



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
These and many more eighth grade students are helping raise money for cancer research.

Making difference 8th grade students at KM Middle raising funds for cancer research

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Eighth graders at Kings Mountain Middle School are proving they can make a difference. Approximately 100 students are collecting money for cancer patients and for cancer research. The students are also planning a trip to Washington to lobby for more federal funding of cancer prevention and research projects.

Teachers Susan Allen, Bryan Feldman, Tim Setzer and Lisa May are attempting to show the students the joy of helping others. It appears the teachers will meet their goal.

"It makes you feel responsible," said student Brandon Mitchell.

"I feel good about it. I did something for someone," said Alex McDaniel.

Cancer survivors and family members of people who died from cancer are sharing their stories with the students. As part of the project, each student will learn about an individual with cancer. The students will then take these stories to Washington when they lobby legislators.

Last week, the mother of Casey Burnette visited the school to talk about her daughter who died at age eight. Casey was diagnosed with leukemia on Aug. 19 and died Dec. 10 after undergoing radiation and chemotherapy. She would have been in seventh grade this year.

"We're going to take her name to

Washington," said Kaitlin Teague.

Hearing Casey's mother speak made Chelsey Loman ask herself some tough questions.

"I asked myself what would I do. I'm not sure. I would be scared," Loman said.

The students have met with cancer survivors at White Oak Manor and Summit Place Assisted Living Community.

Learning first hand about cancer has given Jordan Page a new appreciation for her health.

The students have also sent a banner collage to a local man with cancer. They heard back that the man was pleased.

Last weekend the students spent the night at the school during a 24 hour read-a-thon.

During middle school home football games, they will collect money for Carolina Panther's football players Mark Fields and Sam Mills. Both men are battling cancer. Patterning their fundraiser after the pro team, students will be in the stands collecting \$1 bills for each touchdown and sack.

A fundraising barbecue sale is slated for Sept. 24. For more information about this, call Paula Scism at 704-739-7196.

Allen and the other teachers believe that opening the doors to the community makes students better citizens. The teachers are looking for some long term payoffs.

"Maybe they'll come back to Kings Mountain (after college) and make a difference," Allen said.

School needs volunteer grandparents

Senior citizens are needed for a volunteer program at East Elementary School.

Seniors will work with about 60 fourth graders once a week for six weeks. Children who don't have grandparents nearby will have an opportunity to get attention from elders.

Seniors also will get to dispel myths about

aging.

The program takes place from 10 to 11 a.m. on Mondays. Students and seniors will work on crafts, eat lunch and other fun activities.

Seniors interested in volunteer "grandparenting" may call the Patrick Senior Center at 704-734-0447.

New federal law means no more test exemptions

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain District Schools' board members learned during their Monday night meeting that federal No Child Left Behind legislation means no students will be allowed to exempt out of end of course evaluations.

John Goforth, director of curriculum and instruction, told the board that all children, regardless of exceptional classification or English language ability, will face some sort of evaluation. This could be in the form of a standard written test, portfolio or observation.

"There is no such thing as an exempt student any more," he said.

Before this legislation, Kings Mountain exempted between two and three percent of its students. Neighboring districts exempted up to 10 percent, Goforth said.

He also informed the board of another change. Students who fail a class due to attendance issue will no longer receive a 65.

Instead, a new grading category - no credit due to absence - has been created.

In other business, board members heard a report from Mark Pritchett, director of the CSTOP program. The program serves Kings Mountain, Cleveland County and Shelby City schools.

Students facing suspension attend this program, located in Shelby, instead.

Students complete their regular assignments and work with counselors on behavior issues. Upon returning to the home school, the student is paired with a mentor. Program staff also follow up with the student.

The program was designed to eliminate problems associated with suspended children being left unsupervised. The program also helps students keep from getting behind due to suspension.

"This is a wonderful thing. Sending children home has never been the answer," said Stella Putnam, board member.

Superintendent Dr. Larry Allen announced that a student penny drive has raised thousands of dollars for the United Way.

"This thing has absolutely gone wild," he said.

The board approved 28 new substitute teachers.

They are Teena Adams, Kenneth Bachman Jr., Jackie Blanton, Scott Byers, Ronda Collins, Marylee Dilling, Beth Falls, Donna Falls, Catherine Fox, Ashley Hall, Taneisha Jones, Ester Muench, Katherine Patterson, Sonya Rankin, Lisa Saldo, Audra Smith, Ashley Starrett, Sherrill Toney, Tonya Wagner, Sandra Wilson, Wanda C.

Wilson, Vickie Wray, Frances Wylie, Annette Burleson, Barbara Bouldin, Helen Powers, Nancy Smith and Rachelle Wilson.

The board released five Kings Mountain students to attend Cleveland County Schools. The board accepted eight students transferring in from Gaston and Cleveland counties.

Gaffney gets scholarship

Lance Hunter Gaffney of Kings Mountain recently was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship from the Shelby Wal-mart Supercenter.



GAFFNEY

Walton Community Leader Award program. More than 3,000 scholarships totaling more than \$8 million was awarded this year.

Gaffney received the award based on his strong academic performance and involvement in school and community activities, according to Johnny Wise, Store Manager.

"We're pleased to support Lance in his pursuit of higher education and wish him the very best in the years ahead," Wise said.

Gaffney received the Sam Walton Community Scholarship, part of the Sam

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