

Pleasantdale Elementary School

Pleasantdale Elementary School, located at 3695 North Lake Drive, Doraville, was opened in the fall of 1968. Mr. Charlie Iddins served as principal from 1968 through June, 1978. During Mr. Iddins tenure as principal, Pleasantdale's enrollment grew to a high of 707 students in 1977. Also during this time various specialized educational programs, as well as enrichment programs, were begun to improve and enhance the students' educational development.

The 1977-1978 school term began with a change in the leadership for the first time since the school opened. Mr. James Chivers was named as the new principal and remained until his retirement in July, 1997. During his leadership, Pleasantdale continued to experience many exciting new educational programs. In the fall of 1978, the first kindergarten class was welcomed. Another exciting program was the addition of ESL in 1985. As DeKalb's population became more international, so did the need to support students with various language background. The newest educational program was begun in 1995 known as Pre-kindergarten. This program is funded through Lottery money and there is currently only one class per school.

During Mr. Chivers' tenure as principal, Pleasantdale experienced a declining enrollment reaching a low of 252 students in 1981-1982. However, new housing developments in the area have had a tremendous impact on the school population and in 1992, two mobile classrooms were necessary to relieve overcrowding. By the end of 1997 a total of four mobile classrooms were needed.

In the July, 1997, for only the third time in twenty-nine years, Pleasantdale welcomed a new principal-- Mrs. Carol Reams. Pleasantdale's student population has topped 700 and has seven mobile classrooms for the current school term. Rich with cultural diversity and focused on the future, Pleasantdale continues to serve the needs of its community.

SUBJECT FILE: schools
PLEASANTDALE

Elementary

Peachtree DeKalb News/En

DeKalb Resident Named Science Teacher Of Year

Mrs. Marion M. Sebastian, a DeKalb County resident for the past 13 years, has been named Elementary Science Teacher of the Year for the state of Georgia by the Georgia Science Teachers Association.

The state school board recognized Mrs. Sebastian as part of its new program to recognize excellence in teaching. She was also honored by the science teachers organization at its annual meeting at Rock Eagle and with a resolution acknowledging outstanding achievement by the Gwinnett County Board of Education.

Mrs. Sebastian received her master's and educational specialist degrees in elementary education from Georgia State University. She has been a teacher in Gwinnett County for six years and presently teaches gifted children at Peachtree Elementary School.

Prior to teaching, Mrs. Sebastian was an officer for several years in the Pleasantdale Elementary School PTA, where her children attended. She was chairman of the grounds com-

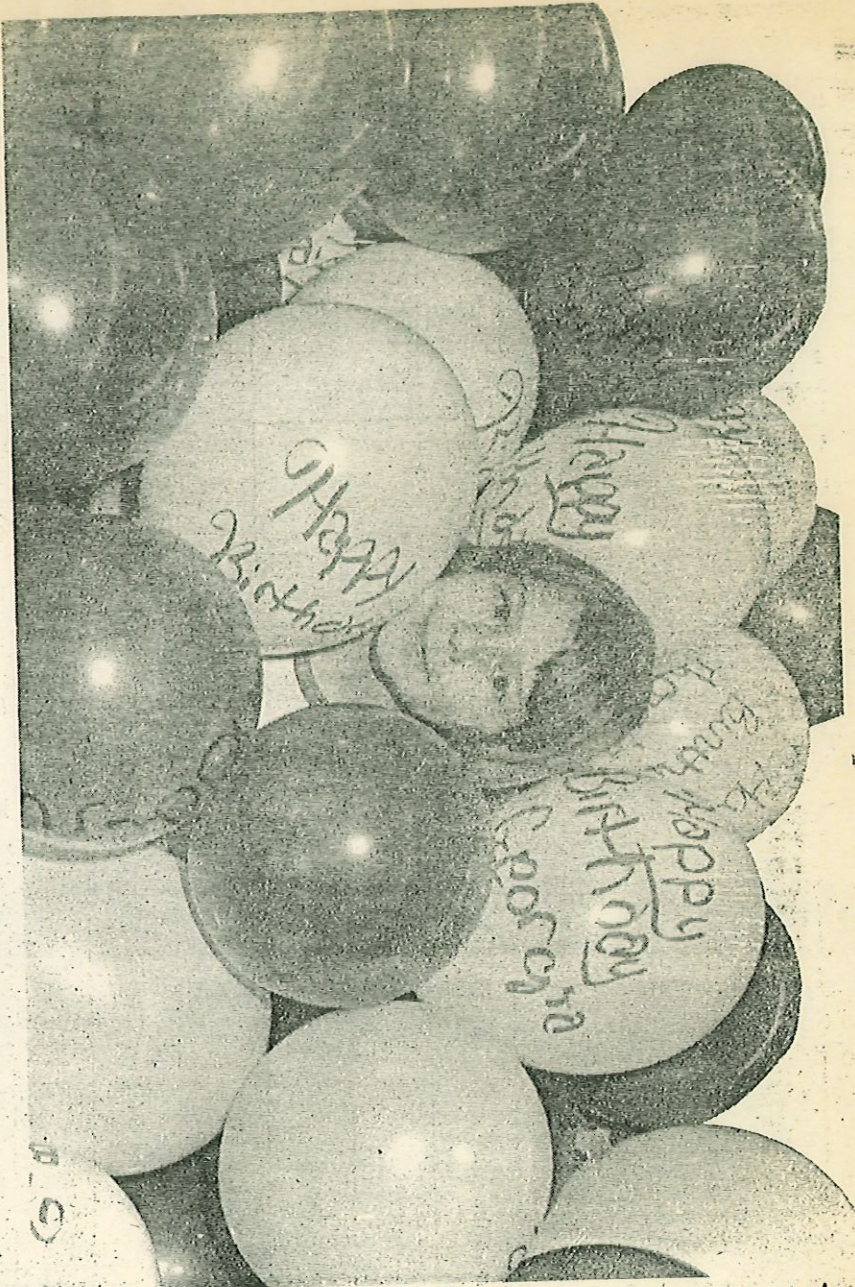
mittee in 1975 when the school was named the winner of the WSB Environmental Award.

Mrs. Sebastian has been Teacher of the Year at Peachtree and was responsible for establishing the computer tutor program. Gifted students were trained to use the computers and are now supervising other students in using the programs.

She has worked with others to compile and develop various science related materials made available to all classroom teachers, such as a nature trail notebook of enrichment activities, problems-of-the-week provided at each grade level and various portable science centers.

Mrs. Sebastian's daughter, Carla, received the science award at Pleasantdale graduation last year and attends Henderson High School. Her son, Greg, was graduated with honors from Henderson and attended Georgia Tech this year. Her husband is a financial planner.

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DeKalb Celebrates Georgia's 250th Birthday

All over DeKalb last week, people were celebrating the 250th birthday of the state of Georgia. The most traditional ceremonies were held at Oglethorpe University, named in honor of Georgia's founder, where a portrait of Gen. James Edward Oglethorpe and a plaque, were hung in the Great Hall. A copy of the portrait also was presented by Oglethorpe

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officials to be hung in the state capitol. At Pleasantdale Elementary School in Doraville, several hundred students carried red, white and blue balloons during a birthday celebration. Pictured amongst the balloons is Pleasantdale first grader Jenny Bloodworth. (NEWSphoto By Vivian Price)