

The Laker Wave

News and Information About The Elkton - Pigeon - Bay Port "Laker" School District Vol. 8, No. 2 October, 1995

STUDY PROGRESSING WELL ON CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Robert Drury,

Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Superintendent

In last month's issue of the Laker Wave, I described the reasons our Board of Education chose to study the financial costs and educational advantages both of renovating our elementary school buildings and the construction of a central elementary school.

In this month's issue, I wish to spend time discussing the progress that is being made relative to the costs of constructing a new central elementary building.

During the past month, our administrators, as well as the Buildings and Grounds Committee of our Board of Education, have met with the architectural firm that has been hired to assist us in a cost study. This group has been involved with designing a new building that would accommodate all of our students in grades Kindergarten thru 5th grade, as well as pre-school and Head Start programs.

THIS DESIGN PROCESS can be quite detailed, as the goal of this group is to have a design plan that is detailed enough to get accurate construction quotations. With this information our Board of Education can make a final determination as to which option is better financially and educationally; renovating our existing four elementary buildings or construction of a new central elementary school.

This committee has met two times and has made considerable progress. During the first meeting in late September, the committee established what components they would like to see in a new central elementary school.

For example, the committee looked at the number of regular classrooms needed, size of each classroom, number of special education classrooms and their sizes, music and band room, preschool and Head Start classroom numbers and sizes, cafeteria and food preparation area, gymnasium size, seating

capacity, and lockerroom areas, library and media center, office areas, bathrooms, mechanical/electrical areas, corridors and entry-ways, teacher and custodian storage areas, and outdoor play areas for younger and older elementary students. Much time during this first meeting was devoted to determining approximate sizes of each building component.

BETWEEN THE FIRST meeting and a second meeting that took place two weeks ago, the architect put all of the information from the first meeting into a layout of a building. The committee, at the second meeting, focused on making adjustments to this layout, paying particular attention to the sizes of each learning area and their relationship to each other.

When the committee got done with the second meeting, the proposed floor plan was full of red marks containing many changes. For example, the committee decided to group learning areas by student age. In the floor plan Kindergarten, pre-school, and Head Start are in one portion of the building that contains separate bathrooms in each classroom as well as a separate play area. Other grades have been grouped in a similar arrangement.

In addition, the cafeteria and gymnasium have been placed side-by-side with a portable wall separating the two areas with the idea that this area could be opened into one large area for large groups. There were many other arrangements that the committee made during the second meeting. As a

result of the progress made at that meeting, the architect will take back all of the suggested changes and produce another floor plan drawing for the committee to review.

THE GOAL OF THIS committee is to have a design plan to present to the elementary staff during the November 15th In-Service Day. Once that is completed, the architect will take the final floor plan and begin to establish construction cost. While actual bids will not be taken at that time, a good estimate of costs can be made from the floor plan and the types of building materials listed.

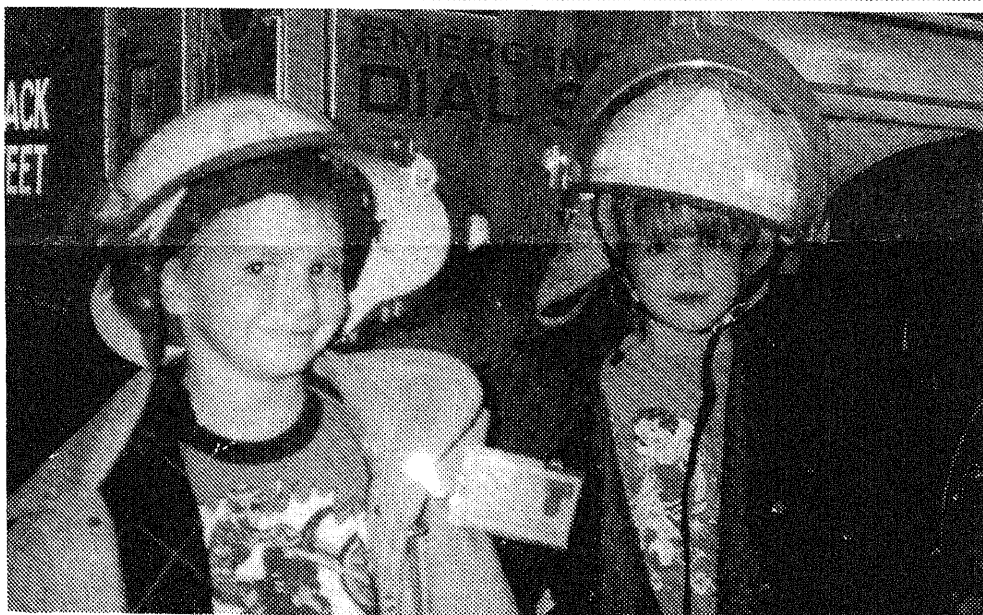
The architect will present the approximate construction costs of a new building to the full board during the later part of November. The board already has the completed study of costs relative to the renovation of our existing elementary buildings.

It will be at this time that our board will make the determination as to whether renovation of our existing buildings is the desired outcome or whether new construction is. Keep in mind that our board will look at the financial costs as well as the educational advantages that each proposal offers.

IN NEXT MONTH'S issue of The Laker Wave, I hope to have a more complete list of what is included in a new elementary building. I will also have a definite timetable of events that will lead up to a possible bond issue vote on one of the proposals listed above.

I am again asking for input from anyone who is interested in either seeking more information on either of these two proposals, or from anyone who is interested in voicing their opinion as to what course of action our board should take on this most important decision. It is the goal of our board of education to have an informed public when it comes to making decisions of this magnitude.

LEARNING TO STOP, DROP & ROLL!



Pictured here trying on fire protection suits are Elkton kindergarten students Alex Hampton and Chelsie Schulz.

LEARNING CHINESE CAN BE FUN FOR STUDENTS

By Sue Frederiksen

Chinese is an elective class offered two hours during the school day. Mrs. Annie Eichler is the teacher. Students all seem to

share the same sentiment about the class—it's fun.

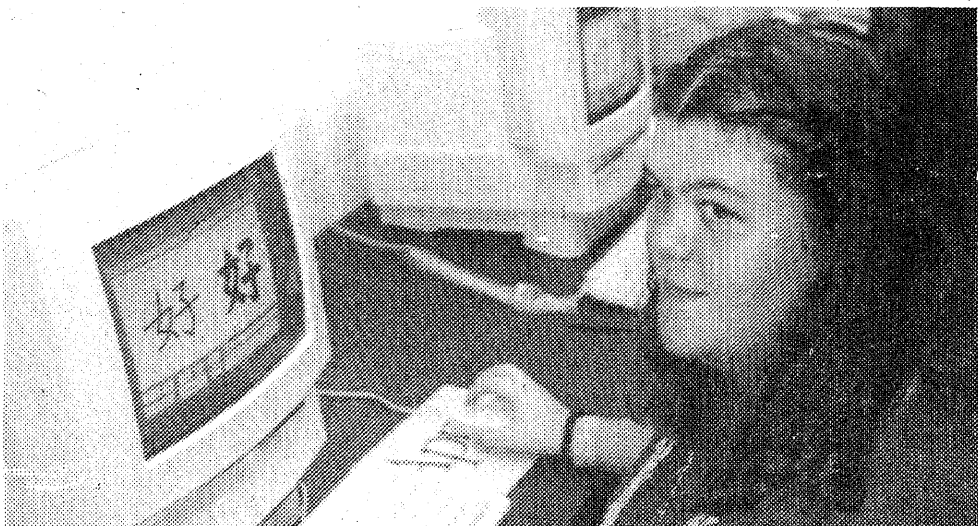
Today they were working on three different projects. One group was working on

making scrolls using Chinese characters, another was making posters to be used for games, and the third group worked on computers to practice their vocabulary.

challenging yet interesting because there are lots of hands-on activities to do.

Marie Hurren suggests that it gives everyone a chance to express their creativity. Betsy Drury and Trevor Cariveau find the class to be fun, and you get a chance to enjoy class with friends!

Tina Elenbaum and Mindy Krohn enjoy Chinese because they learn so much while having fun. Moira Foster stated that it's



STUDENTS FIND CREATIVE WRITING TO BE CHALLENGING!

By Sue Frederiksen,
Laker High School Counselor

Creative writing is an elective class offered by Mr. Reynolds. The class is filled with students who are interested in journalism and learning about how to put on a news show. Each individual is expected to contribute at least one article per week for the newspaper.

The articles are then looked over by the editors and either accepted or given back to students for revision.

Meghann Haley, one of the editors, finds the class to be challenging and fun. She stated that she never realized the amount of work that goes into printing a newspaper.

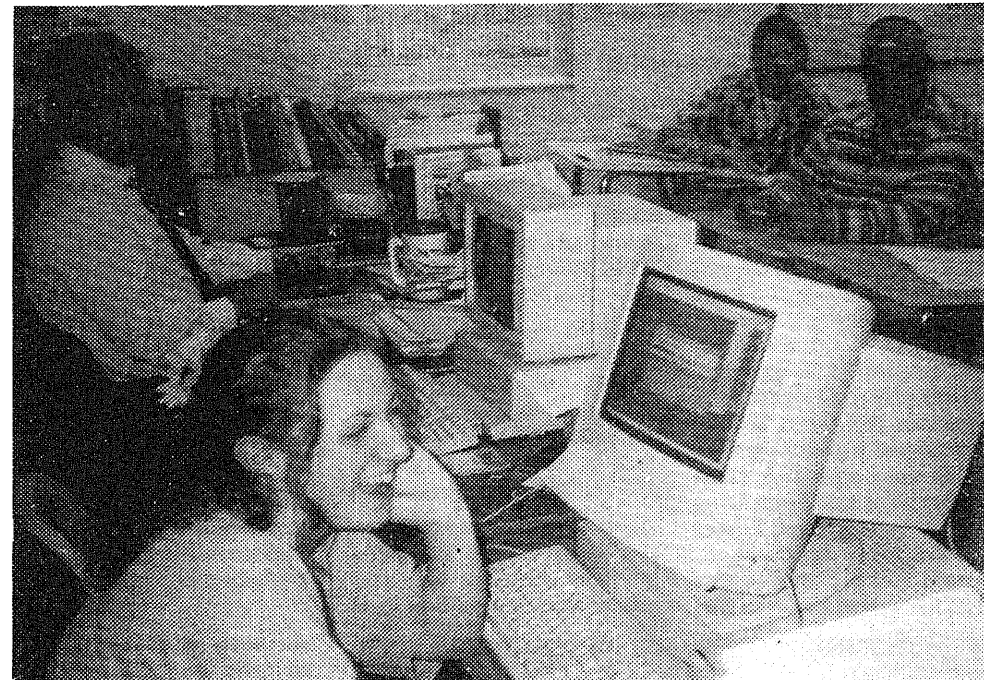
THE SCHOOL PAPER comes out once every two weeks and it is difficult at times to meet the deadlines, so she can't imagine what it's like to put out a paper on a daily basis.

Jeff Smith and Angie Weidman like the fact that you can work independently in the class. You get to do your own thing within limits, the paper includes what the students want.

The class as a whole is in charge, and they accept responsibility for what is printed.

Joyanne Chastain enjoys the challenge from the aspect of doing things she would never otherwise do. She edits articles and then turns them back to students for revision if necessary. That can be hard, but most students take it very well.

Jill Champagne says it is not like other classes. She has learned a tremendous amount about editing. Just this past week has been spent editing the video tape for the first Laker Television News Show which was seen on Friday, October 6, during second hour.



Laker Junior High School PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

By Richard Pauly,
Laker Junior High School Principal

We have had an excellent start to the 1995-96 school year. Classes have begun smoothly and the students have been most cooperative.

THE STAFF AT Laker Junior High School is very excited about this year. We have many goals that we would like to accomplish. We are extremely proud of the educational environment provided for the students at our school and recognize the efforts of many people - staff, parents, and community members - whose contributions make our school an outstanding place for children to learn.

WE HOSTED OUR annual "Open House" on September 19 with over 160 parents attending. This was a fine turnout and we really appreciate the effort made by the parents.

Raffle winners for this evening were as follows: Melody Smith - gift certificate to Lunch Bucket, Mary Carter - Ron's Party Store, Time Ertel - Hitching Post, Tom Ambruster - People's Choice Market, Connie Kuch - Main Street Cafe, Penelope Talarek - Bearfoot Treasures, Michelle Rhoades - Village Quick Stop, Ron Ruth - Bay Port Fish company, Sharon Gross - Maf's Dees, Tom Voss - Bay House Sports, Pam Bryant - Clark's Hardware, Arlowene Dunn - Laker Pin, James McQueen - Laker Pin.

Student Winners are: David Pelletier - football jersey, David Hazard - calculator, Lonnie Hedley - calculator, Kathryn Lundberg - Calculator, Kyle Gascho - calculator, Keith Voelker - softball, William Thick - homework book, Jessica Deming - homework book, Garret Buehler - basketball, James McQueen - tennis balls, Jeffrey Nimitz - tennis balls, Michael Sienkiewicz - Hawaiian Punch, Mark Fibranz - Laker hat, Justin Wiederhold - trapper keeper, Dan Ambruster - trapper keeper.

STUDENTS AT LAKER Junior High School elected this year's Student council Representatives: 6th grade: Megan Ertel, Kyle Gascho, Jason Shaw, Mike Voss, 7th grade: Braden Beachy, Stephanie Drury, Chris Heron, Amy King, 8th grade: Blaine Buchholz, Eric Esch, Marisa McCormick, Kristi Sears. Our officers are: President - Eric Clabuesch, Vice President - Matt Reibing, Secretary - Matt LePage, Treasurer - Lindsay Barry.

OUR 7TH AND 8TH graders will be taking the Michigan Educational Assessment Program Test on October 17, 18, & 19. This year's test will prove to be very interesting and challenging.

THE FIRST "FUN-NIGHT" of the year was held on October 7th. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time.

THE ANNUAL Laker Junior High School Walk-a-Thon will take place on Friday, October 20th. This is one of our two main fund-raisers for the year. I would like to thank the parents and community members

for their continued support for this fun activity.

As you well know, the pledges earned from the Walk-a-Thon help fund our three year trips. If you would like to be part of this year's walk, please contact our office. We can always use chaperones.

THE FIRST MARKING PERIOD is rapidly coming to an end. Parent-Teacher conferences for the Jr. High have been scheduled for the evening of November 13th from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. I can't stress enough the importance of these meetings.


THE FIRST Laker Junior High Talent Show will be October 30th at 7:00 p.m. This looks to be a very entertaining evening. Only Laker Junior High School students will be performing that night. Come and enjoy this evening of entertainment.

IN CLOSING, I would like to invite you to visit our school anytime. We welcome parents, grandparents, or may interested citizens who would like to see our Junior High in action. Stop by and have cup of coffee, stay for lunch or visit our classrooms. I'm sure you would enjoy the visit. Feel free to contact me at school 453-3131 or at home 453-3858. I'm always interested in your concerns.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 20 - Walk-a-Thon
October 31 - Make up day for pictures
November 13 - Parent-Teacher Conference
November 15 - In-Service Day.
No school for students

Watch for the November Issue of The Laker Wave




Come See The Halloween Parades on October 31 at our 3 Elementary Centers!

Elkton 1:30 p.m.
At The School

Pigeon 1:30 p.m.
Downtown

Bay Port .. 1:30 p.m
In The Gym

All Parents And Community Friends Are Invited!



JUNIOR HIGH COUNSELOR'S CORNER

By Kathy Dickens,
Laker Junior High Counselor

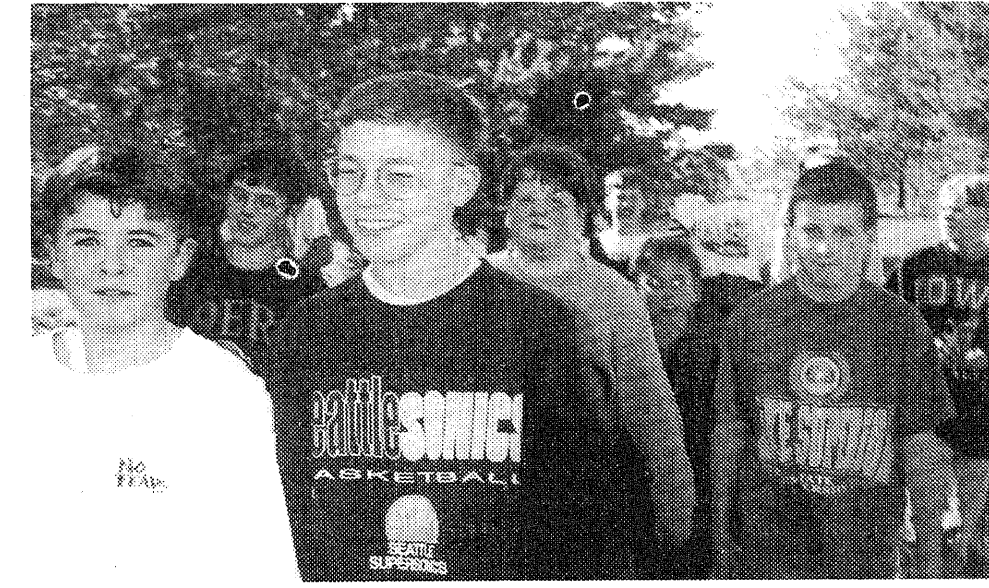
MEAP TESTING IS HERE

On October 17, 18, and 19, all seventh grade students were taking the MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) Tests in the areas of mathematics and reading. These tests will determine whether students have mastered essential objectives. The Essential Skills Mathematics tests assess students in seven areas: Whole Numbers and Numeration; Fractions, Decimals, Ratio and Percent; Measurement; Geometry; Statistics and Probability; Algebraic Ideas; and Problem Solving and Logical Reasoning. The Essential Skills Reading Tests contain two reading selections (one story and one informational) with questions measuring how well students construct meaning and their knowledge about reading.

Due to the importance of the MEAP tests, it is very important for parents to make sure that their son or daughter is present for testing. It is also important that students get plenty of sleep and eat right during this period of testing.

LAKER JUNIOR HIGH TALENT SHOW IS OCT. 30

On October 30, from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Laker Junior High will have its first talent show. Students will show off their talent in a variety of areas: singing, dancing, piano performances, instrumental performances, drawing, quiz bowl, dramatic reading, group problem solving, and skits. Winners in each category will win cash prizes. Come enjoy the show!!!!

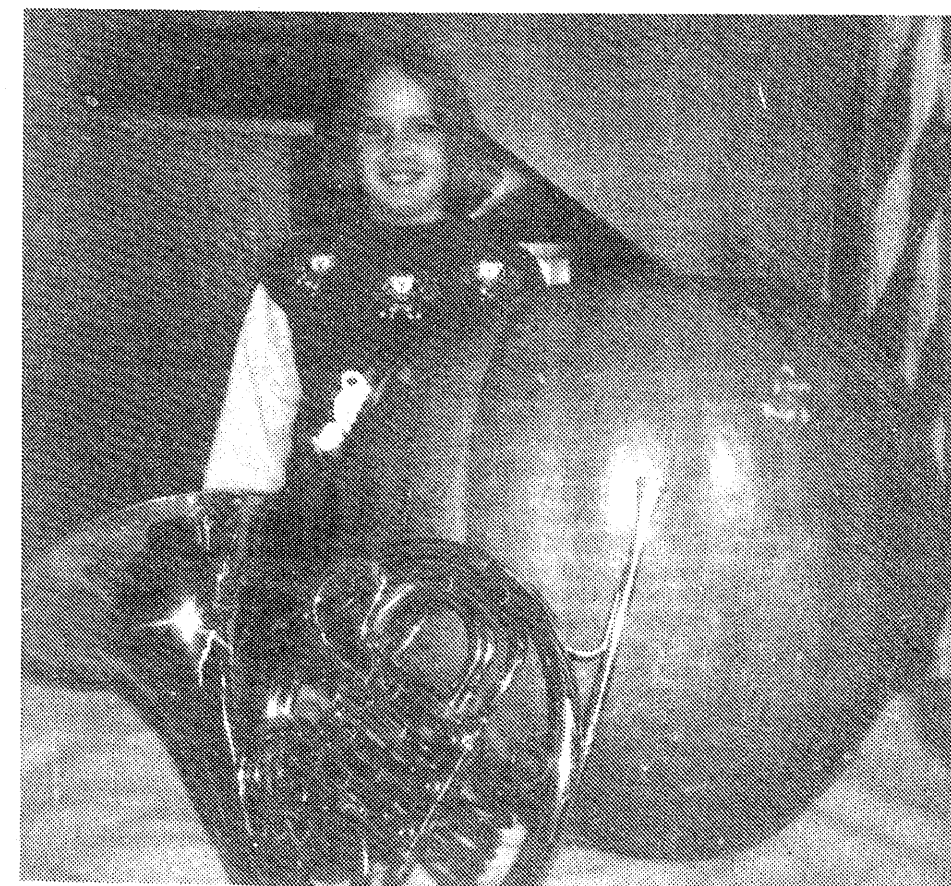


SEVENTH GRADERS WORK ON COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Have you ever heard a child say: "Nobody listens to me - nobody cares what I think."

Good communication skills are some of the most difficult skills to learn. Adults and children alike are often guilty of talking when they should be listening. We are too often concerned with giving our own opinions, instead of listening to those of others. Seventh graders were recently involved in activities that proved just how difficult clear communication can be. Discussion focused on specific ways that students can improve how they communicate with one another and how they communicate with their parents.

SHE'S BIG PUMPKIN WINNER!



The "Giant Pumpkin Challenge Give-away" began two weeks ago for students in the Laker fifth grade beginning band.

Director Craig Chissus told students who ever practiced the most in the next two weeks would earn a huge pumpkin, and the fifth grader students showed tough competition, trying to win the big prize.

Winner by 1,000 minutes is Tressa Schulze of Cross Lutheran School of Pigeon, with a two-week practice total of 2,142 minutes! Earning honorable mention were Amanda Gonzales with 1,142 minutes (Pigeon), Dieter Eichler with 1,135 minutes (Pigeon), and Kristin Kreh with 1,032 minutes (Elkton).

TWICE A WEEK, Chissus meets for band rehearsals with elementary students from Elkton - Pigeon - Bay Port and Cross Lutheran Schools.

He says "basic maintenance needed daily to strengthen the embouchure (facial muscles), is 120 to 150 minutes of practice each week... the success of any effective band is largely dependant upon how well students apply themselves to a daily home practice routine.

"I am very pleased with the beginning band and thank the parents for their vital role in supporting and encouraging their child's effort," Chissus says.

LJH WALK-A-THON WAS A BIG SUCCESS

The 1995 Laker Junior High Walk-a-Thon was a big success, due to the community's support. Ninety-one eighth grade students walked. Ten of these eighth graders earned enough money to pay for their entire trip to Washington D. C. Total pledges for the Eighth grade class was \$12,805.

Ninety Eight seventh graders walked in the Walk-a-Thon this year. Forty-one of them collected enough pledges to pay for their trip to Camp Leelanau. Total pledges for sixth grade students was \$5,987. On behalf of all of the students and staff at Laker Junior High, we wish to thank the community for their tremendous support of our fundraisers and class trips.

STUDENT SUCCESS = PARENT & TEACHER COMMUNICATION

By Robert Drury,

Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Superintendent

One of the best ways to ensure your child's success is to open the lines of communication and get to know your child's teacher.

This process can begin at any time, but the earlier, the better. For example, when you enroll your child in school, ask if you can visit with the teachers to learn what you can do at home to facilitate your child's entry into a new building. A conversation with his or her teachers can open the door for positive future communication. Teachers want feedback from parents. So, make it a point to talk with your child's teacher on a regular basis.

TO MAKE COMMUNICATION between the home and school effective, don't forget the most important element; your child. Find out what your child's interests at school are. Discuss what is going on in the classroom. As you develop a better understanding of what your child is doing at school, you will improve communication with his or her teachers.

Exchange phone numbers with your child's teacher. Let them know the best times to

call and whether or not it is appropriate to call you at work. classroom visits are welcome, and don't forget to utilize parent-teacher conferences. Our schools make arrangements for working parents to confer with teachers by having conferences in the evening.

Remember, the exchange of information between parents and teachers can only be beneficial. The more you know about your child's education and the more involved you are, the better your child's opportunities for success become.

PARENTING TIPS:

- Introduce yourself to your child's teachers early in the school year. Find out what the overall learning expectations are, home much homework to expect, and how you can reinforce the lessons at home.
- Before parent-teacher conferences, talk to your child and prepare a list of questions for his or her teachers.
- Communicate with your child's teachers on a regular basis. don't wait until you have a concern.
- Ask your child's teachers to help you assess his or her strengths.
- Offer to assist with a field trip. This gives you the opportunity to see how your child interacts with teachers and classmates.

Watch for these Upcoming Dates...

- Tuesday, Nov. 7 High School Parent - Teacher Conferences
- Thursday, Nov. 9 Elementary Parent - Teacher Conferences
(No School For Elementary Students)
- Monday, Nov. 13 Junior High Parent - Teacher Conferences 6 to 9 pm
- Wednesday, Nov. 15 .. Teacher In-Service
(No School For Students)

AROUND THE ELEMENTARY CENTERS...

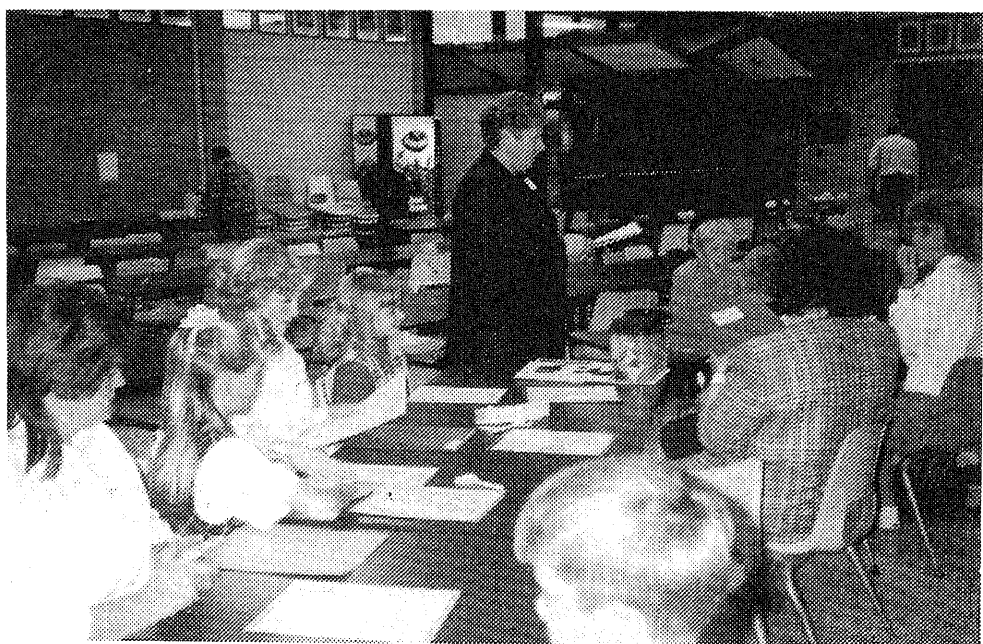
Here's the Report from Pigeon and Bay Port Elementary Principal Peter Batzer

FIRE SAFETY WEEK

Fire Safety Week was celebrated the week of Oct. 8-14. This involved more than just talking about fire prevention and what to do in case a fire occurs for Pigeon and Bay Port Elementary students.

These students were treated to a visit from the Fair Haven and Winsor Township Fire Departments. Students were able to get a first-hand look at the equipment, watch a demonstration of some of the equipment, and have their questions answered by the firemen.

Many thanks to both Fire Departments for their efforts and taking time to work with our students.



Laker elementary students and their parents recently took part in a Family Math workshop. The program gave parents hands-on math ideas to use at home. Pictured here teaching are Title I teachers Mrs. Linda Oeschger and Mrs. Jayne White.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 31 - Halloween
 - 1:30 p.m. parade through town in Pigeon
 - 1:30 parade in gym in Bay Port
- November 1- Morley Candy Sale begins in Pigeon
- 3- 1st Marking Period ends
- 7- PTC meeting
- 9- Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences No school for elementary students
- 13-Morley Candy Sale orders due
- 15-Teacher In-service
- 16-PTO meeting
- 23-24-Thanksgiving Break

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences are an important part of the school year. A parent's participation shows the student their concern and the importance of education. In order to make the most of a limited amount of time at conferences, here are several suggestions to make this time productive.

- 1) PLAN FOR IT. Write out any questions you have for the teacher before arriving. This may be about social or academic progress, behavior or specific programs that are being used in that classroom.
- 2) ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS. This can keep your child doing well or help him/her accomplish as much as possible.
- 3) ASK QUESTIONS. If the teacher uses terms or says something you do not understand, ask for an explanation.

- 4) EXCHANGE INFORMATION. In addition to getting information about how your child is doing, this is also your opportunity to give the teacher more information about your son/daughter.
- 5) PLAN TO MEET AGAIN. If there was not enough time to complete all you wanted to, or there are areas that will need to be followed up on... make arrangements to see the teacher again.



The recently-completed PTC magazine and gift sale gave 15 Pigeon Elementary students a chance to "grab for cash." A money booth included hundreds of \$1 bills and a fan. Students who sold at least 25 items could catch as many bills as they could in 15 seconds-and got between \$8 and \$30...

Here's Elkton Elementary Principal Ben Phillips' Report

The Laker School Board recently made the decision to have a bond election for a new central elementary school. This election will take place in late January or early February. The new school would be located next to the Laker Junior/Senior High School complex on M-142. During the coming months more specific details will be worked out regarding cost and old building usage. The Elkton center is the most attractive of the three elementary centers. The lower elementary building in Elkton is probably the most marketable. One really needs to take a look at the Pigeon and Bay Port Schools to get an idea of what the school district is facing. There are many pros and cons with regard to renovating vs. new school. What is the best long term decision for the entire school district? It will be a tough decision that the voters will have to decide.

VIP STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

- Lindsay Pietruck - 2nd grade
- Philip Fibranz - 3rd grade
- James Langley - 3rd grade
- Chad Peyerk - 4th grade
- Julie Weiland - 4th grade
- David Shepherd - 5th grade

STUDENT DROP OFF - PICK UP INFORMATION

Parents, please do not drive in the circle driveway to drop off or pick up your child. The buses are there and it makes it too difficult for them to get around with cars in the way. Please drop your child off either on McKinley Street, North Main in front of the big building, or drive in the far north driveway and go around to the back parking lot. Thank you for your cooperation.

ELEMENTARY COUNSELOR'S CORNER

By Dave Wojicki,

Laker Elementary Counselor

Every so often, I receive a call from a parent who has a dilemma in raising their child. Possibly, the child won't sit and do homework, or he/she complain about problems with their friends or the child "sassess" back to the parent all too often.

Sometimes, after the parent has described the situation the real problem seems to become apparent to me. I ask myself, who seems to actually be in charge of the relationship? It is mom/dad, or the child? All too often the answer appears to be the child.

If you believe your child may be "leading you around", here are 12 tips that may empower you as a parent:

1. Provide love, affection and concern.
2. Help children build self-esteem.
3. Have respect for children.
4. Accept children and show approval.
5. Have a good understanding of discipline techniques.
6. Provide clear and reasonable expectations.
7. Be consistent in handling children.
8. Set strict and firm limits.
9. Have consistent parenting approaches among all the childcare takers in the home.
10. Enforce limits.
11. Allow dissent and expression of feelings within limits.
12. Be able to let go of you child.

An excellent resource material that can assist you with the above, is a book written by James Windell. the book is entitled

Weeks to a Well-Behaved Child. It can, most likely, be located in book stores. Check out the parenting section. If you have problems locating it, let me know and I may be able to assist you.

RESPECT OTHERS RIGHT TO LEARN

I recently gave the Elkton 5th grade students an opportunity to write a short essay on the topic, everyone's right to learn. I would like you to read a well written one by Kristen Kreh:

I like to come to school and learn. I also like to try and get all of my work done at school so I don't have homework. When I grow up I want to go to college, learn more, and get a nice job.

I find it harder to learn when people are talking. When people bug me, it is hard to think. Think about it, if you bother someone, you can't work either. I get fairly good grades because the people around me let me work.

Here are a few tips. Rules of respecting everyone's right to learn:

- Rule #1 - Do your work, don't cheat.
- Rule #2 - Please, don't bother anyone.
- Rule #3 - Concentrate on what you are doing.

Use the rules as guidelines for you. Be cool in school. If you want to be a friend, do it at your recess. Remember, respect everyone's right to learn, even yours.



Elkton Elementary students recently enjoyed a play about the life and works of Hans Christian Anderson. Pictured here with the play cast are Elkton 4th graders (left to right) Juan Howell, Megan Henney, and Marty Halbert.