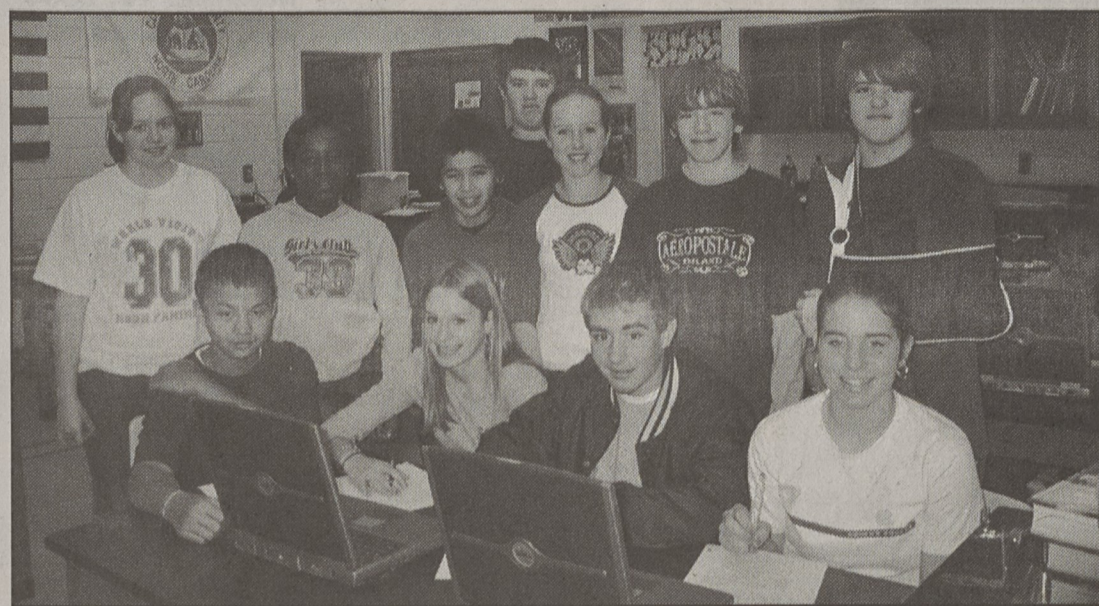


LOCAL



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Kings Mountain Middle School students are raising funds for a trip to Washington, D.C. Some of those students include back left, Chelsey Penner, Kierra Gardner, Ethan Fujita, Jacob Bridges, Ariel Martin, Jordan Toney and Jacob Russell; front, left, Daniel Luangsay, Rachel Chapman, Jeffrey Howell and Alex Edwards.

Fund raiser Saturday at KM Middle School

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Later this year, students at Kings Mountain Middle School will see the monuments honoring the men and women they study in history class. Science lessons will come to life with a visit to the national Air and Space Museum. The Holocaust Museum will add to the lessons learned from reading "The Diary of Anne Frank." The students are planning a trip to Washington, D.C.

A Saturday fund raiser will help with expenses. Over 100 items will be up for bid in a silent auction held on campus from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Last week, language arts teacher Susan Allen reflected on a visit to the Holocaust Museum during last year's trip to the nation's capital.

"They were overwhelmed," she said. The usually boisterous group of kids fell silent when they saw the exhibits. While they had spent weeks studying the Holocaust, reading, discussing and watching a Discovery Channel liberation video and BBC interviews with survivors, the actual museum was still powerful.

In contrast, the students also see items like the Hope Diamond, the Spy Museum and the National Cathedral. They are hoping for a dinner cruise down the Potomac, a tour of the White House and a chance to watch "Huckleberry Finn" at Ford's Theater.

"We have a huge agenda, trying to fit it all in," Allen said. "They're going nonstop." Social studies teacher Bryan Feldman appreciates the out of classroom learning.

"It's neat when you look at politics, history and realize the human element. Real people are impacted by decisions that are made," he said.

In addition to Saturday's auction, the students will hold a fund raising Boston butt sale in December. Any money that is left over will go toward their service project with Hospice of Cleveland County.

Students are spending Monday evenings at the Shelby agency which cares for termi-

nally ill people. They sing, bake cookies, play with younger visitors, make cards and visit with patients and families.

On November 22, the students will decorate a tree at Hospice with ornaments they have made. Math teacher Tim Setzer is using this as a chance to teach the students to make geometric shapes that double as ornaments.

"All the teachers are working together," Allen said.

Teachers Allen, Setzer and Feldman are joined by science instructor Lisa May.

The time at Hospice is more than academics though.

"We're trying to show 13-year-olds can make a difference," Allen said.

Lori Varley from Hospice visited the school to prepare the students. Like most of his classmates, Ethan Fujita said he was "kind of nervous" before the first visit. Now when Ethan visits, he listens as patients talk about their families. He describes the project a "good experience."

Josh Human's grandfather has joined him on all the visits, enjoying the project as much as the students.

Because Human's grandmother has diabetes, he was familiar with illness.

"I kind of understand their situation," he said.

Human says his grandmother is impressed with his work at Hospice.

"It has made her feel like I'm more responsible," he said.

Instructor Feldman is excited about the lesson in compassion.

"We've had a chance to touch people's lives," he said.

Some of the items up for bid include a flat screen TV, Muhsin Muhammad Panthers autographed football, an airplane ride over Cleveland County, a violin, Casio keyboard, Christmas items, gift baskets, a catered meal for eight, jewelry, Brad Johnson Tampa Bay autographed football, graphite fly rod set, original art and pottery by local artists, furniture, a guitar, gift certificates for salons, spa, horseback riding and swim lessons and housecleaning.

Phillips' career a tribute to mother

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

For Phyllis Phillips, heading up Kings Mountain Hospital's radiology department is a way to honor her mother's memory.

Phillips was young when her mother died from breast cancer. Today she helps women beat the disease by finding it early.

"I feel like I'm helping her in some way, helping her memory live on," she said last week.

After 29 years in health-care Phillips is still moved by her work.

"Sometimes you cry with them (patients)," she said. "You can't lose that compassion regardless of how busy you are, how many hats you're wearing."

Phillips' devotion to her patients and the employees she supervises has earned her the hospital's director of the quarter Pillar Award. Middle level managers are nominated by their peers and workers. The winner is then chosen by upper level management.

The ever changing field of radiology offers Phillips variety and new challenges. The department will soon get an MRI machine. After that, they'll go digital leaving film behind.

"We're excited," Phillips said.

When she started at KMH the radiology department was two rooms. Ultrasound was only performed in large hospitals. CT scans had not been invented.

"It's an alive and growing field," Phillips said.

When KMH started using ultrasound equipment Phillips had to train at Bowman Gray alongside physicians because there were no programs for radiology technicians.

In addition to sonography certification, Phillips can do mammography. Her biggest accomplishment may be earning a bachelors in health administration from Baker's College. Phillips was both a student and a department head full-time while she pursued her degree.

"It (BHA degree) was something I wanted to do. I was already doing the job



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Phyllis Phillips receives Pillar Award at Kings Mountain Hospital.

but I wanted it," she said.

Phillips was a member of the first class to graduate from Cleveland Community College's radiology program. Today she serves on the advisory board.

Phillips admits to a reputation as a "strict" supervisor. She describes her management philosophy as being honest with employees, making expectations clear and being fair. Phillips believes in letting workers have input. Just last week the department worked together to plan the holiday work schedule.

Phillips is a stickler for uniforms. Technicians and other department employees wear matching outfits.

"We should look like a team, like we're professionals," Phillips said.

She is quick to give employees credit.

"Anything I am, any success is because of the staff. They have my back," Phillips said.

A portion of the 19-mem-

ber radiology department is always at the hospital keeping the department open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Phillips and her department celebrated radiology week last week with a staff dinner. They also set up displays about radiology.

Phillips is married to Felton Phillips. They have two daughters and one son.

ANDIE

From 4A

came. To know how vulnerable we all are is scary. But past that fear a deep gratitude can be found.

Thanksgiving for this moment upon Earth, for the blood that courses through our veins, for the air we breathe, for the ground beneath our feet. If we'll just slow down, we'll see the bounty of our own lives.

Contact Andie Brymer at 704 739-7496 or abrymer@kingsmountain-herald.com

Art poster sale set Friday at KM High

The Kings Mountain High School art department will hold an art poster sale fund raiser Friday, Nov. 19.

KMHS artists will be selling fine art prints and posters to raise money for the art department.

Art prints and posters for sale can be found at www.fundraisart.com or from art students. Deadline for ordering is November 30.

HEFFNER

From 4A

Mike is a soft-spoken guy. I describe him as not just a gentleman, but a gentle man.

He is a Viet Nam veteran, and a man who is an avid booster of any veteran or veteran's cause.

Mike is one of those Viet Nam vets who experienced animosity by some of his fellow citizens upon his return from the war.

He is also about as knowledgeable about the military

as anybody you are likely to stumble across, a very smart man, and an eloquent speaker.

Mike has no sympathy for Rich Square, N.C. native Charles Robert Jenkins who deserted his post in Korea in 1965 and took up residence in North Korea. Jenkins' excuse was that he was scared of being shot at, and was afraid he would be sent to Viet Nam.

He said he suffered many hardships for 29 years, including being forced to study the works of Kim Il Sung.

"I didn't like being shot at either," Santmire said, "but I did my duty."

It angered Mike that the military gave Jenkins just 30 days in the brig. It should anger everyone. Personally, I think there is a place for people like Jenkins, and that place is behind bars for the rest of their lives, and forced to listen to recordings of old Jimmy Carter speeches. Either that or deportation back to North Korea.

Many communities have a Mike Santmire, every community needs one.

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