



Salem Salamander News

Newsletter of the Salem Elementary School PTA

6116 Old Jenks Road, Apex, NC 27523

School Telephone: 363-2865

Savon Willard, Principal
Denise Kiser, PTA President

Volume 7, Issue 3
November 2006

From Our Principal:

BE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE AT SALEM ELEMENTARY!

If you want to see children being kind to one another, then you must be kind to children. To gain respect, you must show respect. To see integrity, you must display integrity. To build responsibility, you must act responsibly. The list goes on-and-on.

At our Town Meetings, we talk a great deal about these and other character traits. We have been teaching the students at Salem to think before they speak. They are to ask themselves three questions: Is it true? Is it kind? Does it matter?

We have begun our 3Cs presentations in Town Meetings and in class. Talk to your child about what they are learning during this time. You should be seeing some homework coming home about character. Character is important to all of us, and teaching it is all of our responsibilities.

You can help us teach children "School Manners." Emphasize manners at home. Go beyond the basics, such as saying please and thank you. Talk to your children about the importance of raising their hands, paying attention, and disagreeing politely. A teacher who has more than 20 students all trying to say something at the same time cannot conduct class. A teacher who has to repeat an assignment because one child was not listening has less time to help students learn. A teacher who has students talk back has to use class time to maintain discipline. Talk to your children about why raising hands, paying attention, and speaking respectfully to teachers is so important.

The students at Salem are the greatest students I have ever seen, anywhere! We need to do all we can to keep it that way. With your help and reminders, Salem can continue to be a great place for students to learn and grow. We do "Whatever It Takes To Honor and Educate." Keep up the good work of parenting. I see the results of your hard work on a daily basis.

PLEASE NOTE: FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO COULD NOT ATTEND THE FIRST SESSION, THERE WILL BE A REPEAT OF THE PARENT INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT YEAR-ROUND SCHOOLS ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2006 AT 6:30PM IN THE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM.



Mark your calendars and be sure to
VOTE on Tuesday, November 7.

Important issues, such as the school bonds and the election of County Commissioners, are on the ballot.

Be sure to educate yourself before voting!

Please see the timeline WCPSS has established to accommodate the conversion to the year round calendar. Please visit:

http://www.wcpss.net/year-round/draft_timeline.html

By checking the Year Round Schools tab at www.wcpss.net, you can keep informed about the coming conversion. In addition, our school will immediately distribute any details we receive specific to our school.

President's Notes



I would like to thank everyone for supporting this year's book fair, which was a huge success! All our families seemed to enjoy the magic show during our Family Night festivities. A very special and heartfelt 'thank you' goes to Marley Braun for her hard work and dedication to this event. Without her help, book fair week would have not been the success that it was! Thank you, Marley!

Also, thank you to the volunteers that came and worked during book fair week. This fundraiser takes the cooperation of many people over what seems like countless hours. The Salem Elementary PTA would like to extend a sincere appreciation to the volunteers' efforts and time.

Last, but not least, the goodies at the book fair staff reception were wonderful! As always, the hospitality committee and all its volunteers provided a festive welcome. Thank you again to our talented and creative hospitality committee.

November is a busy month for our Community Service Projects Committee, led by Lisa Sanchez. We have already been busy collecting milk top lids for Harris Teeter Together in Education Projects and aluminum pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Durham. With the cold weather and holiday season approaching, we are reminded of the families in our community who are less fortunate than we are. We encourage the students with their families to participate in our community services projects. Other sponsored community services projects this year will include Fall Harvest Food Drive for Western Wake Crisis Ministries and local animal shelters, Toys for Tots in conjunction with the Marine Corps and, down the road, a Spring Harvest drive to replenish food and toiletry items for Western Wake Crisis Ministries.

We are also excited about supporting a local organization again, Will Power. There is more information to come soon about this student-led project. As you receive additional information about these projects, please consider participating in at least one.

A big thank you goes to Daniel's Pizza Pasta on Hwy 55 for providing dinner to the staff before Raleigh Night on October 19th. A good time was had by all and the food was delicious. Thanks also to Christine Brugnoli, Laura Stone, and all their wonderful hospitality volunteers for organizing this event and providing great desserts.

Don't forget to get your Sally Foster orders in by November 3rd. Half of your purchase comes back to support Salem. A huge thank you goes out to Stephanie Bagwell for all her hard work keeping orders straight.

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Golden Corral® for Spirit Night on October 24th. It was great to see so many Salem families enjoying a dinner together. Our next Spirit Night is Thursday, November 16th at Chick-Fil-A® at Beaver Creek Commons. We look forward to seeing you all there.

As always, I thank our many, many volunteers for their enthusiasm and dedication to our school PTA. A PTA unit is only as strong as the families and staff who support it!

Denise Kiser, PTA President





School Bus Safety Tips:

For the safety of the children at the bus stop, *please provide proper supervision, no matter the age of the child getting on the bus. Parents please review these tips with your child.*

- Make sure you leave home 10 minutes early so the children can walk to the bus stop and arrive before the bus is due. Running to the bus stop can be dangerous.
- Wait for the bus in a safe place, off the roadway. AVOID horseplay and always respect the privacy and property of others.
- Do not throw objects at cars and do not climb trees or do anything that may harm you or someone else.

Waiting at the Bus Stop

- Do not let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.
- Make sure your child stands away for the “danger zone,” at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road, while waiting for the bus. The child will then be out of the way of traffic. Have younger children practice taking 5 giant steps to become familiar with 10 feet.

Getting On and Off the Bus

- Warn children that, if they drop something in front of or near the bus, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver’s instructions. If they bend over to pick up a dropped object, they may not be seen by the driver and could be hurt if the driver pulls away from the stop.
- Do not push or shove getting on or off the bus.
- Teach your children to secure loose drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus as they are exiting.
- The driver is not allowed to let a child off at another stop.
- Children are not allowed to ride a different bus than the one to which they are assigned (if someone is going home with a friend they cannot ride the bus unless they are originally on the same bus.)
- When you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can be so excited at seeing you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules.

Riding the Bus

- Children should talk quietly (never yelling) be courteous to the driver and follow the driver’s instructions.
- Children should stay seated during the entire bus ride and keep the aisles clear.
- Children should keep their hands to themselves. Don’t throw things, or fight or push.
- Do not extend your hands, elbows, or head through the windows.

SALEM DIRECTORY NEWS

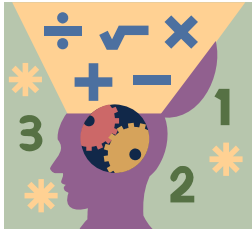
The Salem Student Directory went home in Friday Folders on October 13th. If your family did not receive a copy, please stop by the front office to pick one up.

We would like to thank the following families and businesses for their support of the Salem Directory: Blue Ridge Pediatrics, Apex Home Video, Michael Jordan Nissan, Trademark Stables, "While You Were Out" Housecleaning, Powerworks Pressure Washing, Triangle Home Improvements, Atlantic Tire and Service of Cary, Little Pros Academy, Tarheel Judgment Recovery, Scigenix, Yoga Experience, Ditybeads, State Farm Insurance, Photo Kid, Subsurface & Waste Systems Operator, Precision Auto Tune, Roberta Frank Designs, Insurance Professionals, Inc., Educational Coaching & Consulting, York Simpson Underwood, Listing Anywhere, MEI Travel & Mouse Fan Travel, Erika Sauerwalt-Tupperware, Damon Harris- the Photo Kid, the Salgado Family, the Kinneberg Family, and the Statham Family.

Your support of the Directory has been greatly appreciated.

Liz Upton

Directory Chairperson



MATH-A-THON IS COMING SOON!

The PTA is excited to sponsor our annual Math-a-thon, which is a fun way for students to practice Math around the holiday season, and earn money for our school as well! Here are a few dates you should know:

Friday, Dec. 1st: Math-a-thon Packet with Sponsor Sheet and Slip of Intent comes home in Friday Folder.

Friday, Dec. 8th: **Slip of Intent due.** This allows us to prepare to recognize all students who participate.

Friday, Jan. 5th: **Math-a-thon Packet and Sponsor Sheet due.**

Thursday, Jan. 18th, 6:30PM: **Math-a-thon Recognition Night**, PTA General Meeting. Please plan to attend for a fun evening of recognition and awards for all students who participated in the Math-a-thon!

Anna Johnson, Math-a-thon Chair
annajohnson@nc.rr.com or 303-6579

The character trait for November is **COURAGE**.

DEVELOPING COURAGE — —NOT FOOLHARDINESS

Every parent wants to prepare their child to confidently meet the challenges of life. Help your child develop courage through your role modeling.

- **Here is the first rule: "Everyone is afraid."** As Mark Twain said, "Courage is not absence of fear; it is control of fear, mastery of fear."
- **Confront Your Fears.** Fears diminish and lose their power over you as you confront them and move toward them; conversely, every time you back away from a fear situation, the fear grows and becomes more powerful.
- **Make It A Habit.** The only way to develop courage is to consciously and continuously make a habit of confronting your fear of treating every challenge and as an opportunity to improve. Courage is like a muscle that becomes stronger the more it is used.
- **The Thing You Fear.** Psychologists call this the process of "systematic desensitization," doing it over and over until it holds no fear for you at all, such as public speaking.

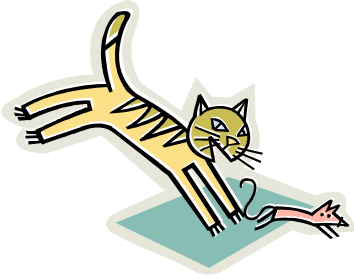
Remind your child that courage is not careless or thrill-seeking foolishness. Danger may be present in both. However, courageous actions are undertaken because the risk of inaction is not tolerable.

Not all fears are bad or unreasonable. Fear is a natural response intended to protect us. It's knowing the difference between courage and foolishness that is important.

*Adapted from Wake PTA council newsletter

"A coward dies a thousand times before his death. The valiant never taste of death but once." - **William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar**

FABLE OF THE MONTH BELLING THE CAT



Long ago, the mice had a general council to consider what measures they could take to outwit their common enemy, the Cat.

Some said this, and some said that; but at last a young mouse got up and said he had a proposal to make, which he thought would meet the case.

"You will all agree," said he, "that our chief danger consists in the sly and treacherous manner in which the enemy approaches us. Now, if we could receive some signal of her approach, we could easily escape from her.

I venture, therefore, to propose that a small bell be procured, and attached by a ribbon round the neck of the Cat. By this means we should always know when she was about, and could easily retire while she was in the neighborhood."

This proposal met with general applause, until an old mouse got up and said: "That is all very well, but who is to bell the Cat?"



Character Awards at Salem



As part of our School Improvement Plan we are implementing a new character recognition program this year. Like in the past, the character trait will be introduced at the beginning of each month. During the first 3 weeks of the month, students will watch their classmates to see in what ways they demonstrate that character trait. As they see their classmates representing the character trait, they will write down who they saw doing what and put it in a box in the classroom. Based on the students' input and recognition, each class will select 1 student who they feel have best represented that month's character trait. The winner's picture will be placed on a poster outside of the classroom and a group picture of each class representative will be placed on the bulletin board by the lunch room.

The following students have been selected for Responsibility:

Kindergarten: Alyssa Pederson, Alex McMichael, Brittney Klein, Daniel Wu, Audrey Porter, Courtney Stefanicki

1st Grade: Matthew Jaynes, Peter Ballentine, Kiran Ruff, Avery Ridout, Grace Carter, Amila Sethi, Luis Vasquez-Vega, Isabelle Macaleer

2nd Grade: Mridu Nanda, Aideth Benitez, Nicole Colangelo, Sarah Dunn, David Ghazaleh, Joe Housley

3rd Grade: Anand Iyer, Zachary Stone, Anna Vu, Julianne Lewis, Daisy Gonzalex, Gregory Hall

4th Grade: Joanna Kassimis, Kajal Patel, Wyatt Miller, Rachel Stiglitz, Adithya Iyengar

5th Grade: Sneha Venkatramen, Andrea Summa, Kaelin Kennedy, Kaitlyn Gregory, Cody Jennings

PTA Membership Form

The primary mission of the National and North Carolina PTA:

To support and speak on behalf of children and youth both in the schools, before government agencies, and other organizations that make decisions affecting our children.

Individual Memberships \$ 5.00

Please join today and make a difference.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Children: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Teachers: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Grades: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Receive a \$5.00 off coupon from *The Loop* as well as many other exclusive National PTA member benefits.

Thank you for your support!

Jana Linscott
Membership Chairman
247-6170



Literacy News

Stacy Bigham & Laurie Ann Harvey

Thanks to all of the parents who attended our first parent workshop.

Please continue to make sure your child is reading every night. There are specific strategies that good readers use before, during, and after reading a selection. We'd like to share a few suggestions with you.

Before Reading:

- Think about what I already know about the topic.
- Make predictions about the reading selection.
- Set a purpose for reading the selection ("Why am I reading this?")
- Pay attention to the organization of the text. Is it fiction or non-fiction?
- Pay attention to the text features in the selection. Are there headlines, bold type, captions, or maps that might help you understand the text better? Do you think you'll read about characters, setting, problem and solution?
- Do a picture walk. Look at the pictures and predict the events.

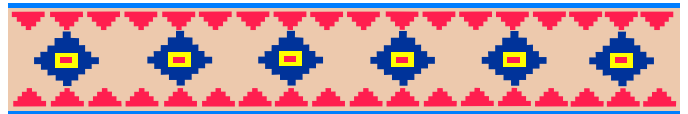
During Reading:

- Create pictures in your mind about what you are reading (visualize).
- Stop and reread when you are confused.
- Ask yourself questions while you read.
- Formulate opinions, react to the events, and make connections from your experiences.

- Use fix-up strategies when something is not clear. (example: skip the word, read on to the end of the sentence, and decide what word would make sense and sound right.)

After Reading:

- Ask yourself about what you have learned.
- Decide how you might use the information that you have learned (nonfiction text).
- Question how you have changed because of what you have read.
- Think about the setting of the story, the development of the characters, and the problem/solution.
- Summarize the story.
- Determine the author's purpose for writing this. What did the author want you to learn?
- Think about what this book reminds you of (make connections).



Cultural Arts News

November, 2006

The 3rd graders explored the world of poetry with Barbara Cleary, "The Loveable Poet", during a 5-day writer residency from October 16-20th. Our students learned various styles of poetry such as, couplets, shape poems, secret poems, and Haiku, a type of Japanese poetry. Each day the students created their own poems. On the last day of the residency, the 3rd graders presented their poetry to their classmates. A collection of the poems will be put into an anthology which will be placed in the Salem Elementary Media Center. This program was funded with a grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh & Wake County and by the Salem Elementary PTA.

On Monday, November 6, Peter Nestler will dazzle and inspire our 3rd through 5th graders with his professional jump rope skills. Be sure to ask your child what they liked best about the performance!

On Monday, November 13, Alan Wolf will bring his poems alive in performances for the K – 2nd grade students and the 3rd - 5th grade students. Check out his Web site at www.allanwolf.com if you would like more information on his books.

Media Matters

The Gift of Story

As a novice children's librarian assistant for a public library, I was mesmerized by the children's librarians that gathered monthly and told stories to each other. I thought of storytelling as an activity for children, not for adults and soon discovered that all citizens may enjoy and learn from a good story. All my adult life I wanted to visit Jonesboro, Tennessee. I had heard of the National Storytelling Festival and I wanted to taste, see, and hear for myself. I waited patiently over twenty years for the experience and it finally came. The anticipation and yearning for an activity sometimes leads to disappointment once we attain the goal.

It was much more than I expected, thousands and thousands of adults with a few children roamed and trotted about the small town of Jonesboro. Participants arrived from others countries like England and from states as far away as California. Several festival attendees were professional storytellers but, many were just good listeners. We sat for hours, over a period of three days, listening to folk tales, mountain stories, Native American stories, and personal narratives. Carmen Deedy, a children's

author, told a personal story about how she got her first library card to a standing room only crowd. The highlight of the experience included storytelling by "youthful voices" Alex Bowcut, a fifth grader for Highland Elementary in Utah, told a rural mountain story to over a thousand people. Emily Sartin, an eleven year old, from New Mexico told a bilingual story that I plan to learn. Jeremy, Chris, and Tyler, students from the state of Florida, and Ben, were all youthful storytellers. Pondering, I thought, "Wouldn't it be a great idea to teach our students the art of storytelling?"

Our education system emphasizes reading and writing skills to communication and very little attention is given to our listening and speaking skills. Storytelling can create good communicators starting with young students by helping them become good public speakers. Share your family stories with your children encourage them to retell the stories in their own words. Help them develop the sense of timing.

Many of us may never get to visit Jonesboro Tennessee, but the next time the Wake County Library sponsor storytelling, please make an effort to attend and enjoyed the gift of story.

Thank you for your donations of books

Tyler Kiser

Salem P.T.A.

Morgan Radcliff

Laura Valdes

Amanda and Cody Sanchez

Jacob Aponte



Reflections Program

"My favorite place..."

Think about what this year's theme means to you and let your talent shine! Create an original piece of artwork in one of six categories: photography, visual arts, literature, musical composition, dance, choreography, or film/video production.

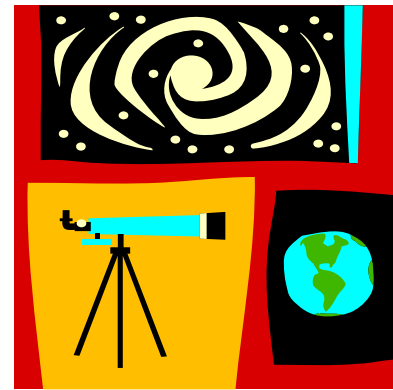
You will have two opportunities to submit your entry. We will first collect entries in the office on December 19th before the holiday break. Then we will have a final pick-up date in the office on January 3rd.

All participants will be recognized in the Salem newsletter and at the annual Reflections reception in the spring. There is also the possibility of advancing on to the district, state, and national Reflections competition.

The Reflections Program is a national program run by the PTA. It is designed to give ALL students the opportunity to express themselves and receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. Informational packets are available via the Salem Web site, <http://salemes.wcpss.net/>, or through your child's teacher.

Please feel free to contact us with your questions.

*Heather Battaglino (363-8949,
benny1068@earthlink.net)
and Kelly Cox Jones (363-4525,
bogey1@nc.rr.com)
Reflections Program Co-Chairpersons*



SALEM SCIENCE FAIR

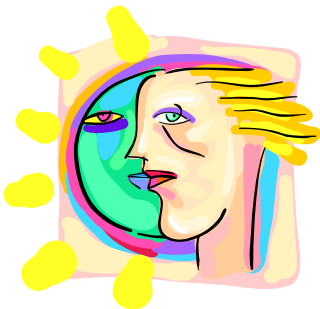
Attention all Salem Students! The First Annual Salem Science Fair is now only three months away! It is time to roll up your sleeves and get started on your projects.

Unsure about how to get started or what to do? Visit the Science Fair page on the Salem Web site for information on project ideas, how to get started and the experimental process.

If you were unable to join us for the first two workshops, don't worry! There are still two workshops remaining before the Science Fair. The next workshop will be held on December 7, 2006 and will cover the report writing and the documentation portion of the project. The final workshop will be held on January 11, 2006 and will cover the project presentation and judge interaction. Students are encouraged to attend the workshops, but attendance is not a requirement for participation. All workshop information will be posted on the Salem Web site.

Participating in a Science Fair is a great way to learn problem solving skills, the scientific process and independent thinking. It is also just plain fun!

If you are interested in participating or just need more information, please contact Caroline Rockafellow at salemsscience@mindspring.com or 363-3579.



FALL HARVEST



Salem Elementary's Fall Harvest will begin Nov. 6th and continue through Nov. 17th. This harvest benefits the "Western Wake Crisis Ministries" located in Apex and the "Ronald McDonald House" in Durham. You can help support these organizations by donating non-perishable food items and toiletries. Please bring your donations to the Harvest Bin located in the front hallway of the school next to the office. For every 5 items donated a leaf will be placed on the fall tree to track our progress. Our goal is to collect 500 items. Please help us fill our fall tree with beautiful leaves and show our Salem pride! Thank you for your support.



ANNOUNCING! GRADE LEVEL COMPETITION



This year we will be holding a grade level competition for the *Campbell's Labels for Education* and the *Box Tops for Education* programs. This collection competition will run through the last week in April, 2007. Please send in your UPC code labels and lids marked with your Child's grade, not teacher. The kids will deposit their labels during their scheduled Town Meeting times. There will be posters in the Town Meeting area charting the progress of each grade. Totals will be updated monthly and at the end of each semester parties will be awarded to every class in the leading grade level. Labels that have been turned over from last year have been divided equally among each grade level. Parents are also encouraged to go on line and sign up on the Campbell's Labels for Education Web site (www.labelsforeducation.com) and the Box Tops for Education Web site (www.boxtops4education.com). You get free recipes, money saving coupons, sweepstakes entries for additional labels and great prizes. Please remember that Campbell's is now only accepting the UPC code portion of their labels. Please help out our volunteers by clipping only the UPC codes from products and save those lids too! Good luck to all of our grade levels!

SPRING EVENT 2007



This year's spring carnival will be on Friday, May 18, 2007. The theme is "The Amazing Race, Salamander Style." If you are familiar with the popular reality TV show "The Amazing Race" then you know that the contestants race through different countries to get to try to get to their destination first. Our spring carnival will be an Amazing Race/ International Festival of sorts as all children participants will have a passport to get stamped at each "country" (activity). We promise a FABULOUS event with all of our famous inside and outside games and activities, dinner and refreshments, and the famous Salem auction!

Our Spring Event planning committee would like to graciously thank all of you who have signed up to help! Please know that we will call a volunteer meeting after the holidays. If you are interested in helping with the planning stages of this event, and have not already signed up to do so, please contact one of our event chairs below.

Our culminating event of the evening, the auction, is always a big hit with those beautiful classroom baskets! We will be assigning classroom basket themes soon so that our families have plenty of time to look and think about basket contribution items. With post holiday sales, many will find contribution items at reduced prices. We will also publish the entire basket list as

many may find items that fit other classroom basket themes. We will be using familiar themes such as Time for Tea, Gardening, Home Improvement, School Supplies, Baby Basket, Italian Dinner, ACC Teams, Family Game Night, etc. If you have any unused items that would go nicely in ANY classroom basket, please hang onto these items and consider donating them to our basket collection for the auction. If your place of employment or home business is in a position to make a well recognized donation of any items, or gift certificates for services to our auction, please consider doing so and feel free to contact our event chairs with questions.

Stay tuned for more event information in the coming weeks through Friday Folders and future newsletters!

Laura Linton
303-9003

dlinton@nc.rr.com

Nicole Ridout
303-5892

nridout@nc.rr.com



Book Fair News

I am happy to report that we had a very successful Fall Book Fair and I hope everyone is enjoying all of their new books! I would especially like to thank the **many** volunteers that helped me set up and run the fair.

Without your help, I could not have done it!

Marley Braun, Chairperson

Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 2 nd	6:30PM	PTA Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 7th		VOTE
Thursday, November 9 th	1:00PM	Early Release
Friday, November 10 th		HOLIDAY
Thursday, November 16 th		Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night
Wednesday, Nov. 22 nd thru Friday, Nov. 24 th		Thanksgiving HOLIDAY

Thursday, December 7 th	6:30PM	PTA Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 12 th	6:30PM	Chorus/Skip Its Performance
Tuesday, December 19 th	11:30AM – 12:30PM	Staff Luncheon
Friday, December 22 nd thru Monday, January 1 st		Winter Break

**Yearbooks are only \$19 until December 1, 2006.
After December 1st they will be \$22.**



Don't forget to have a \$5 special message line put in the yearbook for your child. Printed forever in history!
5th Grade parents - the deadline for 1/8- or 1/4-page special messages is **Dec. 18, 2006.**

If you have any questions, call **Kim Wallace 388-4407**

FALL MAKE-UP PICTURES

Lifetouch® will be offering a make up session **at their Raleigh location** for new students that missed school pictures or students that need retakes on the following days: Monday, November 6, 2006 from 3:00PM – 6:00PM and Wednesday, November 15, 2006 from 5:00PM – 7:00PM. No appointment is necessary. If it is a retake, parents will need to bring the picture package they purchased. Please call for directions (online mapping is not accurate). For other questions, please call Lifetouch or Jackie DeProspero at Salem at 363-2865.

Prestige Portraits Lifetouch
5108-B Oak Park Road
Raleigh, NC
919-881-8361