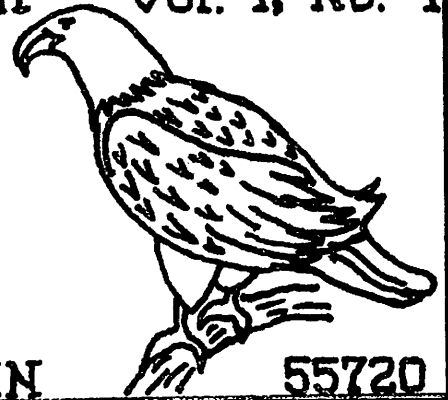




# OJIBWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December 1989 Cloquet, MN

55720

## Merry Christmas

Christmas will soon be here and for some time now the signs of Christmas have been all around us. Have you ever wondered where some of the Christmas symbols got their origins? Santa Claus, the Christmas tree, the star, lights, and Christmas cards are all common symbols to most of us. These items have interesting origins and some have changed from what they once represented.

Santa Claus is an American invention. His name was derived from early Dutch settlers in New York who called Saint Nicholas, Sinterklaas. As Sinterklaas grew in popularity in the new America, he began to take on some nonreligious characteristics like the English Father Christmas. Some of the characteristics of Santa date back quite a few centuries. For example, the belief that Santa entered the house from the chimney grew out of an old Norse legend which believed that the goddess Hertha appeared in the fireplace and brought good luck into the home.

The first description of Santa appeared in the late 1800's. Thomas Nast did a series of cartoons that established Santa as the big, roly-poly figure we know him as today. And a poem by Clement C. Moore, " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas", described Santa's fur-trimmed suit and his sleigh pulled by reindeer.

The Christmas tree has quite another story behind it. It seems that many legends have tried to account for the tree. According to

one legend, an English Missionary named Winfrid saved a young prince's life by freeing him from a large oak tree which was about to be set on fire. After the prince was set free, Winfrid cut the tree down and suggested that the people use the wood to build new homes and shelter for their animals. A new tree soon grew where the old tree once stood. Winfrid told the people that the new tree was to be their new holy tree because it provided them with wood, it provided them safety, and it was the tree of Christ. In time, this German legend began to take on new and different interpretations. People began decorating trees on their property. Soon people began to bring the tree indoors. The evergreen tree was the most common to decorate.

The star is used everywhere as a Christmas symbol. It is used because it represents the Star in the East mentioned in the Bible. The three wise men followed the Star to locate Jesus.

Lights have been used at Christmas to represent Christ as the Light of the World. The light is used in ceremonies to light the way for the newborn King on Christmas Eve.

Christmas cards are a fairly new invention and were first introduced in 1843. Cards became popular because they were handwritten notes which people could exchange with one another. Today millions of people exchange cards and the card industry has become a big business.

Christmas symbols are all around us! Santa Claus, the tree,

(symbols cont'd)

the star, and Christmas lights are familiar signs during the Christmas Season. Can you think of more symbols that we use during this special season? If so, do you know the origins of them? It might surprise you to learn their origins. Enjoy the symbols, and of course, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (World Book Encyclopedia., "Christmas Around the World", Robert J. Myers., Vol.3.PP 415-16.)

## Seasons Greetings From Headstart!

We have been very busy the past few weeks preparing for Christmas. Soon, we will begin baking Christmas cookies, making popcorn balls, and decorating our Christmas tree.

Our Christmas Program will be held on December 21. It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner! Our children have been working very hard preparing for the festivities. We will be dressed as angels. Everyone is invited to join our celebration; we will also have a pot luck dinner! Please contact us for more information.

Everyone who made the sliding trip to Pine Hurst Park had a great time. A special thank you is extended to Vicky Price and Monica Kovack for all their help. Thanks again!

On December 7 we visited the Depot in Duluth. We learned how people all over the world celebrate Christmas. It was a very educational trip!

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Head Start Staff

## News From 3&4 Grade

We are very busy! December is normally a busy month, but this year it seems extra busy. Amongst all the excitement of Christmas decorating, planning our Christmas party, and preparing for our Christmas program, we still are deeply involved with our classroom studies!

On Friday December 8, one of the reading groups performed the play Finn McCool. The play was attended by parents, staff, and some students.

In science we are in the middle of a unit on the Solar System. The students are busy making folders and will use them when they gather information on various planets.

In social studies we are busy learning about the continents. Presently, we are in the middle of studying Africa and South America. For English, we have been studying letter writing, and on Friday we traveled to the Duluth Post Office to mail our letters. Students learned to write effective letters and also learned information concerning the Post Office.

We also received classroom calculators which caused quite a lot of excitement. Students in grades 3 and 4 are sure an eager group of learners!

We have a jar in our room that we are filling with colored cubes. When students demonstrate exceptional behavior, a cube is added to the jar. Soon, the jar will be filled. At this time we will reward the students with a trip to MacArther West Elementary School in Duluth so they can go swimming. The jar will be filled before Christmas!

As you can see, we are extremely busy. But we're not too busy to welcome you to our classroom so you can watch some of our activities! Please stop in and visit us.

Lisa Pincombe  
Students from Grades 3&4

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.

## Kindergarten News

What's going on in kindergarten? The month of December has been extremely busy. We started off the month by making homemade ornaments for our classroom Christmas tree. From there we began preparing for our Christmas program and Open House on December 20. The students have been practicing their songs and have been constructing a gingerbread village as a cooperation project which will be on display for parents who come to Open House.

Christmas gifts for parents were handmade by the students; the Christmas wrapping paper was also made by the students. The Christmas gifts will be presented to the parents after the Christmas program during Open House.

Our classroom Christmas party will be held on December 20 in the afternoon. We will play games, serve treats, watch Christmas videos, and exchange and open gifts.

To top-off the month and the holiday season, the kindergarten students will be joining the rest of the elementary school for caroling through the halls of the RBC. We will also entertain the elders in the Elderly Nutrition Program on December 21.

All of us wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!

Mrs. J.

## Staff Attends Effective Schools Training

On Sunday, December 3, Patti Goward, School Board Member; Frances Wabaunsee, teacher; and Marlys Kilen, administrator; traveled to sunny (72 degrees!) Dever, Colorado for a three-day Effective Schools Training session. The session was sponsored by the Bureau Effective Schools Team (BEST). It was an awareness and orientation session for representatives from Phase II selected schools pursuing the Effective Schools Research framework for long-range school improvement.

If you are not aware, our own Fond du Lac Ojibway School is one of twelve schools selected as Phase II (renamed BEST-2) Effective Schools participants, along with five schools from New Mexico, one from Florida, two from South Dakota, two from Arizona, and one from Wisconsin.

According to Beverly A. Bancroft, the workshop facilitator and trainer, the correlates of Effective Schools are those characteristics, which, when they are strongly present in the aggregate, have either an influential cause or effect on desired student outcomes within the school.

In an Effective School, there is evidence of the following correlates or characteristics: (1) instructional leadership; (2) climate of high expectations for success on the part of staff; (3) safe and orderly environment; (4) supportive home/school-community relations; (5) opportunity to learn and student time-on-task; (6) frequent monitoring of student progress; and (7) a clear focused mission.

It is toward these correlates, then, that we continue to direct our efforts in maintaining and improving our status as an Effective School, and there are many steps, of course, that will have to be taken in this long-range school improvement effort and commitment. Of utmost importance to remember in this endeavor is that it is a "team" effort and that it does require "time"; it's not something that can be accomplished overnight.

One main school improvement leadership team will be established and sub-committees formed perhaps for each of the correlates that we choose to work on at this time. It was suggested that the composition of the main School Improvement Planning Team (or whatever we choose to name ourselves) include: the principal, a cross representation of teachers, parent representation, central office personnel, and students on the high school level. All persons interested should contact Principal

(effective schools cont'd)

Phil Minkinen as soon as possible. We are seeking members and we would like to get the "show on the road!"

Betty Walker, our Area Education Programs Administrator, was the program coordinator for this Effective Schools Training workshop.

by Marlys Kilen

## A Technicolor Event...

Recently, the seventh grade chemistry students began a study of the details of elements. As a part of their lab experience, various metal salts were burned as a study of how elements can be identified by flame color. The class has given some thought to the making of fire logs to use during the holiday season.

## Quiet on the Set!

Quiet on the set! As part of the study of hydrology and pollution, the twelfth grade Environmental Science class has been busy researching and planning a video tape on water resources and uses in our area. Planned already are trips to Jay Cooke State Park, WDIO television station, and Western Lake Sewer and Sanitation Department. The video should be filmed, edited, and ready for its grand opening by Christmas break.

## Star Gazers

The Earth Science class, as part of its space study unit, recently discovered how individual stars are identified. By using a spectroscope and matching light patterns, the eighth grade class discovered that each light source (star) has a rainbow of colors that look like fingerprints!

Did you know that deserts are often so hot and dry that an unprepared person can die of dehydration within a few hours if they have no access to fresh water!

by Charles Karp

## Health News

Some parents have not been sure when to keep their children at home or whether to send them to school. Below is a list of symptoms that may be helpful to parents. If the child has a fever, sore throat, earache, red, itchy and/or eyes; upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, rashes of unknown origin, pus or drainage from sores, ears or nose.

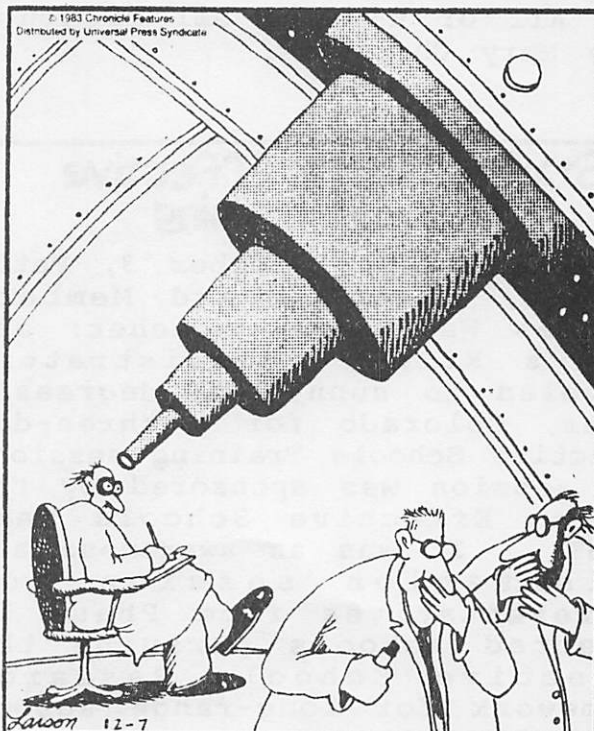
Children should also be kept home if the child develops contagious illnesses such as chickenpox, scabies, impetigo, pinworm, and head lice. If you have any questions on any of these conditions, call your health care provider or the school nurse.

It is alright to send the child to school with a mild cold. Colds are uncomfortable and a nuisance but they are safe.

Thank you, and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year!

Maragret Thilmany  
School Nurse

## The far side



## Fond du Lac History Update

As you may or may not know, I am compiling a history of the Fond du Lac Reservation targeted for grades 10-12. Right now I am writing the draft and doing additional research. Dave Danielson is doing historical research and conducting some oral interviews with Fond du Lac elders which will be included in the book. We draft as soon as it arrives. If all goes well, the final draft will be ready in March. After some proofreading and a thorough critique it will be revised and printed.

Next year an elementary edition will be drafted. Future editions will include photographs like the Mille Lacs and Grand Portage histories.

As with all histories, there are gaps that need to be filled, especially the period from 1940-1970. This history belongs to all of the Fond du Lac people and we welcome any help in documenting it. If you have any historical information such as documents or photographs that we could copy and return to you, or reminiscences you would like to share, we would appreciate hearing from you. Feel free to call me at 879-0241, or stop in at the Education Administration Building for a chat. I will be giving periodical updates in this newsletter and will be asking the community for help in reviewing drafts.

Miigwetch,  
Dan Anderson  
879-0241

## Honor Our Elders Pow Wow

A Feast and Elders Christmas party will be held 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Grand Entry is at 7 p.m. FDL Princess contest will be held for Jr., & Sr. Pow Wow will be held at FDL Gym on December 20. Feast will include; venison, wild rice, fry bread and much more! Lead dancers are Jean Mulder and Ed LaFave.

## Ogichida Enter Writing



### Contest

Recently, a select group of young writers entered the 1989/1990 Young Writer's Contest. The contest was open to grades 1-8. The students who entered are Kimberly Bellanger, grade 8; Becky Norton, grade 7; Ken Fosness, grade 5; and Phil Savage, grade 5.

We wish all these students the best of luck and hope they gain recognition. Students recognized will have their work published in a national anthology along with their peers throughout the nation. We will keep you informed on how the students do. This weeks Newsletter will publish 2 stories from the elementary entries. I know you will appreciate these stories, they are creative and extremely well written.

### Why Bears Hibernate

Phil Savage  
Grade 5



A long time ago bear didn't hibernate. Bear was walking through the woods until he saw something. He went over to it. It was a Deer. He was dead. Bear heard something. It was Grizzly. Grizzly chased Bear around until he caught him and beat him up. Grizzly beat everyone up.

Bear went to his friends and told them what happened. They were mad at Grizzly. They told Bear to stand his ground. When Bear saw Grizzly again, they started to fight. Bear put up a good fight but Grizzly won.

When Bear got back, his friends saw him. He was bloody. They took him to Owl, the wise one and the doctor. The Owl told Bear that Grizzly was no stronger than him. Bear was just scared of Grizzly. Owl sent him out again.

(Bear story cont'd)

When Bear saw Grizzly he jumped behind him and started to fight. Grizzly was winning as usual. Then Bear got mad and roared. Bear started to beat up Grizzly. When they were done, Grizzly was dead. Bear was exhausted so he went to his den and slept till spring. So that is why Bears hibernate.



## How the Rabbit Became the Moon

Ken Fosness  
Grade 5

A long time ago there was no moon. Then the Eagle said, "I need light at night to hunt."

Rabbit said, "Eagle, you fly to the Creator and tell him."

Eagle said, "Creator, may we have light at night?"

The Creator said, "No, I used my power on making the Earth."

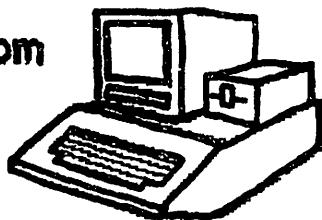
When Eagle got back he said, "No luck."

Rabbit said, "Well, I will ask Mother Sun if we can have a piece of light." Then he climbed the tallest mountain looking for Mother Sun. When he got back he said, "I got too close to Mother Sun, but now I can give light at night to help you hunt."

So Rabbit sleeps in the day and comes out at night. So that's how Rabbit became the moon.

## A Few Words From the Principal

by Phil Minkinen



Here we are at Christmas. This time of year tends to distract everyone: teachers, staff and students alike. The elementary students are busy planning and preparing for their Christmas program. Secondary students are busy practicing and preparing for two Christmas basketball tournaments, one at Red Lake (girls and boys) on December 21, and on December 27-28 in Barnum (boys). The staff are busy trying to stay

on top of all these activities and planning for their own holidays. School will be dismissed on December 21 at 1:15 p.m. for all students. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3 at the normal time. On behalf of the entire staff and student body of the Ojibway School I wish you happy holidays.

The midquarter reports are being completed as I write this. They will be mailed next week. These reports are intended to provide parents an idea as to how their child is doing in each class. Hopefully, this information will draw attention to the child's progress and therefore prevent any last minute surprises (like failing!) If you have questions concerning the report, please call the school.

We have begun to offer two new electives to the junior and seniors (Mammalogy and Graphic Design). Each of these classes are being offered through the Staples Vocational Program which operates on the Reservation. Students will receive high school credit for these classes. We are working with the FDL Community College to develop some more classes for the Gifted and Talented Program. We should complete this the beginning of the second semester.

The Ojibway School has been selected as one of the pilot schools for the BIA Effective Schools Program. Marlys Kilen, Francis Wabaunsee, and Patti Goward recently attended a training session in Denver to begin this program. The next step is to develop an Effective School Team to work on a school improvement plan. This will begin before Christmas and continue throughout the next several years. The goal of this program is to improve the quality of the overall school program.

THE ENTIRE STAFF WOULD  
LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!