

Looking for a more positive 2003

By LARRY ALLEN
Supt. of KM Schools

As the new calendar year begins, many people make resolutions and set goals. My New Year's wishes for the school system and community include increased communication between school and home. Being positive and bring out the best in others are strong motivators for students, parents and teachers. Even if you do not currently have children in the school system, we encourage you to be "encouragers" for all. By celebrating successes and "personal bests" academically and athletically, we stress teamwork within school and community. I challenge you who are stakeholders in our community to make one positive contact a

week to a child, parent, teacher, or administrator and watch the impact it makes. Parents, take time to talk with teachers and/or administrators for suggestions as to how you can help your child become the best they can be. Be visible, be positive, be a cheerleader of hope.

Another wish is for continued successes or our schools. We have much to be proud of with East Schools' recent national recognition as a Title I School and the high scores with state testing. Last year West Elementary made High Growth-Schools of Excellence with Bethware, Grover and North making School of Distinction, Kings Mountain High School school of progress, and Davidson making expected growth. The first semes-

ter End of Course exams show marked improvement for the high school program, and this provides encouragement for the second semester.

Increased monetary resources would be another wish. 2003 begins with some uncertainty as the state budget situation continues to look shaky. We are being told presently that we could be facing a 10-18 percent cut this school year which will challenge our budget planning process. The implementation of No Child Left Behind legislation proves new challenges to meet as well. The State Department of Public Instruction has worked very closely with the Federal Department of Education in determining the final interpretation of the legislation.

Everyone involved with education must understand that the standards set forth in No Child Left Behind will require schools and school systems to raise the level of expected growth significantly over the next few years and expect students to perform at grade level or above. As new information comes to our school system, new plans for implementation will follow.

Continued strong character development for our students would be a wish. We must provide opportunities for children to practice good character. Parents must be actively and positively involved in the school's character education efforts for they are the primary influences on children's character development. This influence is felt very strongly with the

words of William Bennett, former Secretary of Education, when he observed, "Model Good Character in the Home. There is nothing more influential, more determinant in a child's life than the moral power of a quiet example." It is critically important that those who are attempting to influence children's character in positive ways "walk the talk." Good character is both taught and caught. Kings Mountain District Schools are wonderful places to learn and grow.

We encourage all parents to resolve that they will become stronger advocates for quality education and character development and that they will renew their support for our schools. Together, as team, we can make a difference.

Beware of scholarship scams

BY ROY COOPER
NC Attorney General

Many parents dream of one day sending their children off to college, but making that dream come true costs money. Fortunately, there are a variety of options available to help finance a college education, including loans, grants, work-study programs and scholarships.



ROY COOPER

Parents and students who are already overwhelmed with college applications may need a little help sorting through all of the ways to pay for college. Your child's school counselor is a good place to start learning about resources for parents and students who are searching for financial

aid or scholarships. Information about scholarships is widely available at local libraries and on the Internet. There are also commercial scholarship services that may be useful.

Unfortunately, scam artists have figured out the college scholarship search business is an effective front for defrauding consumers. According to the National Association of Students Financial Aid Administrators, more than 350,000 unsuspecting students and families fall victim to scholarship scams every year. To make sure that you don't get outsmarted by a scholarship scam, study up on the following tips.

Suspect a scholarship scam if someone calls to congratulate you on winning a scholarship you didn't apply for (Legitimate scholarship opportunities require an application and don't treat a scholarship like a sweepstakes prize), tells you that the scholarship is yours for a fee (If anyone tells you that you must pay certain fees to claim a scholarship, don't buy it. Free money for school is just that: free), asks for a credit card or bank account number to hold a scholarship (This could be a scam to place unauthorized charges on your account), or asks for a payment for services up front (Never agree to pay for a scholarship search until you've received detailed information about the company's services.

Also, beware of a scholarship service that promises a guaranteed scholarship or

your money back (No organization or institution can promise a scholarship to all students. Applying for scholarships is a competitive process), exclusive information about scholarships (Remember, information about scholarships is widely available for free on the web and at schools and libraries), or that they'll do all the work (Even if you do employ a scholarship service, you'll still be responsible for filling out applications, writing essays, putting together a portfolio of your work, collecting letters of recommendation from teachers, etc. No one can do all of that for you).

If you decide that a scholarship search service might help do your homework. Check out the search services you're considering just as thoroughly as you've checked out prospective colleges. Make sure you've looked into free search options before you pay someone to scholarship shop for you.

When searching for a scholarship service, get detailed information about the company in writing. Find out exactly what services they will perform for you, how much money they'll charge, and what the company's policy is on refunds. Read over all of this information carefully and make sure it adds up before you pay.

Check references. Ask for the names of local students who have used the service within the past year. When you talk to references, be wary of glowing success stories that may come from people who are paid to endorse the company.

Don't fall for the high-pressure sales pitch. You may be invited to a seminar on scholarships. If you go, don't be swayed by threats that you'll miss out on great scholarship opportunities if you don't sign up on the spot. Scholarship search companies don't set the deadlines for legitimate scholarships.

SCHOOL BRIEFS



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
Elaine Phifer of First Charter Bank spoons dessert onto plates for teachers at a luncheon on Friday at KMMS. The lunch was a promise made by First Charter to the school whose principal won the field goal kicking contest at the recent Cleveland County Football Jamboree. KMMS principal John Yarbro defeated the principals from Burns, Shelby and Crest in the competition.

Parent conference night set at KMMS

Kings Mountain Middle School will have parent conference night Tuesday, January 14 from 3:30-7:30 p.m.

Parents should call the school at 734-5667 to make an appointment to meet with their children's teachers.

Teams also have a team planning time each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Parent conferences may also be held during those times.

Parent conferences at KM Intermediate

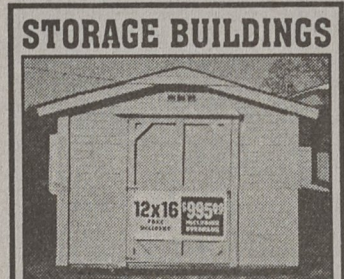
Parent/teacher conferences will be held Thursday, January 16 from 3:30-7:30 p.m. at Kings Mountain Intermediate School.

To accommodate all interested parents, the conferences will be kept to a 15-minute time frame.

Call KMIS at 734-5658 to schedule an appointment with your child's teacher.

Scoggins, Willis graduate Limestone

Robin Scoggins of Kings Mountain and Patricia Willis



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of Grover recently graduated from Limestone College in Gaffney, SC.

Both majored in Liberal Studies and received BA degrees.

Melanie Anderson graduates ASU

Melanie Robertson Anderson graduated Magna Cum Laudi from Appalachian State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She will teach kindergarten at Bethware Elementary School.



Melanie lives in the Oak Grove community with her husband Steve and their three children, Stefanie, Krista and Steven II.

She is the daughter of Gerald Robertson of Kershaw, SC and the late Sylvia Millwood of Kings Mountain.

Gamma Beta Phi holds induction

The Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society of Cleveland Community College recently held its fall induction ceremony.

Inductees included Ronda H. Rush of Kings Mountain and Wednesday M. Summey of Grover.

Guest speaker was Dr. Ron Nanney, Associate

Professor of Education at Gardner-Webb University and Coordinator of School Administration.

Ron Teague, alternate alumni member of the National Executive Committee of Gamma Beta Phi, conducted the installation.

Qualifications for membership include completion of at least 15 credit hours and a minimum GPA of 3.5. Members are also required to make a commitment to provide a minimum amount of volunteer service work to the college or community during each semester of membership.

Mychuwan Logan named to dean's list

Mychuwan Logan, daughter of John and Mary Ann Logan of Grover, recently was named on Howard University



Graduate School's Dean List in Washington, DC.

Mychuwan, who has a cumulative GPA of 3.5, is a candidate of the School of Education, where she is specializing in Administration and Public Policy.

Mychuwan received a graduate assistantship from the Howard University's Department of Education, and also works for Arlington Public School System.

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