

Send-off:
Highmeadow Principal Barbara Reams gives hugs to Erin Hong and Jill Rosa during a school assembly. Reams is retiring after 30 years as an educator following the school year. She has been at Highmeadow Common Campus for four years.



STAFF PHOTO
BY BILL REISLER

Assembly puts step into principal's fete

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Barbara Reams seemed embarrassed about all the attention Highmeadow Common Campus students were about to give her in their assembly, "Mrs. Reams' New Clothes."

"I feel honored," said Reams, in the principal's office she will soon relinquish to Beverly Miller. "It's very touching that the kids would want to spend time preparing a special assembly."

Reams is retiring at the end of this month, following a 30-year education career, the final four at the Highmeadow helm. She plans on spending more time golfing, fishing and relaxing with her husband, Jerry, who already is retired. The couple has two sons, Jeff, 31, and Jerold, 34.

One reason for deciding to retire is the long commute from her Pinckney home. "There's just

not enough time to do the things I want to do."

Although excited about pursuing some of those hobbies and having the chance for more family time, Reams is sad about leaving Highmeadow.

"I appreciate having the chance to be at this unique school," she said. "It's truly unique."

Reams said she appreciated the support she received during her short stint in the district and hoped others would remember her leadership style as being progressive, dedicated and caring.

"I like to think of myself as being flexible, willing to try new things through programming and instruction," Reams explained.

Meanwhile, although Miller officially takes over Highmeadow on Monday, Aug. 9, Reams said she has already had several transitional meetings with Miller.



Beach party: Students sing "Ba-Ba-Ba, Ba-Ba-Ba, Barbara Ann!" while Reams cuts a rug with the kids.

Pupils sing 'bye bye' to Barbara

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Barbara Reams only spent four years as principal at the Highmeadow Common Campus. But one would hardly know that, judging by the loving tribute her pupils gave her last week.

The entire school sat in the cafeteria for the send-off, comprising skits, songs and poetry. Highlighting the assembly was "Mrs. Reams' New Clothes," a fashion show served up by third grade classes of teachers Carol Apol and Karen Farber.

For the fashion show, students carried mock-ups of their colorful garb creations, all with pictures of the principal superimposed on

the top. Reams watched with delight, and perhaps slight embarrassment, sitting on the so-called "Seat of Honor" as the students paraded about.

Students also wrote tongue-in-cheek descriptions for their ensembles, including the following:

"For a night on the town, we know that you'll enjoy this fabulous imitation, spotted leopard, long, flowing gown. This will be perfect for your return visits to our monthly PTA meetings ... This outfit will take you from breakfast through dinner in style. Wearing it is guaranteed to produce a lot of 'oohs and ahhs.'"

"Ooooooh! Aaaaah!" responded

the young audience, with perfect timing.

The assembly also featured the performance of a song written by fifth graders Alese Bagdol, Zach Digis, Jenny Hubbard and Katherine Soave titled, "We Don't Want You To Leave."

Their ode to Reams concludes with, "... at least you're leaving when we are."

Among other presentations: drawings and letters from second graders in the classes of teachers Kathleen Casterline and Sandra Laramie; a quilt bought with money third graders earned by doing various chores at home.

Concluding the program was another song, a parody of the Beach Boys' "Barbara Ann" —

changed, of course, to "Barbara Reams." Students held up cardboard letters spelling her first and last names.

"It was all the most fun I've had in a long time," said Reams to the students following the song. "You're extremely special to me."



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