

Carol Long--EEB Bookkeeper

Is President Bush really coming to Emma E. Booker Elementary School??? For several days due to security reasons, "mum" was the word regarding President Bush's visit. It was so hard to keep it a secret. Then, finally on Thursday September 6th, it was "OK" to tell everyone. How exciting!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Immediately our front office was surrounded by Secret Service and White House aides. There was so much to do: new phone lines to put in, desks to clear, offices to "give up". There was a real thrill in the front office to watch first hand all the preparations necessary to prepare for our country's leader. Soon the media heard of our special visitor and immediately were on campus. I never realized all that had to be done!!!!!! Our campus was surrounded by many people working on days, nights, and even the weekend setting up and "moving-in". We all felt like such an important part of history.

The morning of September 11, 2001, Tuesday, was a day we all could not wait for. Some of us were here at 6:00 AM ready to go through security. The students and staff were all dressed in our best and smiles and laughter could be seen and heard everywhere. It was to be a great day at EEB!!!!!! Once past security, we all were escorted into the Media Center where we stood for close to two hours--but no one complained. After all, we were about to meet the President of the United States, and after his speech, we would be able to shake his hand and take pictures.

Unfortunately, we began to hear stories. One, then two planes crashed into the World Trade Center. Suddenly, there was another story that more planes were missing and feared they too were part of a terrorist attack. President Bush finally rushed into the Media Center and right up to the podium. There was no announcement like often seen on TV: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States".

President Bush had a "grayish" look; the whole world now lay on his shoulders. He spoke very briefly announcing publicly for the first time that the United States of America had been invaded by terrorists and the World Trade Center had been destroyed. At this time, we did not even know about the Pentagon and the crash in Pennsylvania. Our excitement in a matter of seconds was gone. I felt so numb and dazed. How could this happen? Americans all over have pulled together 100%. Our prayers and thoughts are with the thousands that suddenly became innocent victims and also with President Bush as he continues to lead our country with a positive attitude.