

Parents learn educational sources at first ParentNet class

THE FIRST PARENTNET CLASS was held at Person High School on Thursday, April 24. The premiere class was targeted as a beginner/intermediate class, understanding that parents who attended had some computer skills, but weren't necessarily experts on the Internet. Sharon Catlett and Brenda Clayton, S.W.A.T. (Students Working to Advance Technology) advisors made the introductions, but the class was taught by S.W.A.T. team members.

Parents learned that by logging in to the PHS website (www.person.k12.nc.us/phs) they had access to an abundance of educational links.

"We used this site for several reasons. First, this site has been created and maintained by the S.W.A.T. team, but most of all, from the Virtual Library on the PHS website you can link to hundreds of useful educational sites around the globe," explained Clayton.

One link was to NC Wise Owl, the foundation of research at the high school.

"NC Wise Owl offers databases that help students tap into



Photo submitted

The following S.W.A.T. team members work with ParentNet: First row from left to right: Brittany Dunkley, Anna Walker, Shannon Catlett; second row from left to right: Ramon Rodriguez, Derek Paylor, Tiffany Whitlow, and Chris Crawley.

research from reliable sources," Clayton continued. "It is vitally important that students and parents understand that there are unreliable sources on the Internet; we work hard to be sure students, and now parents, learn how to avoid them."

Sophomore Tiffany Whitlow taught parents how to use General Reference Center Gold, one of the databases in NC Wise Owl, as well as Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia. As Whitlow explained to a wide-eyed crowd, these sources are avail-

able, free of charge, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Senior Ramon Rodriguez then took parents to "High School Hub," another link from the PHS website. High School Hub offers so much that a class could be taught just using it as the base, said Catlett. The site includes homework help, conversion charts, as well as SAT questions for students to use.

"The students were quite knowledgeable and helpful," said Lisa Rimmer, the parent of rising ninth grader, Tatum Rimmer. "The

course was full of information that my daughter will find useful next year at Person High and information that I can use too!"

Sophomore Derek Paylor finished the Thursday class by explaining the Career Center, part of the PHS website's Virtual Library.

"This was a great class. I would like to take it again and bring more people with me," said parent Myrtle Stephens.

Assistant Principal Pam Brewer said, "I loved having PHS students 'teach' us old folks. They know much more about technology than many of us parents and teachers." Principal Greg Hicks was in attendance as well and said, "What a great opportunity for members of our community to come into a safe environment and learn more about computers. Our students are very well trained, and they are eager to share their knowledge to help others. I hope more parents will take advantage of this incredible opportunity."

ParentNet classes will resume when the 2003-04 school year begins. For more information call Sharon Catlett or Brenda Clayton at the high school at 599-8321 ext. 1026.