

The Laker Wave

News and Information About The Elkton - Pigeon - Bay Port "Laker" School District — Vol. 7, No. 1 — October, 1994

New Computer Room Installed at Laker High

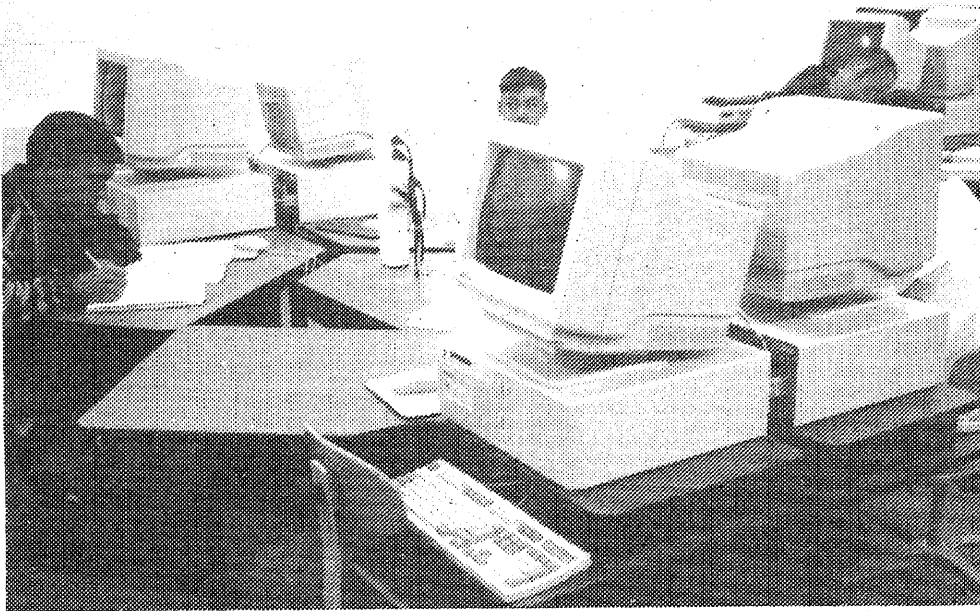
One of the many goals of Laker High School is to improve technology in our school system. During the 1993-94 school year the administration and business teachers decided to change the business curriculum. Once the decision was made to change the curriculum, we contacted the State for new business curriculum guidelines.

We also established a Business Services and Technology Committee which is made up of community members who are interested in business and are willing to share their expertise with the school. Mike LePage is chairman of the Committee. The BST Committee, the business teachers and the administration worked hard to shape the new curriculum. As a result of all the work the new computer room and curriculum became a reality.

THE NEW BST computer room and supporting curriculum cost in excess of \$100,000. The computer room houses 30 - 487 IBM compatible computers, new chairs, file cabinets, desks, books and appropriate supplies. Laker High students are required to take the BST CORE class for graduation. The year long class replaces the individual typing, computers, and general business classes that were taught previously.

By the end of the class, the students will complete 72 objectives which will then allow the students to attend the Huron Area Technology Center and to connect with the local community colleges.

Parents and community members are welcome to visit the facility any time. Just drop in as you are driving by the school. We would love to have you visit.



The Laker Wave Is Back!



Welcome to the first edition of the 1994-95 Laker Wave. This section of the newspaper will be coming to you, once a month, jammed packed with articles, stories, notes and pictures intended to keep you in touch and abreast with all that happens in the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port School District.

The Laker Wave is the official publication of the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Board of Education.

Elementary Kids Learn About Fire Safety!



Elkton kindergarten student Alex Ritter tries on a Fireman's hat at the Oliver Township Hall. The students visited the fire hall for Fire Prevention Week. See Pg. 4

Laker Gym Floors Get Renovations

When Laker Junior High and Senior High students returned to school this fall they saw many new renovations to the educational complex. Two of those were the refinishing of the junior high gym floor and the installation of a new wood floor in the high school.

The junior high floor had not been refinished since its installation in 1979. Each year the custodial crew scrubbed and applied a new coat of polyurethane finish. But this summer the floor was sanded down to the bare wood, sealed with two coats of sealer, new game lines and school logo painted, and three coats of finish applied. The finish product looks like a new gym floor, and it will be 7 to 10 years before the school will have to repeat this process.

THE WORK IN THE high school gym was far more extensive. For the past two years moisture from below had been buckling the wood floor to the point that school personnel had to make several saw cuts into the floor to relieve the floor heaving. Moisture from the sub floor was penetrating up into the wood boards. This condition was creating an unsafe playing floor, and last winter it was decided that the existing floor would have to be removed.

Last spring, bids were taken for the removal of the old floor and installation of a new floor. The low bid went to Bay Area Interiors, Freeland MI. Work began immediately after school recessed in June.

The process required the removal of the old floor and underlayment down to the cement



base. Next, a rubber membrane was put in place over the cement to create a moisture barrier. A layer of foam was put over the rubber to create a cushion.

NEXT A LAYER OF PLASTIC was put down to create another moisture barrier. On top of that two layers of treated 1X6's were installed with 4" gaps between boards. This became the sub-floor.

The final application was the installation of the maple flooring strips nailed in place over the 1X6's. Blowers were then installed behind the east bleachers with air circulating between the 1X6's to reduce the humidity. The floor was then sanded, 2 coats of sealer applied, game lines and logo painted, and 3 coats of finish applied.

School officials are confident that the materials used will eliminate the moisture getting to the

wood floor. The total cost of refinishing the junior high floor and the installation of the high school floor was \$136,268.

The girls basketball team has been playing on the new floor, as have the high school gym classes.

The finished product is a big improvement, and school officials hope that this new floor will last at least as long as the original floor, which was 35 years. These projects were supervised by former employee Gordon Stirrett.

For Successful Parent-Teacher Conferences...

- * Make appointments for conferences unless conferences have been pre-scheduled.
- * Have your questions prepared before conferences begin.
- * Use the conferences to exchange information about your child.
- * Ask for a clearer explanation of any terms, forms, or ideas you do not understand.
- * Share information about your child that may help the teacher.
- * Seek information about your child's social, emotional, and physical progress at school.
- * At the end of conferences make plans as to what you and the school can do to help further your child's progress.
- * Plan to meet again if all points are not covered.

A Message from The Superintendent: Schools Ready For A Great Year

By ROBERT DRURY

If you listen to the talk at the beginning of a school year, you will probably hear, "I'm excited about this new school year." And, it's true, there is excitement with the opening of a new school year. Students and parents, as well as school staff members, are given a chance to begin again, and to try something new.

Throughout last summer, many things have taken place—and now everyone is set to get going. Administrators, teachers, and all the members of the teaching team have been involved with staff development and additional teacher training. Some staff members have attended college classes, seminars, and workshops.

OTHERS, SUCH AS secretaries, custodians, cooks, aides, and bus drivers have also attended workshops. Transportation personnel have arranged new bus routes, and shortly will be using the services of a computer software program to help in that task.

Food Service personnel have planned how to serve tasty, nutritious meals in an appealing manner. They have instituted a debit card to make lunch purchases easier and faster.

Custodians have cleaned the buildings and put them in order to begin the year. They have also done extensive remodeling to the computer room and the agricultural room in the high school. Decisions were made regarding textbook and equipment purchases, and much time was taken in the ordering of computers and software in the new computer room.

WHETHER IT IS for an individual school or an entire district, scheduling is very complex, and a great deal of time has been put in over the summer months on this process.

Teachers have been assigned grade levels or class subjects, lunchtimes, bus routes, parent-teacher conferences, staff development days, assemblies, athletic events, concerts, and special

activities—all have to fit into the school calendar in order for the school year to get off to a great start.

PARENTS ARE KEY PLAYERS on the educational team, and each year they are filled with new expectations for their child(ren). They realize that it is up to them to send their child to school each day with adequate rest, good nutri-

tion, encouragement, and support. At home, parents are asked to provide a place for studying, setting aside homework time, and foster a feeling that says, "Your education is important to me".

To find out how you can be a partner in our children's success in education, contact one of our schools. Together we can make this the best year ever.....

Junior High Counselor's Corner

By KATHY DICKENS

The beginning of the school year is always a fun time for me, since I meet with each of the sixth graders one-on-one. I find that their high level of enthusiasm about the year to come is quite contagious!

In our one-on-one meetings we often discuss goals that each student has set for the upcoming year. Many have their sights set on the honor roll and perfect attendance. The topics of discussion focus on family, friends, and individual issues.

In conjunction with the eighth grade careers class, I have begun meeting with each eighth grade student to explore potential career choices. Each student goes through the MOIS (Michigan Occupational Information System) career search. In this search, the student responds to a variety

of questions about values and interests. Then, a computer generates a list of careers that matches the information the student offered. The student then selects three of the career choices that they are most interested in, and they get a computer generated description of each occupation.

The description includes duties, educational requirements, salary, and the employment outlook in the state of Michigan. This computer program is also capable of generating the names of colleges that offer programs the students are interested in.

Students walk away with a wealth of information about different careers and the different college programs that would prepare them for those careers.

This year, all eighth graders will begin keeping

an individual portfolio, which they will contribute to until they graduate from high school. These portfolios will include examples of:

1. Academic Skills, (communication, using math, using science and technology, and solving problems).
2. Teamwork Skills, (communicating, being responsive, being able to contribute, and being an effective group member).
3. Personal Management Skills, (setting and accomplishing goals, organization, flexibility, and developing career plans).

Each student's portfolio will be a reflection of his/her individual strengths and will include a variety of papers, projects, and tests that the student has been successful with. The portfolios should be fun to put together and should also be a source of pride for our eighth graders.

Laker High School Principal's Report

By LISA M. DICAMILLO

Homecoming activities were a success! The Laker Student Council, under the leadership of President Lindsay Krueger directed the annual fall classic event.

Many students participated in such activities as game night, powderpuff football, volleyball for guys, bonfire, float building, hall decorating, parades, pep assemblies, and fall varsity athletic breakfast.

Student Council President Krueger and I want to thank the class officers, student and parent volunteers, class advisors, teachers, cheerleaders and community members who helped put Homecoming together. Without all of us working together we would not be able to continue with the Laker tradition of Homecoming Week filled with pride and spirit.

Place Parent/Teacher Conferences on your calendars for Tuesday, November 8th 1994 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Laker gymnasium.

We welcome your attendance at the conferences.

As per parent request the junior high and high school conferences are on separate nights. We hope that with this arrangement more parents can attend either or both conferences without being hurried.

The Laker High teachers and I welcome your attendance at the conferences. Parents will have an opportunity to pick up report cards, talk with teachers, the guidance counselor, and the principal regarding your son or daughter's performance at Laker High. Please make these conferences a priority in your lives.

We are proud of our new business computer room and our new agriculture room. If you have some extra time please stop by to see these new additions to LHS.

A special thank you to parents and students who took advantage of the review sessions for

the MEAP Test that LHS offered. We also appreciate the excellent attendance record our students had during MEAP testing time.

The MEAP test is important to our students in order to attain state-endorsed diplomas and for graduation from Laker High.

Congratulations are in order to the Laker Marching Band. We appreciate the students' efforts during Homecoming Week and during their competition weekend. We know that many students and parents needed to rearrange family activities in order to accommodate the hectic schedule. Thank you for your support.

Last but not least, please put the Laker High School Drama production of "Our Town" on your calendar for November 25, 26, 27 and December 2, 3, and 4. The production promises to be one of the best in recent years.

Also, the LHS Student Council will sponsor their fall Blood Drive on Monday, October

31st. We hope you will take time for both of these worthwhile activities.

Laker Junior High Principal's Corner

By RICHARD PAULY

We have had an excellent start to the 1994-95 school year. Classes have begun smoothly and the students have been most cooperative.

The staff at Laker Junior High School is also 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.

Students at Laker Junior High School elected this year's Student Council Representatives. They were as follows: 6th grade - Stephanie Drury, Ashley Fritz, Wanda Hebert, Reid Kilgus, 7th grade - Marisa McCormick, Eric Clabuesch, Matt Reibling, Lindsay Barry, 8th grade - Stephanie Braun, Eric Darning, Kristie Gehrs, Josh King.

The officers for this year are: President - Jeff Dubey, Vice President - Becky Terrian, Secretary - Becky Pauly, Treasurer - Jason Swartzen-druber.

Our 7th and 8th graders have just finished taking the Michigan Educational Assessment Program Test. This year's test will prove to be very interesting and challenging.

The first "Fun-Night" of the year was held on October 15th. The theme for the evening was Halloween. Students and parents were encouraged to wear costumes to this fun event. Prizes were awarded in many different categories. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time.

The annual Laker Junior High School Walk-a-thon took place this past Friday, October 21st. 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 class trips.

If you would like to be part of next 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 Monday, November 14th, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. I can't stress enough the importance of these meetings.

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 21 - Walk-a-thon
- October 21 - Visitor Teaching for 7th grade
- November 4 - End of the First Marking Period
- November 14 - Parent-Teacher Conference
- November 15 - In-Service Day, No School for Students

Update On New "MEALTIME" Food Program

Thanks to the cooperation of parents and students, the new Mealtime computer program is off to a great start. It took a couple of weeks for the cashiers to get used to using a computer in the meal line, but the lines are now moving quickly and smoothly. You can see by the graph comparing 1993-94 to 1994-95 that we have reached some of our main goals in purchasing the Mealtime program.

GOAL #1 We have approved 62 more free and reduced lunch applications this year. We believe this is due to the total confidentiality of the Mealtime program.

GOAL #2 We have increased participation in the junior high and high school by 7% this year. We believe this is due to the pre-payment of breakfasts and lunches. Students do not have to remember to bring the \$1 every morning.

GOAL #3 Customer satisfaction has been very high. We have received so many wonderful comments from parents about the new Mealtime system. We appreciate your input.

Please read the following notes and tips to help the program run smoothly:

1. PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS BEFORE YOUR CHILD'S ACCOUNT RUNS OUT OF MONEY — If you are ever in doubt whether or not your child has money in his/her account, please call 453-2097 and talk to Cheryl Sturm. It is best to call from 9 - 10:45 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. It doesn't matter what building your child is in, she can tell you how much money is in the account.

2. YOU ONLY NEED TO WRITE ONE CHECK TO COVER ALL YOUR CHILDREN, EVEN IF THEY ATTEND DIFFERENT BUILDINGS. You can drop payment envelopes in the Food Service mailbox at any school's office. Your child does not have to attend the building where payments are made.

3. PLEASE WORK WITH YOUR JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL CHILDREN TO HELP THEM REMEMBER TO BRING



THEIR MEAL CARD TO THE LUNCH LINE. Some tips that work: Buy a magnet hook or clip for inside the student's locker. For a hook, a hole can be punched in the meal card in either upper corner away from the UPC code.

Keep the meal card in the locker at all times, removing it only to go down to the lunch line and returning it to the locker immediately after lunch, or tape an envelope inside the locker and follow the same routine, leaving the meal card inside the envelope at all times other than the lunch period.

There is no need to take the card home daily. The cards of students that have worked out a good system look new, just like the first day of school.

The cards do not wear out if handled well. It is very important not to fold or bend the card on the UPC code. Once the bar code reader cannot read the UPC code, your child have to purchase a new card.

Replacement cards are \$2. We automatically

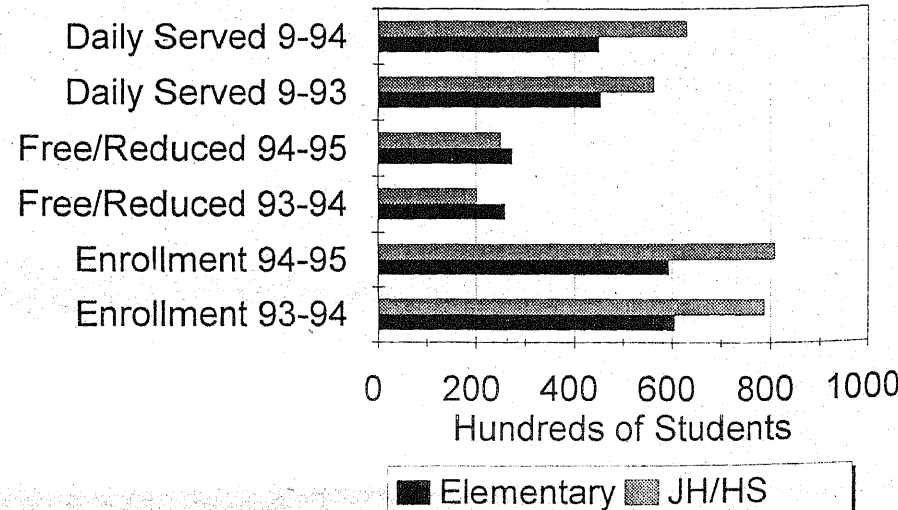
deduct the \$2 from the student's account balance. It is very important that students bring the meal card to the line every day. It slows the line down and causes much congestion if students forget their cards.

If a student does not bring the meal card to the line for two days in a row, we automatically print a new card. Your child is allowed to eat, even if he/she does not have the meal card. We have to record their names and input their meal service later. It holds up the meal line too much to do a computer search on the line if there is no card to scan.

PLEASE BE SURE YOUR CHILDREN KNOW THEY CAN EAT EVEN IF THEY DO NOT HAVE THE CARD...

Laker Food Service

1993-94 vs. 1994-95

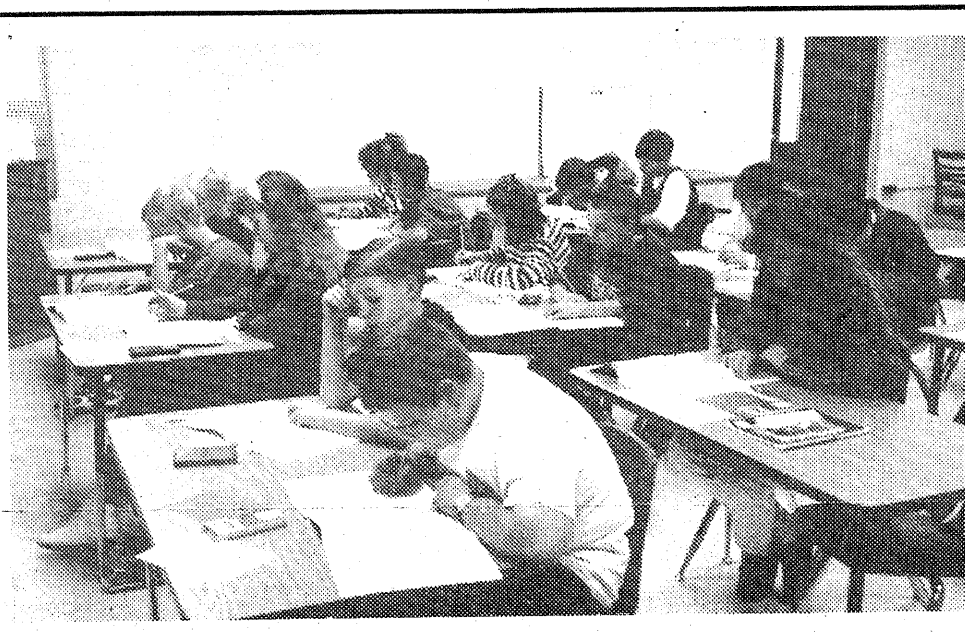


Test Time!

Seventh and eighth graders at Laker Junior High have recently been very busy taking their MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) Tests.

Seventh graders completed approximately five hours of testing in the areas of math and reading, over a five day period. Eighth graders completed approximately 90 minutes of testing in science, over a two-day period. These tests help to determine whether students have achieved state objectives or not.

All seventh and eighth graders are to be congratulated for the level of concentration and effort they devoted to these tests!!!



Laker High Counselor's Corner

By SUE FREDERIKSEN

As the leaves change color and the farmers harvest their crops, we in the guidance office have been truly busy attempting to prepare seniors for college and the sophomores and juniors for testing.

On Monday, October 3, Bad Axe High School hosted **College Night** for any sophomores, juniors, and seniors interested in attending. Several colleges and universities throughout the state sent their admissions representatives to Bad Axe to discuss with parents and students what it takes to attend college, and what programs they have available at their institutions.

In addition, these same admission representatives have been traveling to all high schools in the state to discuss these same questions with students at their own high schools. When the university makes an appointment to attend Lak-ers, an announcement is placed in the bulletin so all interested students can sign up to meet with the recruiters in the guidance office.

As the month of October is also a month of testing, students have been preparing to take the MEAP Test, the PSAT, the ACT, the PLAN, and the SDS.

The MEAP test is taken in the area of science for juniors, and in the areas of math and reading for sophomores. In order to obtain a state-endorsed diploma upon graduation, each student must pass these tests. If the test has not been passed in the sequence in which they are normally given, then students have the opportunity to retake the MEAP at the time it is given to the sophomores and juniors.

The PSAT is a test given to juniors on Tuesday, October 11, at a cost of \$7.50 per student. All students who have an interest in attending college should sign up to take the PSAT. It is a preliminary test to help students prepare for the college entrance tests, and it also helps to qualify students for scholarship awards.

The ACT is being given to seniors on Saturday, October 22, at Laker High School. This is a test given to juniors and seniors all across the country, and is used when applying to colleges and universities. Juniors should be preparing to take the ACT in the spring of the year.

Last, in addition to the MEAP test, our sophomores are being scheduled to take either the PLAN or the SDS. These will be given on Tuesday, October 26. Those sophomores planning on attending college have signed up to take the PLAN, which prepares them for taking the ACT as juniors, and also helps to identify career interests.

Those students who are not interested in college will be taking John Holland's Self-Directed Search, which helps students discover their interests and possible job opportunities which they may be skilled at.

New Directed Studies Program Starts This Year

Having students succeed with work in their regular classroom studies is the main objective of our new "Directed Studies" program this year.

This program has been instituted in all elementary, junior high and high school, and has been designed to help students who may benefit from extra tutorial help.

Extra help is provided both in and outside the classroom by paraprofessionals during the school day, to assist students with academic skills in which they are having difficulty.

Extra tutorial time is offered before and after school hours to 4th through 12th graders who are eligible. These services are conducted by teachers, paraprofessionals and high school tu-

tors. Parents will be contacted as teachers and staff feel the need for students to receive this service.

REMEMBER TO:

- * Keep informed as to your child's progress. Review your child's report card with them.
- * Extend learning opportunities which occur naturally in the day's activities and routines.
- * Discuss school activities as a family. Participate in school activities for parents.
- * Let your child know that you and the school are working together with him/her to make learning a happy experience.

Around the Elementary Centers

Elkton Elementary School Principal's Report

By BEN PHILLIPS

BREAKFAST PROGRAM - Between 40 and 50 students have been participating in the new Elkton breakfast program. Cereal, toast, milk and juice are the primary menu items. A hot breakfast is served on Wednesdays. Mrs. Grigg is our morning breakfast server.

HONOR ROLL - Students in grades 3-5 that get all A's and B's on their report card will be on the honor roll. These students will receive an honor roll pin. Each marking period there will be a different pin offered.

A-TEAM - Students in grades 3-5 that get all A's on their report card will be on the A-Team. These students will receive an honor roll pin, an A-Team shirt, and go to lunch at McDonald's with Mr. Phillips.

MEAP TEST - Elkton 4th and 5th grade students will be taking the State MEAP test the week of October 10th. Fourth graders take the reading and math tests. The fifth graders will take the Science test.

HALLOWEEN PARADE - The annual Hal-

loween Parade will be Monday, October 31st, BEGINNING AT 1:30 p.m. The parade will start at the school and go south to Railroad Street and proceed around the block back to the school.

BAY PORT QUARRY FIELD TRIP - For several years, the Elkton 4th grade classes have had a fall field trip to the Bay Port Quarry. This fall trip goes along with a Science Unit on rocks and minerals. According to the Quarry manager, the quarry is becoming a popular spot for field trips.

Approximately 10,000 students visit yearly with groups coming from as far away as Canada, Ohio, and Indiana. The trip is a favorite for both teachers and students. We are fortunate to have such an interesting spot so close to us.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

October 19 - 2 hour delay for Teacher In-Service
November 10 & 11 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (dismissal at 12:15 p.m.)
November 15 - NO SCHOOL - District In-Service
November 23 - 1/2 Day of School - Thanksgiving Recess
November 14 & 25 - Thanksgiving Recess



Elkton second graders Jennifer Krohn and Vanessa LaFave were recently painting a fall picture. Both girls are in Mrs. Krohn's classroom.



Firemen Pete Santos and Jim Seley show Elkton Elementary kindergarten students one of the Oliver Township fire trucks. The class visited the fire hall to celebrate Fire Prevention Week.

Elem. Counselor's Corner

By DAVID WOJICKI

ELEMENTARY VIP UPDATE

Students have been keeping me busy in VIP classes this year. Here is some of what we've been doing!

KINDERGARTEN - The students have been working on the social skill of joining in while playing on the playground. We've discussed, roleplayed and practiced the four steps:

- Step 1 - Thinking about what they can play.
- Step 2 - Putting on a friendly face.
- Step 3 - Keeping a friendly body.
- Step 4 - Asking if they can play.

Obviously, the above is done to help them with their decision-making skills and cooperative abilities.

FIRST GRADE - These students are participating in a new program directed towards drug and alcohol use prevention. The programs preventative nature focuses upon activities that enhance self-esteem, knowledge, decision-making skills and social skills. The program is a good one and I'm impressed with the direction it is taking.

SECOND AND THIRD GRADE - They have finished a unit studying the feeling of anger. We studied the origins of it and three results of anger; (1) Actions result hurting self, (2) others, (3) or

getting one in trouble.

We discussed negative actions that often take place when we get mad and spoke of consequences. Students studied alternative ways to try to attempt to manage their anger. Alternatives were shared amongst class members and some very good ideas always surfaced.

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE - Students recently completed a unit on communication. They participated in activities that showed how important communication is and how easily it can break down. As a result of the unit, children learned the tool of saying "I" statements.

"I" statements are a positive way to try to let people know how you feel/think about what they've done. So many times our usual attempts to communicate to others end in hurt feelings or misunderstandings. "I" statements are to the point and positive in nature.

ABOUT VIP CLASSES - VIP classes are group guidance classes. One of my primary functions is to provide experiences to children that will better enable them to function in their day to day life. This is something that the State of Michigan expects guidance counselors to do. It gets to all children with beneficial information they will hopefully choose to incorporate into their life.

Bay Port & Pigeon Elementary Schools' Principal's Report

By PETER BATZER

PIGEON & BAY PORT OPEN HOUSES

The Pigeon and Bay Port Open Houses were held on the 13th and 15th of September. This was one of the first opportunities of the 1994-95 school year for parents to come in to the school buildings, meet their student's new teacher, and to visit with friends.

Both events were very well attended and provided an exciting and pleasant way to begin the new school year. Your participation was appreciated by both the school and your children. Thanks for coming.

HALLOWEEN

As the end of October approaches, it can mean only one thing..... Halloween is not far off. The excitement seems to be mounting as we get closer and closer to the big day. The hallways and classrooms are filling up with pumpkins, ghosts, and other annual visitors as students eagerly await the arrival of October 31st.

In Bay Port, the traditional parade around the school and gymnasium will take place on Mon-

day, October 31st. Classroom parties will follow the parade. Students are invited to take that opportunity to show off their costumes. Afterward, treats and apple cider will be served.

Pigeon Elementary's festivities will include a parade around town with the Laker High School Band, a movie, and then classroom parties. This will also take place on Monday, October 31st.

In the excitement of the season, please remember to go over some basic safety rules with your children before they go out Trick-or-treating.

FIRE SAFETY WEEK

Fire safety week was celebrated during the week of October 10-14. Many teachers and students did activities and discussed fire safety. The high point for many students in Bay Port was the arrival of the fire truck and firemen. I believe a lot was learned during the week about fire safety.

A couple of the most important rules for students to remember are:

- (1) Get out of the house or apartment safely. Know how to escape from every part of your house, and once outside, do not go back in.
- (2) If you should ever catch on fire, DON'T RUN. Remember the rule: STOP, DROP, AND ROLL.

Students of Month in Bay Port, Pigeon Elementary Schools

With the full month of September behind us, teachers in Bay Port and Pigeon Elementary Schools have chosen their students of the month. Congratulations go to them for their efforts in school!

- DEVELOPMENTAL KINDERGARTEN: Laura Stoeckle
- KINDERGARTEN: Eric Thick, Morgan Negaard
- 1ST GRADE: Teresa Brown, Alexandra Gonzalez
- SECOND GRADE: Mitchell Yoder, Jackson Maust, Amber Deming
- 3RD GRADE: Joel Müller, Tara Haag
- 4TH GRADE: Cheri Chastain, Megan Bechler
- 5TH GRADE: Kyle Yackle, Kyle Gascho, Mike Voss