

# OJIBWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



September 1990 Cloquet, MN 55720



A Few Words  
From the  
Principal...  
Phil Minkkinen

It's hard to believe that summer is gone, but here we are already entering the third week of classes. There are a lot of new faces here this fall. It's good to see such a large enrollment so early in the school year. We expect that the elementary will be filled to capacity. We expect that the secondary will be filled as well.

There have been a few changes in the school program this year that everyone needs to be aware of; the Ojibway School and Cloquet Public Schools have entered into an agreement which allows Ojibway students to take certain classes through Cloquet. This semester we will be offering Spanish and Home Economics through Cloquet. We have also entered into an agreement with Staples Technical College and will offer Computer Keyboarding, Graphic Arts, and a Natural Resources class to students. These additions have vastly increased the number of available classes to senior high school students.

The school board has placed an increased emphasis on student behavior and conduct. In order to assure a safe and orderly environment in the school, the board will be adopting more strict codes of acceptable behavior as well as a more severe discipline code. Violations of student rules such as

smoking, tardiness, profanity, and disrespectful behavior will result in more severe punishment. It is the board's desire to build the quality of the educational program to a level that is second to none. Attendance guidelines have also been changed to more closely work with social service agencies and the court system in order to keep students in school. The in-school penalties for excessive absenteeism and tardiness to class have also become more strict.

All of these changes are a part of a methodical, long range plan to improve the student's performance behaviorally and academically. These changes conform with the identified needs of the Effective Schools surveys that parents, students, and staff completed last Spring. The Effective School Team will continue it's work this fall to put together an action plan to further improve the school program. More news of this will be coming as the team settles into its task.

Football and volleyball have started this fall. There are 25 boys out for football; it is the largest turnout ever in the history of the team. The volleyball team will have its first year of High School League competition this year. There are about 15 girls on the roster; a schedule of volleyball and football games appears in this newsletter. Please make every attempt to attend games and cheer our young athletes on!

I hope you all have a chance to stop in and visit. We have several new teachers in the school this year who have numerous new and

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interesting ideas to share with students. I would like to meet with you if I haven't yet done so. You are always welcome to visit classes; just stop in the office first.

## Thomas Peacock & Peter Defoe Address FDL Staff

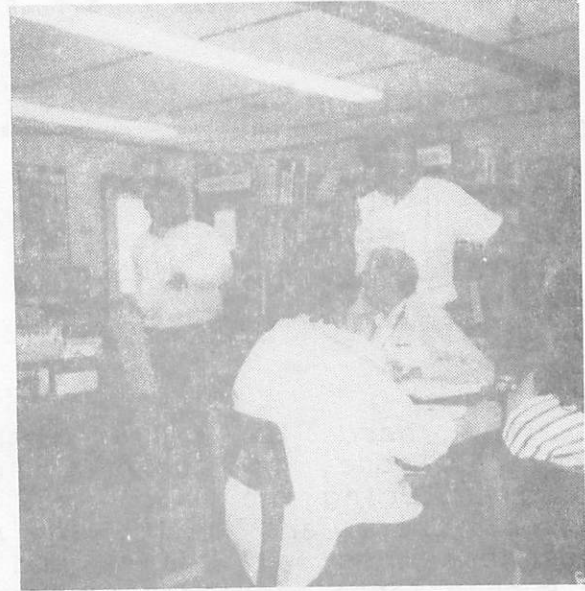
On Wednesday, August 22, Peter Defoe, Secretary Treasurer of the Fond du Lac Business Committee, and Dr. Thomas Peacock, Superintendent of the Ojibway School, addressed returning staff members on recent issues concerning our Reservation.

Peter Defoe presented a brief history of the Reservation; he then discussed the proposed new bingo hall and restaurant complex, planned construction of 30 new homes on the Reservation, and the construction of the Fond du Lac Community College located in Cloquet. Peter also praised the efforts of the State Indian facility located near Big Lake. The drug treatment center or "MASH" has provided a vital service to our Reservation.

Dr. Thomas Peacock presented a brief history of our school, and then commented on some issues that he felt very strongly about. Tom discussed how inter-tribal warfare (bickering and argument) affects the future of the reservation. He mentioned that this "cycle must be changed" if we are to obtain success, and that "we are our greatest enemy." Tom also mentioned that staff often become targets of anger created largely from a disgruntled and frustrated community.

Tom discussed the advent of telecommunications and how our school would benefit through its incorporation. Telecommunications would virtually bring the whole world into contact with any given classroom. Tom also spoke about the reconstruction efforts now taking place in our school; he said that if we do not make the necessary improvements our school would soon become a "shanty town."

Tom discussed how education has become a game of survival through competition and how we now share classes with Cloquet and Carlton. We now offer electives like Spanish, keyboarding, Home Economics, graphic arts and natural resources classes. "We are committed to academic



(Above: Thomas Peacock and Peter Defoe address FDL staff)

excellence," said Tom, "and we have high expectations for all of our youth."

According to Tom our school board has been invested with much more power than they had in the past. The board now makes strong decisions which directly concern our school, and they no longer serve as advisors. All decisions concerning the school must now go through the board. Discipline is one area that the board is currently focusing on.

## Andrea & Melanie Join FDL Staff!

Andrea Pokrzywinski and Melanie L. Depoe have joined the Fond du Lac Ojibway School teaching staff. Andrea will teach the sciences, and Melanie is our new early childhood specialist.

Andrea graduated from Ashland Northland College, and has taught in Eau Claire and in Northland College, both are located in Wisconsin.

spend time with students on various other science projects which will take them out of the classroom.

Andrea enjoys a great many outdoor activities including hiking, and camping. She is full of energy, and a visit to her classroom during class demonstrates how excited and willing she is to share her knowledge. Welcome to our school, Andrea!



(Above: Andrea Pokrzywinski)

Melanie L. Depoe graduate from the College of St. Scholastica in May of 1990. Majoring in Elementary Education and Multidisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Indian Studies, Melanie is one of the first teachers in the State of Minnesota to obtain licensure in Ojibwe Bilingual/Bicultural Education. Melanie has 2 daughters; Megan, age 6, and Kaylin, age 2, and they reside in Cloquet. She is currently making plans to be wed, congratulations, Mel, good luck!

Melanie's interests include almost all outdoor activities, she is after all a local girl having grown-up in the Duluth-Cloquet area. It was always Melanie's intention to be of service to her people on the Reservation, and to achieve her goal she has chosen to teach our children. We are fortunate to have



(Above: Melanie L. Depoe)

### School Nurse: seeing & hearing checks to be conducted...

Welcome back to the Ojibway School! Children who see and hear well have better opportunities to learn well. Hearing and vision screenings will be conducted for all elementary students and seventh and tenth graders by the end of September. Parents will be notified of the results of these tests.

If you have any concerns about a student who is not being screened, please notify me and I will screen them.

There have been reports of an outbreak of head lice in the immediate community. Please observe your children and refer them to me if you notice: live lice, nits, or suspicious head scratching. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Fond du Lac Reservation 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.

## Minnesota State High School League Approves

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota State High School League on August 23, 1990, approval was granted on the student participation plan between Cloquet High School and Fond du Lac Ojibway School. In a letter sent to Superintendents Thomas Peacock, Ojibway School, and Russell Smith, Cloquet Public Schools, the Board approved the plan under the following conditions:

- (1) Approval is granted on a trial basis for one year only, the 1990-91 school year. The basis of the plan is to provide an opportunity for Native American students.
- (2) Data will be gathered and presented to the Board of Directors at its June 1991 meeting summarizing the effectiveness of the plan.
- (3) Native American students must choose all programs at Fond du Lac and will not be able to pick and choose between Cloquet High School and the Fond du Lac Ojibway School.
- (4) Cooperatively sponsored activities for the spring of 1991 will be applied for by November 15, 1990.

## A.I.S.E.S. NEWS

by James Couture

When I arrived in California I was met by an A.I.S.E.S. (American Indian Science and Engineering Studies) advocate who provided transportation to the dormitories at California State University, Long Beach. I arrived early and the rest of the participants were not scheduled to arrive until later that day or even the next day.

After I got situated in my room and all unpacked, I wandered around the campus. Later that evening, I attended a welcoming reception where we received an honor song and gifts. The gifts included notebooks, paper,

pencils, and binder type folders. I think they were buttering us up for all the work to come! We were also informed of the rules, and then we were treated to a meal.

The next day we got up early, ate breakfast, and then attended our first classes where we took our first pretests in entry level mathematics, and English placement. In the following four weeks, we had classes Monday through Friday. Each day was filled with classes. Some of these included algebra, calculus, computer science, career explorations, engineering, effective skills and tutoring. We also had physical activities like soccer, frisbee, and football.

The idea of getting up early in the morning and attending classes took a little time to get used to, but it was worth it because on weekends we'd go to the beach and swim, tan, and watch girls! We also went to Disney Land, Magic Mountain just outside Los Angeles, attended two Pow-Wows, and went shopping at the malls.

All the while I was there I met some wonderful people. We exchanged addresses and plan to keep in touch. I really look forward to next year because I'm going to return to the same program to continue my internship. The program may be held in a new location, perhaps Hawaii!

I'm glad I had the opportunity to participate in the A.I.S.E.S. program. I would like to thank my teachers, the R.B.C., and all other people who made my trip possible. Thank You!

## FDL attends cultural awareness workshop

On August 24, 1990, Ojibway staff attended an inservice on Cultural Sensitivity in Education which was instructed by Candace Barnack, communications instructor for Fond du Lac Community College.

Objectives of the inservice included: understanding how important a concept in cultural sensitivity is to communication in the classroom; how cultural

awareness increases our desire to communicate across cultural boundaries in education; how cultural variances and variables relate to communication difficulties in the educational environment; and the importance of developing competent communication skills to promote the act of understanding and being understood by all people.



(Above: Dale, Marlys, Frances and Mary listen to Candace's message)

In order to be more positive and effective teachers in education it is vitally important to become aware of differences that all students possess. We must realize their similarities, respect their attitudes, beliefs and values; honor, listen and accept them all.

Candace's message on cultural sensitivity was sent loud and clear: our children come to us with great expectations, each one is special, each one deserves to be treated with a strong dose of sensitivity--cultural sensitivity.

### No Asbestos found at FDL Ojibway School...

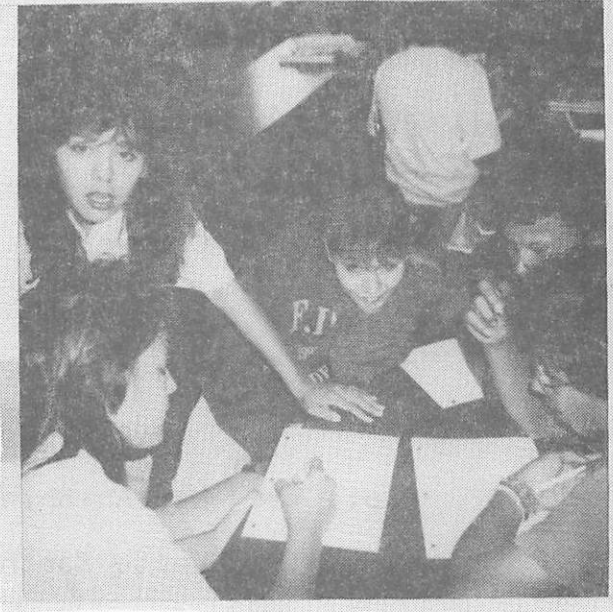
To: All Parents  
From: Phil Minkinen  
Principal

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires that all public school buildings be inspected or re-inspected for the

presence of asbestos every three years after a management plan is in effect. This same statute also requires annual notifications of the availability of a management plan which outlines the steps to be taken to eliminate the hazard. We here at the school are very willing to comply with this statute because of our great concern for the well-being of your children. This plan is available for public review in the Education Administration office during normal business hours.

As a result of the building survey of January 16, 1989, we are pleased to announce that the Ojibway School buildings contain no asbestos.

Should you have any questions, please call Education Administration at 879-0241.



(Above: ninth grade students working together in writing)

Students in the Ojibway School English classes are doing more writing!

Writing is one of the truest measures of one's ability. Students are expected to complete a variety of writing assignments, and a majority of these lessons demand that the student develop and exercise sound research skills. Students then must take their writing drafts to the keyboards and word processors. We are impressed with their writing talents, and we plan to share some of their papers with you in the future.

# OGICHIDA FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULES

Listed below are the upcoming games for both football and volleyball. Something interesting and exciting is happening at the Fond du Lac Reservation Ojibway School. Students are showing up in large numbers to participate in our sports programs. The coaches are excited, the students are excited, and that excitement is showing-up at games that we have already completed!

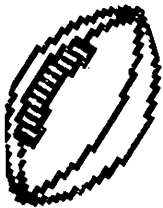
The volleyball team is off to a

great start--in their first game they defeated Nay-Ah-Shing, and we expect Dales' and Keiths' lady Warriors will win a great many more games because they like the taste of victory!

The Ogichida Football team is coming off an impressive showing which featured 3 touchdowns by the air and another on a 20 yard run. Come see for yourself what our young athletes are beginning to realize: we can win if we believe we can!

## 1990 Ogichida Football Schedule

Aug. 31,	L/Fork Bigfalls.....	Away
Sept. 7,	Bigfork.....	Home
Sept. 14,	Hill City.....	Home
Sept. 21,	Wrenshall.....	Away
Sept. 28,	Cromwell.....	Home
Oct. 5,	Floodwood.....	Away
Oct. 12,	Tower.....	Home



## 1990-91 Ogichida Volleyball Schedule

Sept. 11,	Nay-Ah-Shing.....	Here...3:00 p.m.
Sept. 18,	White Earth.....	Here...3:00 p.m.
Sept. 20,	Grand Marais.....	There..6:00 p.m.
Sept. 25,	Bug School.....	Here...3:00 p.m.
Sept. 27,	Red Lake.....	There..3:00 p.m.
Oct. 2,	Bug School.....	There..3:00 p.m.
Oct. 4,	Nay-Ah-Shing.....	There..1:00 p.m.
Oct. 9,	White Earth.....	There..1:00 p.m.
Oct. 11,	Silver Bay.....	There..6:00 p.m.
Oct. 16,	Wrenshall.....	There..6:00 p.m.
Oct. 17,	Red Lake.....	Here...3:30 p.m.

