

Subject Files - Box 83 Murphy Candler

# Reading is fun-damental at Murphey Candler Elementary

Children at Murphey Candler Elementary School know that reading is not just fundamental, it's fun. The elementary school recently launched Reading Circles of Hope, an after school reading skills and comprehension program that uses small groups and some fun incentives to help students who struggle with their reading skills.

for training to be a program volunteer. Once in the program, each child is given a one-on-one reading assessment test. Trained volunteers then assign the children to reading Enhancement Circles™, which allow them to work on their reading skills in small groups. Volunteer training for the program was provided by Connie Raiford, director of Atlanta Reads, which supplies trained tutors to schools and centers across the metro area. Raiford is widely known for her work with the Bankhead Project, which earned the attention of the U.S. Department of Education.

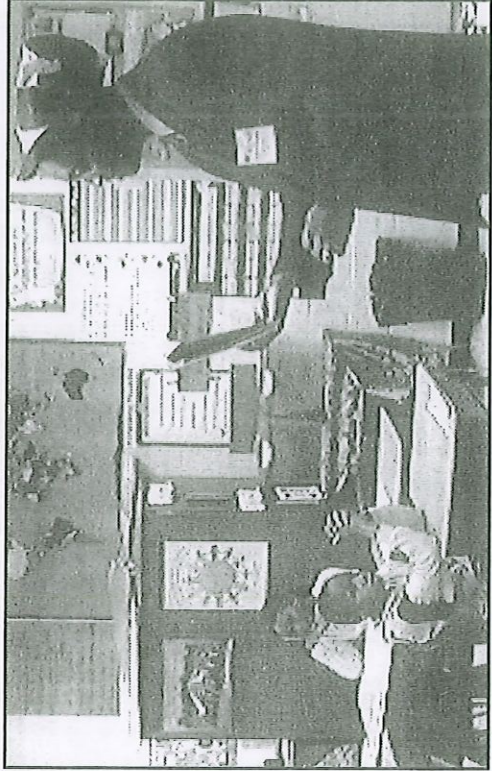
**'The ultimate goal of this innovative project is to bring together community partners, volunteers and parents to not only improve the reading skills of the children, but also build their reading confidence.'**

- Sheila Meadows

monly used words in printed material. In addition, once a week, all of the children come together for the 'Exploring Books Circle' which focuses on cultivating the love of reading in the children, created by Elaine Collins, president of EBC Education Services. Participants receive incentives, such as gift certificates to the local skating rink, each time they master a new reading skill level.

Our Rainbow.com, a nationally recognized expert and provider of multicultural children's books, created the Enhancement Circles™ concept. "The ultimate goal of this innovative project is to bring together community partners, volunteers and parents to not only improve the reading skills of the children, but also build their reading confidence," said Sheila Meadows, president of OurRainbow.com and Reading Circles of Hope project coordinator.

Future Enhancement Circles™ will include family literacy, to involve and assist parents of the children in the program, and conflict management, to introduce students to self appreciation and valuing diversity in others.



Atlanta Hawks announcer Mike Glenn reads to 3rd grade students at Murphey Candler Elementary School.

United Way joins Atlanta Reads and OurRainbow.com as a partner in the program. "Bringing people and organizations together is the key to building a caring community," said Arlene Parker-Goldson, United Way spokesperson. "This is a great example of how United Way works with parents and neighborhoods to create safe, structured after school programs that address needs in the community."

In conjunction with Read Across America day, Murphey Candler Elementary School hosted a special assembly on March 1 to recognize its Reading Circles of Hope volunteers and participants. Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program for every child to celebrate reading on

Dr. Seuss's birthday. There was even a surprise appearance by the Cat in the Hat!

Several local celebrities encouraged the students at the assembly to keep reading, including WGCL Clear News anchor Andrea Arceneaux, Atlanta Hawks announcer Mike Glenn, DeKalb 7th District commissioner Lou Walker, U.S. Department of Education regional director Dennis Beacon and Jay McLaughlin, motivational speaker. Contributing sponsors Western Union and Publix were also on hand to present donations to the reading program.

For more information on Reading Circles of Hope, please contact Sheila Meadows, 770-514-8794.





### **Student Wins Farm Bureau Contest**

*12/20/89 DeKalb News/Sun*  
Jenny Lynn Sellers of Lithonia has been named the winner of the 1989 Georgia Farm Bureau Third District seventh grade essay contest. For her winning entry, she was presented a plaque by GFB third vice president Jimmy Pierson and a \$50 savings bond from a local bank. She also received the opportunity to read her essay on "Georgia's Changing Agriculture" at the recent annual Third District meeting in Austell. As a district winner, she also competed in the state essay contest at the annual Farm Bureau state meeting at Jekyll Island. The daughter of Carol Sellers, she is a student at Murphy Candler School in DeKalb County.

*DeKalb News Sun 12/13/89*

## Work To Start On Murphey Candler School Addition During Holidays

By SPENCER RAGSDALE

Actual construction should start on the 16-room addition to Murphey Candler Elementary School in south DeKalb while the students are out of class for the holidays, according to Clarence Huff of the Business Affairs Division of the DeKalb School System.

The Board of Education accepted the low bid by V. E. King Construction at its meeting Dec. 4. The bid of \$1,060,500 was the lowest of the ten bids on the project.

Mr. Huff met with the successful bidder immediately after the board approved the bid, and

worked out the details for beginning the work.

He said that the 16-classroom addition will be at the rear of the existing school, but connected to it by an enclosed corridor so that the youngsters will not be exposed to the weather when they go to cafeteria in the main building.

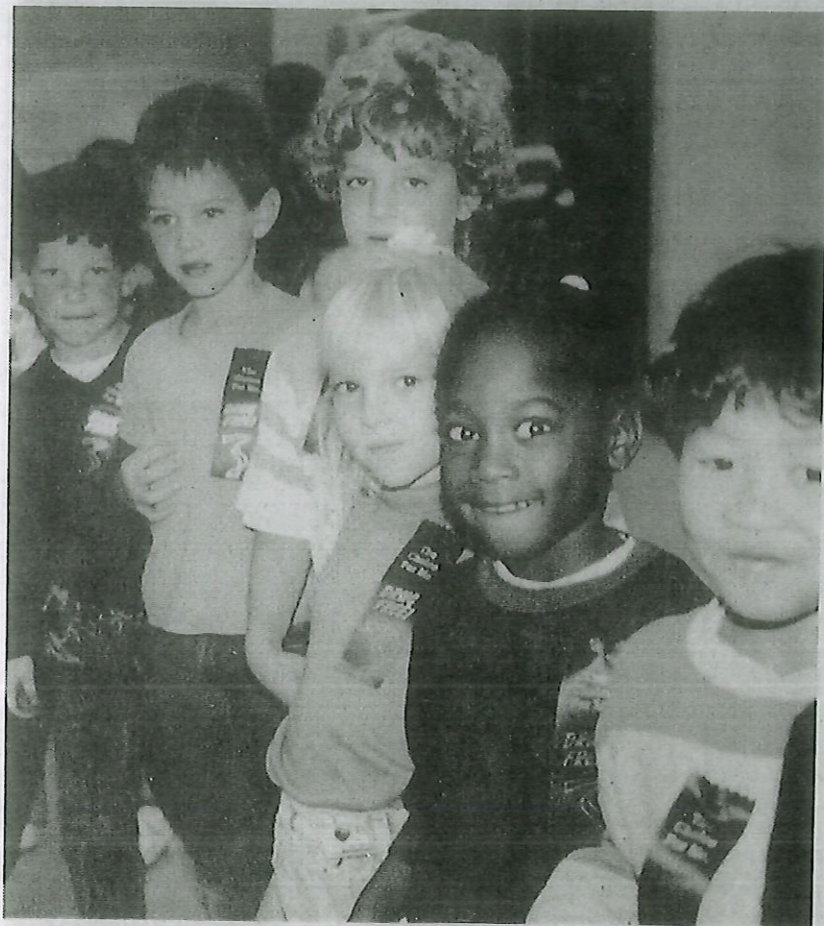
The 16-room addition will include six kindergarten rooms, which are larger than a standard classroom; a Write to Read room for reading instruction; a Discovery Room for programs to challenge gifted students; a Chapter I Math Room for supplemental math instruction; seven standard

classrooms; an assistant principal's office; a teacher preparation room with adjoining teacher rest rooms; a storage room; and boys and girls rest rooms.

The work at the school will include the construction of 3,200 feet of sewer line for the full school to replace the septic tank system currently in use. The existing septic tank will be filled in with dirt.

Mr. Huff said that he hopes that the work will be completed by August in time for the start of classes.





### **The Young Learning Drug Awareness**

Marsha Elkins' kindergarten class at Murphy Candler Elementary School joined other students in wearing red ribbons to promote drug awareness. Learning at an early age are (l-r) Casey Wheeler, Danny Lunsford, Zach Miller, Lori Goodman, LaTasha Lee, Jason Ely and Curtis Armstrong.

*Del. News Sun 12/6/89*



### **Grandparents Are Special**

Murphey Candler Elementary School recently celebrated its annual Grandparents Day by inviting families to visit the school, eat lunch with their grandchildren, and return to the classroom for an hour of sharing. At lunch are grand-

mother Carol Torbush Jr., a former student at the school; grandson Joshua Tannehill; and mother Carol Tannehill.

*DeKitt News Sun 11/15/89*





### **Murphy Candler Student Wins District Contest**

Jenny Lynn Sellers, left, accepts a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond from W. Alton Housworth, president of the DeKalb/Rockdale Farm Bureau. The 13-year-old seventh grader submitted the district's winning essay on "Georgia's Changing Agriculture." Mr. and Mrs. S.B. Vaughters, right, her grandparents, were present for the award ceremony. Jenny, the daughter of Carol Sellers, attends Murphy Candler School.

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