

# Ojibwe School Newsletter

May/June, 1991 Cloquet, MN

55720



## NCA Committee Completes on Site Visit

On Thursday and Friday, April 25 and 26, the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School was visited by the North Central Accreditation Committee (NCA).

The committee consisted of the following members: Chairperson David Beaulieu, Manager Indian Education; Steve Couture, Principal, Anderson Open School; Harold Dentz, Teacher, Northeast Junior High School; Dr. Robert Powless, Professor, University of Minnesota, Duluth; John Redhorse, Dean, College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Flo Wiger, Professor, St. Cloud University; and Yvonne Wilson, Teacher, North Elementary School.

The NCA committee toured the school, interviewing staff, students, and observed classroom activities. According to Marlys Kilen, Chairperson of the School's Effectiveness Team, the committee was generally pleased with our school. The committee was especially impressed with the projects and learning tasks currently in progress.

Ojibwe students are presently working in cooperative learning groups. There are no longer seven separate classes per day; instead, there is one class in the morning and one in the afternoon. Teachers work collaboratively and team teach subjects. For example, art and English have combined; students meet in the morning (regardless of age)

and learn photography and Journalism skills. The NCA committee seemed excited about our new project, and was impressed how we included so many areas of our culture into our curriculum.

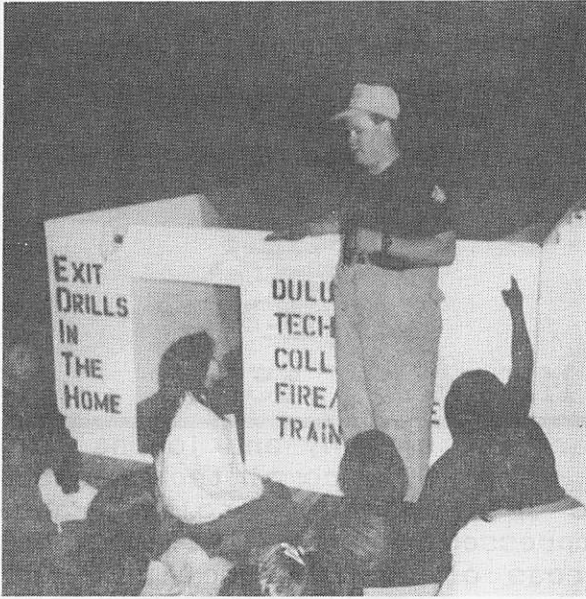
It is impossible to thank all those who donated time and energy to help make the NCA committee welcome at our school. So, Megwetch, staff on a job well done. Megwetch.



(Pictured above: Elementary students pause to pose for this shot while attending the highly informative Fire and Safety Program)

## Fire Education: What to do in an Emergency!

Elementary students from the Ojibwe School attended a fire awareness class on Thursday, April 11 at the school gym. The class was presented by members of the Duluth Technical College. Fire and Rescue Training facility.



(Pictured above: Fire and Rescue Team Member Mike Peterson instructs students on escape techniques)

Fire and Rescue team member Roger Smith, a graduate from the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School, explained to students the various functions of special equipment that fire fighters must wear in order to protect themselves from extreme heat caused by fire.

Mike Peterson, Fire and Rescue Team member, explained to students the proper procedure of escaping a burning house. Mike demonstrated this valuable life saving technique by using the EDITH House. EDITH (Exit Drills in the House) is an excellent exercise that simulates an actual burning house. Students learn that they should crawl to avoid inhaling harmful smoke.

Duluth Technical College Fire and Rescue members travel widely throughout Minnesota, and they deliver important messages to students. Students learn valuable life saving strategies on how to escape a burning house fire. We thank the Fire and Rescue team members for their time and efforts. Megwetch.

### Project DARE: a success in drug awareness. . .

On Friday, April 12, students in grades 5 and 6 received diplomas after successfully participating in Project DARE, an intensive sixteen

week program designed to teach students strategies on how to say no to drugs. The projects instructor, Carlton County police officer Randy Flynn, provided concerned community members, staff, parents, Sheriff Dave Seboe, and administration with background information on the project.

Flynn and his students also performed a series of skits which emphasized strategies that they could use to turn-off drug pushers.



(Pictured above: Steve Fossness receives DARE Award from Program instructor officer Randy Flynn)

The 8 strategies include:

1. Say no
2. Give a reason not to use
3. The broken record response
4. Walk away
5. Change the subject
6. Avoid the situation
7. The cold shoulder reaction
8. Hang out with non-users

Project DARE was originally started in 1983 in Los Angeles. Currently, Flynn teaches DARE at Esko and the Ojibwe School. Various local merchants have donated funds to help purchase materials for the program. The donations purchase posters, buttons, etc.

Flynn's efforts also benefit students in many other ways including: building students self-esteem, students learn to respect police officers, they learn to recognize possible abduction situations, and they learn important emergency telephone numbers.

Flynn's message is clear, and he has done an excellent job of educating our young people, arming them with strategies to say no to drugs. The Ojibwe School would like to thank officer Randy Flynn for his efforts: we are sure that he will have a lasting impression on his students. Megwetch.

## **J.O.M. Workshop at FDL Promotes Awareness of Indian Education Issues**

The Ninth Annual Johnson O'Malley Workshop was held at the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School on Thursday and Friday, April 18 and 19. Vernon Zacher, Minnesota Department of Education, served as the master of ceremonies and introduced a variety of guest speakers including: Charlin Diver, instructor with Fond du Lac Community College; Manley Begay, Center for Tribal Economic Development; Nora Hakala, and Dr. Thomas Peacock.

While all speakers stressed the need and desire for greater awareness of the Indian community, Dr. Peacock outlined 5 specific areas that he felt ought receive the greatest attention as we rapidly approach the 21st Century. Peacock stressed that the Bureau of Indian Administration (BIA) is currently too dominating, and there is a need for greater autonomy within the school itself.

Peacock is concerned with the loss of our language, and he feels if we don't address the issue we may soon lose our language forever. Combined with the loss of language, is of course the loss of our culture.

Peacock feels an intense politics is prevalent in Indian Education. We have "innies" and we have "outties" and our personal differences in determination may well be our own greatest enemy. We must learn to work together for the common good of the entire tribe despite of our differing opinions.

Our school and its programs are not being accepted by public schools. We are not accepted as equals. Along with this there is a real "need of prominent members of the Indian community to become validated by the outside non-Indian community." We must define who we are: we should not need to look elsewhere to define who we are as a people.

Peacock also cited concerns regarding the State Board of Education, a position he was recently appointed. He feels that Indian students must be given choices within their education. He feels that Indian Education must become part of the Educational mainstream, with research based education as the foundation. And we must strive for academic quality, continuing scholarships, and installing an empowering feeling amongst all Indian students.

Lastly, Peacock reminded all Reservation personnel that we are "working with and not for Indian people."

## **Girl's Group Recognized**

On March 14, 1991, Kathy "Bubble" Pell was honored by the RBC for doing the girls' group at the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School. According to Bubble, she was "flattered as well as surprised that anyone thought this was something to be rewarded for. Just doing the group is enough of a reward for me. The real reward should go to the girls who have attended the group all year. They are the group. I want to thank them for all they've done for me. They are an outstanding group of young women." Congratulations, Bubble, and we look forward to your group activity next year. Megwetch.

The Fond du Lac Reservation Ojibwe School Newsletter is a monthly newsletter produced at the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School, 105 University Road, Cloquet, Minnesota, 55720. Dr. Thomas Peacock, Superintendent; Phil Minkinen, Principal; Michael Rabldeaux, editor.

## **Wiigwasi Makakoon: Birch Bark Basket Weaving, Summer Arts Program**

The Fond du Lac Ojibwe School will offer a summer arts class titled "Wiigwasi makakoon" (birch bark containers) from June 17 through July 5. The class will involve a study of the complete process of birch bark basket making with emphasis on the history and use of the baskets by Ojibwe people. Students will make their own containers as their class project. Classes will be held at the Ojibwe School daily from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The class is open to students entering grades 7-12. Students must be dedicated to learning this tradition and register at the Ojibwe School by June 7. Class size is limited to 15 students. The instructor will be East Lake Ojibwe elder Madeline Moose.

This project is supported in part by Resource Programs, the educational outreach branch of the Minnesota Center for Arts Education. The center is a statewide agency which was created in 1985 by the Minnesota Legislature to improve arts education opportunities for students and teachers throughout Minnesota.

## **Wellstone Replies to Cane's Juniors**

Angel Suttan, a junior in Mary Cane's social studies class, has recently received a written reply from United States Senator Paul David Wellstone. Mary has been working on a learning unit that teaches students that their voice will be heard in government.

Mary had students write letters to government officials on issues that the student felt strongly about. Students learned many important objectives from the unit. They learned that their writing has power; they learned that they have a voice in societal issues. Wellstone's reply is reprinted below:

Dear Angel:

Thank you for taking the time to write to me with your questions about Native American education, the environment, and the Persian Gulf War. I will briefly address each of these important issues.

I strongly support increased funding for Native American education and student grants as well as the construction of improved education facilities including schools and neighborhood centers. Increased funding and improved facilities are instrumental in improving the percentage of Native American graduates.

The most far-reaching environmental bill approved by Congress within the past year was the Clean Air Act of 1990. This new law made important strides towards protecting our environment by attacking three major threats: acid rain, urban air pollution, and toxic air emissions.

It is crucial to maintain this momentum. Two major environmental laws are up for renewal this session--the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Resource Conservation and Renewal Act (RCRA), which is designed to protect us against hazardous waste. The CWA needs to be strengthened to protect wetlands and groundwater, and the RCRA must be expanded to support a truly national recycling and waste reduction program. I am working to ensure that the reauthorization of these two laws includes provisions for the concerns of Minnesota, including the prevention of ground water contamination and preservation of our beautiful wetlands.

Another important component of our future environmental policy must be to formulate an energy strategy which places greater emphasis on environmental protection. As you may know, I am a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. By carefully formulating a sound energy policy which reduces energy consumption and encourages the use of clean-burning fuels for

cars and trucks, we can make large strides towards stopping the poisoning of our air, land, and water. We must also address the extensive environmental disaster incurred by the burning of oil wells in Kuwait.

I, like all Americans, am relieved that the war was resolved with very few allied casualties, but am appalled by the extensive environmental damage. Although I disagreed with the decision to go to war, I have given my unequivocal support to our troops. It is essential now that we take care of the veterans and their families.

There are many problems that will have to be addressed now that the war has ended. We need to have a clearly defined plan for a long-term peace in the Middle East.

I am glad to hear that you are interested in these vital issues. I will continue to keep you informed of my views. If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul David Wellstone  
U.S. Senator

Wednesday, May 8:  
Peter Dufault Memorial  
Picnic & Pow Wow

Thursday, May 9:  
Peter Dufault Memorial  
Day \*NO SCHOOL\*

Saturday, May 11:  
Prom at the D.E.C.

Monday-Saturday, May  
6-11: Close-up Travel  
to Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, May 15:  
Shirley Ostaff (FDLCC) &  
Darlene Freeman (Itasca  
CC). Career Opportunity



(Pictured above: Bus Supervisor Dan Lund, the young looking man with the controls in hand; Shawna LaPointe, a ninth grade student holding the wheelchair; and Missy Diver, an eighth grade student. The students are participating in the morning health and English "Health Issues: Physical Handicaps" class. Students role model various handicaps, and learn what its like to "walk in the shoes of the handicapped person."

Thursday, May 23:  
Elementary Awards, 1:30  
(FDL) Gym

Friday, May 24:  
Secondary Awards, 1:30  
FDL Gym

Monday, May 27:  
Memorial Day  
\*NO SCHOOL\*

Tuesday, June 4:  
Graduation, FDL Gym,  
6:30 . . .

Friday, June 7:  
Last day to Register  
for Summer Arts . . .

Friday, June 7:  
Last Day for Teachers  
(Cheer-up, students!)

# May 1991

## Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Menu

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

		<p><b>1</b> Macaroni Hotdish Battered Veggie Sticks Bread &amp; Butter Fruit Milk</p>	<p><b>2</b> Chicken Burger French Fries Green Beans Fruit Milk</p>	<p><b>3</b> Fish Sticks Tossed Salad Lettuce &amp; Tomato Pineapple Sauce Roll &amp; Butter Milk</p>
<p><i>*Menus subject to change without notice.</i></p>				
<p><b>6</b> Chicken Nuggets Tater Tots Mixed Vegetables Fruit Sauce Cookie Milk</p>	<p><b>7</b> Turkey Gravy &amp; Mashed Potatoes Cranberries Peas &amp; Carrots Roll &amp; Butter Milk</p>	<p><b>8</b> PICNIC Hamburgers, Buns Hotdogs, Chips, Baked Beans Milk</p>	<p><b>9</b> PETER DUFAULT DAY  NO SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>10</b> Cheeseburger Potato Rounds Tossed Salad Cookie Milk</p>
<p><b>13</b> Pizza Celery &amp; Carrot Sticks Fruit Sauce Oatmeal Cookie Milk</p>	<p><b>14</b> Hamburger Soup Roll &amp; Butter Fruit Brownie Milk</p>	<p><b>15</b> Chicken Casserole Bread &amp; Butter Apple Dessert Milk</p>	<p><b>16</b> Sloppy Joes Potato Chips Celery &amp; Carrot Sticks Milk</p>	<p><b>17</b> Fish Sticks Potato Chips Vegetable Oatmeal Cookie Milk</p>
<p><b>20</b> Sub Sandwich Ham &amp; Cheese Shredded Lettuce Potato Salad Apple &amp; Cookie Milk</p>	<p><b>21</b> Beef Stew Gravy &amp; Mashed Potatoes Carrots Biscuit &amp; Butter Cake Milk</p>	<p><b>22</b> Tuna Salad Sandwich Tomato Soup Carrot &amp; Celery Sticks, Wheat Bread &amp; Butter Apple, Milk</p>	<p><b>23</b> Cheese Burger Shoe String Fries Coleslaw Bun &amp; Butter Pudding w/banana Milk</p>	<p><b>24</b> Pizza Burgers Green Beans Bun/Butter Peanut Butter Cookie Milk</p>
<p><b>27</b> MEMORIAL DAY  NO SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>28</b> Hamburger &amp; Bun Hash Browns Cooked Carrots Pineapple Bar Milk</p>	<p><b>29</b> Ham Slice Macaroni &amp; Cheese Corn Blueberries &amp; Cream Milk</p>	<p><b>30</b> Indian Tacos: Hamburger, cheese, lettuce, tomato. Fruit Milk</p>	<p><b>31</b> Fish Burger Celery &amp; Carrot Sticks Fruit Sauce Oatmeal Cookie Milk</p>

*Cooks: Peggy Lund, Evelyn Olson, Elaine McFatridge*