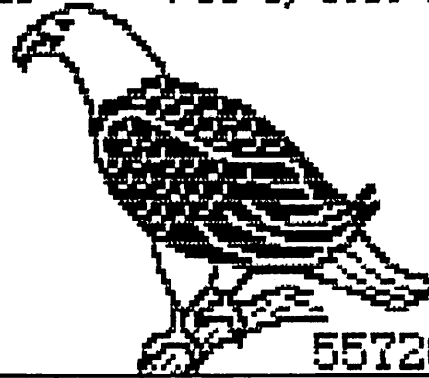


OJIBWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 1990 Cloquet, MN



55720



A Few Words

From the
Principal...

Phil Minkkinen

The first month of school has passed by, full of activities and new faces. The total enrollment of the school is 185 students. That represents a significant increase from last years enrollment count. The teachers are busy preparing mid-quarter reports for all students. These reports are intended to provide parents with information about the progress of children in school.

We have received the results of last springs California Achievement Tests (CAT). The overall scores reveal that students of the Ojibway School continue to improve in all areas tested and measured by the standardized test. All parents will be mailed the results of the test. If you have questions or concerns regarding the test, please feel free to call the school for an explanation.

The school is continuing to develop practical strategies for the Effective Schools Program. We have recently completed the needs assessment survey and discovered that an overwhelming majority of parents surveyed think the school is doing a fine job of educating students. The surveys also indicated areas that needed attention and improvement. These areas will be focused on in more detail in future Newsletters as the SET committee addresses them.

The north portion of our school is currently being remodelled. The construction should be done by the end of this month. Because of the loss of space, we are all very crowded. I know that everyone will be glad when the construction is finally complete and we can return to our normal classrooms.

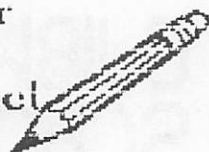
Minkkinen & Peacock Attend Chapter 1 Meeting

Earlier this month, Tom Peacock and Phil Minkkinen attended a Chapter One meeting held in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The purpose of the meeting was to provide accurate information to schools concerning the BIA's Chapter One Program. Discussion on recent changes of federal law and requirements on the Chapter One Program and shifting expectations of the Department of Education toward BIA funded schools was also addressed. William Bell of the office of Indian Education Programs in Washington D.C. presented all information at the meeting.

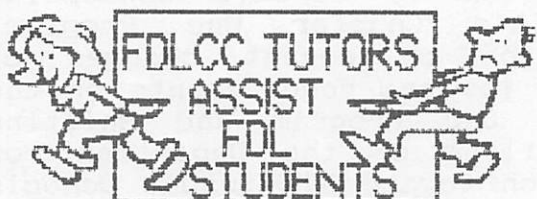
Other schools attending the meeting in Green Bay included Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa School, Nay-Ah-Shing, Oneida Tribal School, Hannahville Indian School, Sac and Fox Settlement School, Chief Bug O Nay Ge Shig School, and the Menominee School.

October is Domestic
Violence Awareness
Month

Juniors enter INROADS Writing project



(Pictured above from left to right: Lisa Fox, Toni Fox and Opitchee Aubid. These three young writers are responsible for the high school newspaper. They are taking journalism this year with Keith Levinski.



The Ojibway School and Fond du Lac Community College have recently entered into a Ojibwe Specialists Tutoring Program. Approximately eight to ten college students will be coming to the Ojibway School for about two hours a week each and will be tutoring students in grades k-6. The tutors will concentrate in Ojibwe Language and culture areas. Durae Turpin is the coordinator of the tutoring project; we feel excited and optimistic about the program and feel the rewards will benefit both student and tutor alike.

Open doors: Read!

Missy Greensky and Toni Fox, both Juniors in the Ojibway School, are participating in the INROADS: WRITERS OF COLOR writing project. The writing project, presently in its second year, is a Loft mentor program that invites emerging writers from Native American, African-American, Hispanic/Chicano and Asian communities to participate in an eight-week program of seminars, individual conferences and public readings led by local authors who share their racial and cultural identity. INROADS Native American mentor Jim Northrup, local author of numerous published literature, will work with our young writers if they are selected for participation in the writing project.

Deadline for entries for Native American writers is Friday, November 30. Missy and Toni are submitting a selection of poems for review. We are confident that both Missy and Toni possess special writing talents which will be recognized by the Loft committee. If selected the young authors will receive stipends of \$200 to help cover the costs of attending the writing seminars. Good luck young authors, and we wish you success!

Chapter 1 Program Update

WHAT IS THE CHAPTER ONE PROGRAM?

The Chapter One Program is a federally funded program which provides supplemental educational services to meet the special educational needs of students whose educational attainment is below the level appropriate for students their age in reading, language arts, and mathematics.

WHO CAN BE SERVED IN THE CHAPTER ONE PROGRAM?



Head Start Program Enrollment Increases...

Halloween Party for Head Start: Wednesday, Oct. 31... Come join the fun!



The Head Start Program at the Ojibway School currently serves 101 children. The morning pre-k group has 45 students; the afternoon group has 33 students. We have 23 students enrolled at the Brookston site. We also have 15 children on a waiting list.

October is Domestic Awareness Month

According to Don Chapin's article "Peace on Earth Begins in the Home" which appears in the October 1990 issue of The Circle newspaper, domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury to women in the United States. Chapin reports that well over 3 million women in this country are beaten in their homes each year by their husbands, ex-husbands, partners or lovers. Sadly, while family violence among Native American people has never been a great problem in the past because of the Indians high system of value and respect for life and the rights of others, things have now changed dramatically for the worse.

Currently, Chapin reports that 80% of American Indian families living in urban areas now have a history of family violence. The violence includes incest, sexual abuse and battering. Chapin points out that the reason for this dramatic increase of violence is due to "extreme deprivation, discrimination, and victimization of Indian people by a dominant society that failed to recognize and rarely acknowledged the American Indian way of life".

If you are a victim of family violence and want confidential assistance, please contact the Division of Indian Work Family Violence Program located in the Twin Cities. You can call the Twin Cities number: 1 (218) 827-1795 for more information on the program. All services are free.

Studies have shown that it is possible for women to predict if their boyfriend or husband is capable of battering. Listed below are just a few signs to be aware of:

(1) **JEALOUSY:** many women may think it's cute when the man displays a possessiveness for the women. Actually, it is a sign of ownership which restricts the woman's freedom.

(2) **CONTROLLING BEHAVIOR:** where the man begins to make decisions for the woman.

(3) **ISOLATION:** this occurs when the man attempts to cut off all the woman's ties with her friends.

(4) **BLAMING OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS**

(5) **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN**

(6) **VERBAL ABUSE**

(7) **RIGID SEX ROLES:** occurs when the man demands that the woman stay at home and take care of him.

These are only a few of the signs to be aware of in a potential battering personality (Reprinted from The Circle). If you have concerns regarding your relationship with some one, please seek advice. Life is much too short and precious to spend under the constant threat of danger.

Superstitions: Alive And Flourishing in The Hearts of Many...

The word superstition means "surviving belief". Superstitions have been around for a long time and they still exist today. One of the reasons for their popularity is because superstitions are held to

either influence ones' advantage or to the detriment of others. Listed below are a few old and new superstitions:

* Put a scalded hand in hot water to ease the pain, and prevent blistering.

* To win at cards, tie a bat's heart to your right arm with red silk string.

* A girl can wash her freckles away with dew collected on May 1.

* Put sugar in your armpit and then in your girl's drink; she won't resist you!

* Smelling flowers on a grave can destroy your sense of smell.

* Say Gesundheit! (Health!) when another person sneezes to prevent that person from sneezing his soul out and to drive away evil spirits that may have come out of him with his breath (American Folklore and Legend. 1978).



**Congratulations to
this years Homecoming
King & Queen, Mel
Diver & James Couture**

Melody Diver, a Junior, and James Couture, a senior, are both high achievers and have excelled consistently over the years in academics. They also have the respect and admiration of their peers. Both students are excellent role models!



California Achievement Tests, or CAT's as they are more commonly called, are used by the Ojibway School to measure a student's educational growth over a one year period. We use the CAT because it has been found to be the least culturally biased standardized test available. Although the test is a good indicator of a child's retention of learned materials, it does have shortcomings.

The tests are given in the Fall of each year and provide the teacher with an idea of the information the child did or did not retain throughout the year. Based on the student's performance in any one area diagnosed on the test, the teacher may then focus on those areas where the child did not successfully master. It also makes sense then that the teacher would not spend time on material that the student did master, and instead concentrate on the student's greatest areas of need.

The CAT results need to be used with great care because it is after all only a test. Some students do great on class work throughout the year, but do poorly on the CAT at the end of the year. The test does contain some poorly worded questions, it is too long in some areas, and it takes too long for the student to take.

One area that the CAT needs revision is in the Language Arts and Reading areas. The best and most reliable measure of a student's knowledge is to have the student write an essay. The essay demands that the student demonstrate logic, organizational skills, coherency, and self expression of material learned rather than simply choosing someone else's meaning from a list of choices.

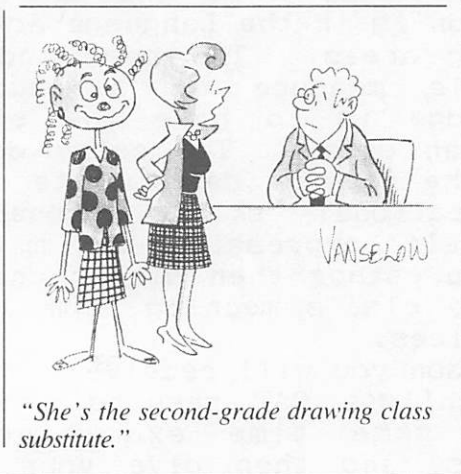
Soon you will receive a copy of your child's CAT results. Please spend some time examining the results, and then give your child lots of credit. Students expend a

great deal of "mind energy" completing those CAT's. If you have questions regarding the CAT and would like some explanations, please feel free to call the school.



Pictured above are four seniors from the 1990 Ogichida Football Team: Front left to right, James Couture, Spud Fairbanks; Back left to right, Larry LaPoint, Jerrad Ojibway. We had fun guys, good luck to you in the future!

No matter how eloquently a dog may bark, he cannot tell you that his parents were poor but honest. (Bernard Russell).



"She's the second-grade drawing class substitute."



(Pictured above is the house that Dr. Thomas Pearson built! What's wrong with this picture or for that matter with Tom's house?)

Have you seen the house that Tom built? Well, it really isn't a house. It's an eagle's nest, and will be used next year to video record our home football games. We also plan to sell concessions underneath the tower. Our football field needs quite a few things including a new surface (sod), a score clock, and a fence to separate fans from players and coaches.

We plan to raise some money to help cover some of the costs involved with making improvements on the football field, so we hope you will help support our raffles and other money raising projects. Support your athletic programs!

A meaningful education is more than just dish-
ing out assignments...

A meaningful education benefits students,
teachers and society...

"A child who has learned something can use it and does. It is connected with reality in his/her mind, and therefore, he/she can make connections between it and reality when the chance comes. A piece of unreal learning has no hooks on it; it can't be attached to anything, it is of no use to the learner" (Holt, How Children Learn).