

CHARTER

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THE VISION

- **Serving Grades 2-12.** Starting out with grades 2-7 in 2013 and adding a grade each year.
- **Year Round Schedule.** Approx. 192 school days. 10 weeks on 2 weeks off. Also, holidays off.
- **Extended School Day.** 8 a.m. -3 p.m. and 3-5:30 p.m. for projects, homework, tutoring and enrichment. All students will be required to stay from 3-5:30 p.m. Students will not be taking homework home unless parents sign a waiver indicating that they understand the homework and will oversee the completion. This two hour extended school day adds up to 48 more school days each year!
- **Vocational and College Prep Focus.** The nutrition education component of Our Neighborhood Charter is created to introduce and support children of all ages as they learn how

to make healthy food choices, participate in the flow of food (from seed to stomach), and learn vocational skills. At the cornerstone, Our Neighborhood Charter will have classes that focus on food and its nutrition — exploring how food can be used to heal. Our students will experience a different relationship to food and its properties, therefore becoming more engaged and aware. We believe that early exposure to healthful foodstuffs will create a greater sense of health in all aspects of their lives. In addition, we will have classes that focus on meeting our fruits and vegetables, food combining, and special diets. Our Neighborhood Charter will offer courses on food politics (past and present), recipe and menu planning and take field trips to local farms and markets. A beefed up nutrition education is one objective of Our Neighborhood Charter, and another reason why our curriculum is one step ahead.

Students attending college will be able to take these skills to college to help prepare them for their future in many ways; from earning extra money to help them get through college to having an advantage over other students who have never

been exposed to a real work force.

- **Lunch Program.** Students will have lunches served to them through the food program at Bella Donna Italian Restaurant. All children will be served regardless of economic status. All food will be fresh, not frozen or processed with additives or preservatives.
- **Site.** Proposed site will be in downtown Pittsboro, at Main Street Station, where plans are being developed to build another two story building, exclusively for Our Neighborhood Charter. This site will eliminate the transportation issues for many local kids who will be able to walk to school. School crossing guards will be posted at various intersections.

Donna Bianco has a Bachelors of Science in Special Education, a Masters of Science in Special Education in Learning Disabilities. She has taught in public schools in NY and NC for 25 years. Opened and operated Our Neighborhood School, Inc., a private school in downtown Pittsboro from 2006 -2011, teaching students in 2nd-10th grade. She is the owner of Bella Donna Italian Restaurant. She lives with her husband in Moncure in an underground house that they built themselves. They have five children and three grandchildren and have lived in NC since 1998.

BRIEFS

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Golf Classic benefits CEF

The Chatham Education Foundation, which has worked for 20 years to help Chatham schools in many ways, is holding its annual Golf Classic Monday April 23, at Chapel Ridge.

Attend the 20th Year Celebration, a public reception on Monday, April 23 at 10:30 a.m. at Chapel Ridge Golf Club and help us honor the good works of the Board and volunteer Alumni. Consider offering your talents and time to help

CEF open new windows of opportunity for the next generation and their dedicated teachers. For more information, please call or email Sue Carson, Executive Director, at 919.642.5615 or ched@chatham.k12.nc.us.

Chainsaws, critters for ClydeFEST!

Chatham County's 11th annual ClydeFEST, celebrating the life and legacy of local chainsaw-wielding folk artist Clyde Jones, is coming up on **Saturday, April 14**, at the Bynum Ballfield in Chatham County from 11 a.m. - 4

p.m. for this wild and whacky event.

The celebration will include innovative Clyde-themed art-inspired games for kids, live music, drumming, face painting, balloon art, story-telling, tarot card reading, and lots of opportunities to create your own authentic folk art — plus food, live appearances by local artists and an opportunity to win a Clyde critter! 2010's celebration even included an enclosure of African tortoises owned by artist Peter Loose.

ClydeFEST focuses on providing children with an authentic Chatham County arts experience as well as teaching about environmental education. Last year the event raised more than \$5,000 for

arts-related programming in Chatham County.

While the self-taught artist's works have been exhibited all over the world, including the Smithsonian Institute and the Great Wall of China, Clyde Jones' work is not for sale, so this event offers an exclusive opportunity to own your own piece of folk art history.

Admission is \$3 for children under 12, \$7 for adults. Adult tickets include a chance to win a Clyde Critter. Rain date is April 15th (Sunday). Bynum is located off of U.S. 15-501 between Pittsboro and Chapel Hill. Sponsors and volunteers are needed and welcome! Please call 919.542.0394 for more info.



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The Thought Police are everywhere

By Jeff Davidson

In 1985, I gave a presentation to a group called Washington Independent Writers (WIW). During my speech, I used the phrase "guys and gals." This would have been an unimportant phrase if it wasn't for what happened afterwards.

A fellow WIW board member and writer approached me after my presentation. She told me that using the term "gals" was condescending to women. I was taken aback. I hadn't intended for there to be any condescension in my presentation. Nor had I ever knowingly made condescending remarks to any audience. In fact, over the course of 806 speeches, other than this person, no one has ever brought up the issue.

It was her view that using the term "gals" demoted the status of women. I explained to her that it was a term widely used throughout many parts of the U.S., particularly the

South and Southwest.

Even if "gals" alone

demoted women, I said that the phrase "guys and gals" certainly put men and women on equal footing.

She would not see it that way, no matter how I explained my opinion to her, even though no other audience member had any reaction to the term. Then, for the first time, I realized that people like her were part of a huge network of "thought police." They attack every word, gesture, and notion that they believe somehow violates their senses of fairness.

These "thought police" have no tolerance for interpretation, nor do they have the desire to hear reasoned arguments. Why should they? They know they are 'right.'

*Jeff Davidson, on the web at www.BreathingSpace.com, is author of *Simpler Living: A Back to Basics Guide to Cleaning, Furnishing, Storing, Decluttering, Streamlining, Organizing, and More*, which was Amazon Kindle's #1 best seller in "home do it yourself" for the first quarter of 2012.*

OPINION

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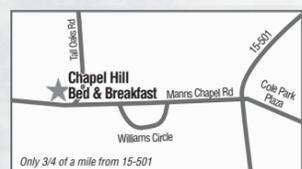
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