

Sorority celebrating anniversary

Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary sorority for women educators, is celebrated its 56th anniversary this month. The sorority, which was chartered in Jefferson City, MO, now has its headquarters in Kansas City, MO.

The sorority promotes excellence in education and recognizes outstanding women educators.

In North Carolina there are 103 active chapters with a membership of over 3,000.

In 2002 the organization See Sorority, 9A



Margaret Ledford, left, and Shirley Brutko talk to children at North Elementary School in Kings Mountain about how life was during the days of the American Revolution.

North students learn customs of the 1780s

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Two visitors from the 18th Century stopped by North Elementary School Wednesday afternoon.

Shirley Brutko and Margaret Ledford, both dressed as women from the Piedmont Backcountry, spoke to fourth graders. The pair explained that their linen clothing was made from flax, a grass which was grown in this region.

Brutko told the children that her outfit covered her elbows, ankles and neck to satisfy the modesty standards of that time.

"Today you wear Bermudas and halter tops. Back then it wasn't the decent thing to do," she said.

The students were surprised to learn that the garments were not hot.

"You sweat under it. It actually keeps you cool," Brutko said.

The two told the children that what we refer to as a skirt was called a petticoat in the 18th Century. Pockets were tied to the outside of garments. The knee length blouse was known as a chemise and was even worn while sleeping.

The students recognized by name Ledford's ancestor Abraham Collins. He was captured attempting to relay a message to Major Patrick Ferguson.

About half the students raised their hands when asked if they had relatives who fought in the Battle of Kings Mountain.

The students visited the battlefield Oct. 8. They are making candles, corn husk dolls and feather pillows.

"We're trying to do the things of that time that the children would have done," said teacher Beth Sellars.

The study is a combined effort of Sellars and teachers Liz Garr and Kim Parker.

Committee deals with community concerns

BY MARY S. ACCOR
Kings Mountain Schools

Bottom line, the public has a right to know about the operations of and be engaged in their schools.

The Public Advisory Council approved by the Kings Mountain District Schools Board of Education has had its initial orientation meeting with plans to conduct monthly sessions for the purpose of addressing specific issues. The council is made up of 33 parents/community representatives and 13 educators.

During the meeting, the council addressed the following three questions as a means of determining perception of our school system.

What is the public's perception of our schools? In most cases, the council found that public perception is good. KMDS is a strong educational community. Student success is top priority. The council also commended the banding together of the KMDS community to keep out school system unmerged.

However, all perception was not positive. The council addressed areas needing improvement: high school discipline, process for assuring cultural diversity (cheerleading specifically), second hand information about school curriculum changes, positive race relations by administrators (central office and building level) and individualized educa-

tion plans for all students (accelerate learning).

The business perception of KMDS is good organization, dedicated leadership and strong education in elementary schools.

The council felt that with positive public relations positive results would be seen in all perceived improvement areas.

What issues are heard in the community? The council addressed increased growth, excessive transfers, equality, sports, too much attention on sports, not enough attention on academics and celebrating success, drop-outs, student behavior, lack of parental support, closing the achievement gap, lack of black educators, crime - neighborhoods flowing into schools, unemployment affecting student support needs, elementary academically gifted programs (grades 3 through 8), alcohol use in teens and younger children, poverty, discipline in schools, peer pressure, understanding cultural diversity, merger, uneducated parents and the changing economic situation in Cleveland County as community topics.

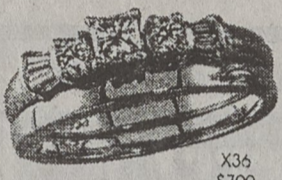
As more high tech industries replace textiles, students will have to prepare themselves to work in those high tech industries.

What issues may come our way? The council addressed the rise in homeless children, drug activity, funding at the building level, drop in enrollment at East School, if merger happens, what effect will it have on our schools, transition of children in private schools to public schools, are they prepared, improved community involvement due to See Accor, 9A



Mary Accor
Guest Column

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kings Mountain Middle School's Top Readers for the month of September are, front row, Ker Medero, Katherine Rush. Middle row, Elizabeth Theuamthalaray, Keri Westlund, Jessica LaPoint, Chris Potts. Back row, Samantha Spry, Jacob Bridges, Rebecca Broadway, Matt Frazier. Students were selected by their teachers for their outstanding reading effort. The group was treated to pizza and soft drinks for lunch.

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