

News and Views

from the Vandercook Lake Public Schools

Golf Avenue

March, 2002 Volume 43-No. 3

Jackson, Michigan

DAR WINNER SELECTED

Trista Raye Rink

In 1934 the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution established a Good Citizens Contest in high schools. This award is to recognize and encourage outstanding young people in the pursuit of high ideals. The established qualities for good citizens are based upon:

1. **Leadership:** personality, self control, assumption of responsibility
2. **Dependability:** truthfulness, loyalty, and punctuality
3. **Service:** cooperation, courtesy, consideration of others
4. **Patriotism:** unselfish interest in family, school, community, and nation.

During the month of October, the teachers were asked to nominate a senior student for the DAR award. The top three teacher nominee names were presented to the senior class for their final vote. Those students were Danielle Lowe, Trista Rink and Scott Spencer. Trista Rink was chosen to receive a Good Citizen Pin and Certificate from the Sarah Treat Prudden Chapter of the NSDAR for Jackson County on February 9, 2002.

Trista was also the winner of the fifth grade competition for the DAR in February, 1995. Her winning essay was "Colonial Days in America".

During December Trista began her state competition by completing a questionnaire and submitting a letter of recommendation, complete transcript, and graduation picture. She also wrote a 500-word essay on a topic selected by the NSDAR. Congratulations to Trista on her Jackson County selection and good luck in the state competition!

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Academic Games 2002

Vandercook Lake High School will compete in Academic Games, Saturday, March 23, 2002 at Jackson Community College. Our students will compete with students from other county schools in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. It is open to the public beginning at 8:45 a.m. The schedule of competitions will be posted at the fieldhouse.

The English team is coached by Mr. Steven Tucker. Team members include: Nick Gallagher, Dan Watts, Jessica Sheets, Nick Bristow, Jenny Stevens, Casey Spaulding, Sarah Zebarah, Grace Shipp, Joni Orandello, and Jenny McDaniels.

The English essay team is also coached by Mr. Tucker. Team members include: Jasmine Gary, Michael James and Brian Tucker.

The Math team is coached by Mr. Dan Roggenbaum. Team members include: Erin Sedgman, Jill Phillippi, Jasmine Gary, Scott Spencer, Chris Hewitt, Laurel Reisender, David Richardson, Shawn Rutan and Jeremy Jensen.

The Science team is coached by Mr. Dan Hyliard. Team members include: Kirsten Yonnick, Ben Masters, David Higgins, Jessica Gazlay, Mark Rumsey, Dani Lowe, Brian Tucker, Jordan Masters, Jordan Clark and Kali Briggs.

The Social Studies team is coached by Mr. Mark Bareis. Team members include: Michael James, Paul Heath, Tyler Pierce, Trista Rink, Jacob Ashley, Julie Hancock, Korey Kuhl, and Carly Cyphers.

Good Luck Teams

High School MEAP Test

The administration of this year's high school MEAP test is scheduled for April 29 - May 10. All juniors will be tested in the areas of mathematics, science, reading, writing and social studies. Any senior needing to retake any of the tests in order to qualify for the Merit Scholarship should contact Mrs. Koetsier at the high school (782-8167 ext. 208) or Ms. Haney at McDevitt (782-0342).

4-Year Old Preschool Program Registration:

Registration for next year will begin the week of April 8. We plan to have a morning session and an afternoon session again next year. If you have a child who will be 4 by December 1, 2002, but not 5 before December 1, 2002, please contact the McDevitt school office at 782-0342 or stop in the McDevitt office for registration information the week of April 8. We will be accepting applications for both state funded and tuition paid students at this time.

Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten Round-Up for Vandercook Lake Public Schools will be held at Townsend Elementary on May 6, 7 and 8. Children need to be 5 as of December 1, 2002 in order to attend Kindergarten in the fall. The new Kindergartners will be screened for speech, gross and fine motor, readiness and social skills. A parent will also be asked to speak to our school social worker during the time the child is here. Please call Townsend Elementary at 784-6133 to register for our round-up.

McDevitt Childcare

Thank You!!

Thank you to so many Vandercook Lake community members who have donated toys and games to our childcare program. We can always use and are very appreciative of good used toys and games.

Register for Extra Funding for Your School

Vandercook Lake High School has been awarded an Exxon/Mobil educational alliance grant for \$500.00 through Kelly Fuels. The grant will be used for the Habitat Project in front of the building. Kelly Fuels will extend an additional \$250.00 to the high school if parents, students, relatives and friends and teachers sign a form identifying themselves as Vandercook Lake supporters when purchasing gasoline. Locations where you may register are as follows:

Auto Mist
1514 W. Morrell
Jackson, MI

Albion Beer Well
27814 C Drive North
Albion, MI

West and High Mobil
1240 S. West Ave.
Jackson, MI

Kelly's Quick Stop
3797 W. Michigan Ave
Jackson, MI

B&B Express Mart
102 W. Brooklyn Rd.
Napoleon, MI

Kelly's Express Mart
1825 Horton Road
Jackson, MI

Pictured receiving the grant from Kelly Fuels (l-r) Vandercook Lake art teacher - Jack Faber, Kelly Fuels Store Manager- Penny Lafountain, Senior- Danielle Lowe, and Sophomore-Brian Tucker.

Congratulations to Stock Market Game Winners

Mrs. Shafer's Senior Personal Finance classes participated in a competitive 10-week statewide Stock Market Game. The students were placed in groups and then given a fictitious \$100,000 to invest over the 10-week period. The teams competed against each other at VCL, as well as against teams across the State of Michigan. They learned how the stock market functions, how to research stocks, and how volatile the market can be depending on the economy and current events. The first and second place teams were treated to a gourmet meal at the Olive Garden. The Olive Garden meal was made possible through a Jackson Community Foundation mini-grant.

1st Place Team: Jasmine Gary, Dani Lowe, Scott Spencer, Lorren Griffis, Josh Vanepps

2nd Place Team: Jeremy Jensen, Tyler Pierce, Paul Heath

Pictured at left: Seated - Jasmine Gary, Dani Lowe, Scott Spencer, Lorren Griffis, Josh Vanepps, Jeremy Jensen. Standing - Tyler Pierce, Paul Heath

Job Shadowing at Vandercook Lake High School

Patti Shafer, Career Prep Coordinator at VCL, placed 43 tenth graders interested in job shadowing this year. All of the students reported positive experiences. Job shadowing is a two-to-four hour, one-time visit, with an employer in the student's career interest area. The student "shadows" at the place of business, is given a tour, learns about requirements for the career, and many times experiences "hands-on" activities. If you would like to know more about job shadowing, or if you know an employer who would be a good placement for a student to job shadow with in the future, please contact Patti Shafer at 782-8167, Ext. 143. We appreciate the time these business people give to our future working force!

Student:

Berry, Lauren
 Bioty, Ashley
 Briggs, Kali
 Bristow, Nicholas
 Clemons, Micki
 Crawford, Ronda
 Eagen, Jodie
 Gallagher, Nick
 Hall, Meghan
 Hancock, Randy
 Kirst, Adam
 Masters, Jordan
 McCormic, Colleen
 McDaniels, Jennifer
 McDaniels, Krystal
 Melchiori, Brandi
 Myers, Chad
 Passino, Andrea
 Perdew, Jessica
 Pickrell, Nicole
 Poole, Angie
 Riddle, Fred
 Rubenstein, Kyle
 Sabin, Kyle
 Saucedo, Christina
 Sedgman, Melissa
 Smith, Drue
 Sowle, Tiffany
 Spaulding, Casey
 Stetler, Morgan
 Tittler, Amanda
 Tucker, Brian
 Uroda, Jacilyn
 Vandeventer, Danielle
 Warner, Virginia
 Watts, Dan
 Wells, Traci
 Wilcox, Randall
 Willbee, Stephen
 Winters, Amanda
 Wolcott, Christian
 Wood, Jennifer
 Yoakam, Kristen

Career Area:

Cosmetology
 Pre-School Education
 Accounting
 Vet
 Middle School Teacher
 Medical Field
 Banking
 Family Counseling
 Interior Design
 Computer Networking
 Electrician
 Ophthalmology
 Graphic Design
 Accounting
 Cosmetology
 Elementary Education
 Accounting
 Pre-School Education
 Elementary Education
 Animal Shelter
 Animal Shelter
 Law Enforcement
 Law Enforcement
 Construction
 Dental Hygienist
 Elementary Teacher
 Medical Field
 Physical Therapy
 Vet Assistant
 Mentally Disabled Teacher
 Dental Hygienist
 Astrophysics
 Cosmetology
 Dental Hygienist
 Radio/DJ
 Water Treatment
 Psychology/Counseling
 Engineering
 Business/Mgmt.
 Dental Hygienist
 Law Enforcement
 Vet Assistant
 Lawyer

Location:

Tangles Styling Salon
 ABC Academy
 Willis & Jurasek
 Gaide Veterinary Hospital
 Western Middle School
 Garcia Clinical Lab
 Comerica (Napoleon)
 Jackson Co. Family Indepen. Agency
 Design Exchange
 TLC Eye Care
 Hirst Electric Co.
 Center for Sight
 Classic Images
 Willis & Jurasek
 Tangles Styling Salon
 Townsend Elementary
 Willis & Jurasek
 ABC Academy
 Townsend Elementary
 Cascade Humane Society
 Cascade Humane Society
 Jackson County Sheriff's Dept.
 Jackson County Sheriff's Dept.
 Randy VanEpps
 Dr. Rando's Dentist Office
 Townsend Elementary
 Garcia Lab
 Footworks Outpatient
 Kibby Park Animal Hospital
 Ackerson Lake PPI Room
 Dr. Rando's Dentist Office
 Hurst Planetarium
 Tangles Styling Salon
 Dr. Rando Dentist Office
 105.3 Radio Station
 Jackson Co. Water Treatment Plant
 Jackson Co. Family Indep. Agency
 Eaton Aeroquip Co.
 Willbee Transit Mix
 Dr. Rando's Dentist Office
 Jackson Co. Sheriff's Dept.
 Gaide Veterinary Hospital
 Eric White's Law Office

Job Shadowing at Vandercook Lake High School

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Women In Sports

5th and 6th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament

The weekend of February 2, 3, and 4, the Vandercook Lake Athletic Boosters hosted 35 fifth and sixth grade basketball teams. The fifth grade played in the new middle school gym, while the sixth grade played in the high school gym. All proceeds go directly into uniforms and facilities for all of our athletes. A big thank you should go to the varsity girls and boys basketball players that helped out along with Randy Straub, Jeff McDaniels, and Dave Negus. The weekend was a huge success.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association designated the first week in February as "Women in Sports Week". High schools are encouraged to honor women who had been positively influenced by high school athletics. Vandercook Lake has had many outstanding women who are eligible for this award.

This year's award goes to Holly Baumgartner. Holly was a 1992 graduate. In her high school career, she ran cross country, track, and played volleyball. She was also "Academic All State".

After high school she attended Central Michigan University where she received her B.S. degree and is presently working on her masters degree. She is now employed at the University of Ohio.

Holly is most deserving of this award.

Annual Blood Drive

March 15

The Vandercook Lake Student Council is hosting its annual Blood Drive on Friday, March 15, 2002, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. This is an excellent opportunity for our community to give the gift of life. Call the high school at 782-8167 for an appointment or stop by during blood drive hours.

Ms. Holly Baumgartner

Special Millage Election - April 22, 2002

The Vandercook Lake Public Schools will be holding a special millage election on April 22, 2002. The polls shall be open from 7:00 o'clock a.m. until 8:00 o'clock p.m. The voting poll will be located in the Vandercook Lake High School, 1000 Golf Avenue, Jackson, Michigan. This special election will be for the purpose of renewing the millage currently being collected from non-homestead property only. The current law states that eighteen mills can be collected on non-homestead property. This millage would only be levied on property that is not your residence. This would include business property and other similar situations.

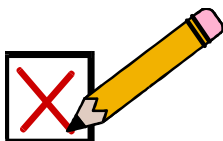
The request will permit the school district to collect the full eighteen mills, which will be subject to any rollback required by the Headlee Amendment. A positive vote on the issue will enable the district to receive full advantage of the millage request. **It is important to remember that this will not increase any millage on your homestead property. The millage is only applied to non-homestead property.**

The following proposition will be submitted to the vote of the electors at the Special School Election:

OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL NON-HOMESTEAD & NON-QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY TAX

This millage will allow the School District to levy not more than statutory rate of 18 mills against non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural property required for the School District to receive its revenue per pupil foundation guarantee.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, excepting homestead and qualified agricultural property, in Vandercook Lake Public Schools, Jackson County, Michigan, be increased by 18 mills (\$18.00 on each \$1000 of taxable value) for a period of 5 years, 2002 through 2006, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes, such increase being a renewal of 17.691 mills which expired with the 2001 tax levy and an authorization of 0.309 of 1 new additional mill (the estimated amount of revenue that will be collected in calendar year 2002 if said 18 mills is authorized and levied is \$419,023, all of which will be disbursed to Vandercook Lake Public Schools.)?



Vote on Monday, April 22, 2002

Kindergarten

All the Kindergarten classes are enjoying science lessons about the senses and changes. They love the hands-on experiments, especially ones that let them blow air into water with a straw or taste different foods to decide if they are sweet, sour or salty.

Prior to Christmas break, the children traveled to the Ella Sharp Museum to enjoy an exhibit of special marionette puppets. They enjoyed a special story, learned how to handle a simple marionette puppet and even got to make a hand puppet of their own to take home!

The children celebrated the 100th day of school on Tuesday, January 29, by doing 100 exercises, licking a lollipop 100 times and creating pattern block designs using 100 blocks. The rooms filled with giggles as they drew pictures of what they would look like when they are 100 years old. One child shared that when she was 100 years old, she will be climbing mountains! We ended the celebration with delicious pancakes like the ones in the story we listened to called, "The Wolf's Chicken Stew".

Kindergarten children in Mrs. Stapley's and Mrs. Elzinga's classes are learning about the ocean. They really enjoyed seeing and handling a real shark's jaw, a horseshoe crab, sea stars, sand dollars, sponges and shells. They love looking at pictures of ocean creatures in books and videos. We plan to do a project to demonstrate the length of the world's largest mammal - the blue whale. Be sure to visit our rooms at Exhibition to share in all we have learned.....Mrs. Elzinga

Preschool Celebrates Valentines Day

Mrs. Barrett's preschool at McDevitt had a very busy Valentines Day. Along with the traditional card and candy exchange and the obligatory sugar-filled party, her students jumped right into the festivities with a "Leukemia Hop for the Cure". After two weeks of taking pledges, the four-year olds hopped, skipped, and ran around the gym at McDevitt for 15 minutes before their party in an effort to raise money for the Leukemia Society. Not only did the kids have a GREAT time and wear off some of their excess energy, they also raised \$535.00 to fight Leukemia! Now that's a sweetheart of a deal and a great reason to celebrate! First thing Tuesday morning the kids wanted to know, "When are we gonna do another hop?" With such four-year old stamina and philanthropic abilities, I hope the answer will be, "soon"!...Mrs. Barrett

COMMUNITY-AS-SCHOOL SENIOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This semester 15 seniors are participating as interns in the Community-As-School Program. They are as follows:

Intern:	Career:	Location:	Community Teacher:
Cassidy, Jason	Photography (retail)	Huron Camera & Video	Mr. Greg Harro
Cassidy, Jason	Photography (studio)	Byerly's Studio	Mr. Greg Harro
Clemons, Kera	Environmental	Dahlem Center	Ms. Susan Larson
Clemons, Kera	Conservation	Jackson Conservation	Ms. Sharon Parker
Dunckel, Rachael	Pediatrics	Dr. Humayan's Office	Ms. Colleen Chadderton
Dunckel, Rachael	Pediatrics	Center for Family Health	Ms. Erin Mazur
Dunckel, Rachael	Pediatrics	Foote Hospital	Ms. Sue Kofflin
Gary, Jasmine	Judge	Jackson Co. Probate Court	Judge Vandercook
Gary, Jamine	Attorney	Prosecutor's Office	Katherine Rezmierski, Atty.
Gorton, Ashley	Physical Therapy	Foote Family Med. Ctr.	Ms. Hanna Newell
Gorton, Ashley	Audiology	Jackson Co. ISD	Mr. Mike Macione
Hancock, Julie	Pre-School Ed	Ackerson Lake School	Ms. Cheryl Rosenau
Rink, Trista	Elementary Ed.	Townsend Elementary	Ms. Sharon Elzinga
Ritson, Laura	Physician's Asst.	Springcrest Family Phys.	Mr. Kevin Taylor
Rose, Ashley	Elementary Ed.	Townsend Elementary	Ms. Colleen Stapley
Sedgman, Erin	Lab Technician	Foote Hospital Laboratory	Ms. Mary Spencer
Spencer, Scott	Orthopaedic Surgery	Dr. Kenyon's Office	Dr. Paul Kenyon
Spencer, Scott	Physical Therapy	Orthopaedic Rehab	Mr. Dave Polson
Stevens, Jennifer	Elementary Ed.	Hunt Elementary	Ms. Maxson
Strohm, Robert	Elementary Ed.	Allen Elementary	Ms. Mardi Raymond
Trousdale, Rebecca	Pre-School Ed.	Ackerson Lake School	Ms. Cheryl Rosenau
Zebarah, Sarah	Elementary Ed.	Hunt Elementary	Ms. Rumler

Community-As-School gives seniors who qualify an opportunity to explore a career on an in-depth level. Through working with professionals in their chosen career area, they discover if this is the career they want to pursue in the future. Finding out if the career is or isn't for them before attending college is an extremely valuable experience. If you would like to know more about the program, please contact Patti Shafer, Program Coordinator, at 782-8167, Ext. 143, or Sue Haney, Curriculum Director, at 782-0342. If you know any of the above Community Teachers, please thank them for supporting Vandercook Lake High School by sponsoring a senior for a semester. They are wonderful mentors for our seniors!

Pictured above are participating CAS students: (L-R) Julie Hancock, Trista Rink, Erin Sedgman, Jasmine Gary, Sarah Zebarah, Rachael Dunckel, Jennifer Stevens, Scott Spencer, Rebecca Trousdale, Robert Strohm, Kneeling: Jason Cassidy, Ashley Rose.
 (Not pictured: Ashley Gorton, Kera Clemons, Laura Ritson)

Middle School News

The seventh and eighth grade middle school students recently finished their MEAP testing. Testing began the week of January 28 and concluded on February 13, 2002. The students were served a complimentary breakfast and were encouraged by the entire middle school staff to do their best on the test. The seventh graders were tested in the areas of reading and writing. The eighth graders were tested in the areas of science, social studies and math. The sixth grade students wrote letters of encouragement to the students who were taking the test and displayed them on the bulletin in the hallway.

Last month, the middle school purchased three bulletin boards, which are located on the wall across from the office. One of the bulletin boards proudly displays the names of the Honor Roll students. The second bulletin board recognizes the middle school Students of the Month, and the third displays the student birthdays during the month. Also, we have a fantastic new electronic message board, which displays up-coming events.

For more information about all the exciting and educational activities taking place at Vandercook Lake Middle School, please ask your children to bring home their copy of the Middle School Journal. Every third Friday, Mr. Gass's Journalism class produces an exceptional new paper, which displays wonderful photography and thought-provoking articles.

March is Parenting Awareness Month

Good parenting includes.....

1. Showing children love, concern, and respect at all times.
2. Giving children a safe place to live and play.
3. Helping children express all their feelings appropriately and listening to what they say.
4. Giving children appropriate choices whenever possible.
5. Having reasonable rules that are understood by all.
6. Being responsible and teaching children to be responsible.
7. Spending time with children.
8. Setting an example by what we say and do.
9. Working with our schools and communities to make them better for children.
10. Asking for help when we need it.

1st Grade

Did you know that the “cake walk” originated in Africa? This is one of the many interesting things being taught in the 1st Grades. Units concerning Black History Month, Dental Health Month, penguins, the United States, our February Presidents, friendship and sharing are a few of the many topics being taught.

Guided reading, interactive writing, “publishing” individual and class books are just a few of the things being done in Language Arts. Small group instruction and lots of time to read alone or with a partner are a key element to the success of beginning readers. Practice and lots of it is so important.

In Math, a strategy called “CGI” (Cognitively Guided Instruction) is being incorporated in the teaching of math. This strategy allows and encourages the students to think through what a problem is saying and then decide how to solve it. The children are using a variety of manipulatives, such as Unifix cubes, colored chips, Base 10 blocks, rulers and clocks to work through the process. A key part of the program is allowing time for the children to explore and then explain their answers. The children quickly learn that there is more than one way to come up with the same answer. It is truly amazing to see the excitement they show and the complexity of problem solving that goes on.

In Science, not only are the children learning from a text about animals, weather, plants, the seasons and health, but they also are learning from two kits called, “Water Works” and “Measuring and Sorting”. The kits are a “hands-on” format which allows for experiments and for the children the opportunity to predict the outcome of the experiments. The children have really enjoyed learning Science this year.

As you can see, our 1st Grades are a busy place to be. “There’s never a dull moment!”Mrs. Rininger

5th Grade

The second semester has started off with a bang for the 5th Grade classes this year! Students are getting excited about and planning for the MEAP tests they are about to take. The 5th Graders take the writing, social studies and science portions of the MEAP.

While preparing for the MEAP test, the 5th Graders have had many exciting, enthusiastic and wonderful activities planned to motivate them toward doing their absolute best on these tests. They’ve had a “kick off” breakfast, MEAP T-shirts, a motivational assembly, and younger classrooms cheering them on with letters and treats!

The 5th Graders would like to thank all of the people who have helped make our MEAP test festivities a success.....Mr. VanEpps

2nd Grade

The 2nd Grade is off and running with cursive handwriting. They are very excited to learn how to form their letters.

We are now in our second anthology and looking forward to some wonderful stories.

A field trip to the Jackson Citizen Patriot is in March. This allows us the opportunity to see the writing process in action.

Dinosaurs are what the 2nd Grade will be exhibiting at the Celebration of Learning night. We hope that everyone will come and see what we have learned.....Mrs. Higgins

Easter Egg Hunt

The fifth annual Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 2002. The high school Student Council is planning this exciting and fun event. It will be held at Townsend School.

3rd Grade

Much like the world we live in, there's never an idle moment in Townsend's 3rd Grade classrooms. Students are applying their reading skills to learn about people, places, history and science as reading occupies all "extra time" gaps in the school day. The Accelerated Reader computer quizzes prove to be rewarding as students acquire points and personal pride in their reading achievements.

In addition, teachers contribute by developing the students' reading, writing and reporting skills by introducing them to aspects of research. Now students can write reports about natural disasters, cultural diversity in cooking and biographies honoring African Americans. To supplement the written word, classrooms have been creating models of disasters, cooking and tasting ethnic foods, and watching biographies and natural disasters on video.

Science has become a favorite subject for many students this year. Classes are using new "hands-on" materials, which makes learning a first hand, fun experience. The 3rd Grade curriculum explores sound and matter. Investigations about sound include making model eardrums and using hand-made instruments to show differences in pitch, volume and frequency. Experiments on matter include using water displacement to measure the volume of irregular shaped objects and using primer balances to measure the mass of solids, liquids and gasses.

Within the next month, students will formally be introduced to multiplication. It will be exciting when students realize they have already been multiplying every time they put groups of things together. Parents, get ready for multiplication flashcards and times table charts!

You realize the year is going quickly when the last "official" school party has been celebrated. Classmates enjoyed reading the lively Valentine messages, selected oh so appropriately, by their friends. Soon the Valentine decorations will come down, only to make room for the next batch of handmade designs. Could it be that summer's not far off?.....Mrs. Jones

4th Grade

Just ask any 4th Grade student what is on their mind these days and they will tell you ... MEAP, MEAP, MEAP! Our 4th Grade students have been working hard and doing a tremendous job of giving this year's MEAP test their best effort. Fourth Graders take the math and reading tests. In reward for working so hard, all 4th and 5th Grade classes will be going roller skating at All Skate to celebrate a job well done. They have earned it! Special recognition goes to 4th Grader Alan Cropsey in Mr. Snyder's class for drawing the design that is on the 4th Grade MEAP T-shirts.

Last semester, 4th Grade students spent much time preparing for their music program that was held on January 15. Fourth Graders displayed their patriotism through song, instruments and sign language. They reminded us of the core democratic values and the freedom we are so privileged to experience here in America. Thank you to Mrs. Childs for all the hard work she put into the music program this year!

Looking forward to what lies ahead, all 4th Grade classes will be taking a field trip to the Dahlem Center in March. They will be experiencing first hand how maple sugar and maple syrup are made! (Dahlem Center should watch out for Miss Grant, Mrs. Gleed and Mrs. Cripe. They have an incurable case of the sweet tooth.)

All of us here in 4th Grade are off to a great start this second semester. We are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Our 4th Graders are slowly on their way to becoming...5TH GRADERS!.....Mrs. Cripe

Townsend Student Wins Jackson Transportation Art Contest

The Jackson Transportation Authority celebrated National Transportation Week in November, by having 2nd through 4th Grade students draw pictures of transportation to hang in their terminal. Amberleigh Varney, a 3rd Grader in Miss Waite's room, won the art contest for the 3rd Grade. She received her winning drawing back in an oak frame and also a \$50.00 savings bond. She drew a picture of an airplane with the words USA on the side. We are very proud of Amberleigh at Townsend Elementary School.

Amberleigh Varney and Mr. Chilcote display Amberleigh's winning framed artwork.

I.A.A.M. Donates New Books to Townsend School Library

Mr. John Eicher, representing the Independent Accountants Association of Michigan, donated several new books to and visited the Townsend School Library, when the books were presented. He showed the children how to take care of a new book so that the binding is not damaged. The children and staff of Townsend School appreciate their generous donation. Thank you, Mr. Eicher and the Independent Accountants Association of Michigan, for supporting our school library.Mrs. Taylor, Media Specialist/Librarian

Mr. John Eicher of IAMM shows fourth grader, Joshua Lowe, how to care for a new book, while Casey Lawrence and Ryan Donner enjoy reading some of the new books.

“Type to Learn at Townsend”

Type to Learn is a computer-keyboarding program that is being used to teach the 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade students at Townsend. The program is taught in a cycle using its four activities:

1. New Frontiers: is the main part of the program. There are 22 lessons. Each lesson introduces new letters, numbers, punctuation and action keys. The 5th Graders have the keyboard covered so they can memorize the keyboard.

Third and Fourth Graders have the keyboard covered during review which comes after every two lessons to help reinforce their memorization of the keyboard.

2. Games: are typing exercises. They learn sign language, names of countries, states and the planets.
3. Warp Speed: typing words and sentences to see how many words per minute they can type.
4. Note Pad: is a word processing program. The children make up stories using their typing skills. I print their stories when they are finished and hang them on the wall in the computer lab with their picture attached. The children are very fast learners. I'm proud of each of them. They're doing a wonderful job!.....Mrs. Cichy

Guided Reading: What Is It?

At conference time, your child's teacher may discuss with you the problem-solving strategies he or she observes your youngster using during guided reading. What is guided reading and why is it an efficient use of instructional time?

To explain what guided reading is, it may be helpful to articulate what it is not. Guided reading is not “round-robin” reading where children take turns. Grouping of children is not static, but changes according to instructional need. Guided reading lessons are brief (10-20 minutes) small group lessons with a carefully-chosen text. After introducing the text, the teacher observes all children reading simultaneously and briefly interacts to prompt students to use available strategies to make meaning. After reading, the teacher demonstrates and explicitly teaches strategies children need to use in their independent reading.

Guided reading is an efficient use of instructional time. The children are actively involved in the process from beginning to end, as the teacher has selected a text just right for that group of readers. The teacher observes and records the strategies the readers are using. She uses this information to plan for subsequent lessons, giving the students the support they need to become independent problem solvers.

The teaching of reading has changed greatly since we adults were beginning readers. There is a wealth of research available to teachers that shows effective teaching practices. It is our challenge as literacy educators to find efficient ways to support our young readers as they become fluent readers.....Mrs. Osypczuk, Reading Recovery/Literacy

YEAR END CALENDAR - 2001-2002

March	6	Parent Teacher Conferences 7-9:00 pm
	7	Parent Teacher Conferences 1-4; 7-9:00 pm; 1/2 Day of School
	8	1/2 Day of School
	11	Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 p.m.
	15	Blood Drive - High School
	23	Academic Games
	26-30	Band Trip to New York
	29	Good Friday - No School
	30	Easter Egg Hunt
	April	1-5
15		Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm.
18		Exhibition of Learning 7-9:00 pm
May	4	Prom
	6,7,8	Kindergarten Round-up
	13	Board Meeting - HS Library - 6:00 pm.
	13	5th Grade Orientation 8-9:30 pm
	14	Spring Middle School Band/Choir Concert 7:30 pm
	14	5th Grade Parent Orientation 6:30 pm
	21	High School Band/Choir Concert 7:30 pm
	22	Senior Dessert 6:30 pm
	22	High School Awards 7:30 pm
	23	Track Awards 6:30 pm
	24	1/2 Day School
	27	Memorial Day - No School
	28	6th and 7th Grade Awards 1:30 pm, 8th Grade Awards 6:30 pm
	29	Baseball, Softball Dessert 6:30 pm
June	2	Baccalaureate
	3	Commencement - Potter Center 8:00 pm
	3,4,5,6	Exams
	5-6	1/2 Days of School
	6	Last Day for Students

Holiday Book Fair at Townsend School

Townsend School Library held a Holiday Book Fair in December 2001. We want to thank all who participated and worked during the fair. The Library will receive new books, books on tape and author videos to add to our library collection. We are planning another event for May 2002. See you there!.....Mrs. Taylor, Media Specialist/Librarian

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