

Box 59

1/5/95

DeKalb News En

# Retired DeKalb teacher can't stay away from the classroom Pine Ridge hosts 'love feast'

Betty Bellamy is a DeKalb School System retiree who is not in the least retiring. After 32 years in education, 12 of them spent at McLendon Elementary School, she now substitutes three to five days a week at many elementary schools. The 80-year-old educator also subs for special education classes at Druid Hills and Tucker high schools.

Pine Ridge Elementary School Principal Barbara Miller said, "[Mrs. Bellamy] is one of the best substitutes I've ever had over the past 10 years. She is an excellent instructor, relates beautifully to children, and her classroom management skills are outstanding. She walks through the door in the morning with a beautiful smile and a positive attitude - and the whole day is bright with promise."

One of the most remarkable things about Betty Bellamy is that, at her age, she is competent and comfortable with physical education and outdoor activities. On the playing field, she joins in the games, joyfully chasing

after the children. As a mother of five, including four boys and a daughter who was enrolled in special education, Bellamy feels quite at home with children regardless of age or ability.

She once served as a special education teacher at Fairhaven School. Bellamy is a graduate of Allegheny College at Meadville, Penn. She pursued a postgraduate program at Temple University in Philadelphia. She likes to keep on learning and to help others learn - and she doesn't seem to stop either one.

"Sometimes, I think about really retiring from the classroom at the end of this year, but then again, I wonder what I would be doing. I know I'd want to be busy," she said.

Just before Christmas Pine Ridge held a "love feast" for Bellamy. Santa Claus appeared at the special reception the substitute.

When Santa doffs his scarlet suit, he is Dorsey Berfield a volunteer mentor known and loved by Pine Ridge students.



Pictured are DeKalb substitute teacher Betty Bellamy, Santa Claus (a.k.a. Dorsey Berfield, a Pine Ridge Elementary volunteer mentor), and Pine Ridge Principal Barbara Miller. The school recently held a "love feast" for the 80-year-old substitute, who is a favorite among the children.



DeKalb News-Sun 8/23/89

## Pine Ridge School

### Opened For M To M

Pine Ridge Elementary School, the newest one in the DeKalb system, has now been opened for transfers of black students.

A special period, Aug. 18 to Sept. 1, has been established for this school under the M To M program which provides for the transfer of students whose race is in the majority in their home school to a school where their race is in the minority.

A special bulletin announcing the enrollment period provides that it will extend to Sept. 1 "or until the school reaches capacity, which ever comes first."

Three students had applied for Pine Ridge during the regular spring period when M To M applications are normally accepted, but the school was not approved for such transfers at that time.

It is anticipated that 200 seats will be available for transfer students. Many of the south schools, from which students are expected to transfer, are overcrowded.



Question: Where To Register Friday?

DeKalb News/5

8/16/89

# Black Parents Pushing To Open Pine Ridge School For Transfers

By Helen Ordner  
And Spencer Ragsdale

Mrs. Barbara Lee is angry. Friday is registration day for DeKalb's students and she doesn't know where to take her second grader to register.

This past May Mrs. Lee and two other black parents filed application for Majority to Minority (M To M) transfers to the Pine Ridge Elementary School then under construction.

The three parents filed even though the school had not been included in the brochure listing schools approved for transfer.

School officials said they had not made Pine Ridge one of the M To M schools for fall quarter because they did not believe that construction would be completed in time for the start of the fall quarter.

Mrs. Lee said Monday night, "They (school officials) didn't tell us anything about Pine Ridge... (except) that the board was to vote on it.

"It wasn't on the agenda...and I can't get an answer. Registration is this Friday...I don't know what to do with my second grader...it is very stressful to wait and wait and to not hear anything and to be in limbo."

Mrs. Lee's child and the two others who have filed M To M applications are now enrolled at Murphey Candler Elementary School which uses trailers to handle the overflow student enrollment. She said that Pine Ridge is projected to open 90 percent white, eight percent black and two percent other — and with 200 vacant seats.

At last Monday's work session Roger Mills, an attorney for the plaintiffs in the long-standing Pitts vs. Freeman desegregation case raised the Pine Ridge issue at the public information session. When he told the board that the school

would apparently be open for the first day of school and should be opened to M To M transfers, several of the board members nodded in agreement and indicated informally that it would be on the agenda.

But when the work session to draft the formal agenda opened, the only item to be discussed was administrative reorganization.

Demonstrators from the NAACP broke the work session up.

The board did complete its agenda at Monday's formal meeting, but the Pine Ridge issue never made its way through the maze.

SCHOOL attorneys have said they are disinclined to talk about the opening of Pine Ridge anywhere except at a board meeting, Mr. Mills said last week.

Controversy over Pine Ridge Elementary had surfaced during an hour and a half conference call Judge William O'Kelly held when teachers asked him to reconsider his ruling approving the lottery. When the discussion turned to opening the school to M To M (Majority to Minority) students, the judge instructed the attorneys to settle the issue themselves, according to Mr. Mills.

Pine Ridge represent a triumph to Clarence Huff, administrator of facilities and construction, who said the school is two months ahead of its construction schedule and will be 99 percent complete by the opening day of school.

NAACP members, however, have seen it as a door closed to their children who may want to transfer there from their majority black home schools, but time is running out.

Mrs. Lee and two other parents applied for their children to go there and, according to Mr. Mills, approximately 50 more students are ready to go.

DR. MARY MAYNARD, the school system's executive director for administrative services, said that applications for M-To-M transfer must be made from April 1 to May 1 — under a plan approved by the system, the now-discontinued Biracial Committee, and the federal court.

Families who move into DeKalb County may apply later or a family which moves inside the county, changing the eligibility of their children, may apply outside of this time period.

She did not have any information on other applications being accepted, she said last week. Applications from the three students who applied even through the school was not on the list were not considered at that time because, Dr. Maynard said, "I don't look at a building under construction as being a school."

At the end of the prescribed M-To-M application period, there were still in excess of 6,000 seats available for M-To-M transfers, she said.

Planning on the M-To-M brochure begins several months before it goes to the students in March. Pine Ridge was considered, Dr. Maynard said.

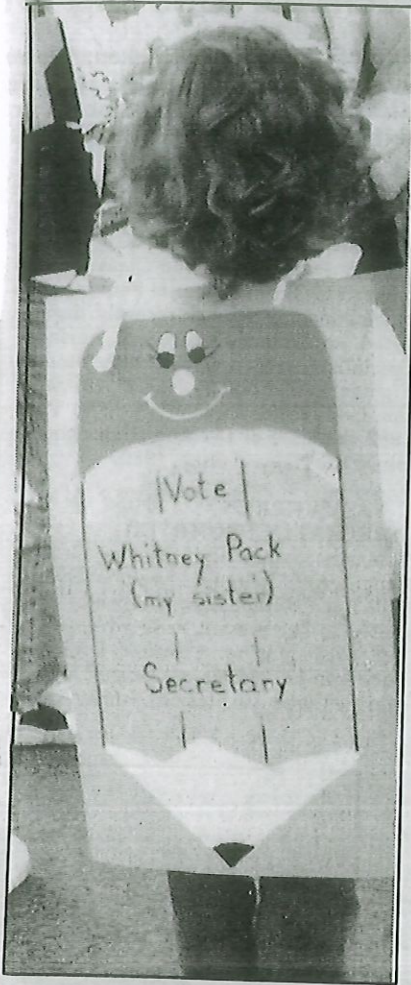
It was not put on, she said, because those compiling the list had not felt the school would be ready for opening day — despite the Services Division telling the Planning Division that it was scheduled to be on time.

Checking back to 1980, she said, "not a one had been on time."

Staffing has to be planned early also, she said, and after consideration, the school was not put on the M To M list.

If the school had been listed and then was not complete, Dr. Maynard said, "children and teachers would have to have a place to be. You can't have 200 children or more waiting with no place to attend."





## Campaigning

### Pine Ridge Style

*packs new / sm*  
Election fever has captured Pine Ridge Elementary where campaigning for school offices is underway. Amanda Pack carries a sandwich board to help big sister Whitney.

*10-14-92*

DeKalb

News/5<sup>00</sup>

OCT. 28 1992

## Pine Ridge

# Students Elect Council Members

Pine Ridge Elementary School student officers, elected after a school-wide election, took their oaths of office at the October PTA meeting.

The 1992-93 Student Council includes the president, Leslie Grattan; vice president, Derek Chelf; secretary, Lindsey Daniel; treasurer, Jennifer Boone; sgt. at arms, Asti Magby; upper grade chair, Natalie Marshall; lower grade chair, Emily Stanton; media center chair, Flori Waters; P.E. chair, Vernon Warren; building and grounds chair, Brendt Grier; music chair, Stephanie Brogdon; and art and publicity chair, Alicia Varnell.

The best citizen committee includes Pauline Oberg, Whitney Pack and Libby Dougherty; classroom news committee, Kajuana Britt and Heather Lewis; contest committee, Robert Grier and Clint Davis; and spirit committee, Fawn Rainey and Fenton Gardner.



1/16/91

Schools - Pine Ridge

The DeKalb News/Star



### **Pine Ridge Students Support Armed Forces**

The student body at Pine Ridge Elementary School has launched an all-out effort to support troops sent to the Middle East. The students are writing cards and letters to the Georgia-based 24th Infantry Division's 121 companies. In addition, every Wednesday is Red, White and Blue Day and every two weeks the DeKalb students mail packages containing novels, crossword puzzles, magazines, cigarettes, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Postage is

supplied by the school's new adopter, Ford Motor Co. Operation Pine Ridge has become a community project, according to Principal Barbara Miller. "Assistance is coming from neighbors who have no children in school, but want to do something for our troops. We are very proud of the effort," she said. Here, Media Specialist Barbara Mason shows students Jonathan Silver, Briana Warren and Andrew Gay where Saudi Arabia is on the map.

### **Author Bryan Talks To Pine Ridge Kids**

Well-known children's author Ashley Bryan will conduct two assemblies for the students at Pine Ridge Elementary School in Stone Mountain on Nov. 19. Mr. Bryan will talk about building a bridge between the African past and the American present.

## M-to-M Enrollment Continuing Monday At Pine Ridge

DeKalb's new Pine Ridge Elementary School Friday had enrolled more than 100 black students who are transferring there from their home school where their race is in the majority.

Under the system's M-to-M program, such transfers can be made to a school where their race will be in the minority.

A special transfer period was opened up for the new school and will continue through Friday "or until the school reaches capacity, whichever comes first."

The new school has a net capacity of 806 students, with 39 teaching positions. Eight of the classrooms are dedicated to special use and are not counted in M-to-M availability.

The enrollment, including transfer students, had reached 698 on Friday, according to Dr. Mary Maynard. Numerous calls indicated heavy enrollment continuing throughout the system on Monday, she said. 8/30/89

S. DeKalb News/Sun



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# Pine Ridge Teacher Tops For The Year

*DeKalb News Era  
6/14/90*

Miss Elizabeth Little has been named Pine Ridge Elementary School's 1989-90 Teacher of the Year.

Miss Little's teaching career began to unfold when she was in the sixth grade. Her teacher at the time was Mrs. Barbara Rous, whose care and concern inspired Miss Little. While working in the child development department of her high school, she decided to attend the University of Georgia and major in early childhood education. After graduating from the University of Georgia she was employed by the Dalton School System. During the three years that she taught in Dalton she also earned her masters degree from West Georgia College.

Two years ago, Miss Little joined the DeKalb County School System on the faculty of Rock Chapel Elementary School and during the 1989-90 school year she was assigned to DeKalb's newest elementary school: Pine Ridge.

Miss Little's outstanding talent was recognized early this year when her peers selected her as Pine Ridge's first teacher of the year. Her personality, patience, efficiency and organization, and daily positive outlook exemplified goals toward which all teachers can work. She maintains that the best way to teach children is to be a model for them.

Most important of all is Miss Little's love for children. She genuinely cares about each of her students. Her classroom is a positive warm place where individual strengths and needs are taken into account. She creates a supportive community of learners and makes

learning fun. Her enthusiasm for teaching and the high goals she sets for herself are contagious both among the faculty and her students.

One of her former students said, "Every day when I see Miss Little, I always want to hug her." All the love, hugs and encouragement that Miss Little has shown to her students at Pine Ridge are sure to have an effect on their lives long after they are grown.

While honoring Miss Little for her accomplishments, the staff and students of Pine Ridge are also preparing for her departure at the end of this school year. Miss Little will be getting married this summer and returning to her hometown of Dalton. As a remembrance of her year at Pine Ridge she was presented with a special video produced by her students and co-workers.



# Pine Ridge is on the map

just five years, Pine Ridge, not even on the county maps, has become a School of Excellence.

*1995 DD News*  
**DEBBIE STRICKLAND**

Pine Ridge Elementary School, located between Stone Mountain and ... opened in its doors 1989 ... a faculty largely comprised of teachers. ... just five years later, the school has been honored as a state-level school of Excellence, a goal that principal Barbara Miller established as an outlet. We as a faculty decided we were going to be content to be an average school," said Miller. "We have been striving to achieve School of Excellence status since we opened."

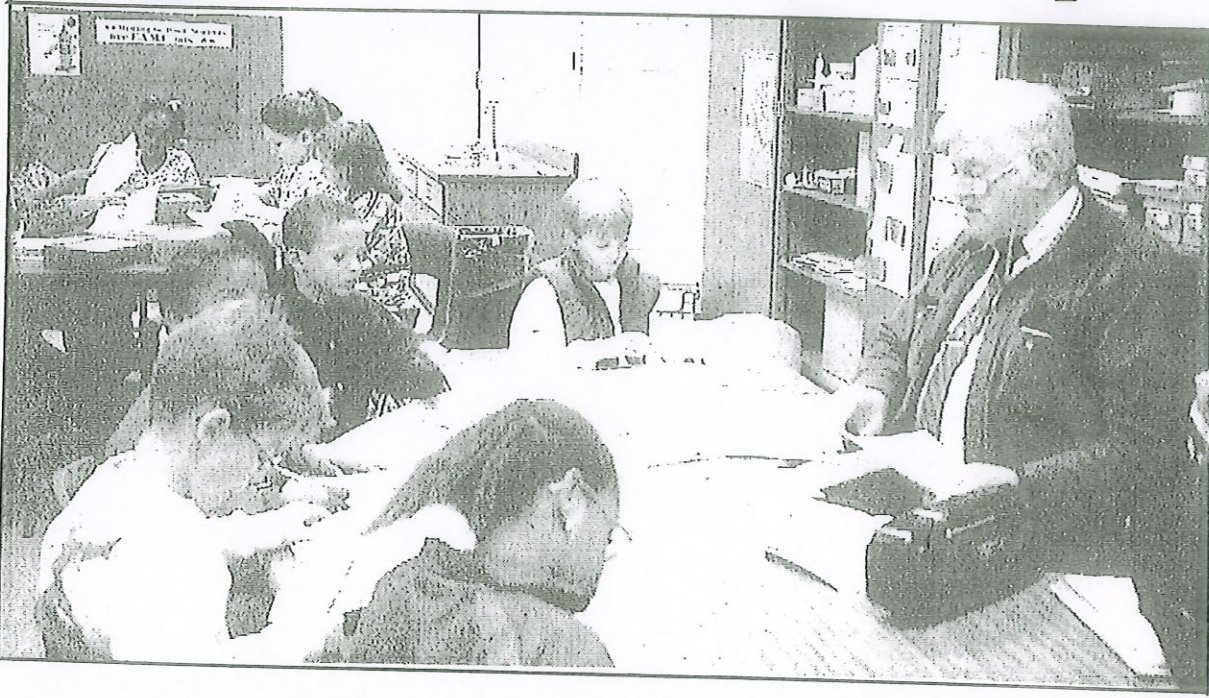
Some of the factors that make Pine Ridge an exceptional elementary school include a legion of 200 trained volunteers, an individualized Personal Development Plan for each student in the school, and a variety of extracurricular activities. The school's teachers preside over foreign language clubs, including Spanish, Italian, French and Japanese, and the school's students produce costumed musicals every year.

Each intensive schedule routinely demands 12-hour days for teachers, and teachers say the increased commitment from students and parents are worth the extra hours. We've together have built the instructional program," said Instructional Teacher Janet Crook. "We all are in the glory."

The Personal Development Plan, a report that Pine Ridge administrators and teachers are sharing with others, is a good example of the way this school works.

A 13-page bound book, designed for teachers and physically assembled by parent volunteers, tells students and teachers "everything" they need to know to do well on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

Finally in the year, each teacher has appointments with each child's



"Senor" Joseph Peek, a Writing to Read teacher, presides over Pine Ridge's Spanish Club, one of a number of clubs designed to introduce young kids early to foreign language. Pine Ridge is committed to such enrichment opportunities, even though the school is not a specialty magnet school.

parent(s) to discuss the purpose of the test and the child's strengths and weaknesses.

The book contains test information and sample questions, test-taking strategies, and an educational contract committing parents and students to spending 15 minutes per day, Monday through Thursday, working on tested skills.

When teachers have difficulty contacting parents or scheduling appointments, Miller takes over, contacting dozens of parents and offering to do whatever it takes to get them to come for the conferences, even if very early morning or evening conferences are needed.

Informing parents of the skills that are important is often not enough, and Pine Ridge teachers frequently conduct workshops, at varying times of day to serve the diverse needs of a working community. These workshops, according to Crook, "help parents understand how to teach and give them a better feel for what the children are going through."

Miller stressed that the school's faculty has no intention of resting on



These Pine Ridge second-graders, especially Kim-Neisha Young, are eager to answer questions about Spanish. They spend an hour on alternate Fridays in Spanish Club.

their new laurels. "We know we have miles to go," she said, "but it's never been a more exciting time to be an educator."

Like other educational professionals, they are entering the cyberspace age, using America Online to share their innovative ideas with others —

and to download the information on successful programs at other schools.

As noted, Pine Ridge is a new school in a rapidly growing neighborhood. The 865 students are the most likely beneficiaries of the Stephens Road High School, under construction nearby.



## Pine Ridge Elementary School

**Pine Ridge Elementary School opened its doors in 1989 relieving Redan Elementary, Rock Chapel, and Stone Mountain Elementary. It is located on a fourteen-acre site near the base of Stone Mountain in Stone Mountain, Georgia, at the corner of Stephenson Road and Pine Ridge Drive.**

**Pine Ridge opened with two firsts for the Dekalb School System: separately fenced outdoor play areas were provided for primary students, and a self-service lunch program was piloted and has proven to be successful.**

**Contributing to the success of the school has been a wonderfully supportive and educationally oriented community. Pine Ridge serves an increasingly diverse population, which is culturally rich in a variety of ethnic heritage groups.**

**Under the leadership of the principal, Mrs. Barbara Miller, Pine Ridge has achieved many honors:**

- Dekalb School of Excellence 1994-1995**
- Georgia School of Excellence 1994-1995**
- Principal of the year, Dekalb County 1994-1995**
- Recipient of School-wide Discipline Based Art Education and Challenge Grant**
- High Awards in Stock Market Game, Beta Club, and Social Science Competitions**
- First Place-Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl**
- Regional Winner-Media Festival**
- Recognition of faculty by State of Georgia for Pay for Performance for 1995-1996 and 1996-1997**
- National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 1997**

**Pine Ridge continues to strive for its ultimate goal: promoting global intuitive thinking, as well as creative and critical thinking, in the name of improved student achievement for all.**