

subject File,
Schools-

Elementary

McLendon

*DeKalb
Neighborhood*
**Principal
Welcomed**

A reception for McLendon Elementary School's new principal, Harvey Clark, will be held Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at the school. Clark is pictured here greeting students (L to R) Peter Cauley, David Craig and Michele Craig. Clark is past principal of Cedar Grove High School and Tucker High School. He received a bachelor's degree from Delta University in Mississippi and a master's degree from Georgia State University.

8-24-1983



SCHOOL HISTORY

1958-1997

McLendon Elementary School was opened on September 2, 1958, as part of the expansion of the rapidly growing DeKalb County School System. Land for the school was acquired when the farm owned by the McLendon family was sold and the property sub-divided. Evergreen Forest, a community of modest one-family homes, was built on part of this land. In addition to the families in Evergreen Forest, McLendon served a community of low socio-economic families near the school and another small area near the Scottdale, Georgia textile mill.

McLendon has grown from 200 students to an enrollment of approximately 667 students. The first principal, Mr. Harry Gupton, Jr., served as principal for approximately 25 years. Mr. Harvey Clark succeeded him as principal and served for 12 years. Mr. Jim Robinson came to McLendon in July 1995 and is currently serving as principal.

Additions and improvements were made in 1960. Eleven classrooms were added, with six more being built in 1962. A rapidly growing school population necessitated still further construction, so in 1969 a new wing was completed. Administrative offices and the teacher's lounge were also air-conditioned at this time.

In 1969, more changes occurred. DeKalb County closed all its all black schools, and attendance area lines were re-drawn to accomodate additional children. McLendon also welcomed its first black faculty member in 1969. New apartment complexes were constructed in the neighborhood, so McLendon's school population grew. McLendon now serves students from a multicultural background.

In 1974 attendance lines were again re-drawn because of over-crowding at a neighboring school. McLendon received students form several more apartment complexes. This change seemed to have contributed to a trend toward more single parent families and transient families.

During the 1975 and 1983 school years extensive renovations were done. This included installing air-conditioning and painting the interior of the school. In the year 2000 an outdoor physical education facility will be built along with other building modifications.

Today McLendon serves students whose backgrounds range from low to middle class socio-economic levels. The majority of parents are non-professional workers. Family dwellings include a public housing project, multi-dwelling apartments, condominiums, and privately owned homes.

McLendon houses the traditional pre-k - 6 programs as well two Mildly Intellectual Disabilities classes, two Interrelated classes, and one Early Childhood Special Education class. Other support services include gifted program, speech and language, strings, band, music, physical education, English to Speakers of Other Languages, Writing to Read, Writing Express, Integrated Learning System, counseling services, and programs for potential achievers in math and reading.

The McLendon staff has not experienced vast turnovers. Staff members only leave for reasons of retirement or job transfers. McLendon has a professional staff dedicated to the improvement of student achievement.