



OJIBWAY  
SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER

*Library*



FEBRUARY 1990 CLOQUET, MN 55720

FEBRUARY IS DRUG  
AWARENESS MONTH

February is Drug Awareness Month at the Ojibway School. Over the past few weeks, students have worked on a variety of lessons (the Red Cliff curriculum) which have focused on the issue of drugs.

A tour of the school will reveal some of the students' projects and messages. The more students learn about drugs enhances their choice to stay drug free.

Students have made posters, written essays, created colorful collages, and researched the media to learn how drugs are "pushed" on them in a variety of seemingly innocent advertisements. A few seniors are now engaged in the production of a video tape. The seniors are in charge of writing the script, gathering extra materials needed for the staging, creating props, and directing and editing the project. The completed tape will then be shown to the student body.

Friday, February 23, students will demonstrate their commitment to a drug free lifestyle by staging a "Lock Up" at the school. Students and certain staff members will spend the night at the school and entertain themselves with a host of activities.

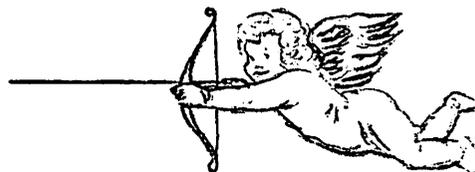
SET TEAM TRAVELS  
TO PHOENIX

On February 5-7, SET team members Frances Wabaunsee, Marlys Kilen, and Patty Goward attended the Effective School Training Session in Phoenix, Arizona. The sessions were geared toward principals, teachers, and school board members. There were thirty-two effective schools represented throughout the United States.

Robert Martinez, principal of the Toas Day School in New Mexico, is the Fond du Lac Ojibway School mentor. Martinez will visit and monitor our school in the near future. The purpose of his visit will be to evaluate and to suggest improvements for a more effective school.

The SET team is now concerned with developing a school mission statement. The mission statement (a rough draft) was carried to Phoenix and suggestions were given to strengthen its scope and purpose. The next project of the SET team will be to develop a needs assessment.

Bi-weekly SET team meetings are held with the entire SET committee to update all members of developments. The NEWSLETTER will continue to inform its readers on all of the Effective Schools progress.





Pictured above are some of the eighth grade class; what a happy looking bunch!

## THE MEDIA AND DRUGS

Recently, the eighth grade class completed individual "drug media collages" which revealed how many media sources push drugs in their advertisements. Many of the ads in magazines show glamorous people using the drug which identifies the drug with a certain lifestyle. Although research in the area of exactly how much influence the media does have is vague, it is safe to assume that the product (alcohol, cigarettes, pills) must generate sales or it wouldn't appear so often in so many sources.

Advertisements on television go to great lengths in order to achieve the right effect for its product and the ads target specific consumers as well. It's no surprise that beer commercials accompany sporting events. Beer is perhaps the most advertised drug on television and it targets audiences both young and old. Have you watched the Budweiser commercial on television which centers around the "fountain of youth," where a group of elderly tourists have a few Buds and suddenly they're transformed into exotic beauties! The ad is innocent enough and has an interesting sense of humor--so where is the harm?

Our children (numbers vary) watch an incredible amount of

television. Today's children are the "technical tube generation." Exactly how television effects them is debatable. But, with the recent concerns on the problems of the nations educational system, it would seem that the children are learning more of something from a much more entertaining source.

Should we be alarmed? Well, that is a question that each parent must ask themselves. How much does your child really know about the "real" world? More and more students are adopting the "turn it off" attitude or "switch the station" when confronted with school work. While this attitude may work fine in the world of television viewing, it will get the student very little in the real world. Teachers can do much as far as opening the child's eyes to the world around them, but parents must take a much more active part in supporting the child's overall education and that begins in the home.



Above, left to right: David Gitzen, Charles Karp, John McMillen, Rhonda Hurd, and John Martin.

## BEAVER TAILS !

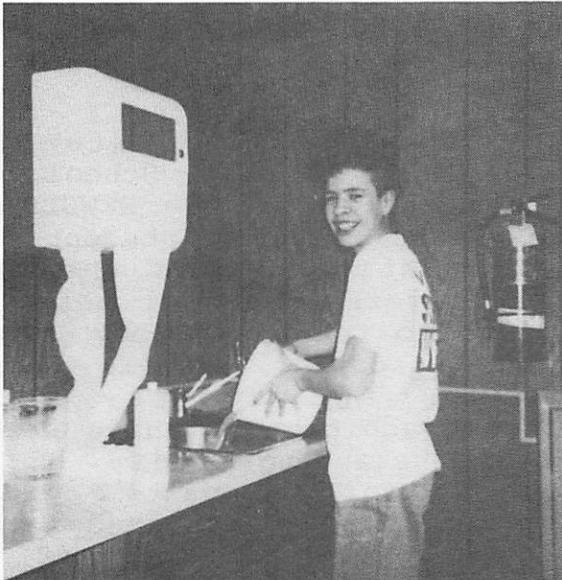
As the tenth graders continue in their study of biology, you would normally expect a lab session of dissecting worms and frogs-- but hold on a minute! Recently the sophomore biologists were presented with the opportunity

(beaver story continued)

to dissect a beaver!

John Henry McMillen recently provided the biology students with a beaver that he had trapped. As the students dissected, John shared knowledge specific to the beaver. Special interest was given to the animals pelt, underlying fat layer, and tail. Many students have seen these busy wood chewing rodents from a distance, but for most, being close-up and personal with this animal was a new "splash" in their educational careers.

by Charles Karp



Above: Chey Thompson cleans-up after a lab session; Chey is an eighth grader.

### SCIENCE STUDENTS EXPLORE THE WEATHER

Eighth graders have ventured to new heights in their study of the atmosphere and weather. Recent weather events have led to the class constructing a home-made barometer from 2 bottles and water and then determining the humidity of the air using 2 thermometers, cotton and ether. It is hoped that later in the unit, arrangements can be made to visit one of the local television studios in order to talk to a weather person. May the wind force be with you!

by Charles Karp

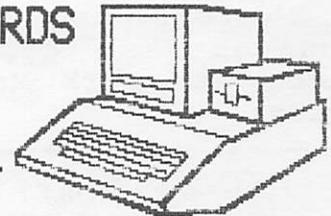
### NOT JUST ANY BEAN !

As the seventh grade nears the end of their study on plant life, there has been an interesting lab discovery. Using navy beans, the plants were soaked in water and sprouted in enclosed plastic bags. Careful measurements were taken and recorded. Students were able to observe events which normally occur under ground. Surprisingly, most of the growth (measured in percentages) occurred within 5 days of sprouting. Currently, the plants are growing in soil since having been transplanted.

Did you ever wonder how the navy bean got its name? Sailors needed a source of protein for their long voyages. They needed a food that could be easily transported. After tasting many varieties of beans, the "great northern" bean was christened the "Navy Bean."

by Charles Karp

### A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL



by Phil Minkkinen

Here we are almost midway through the third quarter. Mid-quarter reports will soon be prepared and should be sent to parents during the week of February 26. These reports are intended to provide parents with information on how the student is doing in all classes. If you have any questions regarding the reports, you should contact the teacher(s) to learn how you might assist your child in his/her studies. These reports will also serve as a warning to parents (and students) if their performance is leading to failing grades.

The Student Council is holding

(Phil continued)

a "Lock In" in conjunction with Drug Awareness Month (February). This is a drug free, all night event filled with activities. There are several teaching staff personnel volunteering to chaperone the entire evening. It should prove to be an exciting evening.

The Effective Schools Program is meeting regularly and making progress. The SET team has completed a draft of a new mission statement for the school. If the new statement meets the approval of the school board, it will then become the official mission statement of the school. We will be conducting a comprehensive needs assessment of the school. This questionnaire will be sent to parents, students, teachers, board members, and administrators of the school in order to learn how each of those questioned feels about the school and its programs. You will learn more of this assessment in the future.

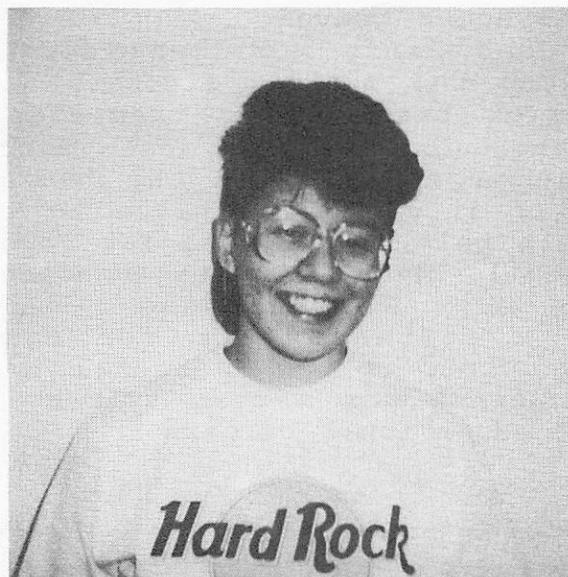
With only about 70 days of school remaining, the seniors are now preparing for graduation. The event has been scheduled for May 30. Seniors are busy ordering announcements, caps and gowns. Remember to mark May 30 on your calendar.

## TRACK AND FIELD SEASON SOON TO OPEN

The basketball season is rapidly drawing to a close, and it is once again time to start thinking about track and field season. This year, the team has a total of eight field meets; 2 of which are against our arch-rival Chief Bug School!

Students are encouraged to participate in as many events as possible. Parent support of the track and field team is very much appreciated by team members. Encourage your son or daughter to participate.

by Charles Karp



Above: Melody Diver, sophomore

## MEET THE ACHIEVERS

We have many outstanding students at the Ojibway School, and in future issues of the NEWSLETTER we will focus on those students who have demonstrated that they are high achievers. In this issue we are proud to feature Melody Diver.

Melody, or Mel, excels in both academics and sports. Mel's scholastic achievements have earned her the Outstanding Student of the Year award for the past 2 years. Her work habits in all study areas have won her the respect of her teachers and her peers as well. Mel shows the same determination on the basketball court. If you've had the opportunity to watch her "do her stuff" on the court, then you will begin to feel how her teachers feel about her in the classroom.

Mel's personality, attitude, achievements, and determination are an inspiration to all those lucky enough to know her.

## ENTER THE MISSION STATEMENT CONTEST

The Ojibway School is conducting a search for a one sentence mission statement which will be added to the school's proposed mission statement. The contest is open to all staff, community members, students and parents. For more information on the contest, contact Mrs. J.

# EFFECTIVE SPEECH IS A POWERFUL TOOL !



What does a speech and language clinician do? Judy North, the newly hired school speech and clinician specialist, has identified a few responsibilities which will answer this question.

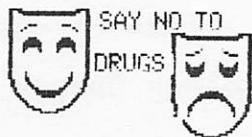
(1) Work with students with articulation problems (children who have difficulty pronouncing certain sounds). Some of the more common sounds mispronounced are: s, r, l, sh, and ch.

(2) Work with students with language development lags (poor vocabulary, odd syntax--like misplacing words in a sentence; poor use of verbs and tense; and misusing word endings or suffixes).

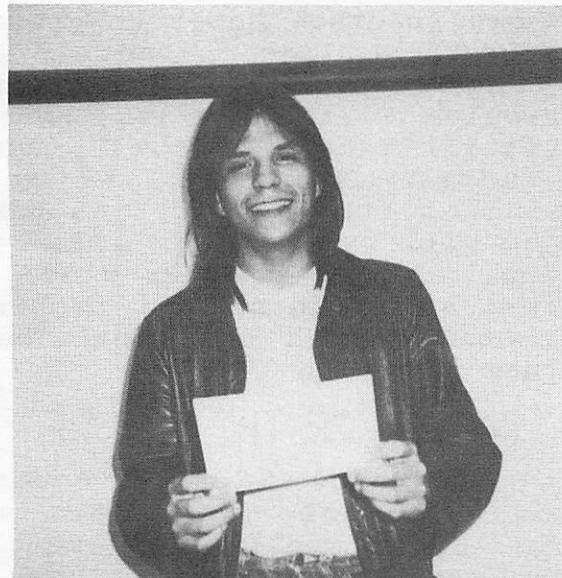
(3) Work with students with voice problems (consistant hoarse voice; a breathy voice; too low or too high of a voice; etc.).

(4) Work with stutterers.

If you would like more information on the speech development area or suspect that your child has a speech related problem, please don't hesitate to contact Judy at the school.



The Ojibway School Newsletter is a monthly newsletter produced at the Fond du Lac Ojibway School, 105 University Road, Cloquet, MN 55720. Dr. Thomas Peacock, Superintendent; Phil Minkinen, Principal; Michael Rabideaux, editor.



Above: Rick Benjamin, senior

## A MAN OF MANY WORDS !

Would you buy a leather jacket from this young man? Seniors in English class have been giving a variety of speeches over the last few weeks. Students have given informative and persuasive speeches which have been video taped so the student would be able to critique their own speech.

The speech assignments are excellent educational lessons. Students must research and analyze their subject areas, organize, use proper language, create a stylistic technique upon delivery, and maintain an overall effectiveness which involves the audience. We've listened to quite a few interesting speeches which have included famous historical figures and modern celebrities as well. Students staged interviews with the likes of Michael Jordan, Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Beverly Cleary (an accomplished author of childrens books!). We even recorded a speech on a proposed new Fond du Lac Ojibway School.



PRESCHOOL SCREENING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 6 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE OJIBWAY SCHOOL HEAD START CLASSROOM. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MOLLY AT 879-4593.

## DAN ANDERSON PROMOTED

Dan Anderson has been promoted to Education Planner. Dan had been serving as the Ojibway School Curriculum Planner, a position he will still retain. Dan will assume the added responsibilities of bussing, kitchen staff, printshop, and he will review proposals. Dan's writing ability and knowledge of contracts, budgets, and proposals will bring a lot of experience to his new position.

## AIMING FOR THE FUTURE

On January 26, Tom Peacock, Ojibway School Superintendent, addressed the weekly staff meeting. Tom discussed budget issues and explained his philosophy of fiscal responsibility as "pinching pennies, and bringing every buck to the bank." He stated that knowledge of budget matters concerns all community members as well as school personnel.

Tom also stressed his vision of the Ojibway School. "We need more room, we need to expand our present curriculum, and we need to create a staff development program." Tom stated that we must also "strengthen relations with the community."



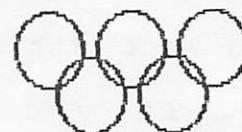
Above: left to right, Chris Dickenson, Steve Fossness, Richelle Mullen, Fawn McMillion, and Mel Diver

## MAGIC IN YOUR SMILE

February is National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM). On February 12, students were entertained in the school gym by magician John Bushey. Bushey's magic show reflected the theme of NCDHM, "There's magic in your smile."

We would like to thank all those responsible for their time and efforts. CDHM was a huge success! Special thanks to, Dr. Sue, Dr. Marge, Colleen Carlson, Margaret Lind, Dee Dee Gockowski, and Jamie Shakes.

## 1990 Track Schedule



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- March 5.....Track practice begins for all participants
- April 6.....FDL season opener: Crosby-Ironton Get Together (varsity)
- April 9.....Deer River JV Invitational
- April 10.....Brainerd Earlybird Invitational (varsity)
- April 17.....Crosby-Ironton JV-Coed Season Opener (JV)
- April 20.....Deer River Invitational (varsity)
- April 23.....Chief Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig JV Invitational
- April 24 .....Pillsbury Classic Invitational, Pillager
- May 17.....Chief Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig All Indian Meet
- May 24.....District Meet, UMD