism, Cory Ross, Bradley Lovelace, Heather Stevens, Tanner Deaton, Alice Ovaneoudone, Josh Adams, Rachael Perkins.

Terrific Kids - Jordan Heath, Tyler Henry, Vicky Pennington, John Aldridge, Kelsey Forbes, Octavia Nixon, Ny'essa Smith, Malik Osborn, Brittany Lysek, Lee Waddell, Wil Selles, Tyler Thompson, Joseph Chapman, Ariana Wingo, Kim Smarr, Mandy Lockridge, Savannah Cash, Cameron Pittman, Tia Tipton, Destiny Williams, Jessica Tate, Tanner Ross, Maddison Keeter, Matthew Canipe, Olivia Oliver, Derrick Willhaus, Chelsea Champion, Josh Guffey, Victoria Greene, Danielle Colvin, Megan Hoyle, Ethan Roper, Ricky Johnston, Elizabeth Russell, Summer Putnam, Bradley Gilliam, Jessica Ridings, Ashley Witherspoon.

Goforth's Top Tigers - Corey Green, Keeneh Dimetros, Jordan Heath, Jonathan Adams, Gabrielle Rhodes, Mark Black, Tyler Henry, Rebekah Bridges, Zack Reese, Bree Fuller, Ashley Oakes.

Hamrick's Top Tigers - Alex Johnson, Alex Reynolds, Amber Bowen, Brooke Warner, Chelsea Neely, Corey Hester, John Aldridge, Megan Haraszkiwicz, Mikayla Price, Sara Jackson, Steven Smith, Vicky Pennington, William Sheppard.

Mack's Top Tigers - Timothy Baucom, Trevor Blanton, Alexis

Brafford, Savannah Earls, Kelsey Forbes, David Hill, Haley Malone, Jamion McCoy, Jada McGill, Samantha Morrison, Sandra Munoz, Octavia Nixon, Joshua Reid, Katy Robinson, Floyd Ruff, Rebekah Sherrill.

Blanton's Top Tigers - Emily Bell, Carsyn Bolin, Sara Borov, Kellie Ford, Malik Osborn, Jordan Pearson, Jamie Reid, Khadijah Watkins, Shawn Chapple, Ny'essa Smith.

Owens' Top Tigers - Kaelin Aiken, Sammy Collet, Paige Harrison, Kelsey Hunter, Brittany Lysek, Tyler Ramsey, Amanda Tarbush, Ashley Tourtelotte, Lee Waddell, Janice Ma.

Turner's Top Tigers - Lakita Knox, Yasmin Moss, Tyler Thompson, Tyler Martin, Wil Sellers, Hannah Wyte, Brooke Shaw, Brittany Keeter, Alina Lambert, Naemah James, Landon Keeter, Marty Lockridge, Dierra Patterson.

High honors - Preston Leonard, Joseph Chapman, Ariana Wingo, Ryan Bridges, Savannah Cash, Jessica Lovette, Justin Nanke, McKenzie Parker, Mary Kathryn Pasour, Cameron Pittman, Ali Prow, D'Azzia White, Lauren Belt, Matthew Lovelace, Lowell Henry, Mandy Lockridge, Akua Adams, Tanner Collins, Morgan Robinson, Tia Tipton, Rachel Edwards, Josh Gomez, Sarah Jane Mauney, Courtney Carrigan, Savannah Rice, Davey Scism, Daniel Latta, Andrew Barrett, Candi Forbes, Morgan Harrison, Jackie Mercer, Manoj Mirchandani, Olivia Oliver, Cory Ross, Angellica Sweat, Derrick Willhaus, Faith Johnson, Chelsea Champion, Josh Guffey, Hayley Hoyle, Bradley Lovelace, Christine Reid, Cline Tate, Matthew Ford, Bryan Moffitt, Victoria Greene, Austin Bridges, Caitlin Patrick,

Ellen Hall, Meagan Reynolds, Megan Hoyle, Ethan Roper, Brittany Baucom, Hogan Sellers, Tyler Prow, Erin Aiken, Jacob Canipe, Spencer Carroll, Tianna Wilson, Harley Carrigan, Zachary Smith, Davis Crawford.

Honors - Tiffani Champion, Brooke Chapman, Joseph Zeuner, Tia Jackson, Brandon Smith, Edward Blackburn, Adja Faye, Jacob Lineberger, Haley Adams, Shelton Price, Brooklyn Anthony, Deanna Crenshaw, Christy Heffner, Adrina Burton, Ross Clark, Tyler Gilliam, Brandi Griggs, Desiree McClain, Juan Patterson, Mitchell Cloninger, Josh Chapple, Cierra Patterson, Jada Putnam, Pagiah Stevenson, Jessica Tate, Tiffany Waddell, Amy Welch, Tori Gay, Colby Gardner, Tanner Ross, Sarah Blackburn, Taylor Farris, Seth Haraszkiwicz, Dominique Toon, Asiah Stevenson, Matthew Canipe, Maddison Keeter, Kevin Lynn, Jazmine McClain, Jessica Yon, Amber Cain, Stetson Griggs, Brian Johnson, Maribel Munoz, Halie Price, Bryce Wellman, Danielle Coplen, Buddy Harrelson, Brandon Sturgis, Brandi Black, Marlin Lawrence, William Blackburn, Logan Nanke, Meredith Van Dyke, Celisa Bolch, Danielle Colvin, Lakia Cooper, Heather Stevens, Katie Black, Maci Shepard, Tanner Deaton, Raven Thomas, Daniel Wooten, Sage Luley, Victoria Martin, Alice Ovaneoudone, Elizabeth Russell, Tyler Dixon, Kursty Rowland, Brittany Carpenter, Chasiti Falls, Destiny Pittman, Tyler Ross, Hanna Clark, Rachel Perkins, Ashley Witherspoon, Kathy Martin, Michelle Timms, Crystal Wyte, Mary Katherine Lynn.

Joseph Chapman, Amanda Chittum, Amber Walker, Tianna Wilson, Ariana Wingo, Linda Bowen, Allison Bradley, Ryan Green, Chris Morrison, Ryan Bridges, Savannah Cash, Tiffani Champion, Tia Jackson, Jessica Lovette, Mary Kathryn Pasour, Cameron Pittman, Ali Prow, D'Azzia White, Jr. Oaks, Haley Adams, Lauren Belt, Macy Coble, Christy Heffner, Jacob Lineberger, Matthew Lovelace, Kim Smarr, Mandy Lockridge, Lowell Henry, Elizabeth Adams, Edward Blackburn, Adam Bryant, Akua Adams, Kelci Allen, Adrian Burton, Mitchell Cloninger, Tanner Collins, Sha Crank, Tyler Gilliam, Brandi Griggs, Meghan Hillton, Rebecca Stevenson, Desiree McClain, Joshua Parker, Morgan Robinson, Tia Tipton, Micaela Watterson, Destiny Williams, Josh Chapple, Kanisha Crocker, Erica Early, Rachael Edwards, Colby Gardner, Joshua Gomez, Michael Lambert, Sarah Mauney, Cierra Patterson, Jada Putnam, Tanner Ross, Pagiah Stevenson, Jessica Tate, Amy Welch, Kaleb Earls, Lorenzo Knox, Jodie Allison, Sarah Blackburn, Mathew Canipe, Taylor Faris, Seth Hartazkiwicz, Maddison Keeter, Holly Leach, Kevin Lynn, Jazmine McClain, Savannah Rice, Davey Scism, Asiah Stevenson, Dominique Toon, Tyler Willhaus, Jessica Yon, Alexine Young, Andrew Barrett, Danielle Coplen, Jackey Dulude, Candi Forbes, Stetson Griggs, Buddy Harrelson, Morgan Harrison, Jackie Mercer, Manoj Mirchandani, Maribel Munoz, Olivia Oliver, Halie Price, Cory Ross, Angellica Sweat, Bryce Wellmon, Derrick Willhaus, Tyqwan Hunter, Faith Johnson, Shamilca Aponte, Brandi Black, William Blackburn, Chelsea

Champion, Josh Guffey, Josh Haraszkiwicz, Hayley Hoyle, Marlin Lawrence, Bradley Lovelace, Logan Nanke, Christine Reid, Brandon Sabins, Cline Tate, Kristen Williams, Jordan Gilliam, Keiffer Hamm, Danielle Colvin, Meredith Van Dyke, Jordan Rosenbeck, Victoria Greene, Austin Bridges, Heather Stevens, Caitlin Patrick, Lakia Cooper, Bryant Van Dyke, Celisa Bolch, Bryan Moffitt, Trinity Logan, Katie Black, Tanner Deaton, Maci Shepard, Jennifer Vassey, Kurstin Cordle, Rashida Dimetros, Megan Hoyle, Ellen Hall, Meagan Reynolds, Ethan Roper, Brittany Baucom, Tisheba Dawkins, Tyler Dixon, K'Anne Edge, Ricky Johnston, Victoria Martin, Kyle Mentock, Alice Ovaneoudone, Erica Ridings, Kursty Rowland, Elizabeth Russell, Brittany Carpenter, Sage Luley, Josh Adams, Chasiti Falls, Christina Parker, Destiny Pittman, Tyler Prow, Summer Putnam, Hogan Sellers, Sharece Williams, Bridgett Hicks, Bradley Gilliam, Heather Bridges, Hanna Clark, Brett Keeter, Kathy Martin, DeAustin Nixon, Rachael Perkins, Jessica Ridings, Elizabeth Sherrill, Mikey Silaphet, Amber Sisk, Michelle Timms, Jesse Watterson, Crystal Wyte, Ashley Witherspoon, Chantika Pompey, Mary K. Lynn, Ashli Sigismond, Courtney Collins.

Music Star Awards - Timothy Baucom, Janice Ma, Haley Adams, Tori Gay, Austin Bridges, Elizabeth Russell.

Reading - Aaron Renegar, Ashley Tourtelotte, Amanda Tarbush.

Good Citizens on buses - Savannah Rice, Ariana Wingo, Andrew Barrett, Kelsey Hunter.

Art - Jamie Reid, Mary Katherine Pasour, Faith Johnson, Christine Reid, Tramika Dee.

## SCHOOL BRIEFS

### 2002 kindergarten registration slated

Children who will be five years old on or before October 16, 2002 should register for kindergarten in their respective school districts. If parents do not know which school their child will attend, they should call the Kings Mountain District School office at 734-5637.

Applications and Kindergarten Health Assessment Reports are available at all elementary schools. The application should be returned to the school as soon as possible. The report is to be completed by the

child's physician or the health department and is due on or before September 4, 2002.

Orientation Day for incoming kindergarten children and their parents is scheduled for March 1 at all elementary schools. At this time parents are to bring the child's official birth certificate and social security number. No child can be enrolled without the official birth certificate.

On Orientation Day parents will bring their child to school at 8:30 a.m. and remain for an informative session with the school principal, which will last approximately one hour. The children will go to classes and enjoy a typical kindergarten

day, ending with lunch in the cafeteria as guests of the school system. Parents will pick up their children at 11:30 a.m. Regular kindergarten children will not attend school on this day.

Questions should be directed to John Goforth, Executive Director for Instruction/Curriculum at 734-5637.

### Area students make UNCC honors lists

Kings Mountain and Grover students have been named to the chancellor's and dean's lists for the fall semester at the University of

North Carolina at Charlotte. Chancellor's list - Melita Joy Betler, Lisa Ann Jenkins, Kinnari Patel, Drew A. Howell, Rhea Suzanne Herndon, Patricia R. Ware. Dean's list - Casey Allyson Fortenberry, Jose Antonio Espinal, Megan Nicole Chryst, David Ryan Mauney, Virginia Lee Putnam, John D. Ledford, Frank Clay Phillips, Richard Wayne Wells, Crystal Fisher Majors.

### KM students make honor roll at ECU

Louis Samuel Brown and William

John Welsh, both of Kings Mountain, made the honor roll for the fall semester at East Carolina University.

The honor roll includes students who achieve a 3.0 grade point average with no grade below a C.

### Stephanie Ruppe on LR dean's list

Stephanie Ruppe, daughter of Jerry Ruppe and Vicky Szucs made the President's List for the fall semester at Lenoir-Rhyne College.

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