

West invents to help mankind

EMILY WEAVER

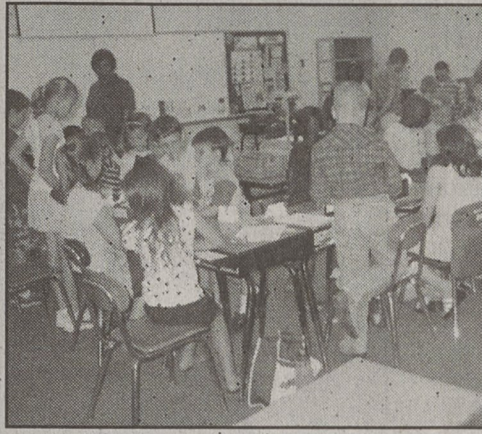
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End of Grade testing did not mark the end of learning for students at West Elementary. Fourth grade Teachers Melinda Geng and Becky Williams, along with Assistants Vicki Mabry and Lori Hambricht, instructed their students in the principles of simple machinery, with pulley systems, cranks and levers. Their assignment was to bring in materials that would fit into one shoe box and make a simple machine that would benefit mankind.

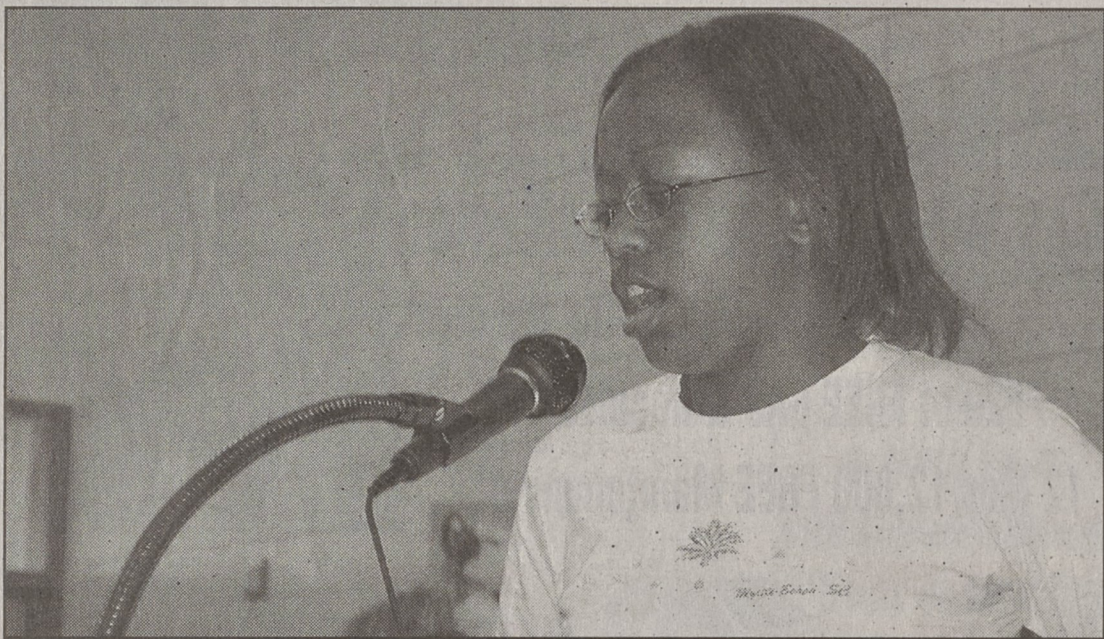
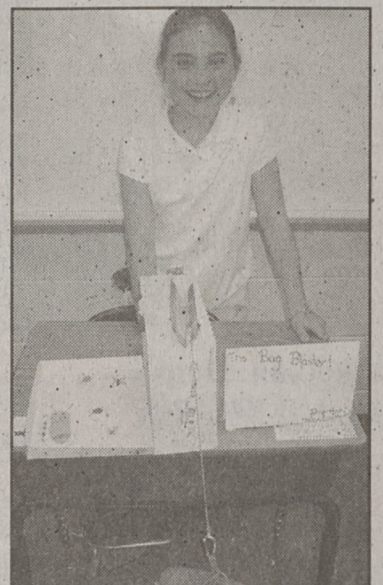
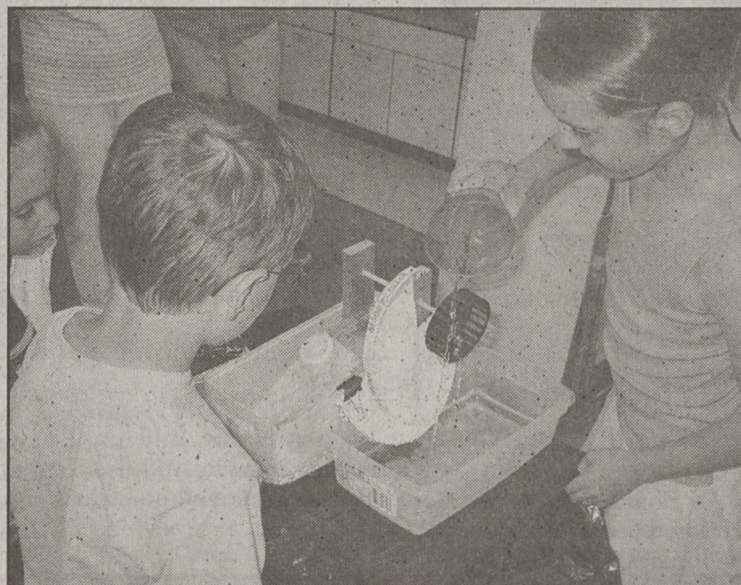
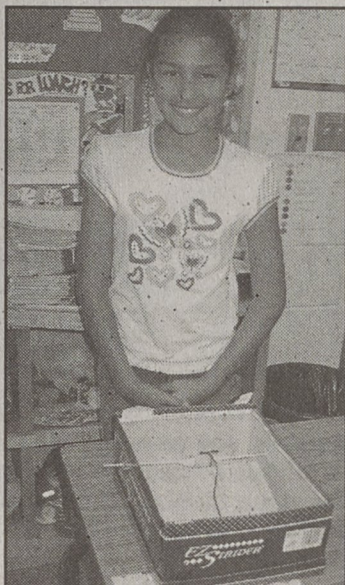
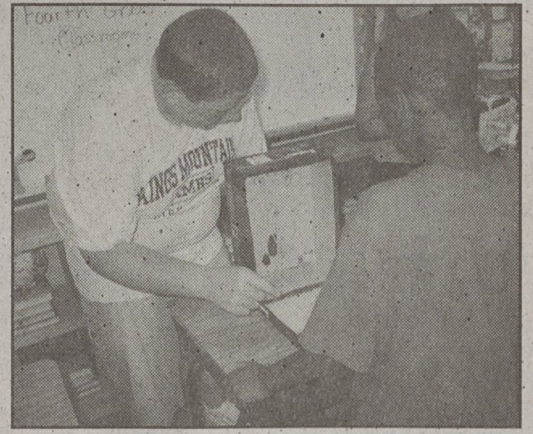
Some students were very creative with their tasks, designing machines to deter thieves or using magnets and pulleys to lift "heavy" metal objects. With their shoe boxes, a little string, scotch tape, wheels, paper clips and many other small, random items, they created a machine that would help life in some way. The machines may have been labeled "simple" but understanding the

science behind pulleys, inclined planes and gravitational pull does not always come across as "simple" to anyone.

Younger students at the school came into the classrooms, in a single-file line, to see, hear and learn about the bigger kids' creations. The fourth graders, proudly and confidently, explained to their wandering audience what their invention was and what good it would serve others. With every presentation, the student's confidence and understanding of his or her material grew. Some students let some of the younger kids try out their machine and a few other students made business cards out of their boxes with their names and "contact me at school" inscribed on it. Like good little networkers in the making, they handed them out to the mar-
table crowd.



Emily Weaver/Herald Students in Lindsey Gaffney's class show the little ones how it's done. Bottom Left: Betzaira Saenz stands proudly with her machine The Puller. Below: Emily Harris uses water to power her invention. Bottom Right: Hailey McDougal stands behind her Bug Blaster. She hated having to find a shoe or getting close to squash a bug so she made a device that would do it for her. Right: Adam Blackwell shows another student his pulley system.



Emily Weaver/Herald Fifth grade students at Kings Mountain Intermediate School shared their poems with family, teachers and classmates at the Poetry Reading in the Media Center. Lakita Knox, above, stood tall above the mic reading her first poem. Some students couldn't quite reach the microphone but read their poems clearly and quickly. Poets pictured left to right: Sam Owens, Roxanne Brown, and Jose Sappia. After the first reading they grabbed their books of original poetry that they had created. Some girls and a few brave boys chose a second poem to read to the crowd.

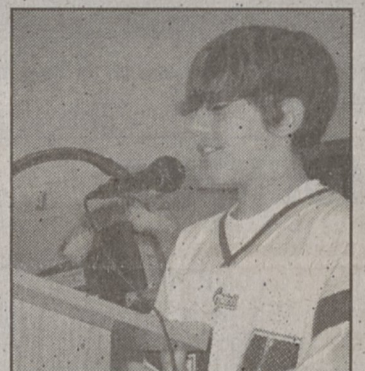
Students share their poetic creations

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A few dozen fifth grade students at KMIS met in the school's media center Thursday morning, June 2nd, to share their poetic creations with family, classmates and teachers. English Teacher Stephanie Pasour and Math Teacher Patricia Strickland's students have studied different poetic devices, including: rhythm, rhyme, repetition, alliteration, onomatopoeia, simile, metaphor, idiom and personification. These devices and different poetic forms were illustrated in each child's poem.

One by one, they came to the mic, some towered over it and some stood on tips of toes to reach it. They quickly read through their first poems about what they love, who they are or feelings towards going into the 6th grade. Students finished before the hour was up so a voluntary round 2 of poetry reading ensued. Girls and boys scattered to find their hand-made books of poetry and illustrations to show their supporters what they have proudly learned and accomplished in 5th grade.



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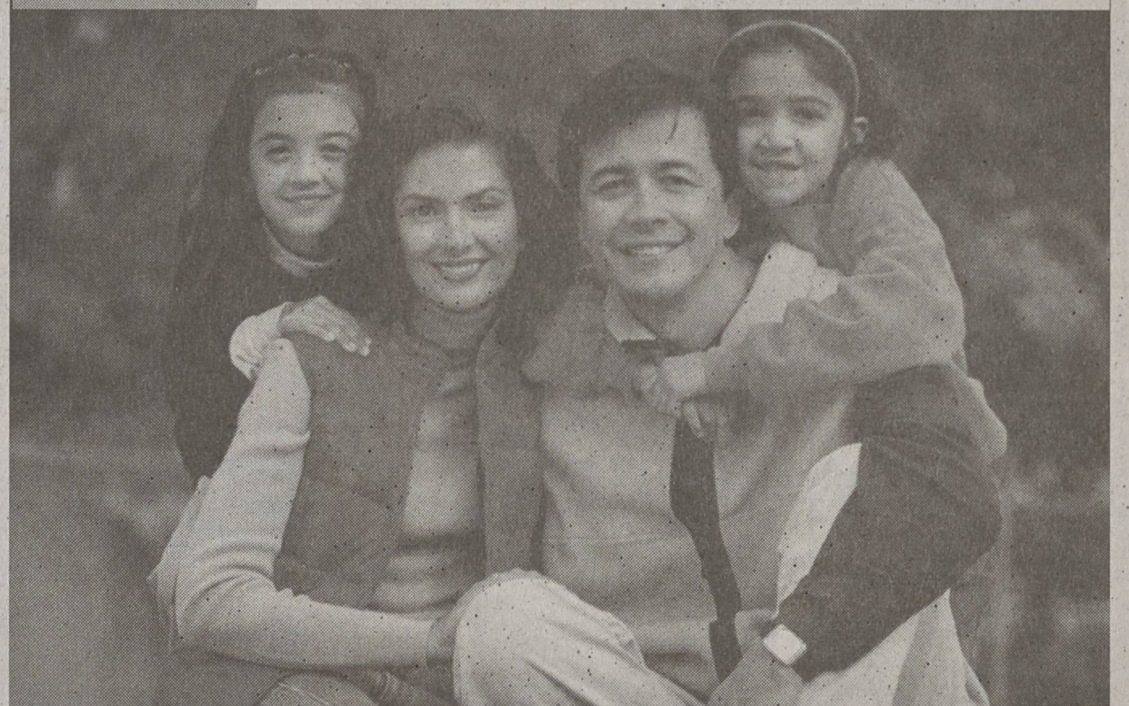


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