

FREE

4th Annual Spring Festival
For The Little Willie Center
Saturday, March 19th
At The Ramada Inn
Sponsored By Pepsi-Cola

FREE

THE 'M' VOICE

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Connecting families and schools to help our children succeed

Raising a child is tough. So is educating a child.

The day-to-day reality of the American family is different today than a generation ago. Parents and children spend far less time together and almost all parents face an ongoing struggle to balance the demands of their family life with their jobs. At a time when parents are under tremendous pressures that make them less able to participate in their children's lives, there is a greater need for them to be involved, particularly in education.

Parents recognize this need. According to a Newsweek-PTA poll, some 40 percent of parents all across the country believe they are not devoting enough time to their children's education. This issue - one of the biggest and most important affecting education today - will only be solved through a joint effort involving parents, schools and the community.

Schools must respond to the needs of parents and provide the supports necessary for them to be involved in their children's learning. At the same time, parents need to slow down their lives, stress the life-long importance of getting a good education, and serve as role

models for their children.

Research confirms that, regardless of the economic, racial, or cultural background of the family, when parents are partners in their children's education, the results are improved student achievement, better school attendance, reduced dropout rates, and decreased delinquency.

Parents and families can make a big difference in the education of young people. The U.S. Department of Education is committed to dealing with this issue by emphasizing the importance of family-school partnerships in its major legislative initiatives: GOALS 2000 and the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary

Education Act (ESEA). In addition, Secretary Riley is asking parents to become partners in a national family involvement campaign. This joint effort will connect families, schools, and communities to enable all children to meet high standards.

The Family-School Connection
People who have worked with families and schools have suggested a number of concrete actions that parents, schools and communities can take now to help all children learn.

As their children's first teachers, parents and families can:

1. Schedule daily homework time. Establish a time each day for your child to be engaged in academic work. Review it regularly. Provide a quiet, well-lit place for study. Cut off TVs and radios. Also, discourage phone calls during work time. Encourage your child's efforts and be available for questions. Spend time discussing what she has learned.

While schools have the responsibility of assigning meaningful work, students have the responsibility to complete it. Time spent on academic work at home is directly related to achievement.

2. Read together. Read with your child and let them see you and older children read. Take your child to the library to get a library card and help them find books on their interests and hobbies.

Studies show that when parents read to their children or listen to them read on a regular basis, achievement improves. Taking the time to read with children is the most successful way to encourage kids to read and is critical to a child's education.

3. Use TV wisely. Establish a TV watching budget and help your

child choose programs for viewing. Select programs to watch together and discuss.

Parents need to use TV wisely by both limiting the amount of viewing and helping children select educational programs. When chosen carefully, some television programs can help increase interest in learning.

4. Keep in touch with the school. Don't leave it up to the school to let you know how and what your child is doing. Stay aware of what your children are learning, what their assignments are, and how they are doing. Make a point of visiting the school and talking with the teachers. If you can't visit, schedule a phone call. Don't wait until there is a problem.

Research on the performance of high school students has shown

that parents who are consistently informed about their children's progress can contribute to higher achievement. The partnership between parents and teachers is key to creating a climate at home and at school conducive to learning.

5. Offer praise and encouragement. Encourage your child to put in the time and effort to complete assignments, to work hard. Encourage him to persevere. Cultivate a warm and supporting home atmosphere while also setting and enforcing standards for school work.

Parents play a dominant role in influencing a child's confidence and motivation to become a successful learner. Parents should encourage children to complete assignments as well as introduce them to enrichment programs and outside experiences that will enhance their

self confidence and broaden their interests.

6. Talk to your teenager. Talk to your teenager. Know who your teen's friends are and keep tabs on their whereabouts. Support your teens in their school and extracurricular activities. Keep them involved in family activities. Continue to set and enforce rules. Stress their importance as a role model to younger siblings.

Children and parents can learn a lot about each other just by talking. Parents should communicate their values openly with their teenager. By talking about the importance of values such as honesty, self-reliance, and responsibility, parents are helping their children make good decisions.

Schools Connecting With Parents
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Pictured (right to left) with Jim Rouse are: William Nobles, owner of the DuBois Center, Pastor James Corbett of Community Christian Church, Darius Shackelford and Rev. A.C. Batchelor of Phillipi Missionary Baptist Church. They accompany Jim Rouse as he announces his candidacy.

Greenville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. starts Guide Right Program



MONTY FRIZZELL
GUIDE RIGHT DIRECTOR

The Greenville Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., organized a youth group for boys in the Greenville and Pitt County area namely the Kappa League/Guide Right Program, which has been a part of the National Service Program of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity since 1922. It is an informal program of educational and occupational guidance for high school and college students. The Guide Right activities are programmed to supplement existing guidance services that are provided by the schools in Pitt County. The students are encouraged to establish career objectives consistent with their educational interests and the occupational demands of a

rapidly changing society.

The Kappa League/Guide Right consists of any program undertaken by the members of the fraternity that attempts to broaden the horizon of young people. It helps develop programs for the youth, primarily, inspirational and informational in character. Any male with a two (2.0) point average (age 12-18) can join. The meeting time is the first Saturday monthly at 11 a.m. The place is 200 Hooker Road Greenville, NC 27834. Proposed activities are office work, Buddy Tutorial Program, Yearly Province Conventions, award program for education, community service projects, sports and cultural events.

Sunday, February 13, the Greenville Silhouettes of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity were very supportive by planning a Tea Sip for the new members and their parents at 200 Hooker Road in the DuBois Center, Greenville.

The specific objectives of the organization are to develop competent and aggressive leadership, strengthen the confidence of young men, create more interest and understanding in one's ethnic background, encourage members to develop themselves into well-rounded, well-educated Americans, and participate in worthy undertakings for the improvement of human relations and the community.

The Greenville Alumni Chapter Pole march Leroy James is a great supporter of the Guide Right Program. Director Monty Frizzell, Advisor Carlton Floyd D.H. Conley High School area; Taft, David Barnhill, Darin White, Greenville area.

Eta Psi members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity attending ECU's Mike Moore, Reggie Jones, Ron Villines, and Chris Smith were very supportive in getting the Boys Group off to a good start.

Crime Prevention Workshop

The Bethel Police Department Crime Prevention Division presents a Sexual Assault Prevention Forum with guest speakers from Pitt County District Attorney's office, Real Crisis Center in Greenville, New Directions Crisis Center in Greenville and Bethel Police Department, a Sex Crimes Investigator on Thursday, March 31, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Meeting Hall, 122 South James St. Bethel, NC, next to the police station.



STEEL BANDITS

'Steel Bandits' to appear at ECU

The "Steel Bandits," a seven-member musical family, will present a varied program for all ages in an East Carolina University appearance scheduled for Saturday, March 19, in Wright Auditorium.

The 2 p.m. concert is part of the University Unions Young Audiences performing Art Series and will last about an hour.

In their concerts, the "Bandits" present musical styles ranging from classical to calypso, contemporary to big band jazz, as well as oldies, country and western and Broadway show tunes. The band members play 10 handcrafted, 55-gallon chrome-plated steel drums,

along with woodwinds, electronic music synthesizer and rhythm machines. Adding to their show are vocal and dance routines and bright, colorful costumes.

The band members are all brothers and sisters, ranging in ages from 11 to 21—the children of Joseph and Inez George of Perry, Ga. Their music began when Inez George bought steel drums during a Caribbean visit as a gift for her family. What began as a mother's plan for wholesome recreation developed into a professional career and success.

During the past three years, the Bandits have performed in concert halls and clubs—even at a

political fundraiser attended by former President Ronald Reagan. They have also completed an unprecedented six-month engagement at the Myrtle Beach Hilton Hotel.

"When the Steel Bandits take the stage, sights and sounds follow that are very unusual in this day of ill-conceived and overhyped entertainment," said a University Unions official. "It's an hour of the kind of honest and unaffected performance that comes so naturally to children—and it's put across with the kind of polish and musical virtuosity that defies performers' tender ages."



The Pastor of Triumph Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. C.B. Gray and wife along with Bennie Roundtree, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference enjoy the Annual Black History Celebration in recognition of our outstanding brothers and sisters.