



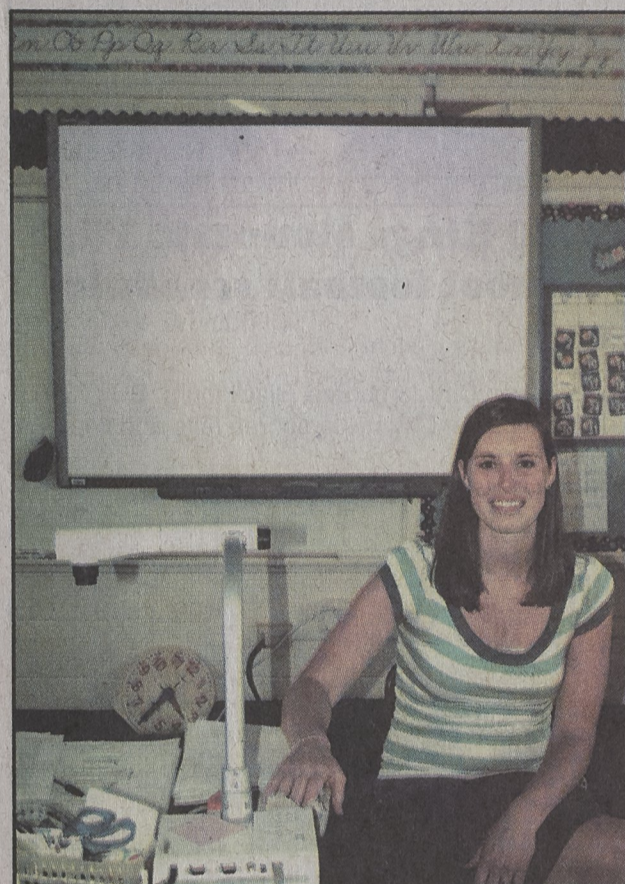
Taylor Correll



photo by JULIE FORTNER
East 4th graders stand with their favorite school counselor, l-r, Lela Whitener, Kelsey Anderson, Kristen Schoener, and (back row) Mrs. Kim Reel and Tanyah Smith.



photos by JULIE FORTNER
Tyler Osborne, left, and Daniel Roberson enjoy their lunch.



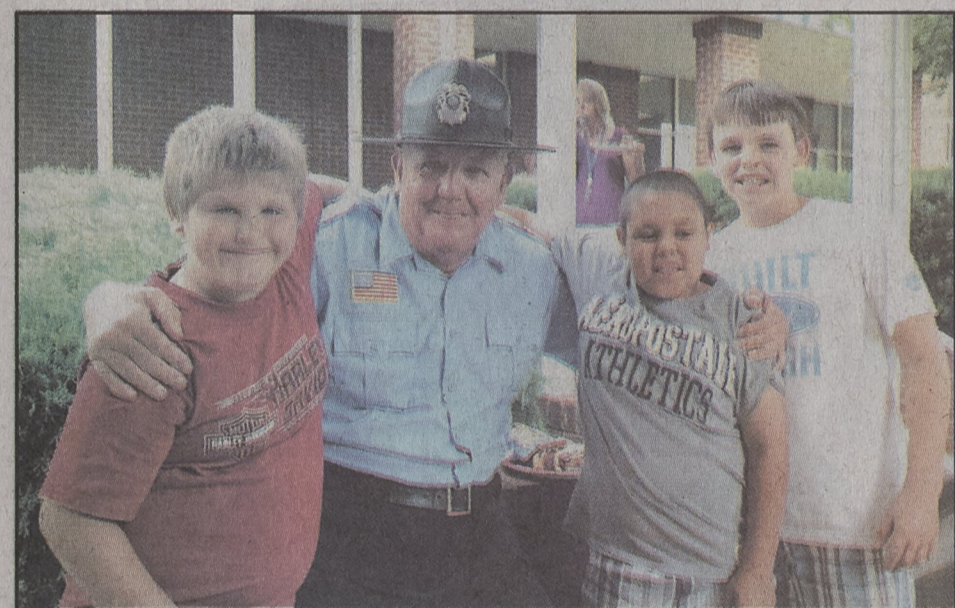
EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Fourth grade teacher Mrs. Lee Howell shared graduation with her students at East. All of them are setting off to face new challenges this year. Howell is set to teach technology curriculum to teachers come August.



photo by JULIE FORTNER

Left to right, Caroline Foster, Morgan Canniff, Katlyn Bragg.



Crossing Guard Pressley Anderson was invited to be a special guest at East Elementary's fourth grade cook-out. Anderson has been the school's crossing guard for years. Left to right, Spencer Causby, Anderson, Dillon Thomas and Dallas Neal.

East fourth graders, teacher share what they'll miss most

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Friday was a day of mixed emotions among the fourth grade classes at East Elementary. Happiness, camaraderie, sadness and excitement were just a few of the sentiments that bubbled to the surface as the day wore on.

The students were happy to be with their friends and the staff at East as teachers and parent volunteers served up a special cookout lunch around 11:30 a.m. on the front lawn. They were in good spirits as they gathered in Lee Howell's classroom afterwards to sign yearbooks and arms whichever was available. But there was also a tinge of sadness among the students and staff as they realized that their time together at East was running short. In three more school days these fourth grade students would say farewell to the halls they've roamed at East.

Fourth grade teacher Mrs. Lee Howell will be saying the same. After teaching East's students for eight years, she will be moving to Bethware Elementary to



photo by JULIE FORTNER

Left to right, Donald Thompson, Emily Welch, Savannah Hayes and D'Zaria Addison enjoy a picnic lunch.

teach technology curriculum to other teachers next year.

The following students lined up (many in a single file) to tell The Herald what they would miss most about East Elementary.

Tanyah Smith, 10, daughter of Sherrwyna Robbins and Travis Smith, said that she will miss Mrs. Howell the most and that it was a little "scary" to know that she will be going to a new school next year.

Alyssa Detter, 10, daughter of Shannon Harris, said that Friday was a "happy day", but she will definitely miss East. What will she miss the most?

"I won't be able to be with my sister," she said. Her sister started Kindergarten last August.

Kristin Hill, 10, daughter of Laura and Steve Hill, said that she is looking forward to attending Kings Mountain Intermediate next year. But she is "sad" about leaving East and especially "Mrs. Howell and all of my (other) teachers".

Joshua Sheffield, 10, son of Janey and Robert Sheffield, said that he feels a little nervous about going to a new school and that he'll miss East and especially his teachers.

Krisden Schoener, 9,

daughter of Darlene and Chris Schoener, said that she'll "miss East a lot" and Mrs. Howell the most.

Kelsey Anderson, 10, said that she'd miss "everything" about East and that, although attending a new school feels "scary" and "exciting" she looks forward to "meeting new people". She is the daughter of Heather Anderson and Curtis Anderson.

"I'll miss it a lot," said Lela Whitener, 10. Lela and most of the fourth grade students at East took a field trip to Kings Mountain Intermediate to tour the new school they will be attending in August.

What did she think of it? "It's big," she said.

She said that she'd miss Mrs. Kim Reel, the school counselor at East, the most. Lela is the daughter of Passion and Connington Whitener.

Eleven-year-old Emily Welch said that she'll miss East and especially her teacher Mrs. Howell, but she's also looking forward to KMIS. She is the daughter of April Welch and Johnny Falls.

Zachary Charrill, 11, said that he'll miss East and all of the teachers but he, too, is looking forward to his new

adventure at KMIS. He is the son of Rachel and Larry Charrill.

"I'll miss East a lot," said Donald Thompson, 12, who palled around with his buddies during lunch.

Dallas Neal, 11, added that he'll miss the entire school, but he's a little excited about going to KMIS. He is the son of Tonya and John Neal.

Nine-year-old Cassi Melton, daughter of Erika and Kevin Melton, said that she'll also miss "everything" about East.

"I've had a lot of fun here," said Spencer Causby, 10. "All of the teachers are nice. There's really nothing bad I can say about the school (East)."

Although graduating will be a little sad, he said that he looks forward to Kings Mountain Intermediate and seeing some of his friends "from other schools" that will also join them there. He is the son of Melissa and Robert Causby.

Many of the students from East, who toured KMIS, commented that the new school they will be attending is "big". Mrs. Howell said the same thing struck her when she first checked out Bethware.

Although she looks forward to her new position, a part of her seems reluctant to take that next step. East Elementary has been more than a place to work; it's been home. The staff she works with have become more than co-workers - "they're family". Her students have been her children.

"It's very sad," she said. "This has been a wonderful place to work."

She'll miss the kids the most.

"I've developed a special bond with each of them," she said, as her eyes grew misty.

She started out at East teaching first grade. Three years ago she moved to fourth grade and now has had the chance to follow some of her students from

See FAREWELL, B5

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