

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

FRI 1/22 — Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Sloppy Joe on a Wheat Bun; Garden Salad; Seasoned Green Beans; Chilled Applesauce

MON 1/25 — Chicken Nuggets w/Wheat Roll; Beef Tacos w/Salsa, Cheese, Lettuce & Tom; Spanish Rice; Corn on the Cobb; Apple Halves

TUE 1/26 — Pork Egg Roll w/Wheat Roll; Mozzarella Cheese Sticks; w/Marinara Dipping Sauce; "Fun on the Run"; Brown Rice Pilaf; Asian Mixed Vegetables; Chilled Apricots

WED 1/27 — Roast Turkey w/Gravy; Tuna Salad w/Lettuce, Tomato and Crackers; Fresh NC Grown Baked; Sweet Potatoes; Seasoned Lima Beans; Chilled Pears

THU 1/28 — Ham & Cheese Sub on a Wheat Bun; Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; "Fun on the Run"; Carrot & Celery Sticks; Steamed Broccoli; Vanilla Pudding

School Briefs



Phoenix Academy has first graduating class

Phoenix Academy High School celebrated its first graduates on Jan. 15, as Principal LaVerne Mattocks awarded diplomas to Marcus Juan Long and Tremayne Keith Hairston.

Prior to this school year, Phoenix Academy operated as a program rather than an independent school. The change to the school was accomplished over the summer. Previously, graduates received diplomas from their base high schools rather than from Phoenix.

Board of education meeting Thursday

The CHCCS Board of Education will meet Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill Town Hall. Options for high school honors courses and AP course offerings will be discussed. In December, the board of education considered options for offering additional

honors-level courses in the high schools. It became clear during the board meetings that additional input was needed to make a more informed decision about the options. Five options will be presented Thursday night. These options are described in depth on the board of education page at the CHCCS website at chccs.k12.nc.us

Cultural diversity at Smith Middle

Smith Middle School's ninth annual Cultural Performance Night will be Thursday, Jan. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chapel Hill High's Hanes Auditorium.

A \$1 donation (children under 5 get in free) will guarantee a seat and a chance to see children celebrate cultural diversity and compassion through dance, poetry, skits and more from around the world.

Contact Sally Merryman at 918-2145 ext. 21411 or Megan Webb at ext. 21999 for more information.

BRMA volunteers rewarded with Disney incentive

Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate is joining the HandsOn Network to encourage volunteerism through the "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." program. New BRMA mentors and tutors are eligible to receive a free one-day, one-theme park ticket to Disneyland or Walt Disney World. Volunteers must make a full commitment to their BRMA role and meet all the registration guidelines of the HandsOn Network and Disney.

To find out more or to register to volunteer, visit handsonnetwork.org/disney



Day of Service – Malika Rauf of East Chapel Hill High spent Martin Luther King Jr. Day cleaning up the Lincoln Center. BY BETH MECHUM

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

"One of the challenges is that education is not the primary reason the kids are in your school," said Principal Flicka Bateman, who has spent her career working in hospital-school environments, including 13 years in her current position. "As important as school is, it is secondary to the medical needs."

Often that means lessons are scheduled and rescheduled around medical procedures, physical therapy and a student's energy level that particular day. This balancing act often leaves Weatherly asking, "Do I push this kid today? Or do I say, 'This kid needs to rest today.'"

Weatherly has been at the school for 10 years and, like all of the school's teachers, has a spe-

cial-education degree. She and five other teachers make up the school's pediatrics department, while another five work in psychiatry. The two departments, while sharing a principal, media specialist and other faculty, operate differently in order to best meet the needs – both academically and medically – of their students.

In pediatrics, teachers are assigned to a particular medical department, such as oncology, burns or, in Weatherly's case, nephrology. Teachers work with students in that department regardless of what grade they are in. Sometimes, as in Nakeizha's case, teachers will have the same students off and on for years; other times they may only see them for a few days.

Depending on a student's mobility, teachers may lead bedside lessons or bring students to the pediatrics' classroom – a cheer-

ful room with large windows and just a few desks. Nearby is a media center and a preschool room that resembles many kindergarten classes across the state.

"We want to do as much as we can to normalize their experience while they're here," Weatherly said. "It's one thing to be a kid these days; but these kids, on top of everything else, have a chronic medical illness."

A positive environment

A few floors down in psychiatry, students are split into classes according to their ages. The teachers here try to emulate a structured classroom routine, and because these children have often had negative experiences in school, the goal is creating a positive environment.

"A main focus of what we do is working on their behavior," said teacher Elin Nagel, who works in the psychiatry primary class. "You

really see a tremendous amount of change in a short amount of time."

Nagel has worked in the psychiatry class for eight years and finds the work incredibly rewarding, if challenging at times. Teachers often run the risk of burn out after years of hearing difficult and heartbreaking stories from families, but Nagel has learned how to cope with them and still continue to do a job she loves. "In order to be helpful, you have to keep your distance," she said. "You have to keep good boundaries."

Since students are limited to the hospital building, the school works with other organizations to bring the wider world to them. Through partnerships with the N.C. Museum of History and the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, students participate in online fieldtrips several times a month. A program called Heal-

ing and Hope Through Science brings a science teacher to the hospital to lead hands-on experiments each week.

The average length of stay for a Hospital School student is nine days, which means teachers are constantly meeting new students, coordinating with home schools and coming up with lessons at the spur of the moment.

"It has its pluses and its minuses," said Bateman of the school's student turnover rate. "You certainly don't want kids to stay so you can feel gratified in working with them ... but sometimes by the time you figure out a strategy that will work, the child leaves."

Some families come prepared with books, assignments and homework. For others, contacting a school about makeup assignments is the furthest thing from their minds. It's the job

of the Hospital School staff to make sure the needs of all those students are met equally well, and it's something for which many parents – and students – are grateful for.

For students such as Nakeizha, who know the hospital routines and staff as well as those of their home school, the hospital school offers an additional support system and opportunities to feel successful and hopeful.

Hopeful is a word to describe Nakeizha and her team of doctors this week. After a year on the transplant list, Nakeizha received a new kidney last Wednesday, meaning her future may include less time at the hospital and more time with her peers. While she recovers from surgery, Nakeizha can expect daily visits from Weatherly, reminding her that school is part of being a kid – even a kid with a new kidney.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri 1/22, 7pm: Ann & David Whisnant discuss *When The Parkway Came*
Sat 1/23, 2pm: Deborah Christie discusses *Green House: The Story of a Healthy, Energy-Efficient Home*

Thur 1/28, 7:30pm: Club Boheme CD Release Party

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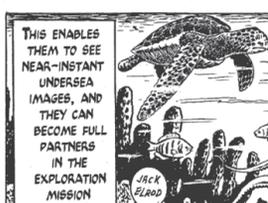
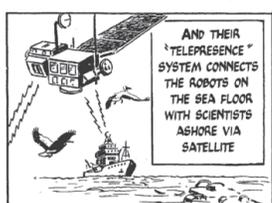
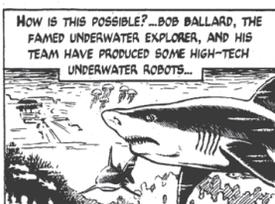
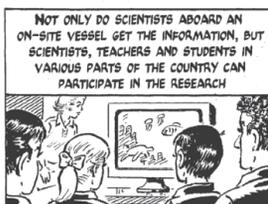
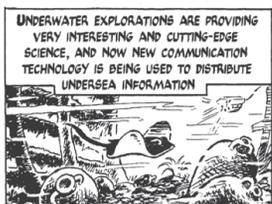
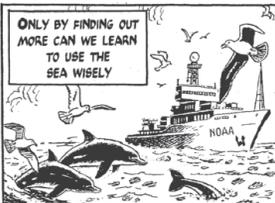
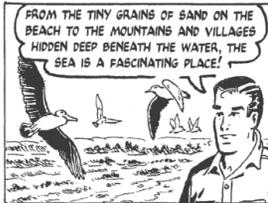
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I'm not a racist. I just don't believe in mixing the races that way. - Justice of the Peace Keith Brubwell, on denying an interracial couple a marriage license in Louisiana

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