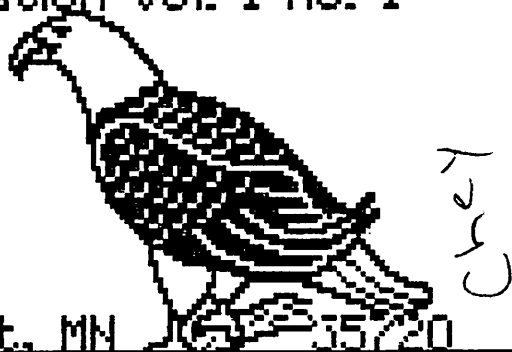


# OJIBWE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September/October Cloquet, MN



## Ogichida Azhegiwe

Welcome back, Ogichida! By now many of you have noticed quite a few changes since last year. For one thing, we have a new principal, a business/secretary instructor, a new counselor, and new students. We have also returned to the more conventional classroom setting--7 hours a day, separate classes.

Integration of curriculum, collaborative teaching and writing across the curriculum (last years fourth quarter experiment), had many advantages and a few disadvantages. We learned a lot from the experiment and will attempt to incorporate some of those lessons in this years learning experience.

For instance, students writing in the English room are encouraged to focus on subjects already being studied in other classrooms as topics for their essays. Social Studies provides students with the opportunity to write research papers on people and places currently being examined. Science class provides possible topics in a wide variety of subject matter, including wildlife and environmental issues.

Students in science class are especially busy this year, and their studies include many hands on projects. Our young observers have recently returned from Hawk Ridge, located near Duluth, MN. When students are provided the opportunity to experience learning tasks, the lessons are usually much more valuable to the student.

The math room is currently studying the stock market, and will soon offer a "mini-stock market,"

which should prove both interesting and educational.

Panji has been busy on the Pow Wow trail. She and a group of students recently returned from Mankato. There are several trips planned, and students are encouraged to get involved.

The school's SET Team is already busy working on this years correlates. We can only hope that this years progress will be as fruitful as our past endeavors. Anyone interested in joining the SET Team (persons from the community), is encouraged to contact the school.

We will make every effort to keep the community informed of our activities. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding any issue presented in our Newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact the school. The staff looks forward to serving you, Megwetch.

## DISCIPLINE ISSUES

In September, Sandy Savage, Chairperson of the Ojibwe School Board, members of both the board and school staff met in the library to review and discuss the school's discipline policy.

Areas examined included updating admission procedures, citing problems with attendance, responsibility of students regarding school materials (e.g., texts), question of right to privacy, and skipping school.

The meeting was very informative and all participants contributed. Future Newsletters will update all information regarding this issue. If you have any input concerning discipline, either current or future policy, please

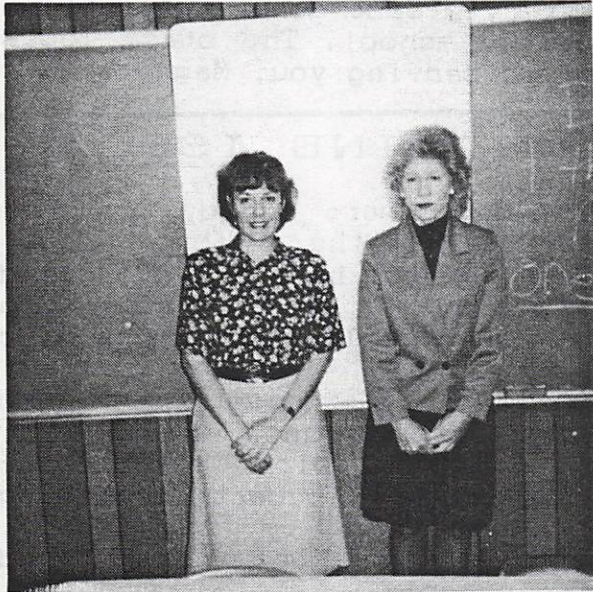


contact the school and voice your concerns.

## NEW STAFF JOIN OJIBWE SCHOOL

Joy DePover will join the Ojibwe School staff as an Office Skills Secretary Instructor for the 1991-92 school year. The addition of this class will offer students high quality, hands-on training in the areas of keyboarding, office procedures, clerical skills as well as teach the latest technology in computer software (e.g. Microsoft and WordPerfect).

Joy attended Pine Technical College where she earned a Business Micro-computer Specialist diploma, and she also has experience as a legal secretary, having worked for a Pine County Attorney. Along with her regular teaching duties (high school students), Joy will also teach keyboarding and basic fundamental computer skills to Natural Research students. We are fortunate to have obtained Joy's services and feel she will provide students with extremely valuable skills, skills which may open the door to future employment.



(Pictured above, left to right: Barb Welna and Joy DePover)

Barb Welna has joined the Ojibwe staff and will serve as Career Counselor. Barb received her Masters Degree at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. She possess a

Masters in Counseling, and has a minor in American Indian Studies.

Barb hopes to "instill values, to work with students to help them realize their individual potentials." She hopes to maximize the student's academic performances, and looks forward to working closely with the staff in all subject areas. She will help students learn strategies to promote employment and will support students with placement in post secondary institutions.

Barb's goal is to upgrade all students' abilities and to place all of them in either post education or employment. She has a firm commitment that all students must "use their talents and skills."

We look forward to working with Barb, her ambitious goals and energy levels are an inspiration to all of us.

Rosemary Christianson has been hired recently as principal of the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School. Because of busy schedules and activities that often accompany this hectic, first quarter of the year, Christianson was not able to interview for this publication.

Next months Newsletter will provide information on Christianson's philosophy, goals and objectives, and her vision for the school as well.

## CURRICULUM EXPANDED

The Ojibwe School has expanded its curriculum this year and offers both adults and students valuable training in several subjects.

A secretarial/business skills class is now being held in the Barnum building. The class offers students training on the most current technology in the field of business communication. The instructor, Joy DePover, provides students with an effective hands on approach to learning in this exciting and ever expanding field.

Dan Anderson will direct a Writing to Read program targeted toward elementary students. Chelle King will conduct a 3 day workshop during October to facilitate the,



program. The program promises to increase the students performances in reading comprehension and written expression.

Mary Day, coordinator of the Telecommunications Program located at the Fond du Lac Community College, will soon offer programs at the Ojibwe School. The programs will be aired on monitors and will involve direct participation of both viewers and presenters. As the program develops, more information will be made available.

Currently, the Ojibwe School is offering Spanish classes to both adults and students. Classes meet in the math room. The course is being offered jointly by FDLCC and the Ojibwe School.

### INROADS SEEKS AUTHORS

Inroads, a writing program which seeks talented Native American writers, is once again looking for promising authors.

The program's mentor in our area is Jim Northrup, a published author of numerous materials including syndicated columns, short stories and poems. Northrup will select 4-6 writers from our area. Those chosen will have the opportunity to expand their talents under the guidance of Northrup while they attend the annual seminars at the Loft, located in Minneapolis.

We have several promising young authors at the Ojibwe School and look forward to participating in this years Inroads Program.

If you have writing talents in any area, poetry or prose (storytelling), the Loft Program is an excellent means of exposing those talents. Northrup has worked hard to assist numerous emerging Native American writers--all it takes is a commitment to succeed. If you are interested in any area of this program, you are encouraged to contact the school. Deadline dates for submission of work is Friday, November 29. Megwetch.

**NO SCHOOL OCTOBER  
17&18, MEA DAYS**

### EPA PROGRAM BEGINS

On Wednesday, September 25, Robert Drummond and Chuck Kleiner, both Environmental Education Scientists, presented information to Ojibwe students on what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does. Drummond and Kleiner also conducted a number of chemical experiments.

Ojibwe School science teacher Andrea Pokrzywinski works with the EPA. Andrea helps in scheduling program presentations and provides guidance in both content and information required by scientists in program preparation. She also helps make the information suitable and applicable for students of various ages to comprehend.

Our students will truly benefit from Andrea's efforts. Exposing our young people to environmental concerns and issues may stimulate students to perhaps choose careers in related fields of science. Having informed, well educated students regarding environmental issues is a quality investment for the future.

### VISNER SPEAKS ON CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Erma Visner, a principal on the White Earth Reservation, presented her views to the Ojibwe staff on classroom management. Visner spoke to the staff early in September and stated that "since 1969 discipline has been a major concern . . . as populations grow so do disciplinary problems."

Visner believes that well disciplined schools "focus on problems and not solutions." One large problem she focuses upon is the student/teacher relationship. In order for the teacher to win the respect of the student, she suggests that the teacher develop a strong, positive attitude. A teacher must motivate students to want to learn--they must make learning exciting, meaningful. Visner warns against acting like a "good buddy" or "mother/father." Instead, the teacher ought to display real concern for individual problems,

demonstrate sound working habits within the classroom themselves, and realize that Indian children learn more by observing or through role models demonstrating activities.

Visner also suggests that teachers get students involved in the decision making process concerning their education. Students ought to have a wide range of freedom and be given the opportunity to choose assignments from a host of possible lessons. We must teach decision making skills. We must teach students responsibility. A person who becomes involved in a decision making process demonstrates an active interest in the direction of their education. Consequently, they learn to be responsible for their behavior--academics becomes a strong priority because students have less time to be idle. While more traditional forms of educating are still required (group lectures, controlled task lessons, etc.,) students for the most part work on what they feel appeals to their interests.

Visner's ideas concerning discipline are quite interesting and have several practical applications. Ojibwe staff ought to focus upon including students into the decision making process--it might possibly go a long way toward eliminating many disciplinary problems.

## "TERRIFIC TEACHERS" SEARCH BEGINS

A new program sponsored by local businesses will recognize and support good teaching. The program, "Terrific Teachers," hopes to promote quality education and will do this by rewarding those people who know most about education, the teachers.

The program will share with the community the good things that are going on in the schools. Sharing these ideas will hopefully spread throughout all school systems and everyone will benefit, students, staff, and the community.

"Terrific Teachers" will fund two programs: 1) Innovative Grants Program will enable teachers to

develop and implement creative methods to improve learning in the classroom; and 2) Teacher Recognition Program, which will recognize and reward outstanding teachers. Winners will share their knowledge with colleagues by conducting local workshops throughout the area. Winners will also receive \$4,000 for their efforts.

If you would like more information (application deadlines and guideline forms) please contact the school.

## TEAMS HAVE SUCCESS

Both the Ogichida boys and girls (football and volleyball respectively) are enjoying successful seasons this year.

The boy's Junior high football team has scored victories against several teams throughout the area. According to Peter Diver, a Junior, the team has several talented young players. Dave Gitzen, Mike Peacock, Ira Aubid, Eric Gahbow and Tom Olson have contributed much to the teams current won/loss record. Victories include wins over Cromwell, Hill City, and Floodwood. Coach Joe Curran's idea of going to the Junior high level has had several advantages. One strong advantage of this decision is that our young players are given the opportunity to compete with athletes of comparable abilities--as a result of this our Ogichida Warriors are enjoying a winning season. Congratulations, Joe, Dick Diver and the team!

Dale Sautbine's Lady Ogichida Volleyball team is also enjoying great success this season. Sautbine's team is led by several experienced players, including Melody Diver and Becky Reynolds.

Next months Newsletter will have more complete information on both our boys and girls accomplishments on the football field and on the volleyball court. Please take notice of our young boy/lady warriors success, and support them by attending games. Like you we, too, are proud of our coaches and athletes. Good Luck!

## INTERPRETING ELDER'S STORIES HAS GREAT VALUE & LESSON

The following story has been reprinted from the Ojibwa Native Journal (1990:p.109). The journal consists of a collection of stories that Kegg has written based on nookomis gaa-inaajimotawid (what my grandmother told me).

Kegg's stories have numerous implied meanings, especially her descriptions of the children's responsibilities and behavior. Perhaps we need to study more closely the stories from our elders in order to improve methods of teaching our children self-discipline, responsibility, and respect.

### EDUCATION by EXHORTATION

"The old lady used to say all kinds of things to me long ago, telling me things as I was growing up.

This is what she said of the Indians long ago, that the children are told to settle down as it becomes night. They are not to play around outside. An old lady starts telling stories to them, to the children, preaching to them about everything, and again when they get up in the morning.

When a girl can sew, she won't go out and play around. She is instructed in sewing and they are taught to tan hides. Those are all the things the girls do.

As for the boys, they are also spoken to this way long ago as they were growing up. When they get bigger, the elders send them out. They " 'nandobani'," she used to say: I don't know what it meant for them to 'nandobani'. They taught them how to hunt everything. And the boys fast. [Fast means to go without food].

The girls fast too. As soon as it gets toward spring, the girls are given charcoal when they wake up in the morning and they mark themselves. Sometimes they rub the charcoal on their faces. When they think of someone they can go fasting with them, they go to one of the wigwams. Before any of them can eat, she takes the charcoal.

Sometimes they don't eat for two days, that's what they were made to do long ago.

They were taught to make abwaanaak 'roasting frame' when some kills game. They cut the meat up into strips. They hang it up there. The only way they were able to preserve the meat, was to process it over the fire. If they had a lot of meat, all kinds of it, then they make an agoojiwanaanaak 'hanging frame' and hang it up there. They put the meat away in birchbark baskets. This is so the dogs or animals or anything can't get at it. These are called agoojiwanaanaakoon 'hanging frames'.

In the summer they pick berries, all kinds of berries, chokecherries, blueberries, anything that is ripe. They dry them. They put them in birchbark baskets. They get what they have for tea from the swamps. If anyone wanted to be lazy, he'd starve. They won't help each other out very much.

They go away, sometimes to the Mississippi, taking the children along to pick those wild potatoes. Sometimes they take the children along. The children are not supposed to go and hit each other with the potatoes. If they hit each other with the potatoes, then before one year is up the one that is hit with the potatoes dies, so they are forbidden to go around hitting one another with the potatoes.

They did everything to survive long ago. The girls just sit on their knees and sew. They wouldn't wander around any place."

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## SET TO TRAVEL

SET Team members Tom Peacock, Marlys Kilen, Dan Anderson and Mike Rabideaux will attend and present information to NCA members in Bloomington, Minneapolis on Thursday, October 24. The SET Team will offer both a history of our program and cite progress as well.

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The Ojibwa School Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation Ojibwa School Dr. Thomas Peacock, Superintendent; Rosemary Christianson, Principal; Michael Rabideaux Editor.



# October 1991

## Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Menu

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>30</b> Bologna Sandwich Tomato Soup Celery Sticks Banana Milk	<b>1</b> Tacos Meat & Cheese Lettuce & Tomato Fruit Cookie Milk	<b>2</b> Sloppy Joe Potatoe Chips Celery & Carrot Sticks Ice Cream Milk	<b>3</b> Spaghetti Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Green Beans Fresh Fruit Milk	<b>4</b> Natchos & Cheese Bologna Sandwich Fresh Fruit Vanilla Pudding Milk
<b>7</b> Hot Ham & Cheese on a Bun Scalloped Potatoe Apple Krisp Chocolate Milk.	<b>8</b> Pizza Burger Cole Slaw Grapes Milk	<b>9</b> Beef Wild Rice Hotdish Bread & Butter Celery/Carrot Sticks Banana Pudding Milk	<b>10</b> Chicken Drummies Fries Tossed Salad Bread & Butter Ice Cream Milk	<b>11</b> Hot Dog & Bun Potatoe Chips Salad Banana Milk
<b>14</b> Chicken Drummies Mixed Vegies Tater Tots Fruit Sauce Bread & Butter Milk	<b>15</b> Hamburger Gravy w/mashed Potatoes Buttered Corn Fruit Salad Bread & Butter Milk	<b>16</b> Indian Tacos Lettuce/Cheese Tomatoes Jello/Fruit Cocktail Milk	<b>17</b> NO SCHOOL	<b>18</b> NO SCHOOL
<b>21</b> Scalloped Potatoe w/Ham Green Beans Wheat Bread Peach Sauce Milk	<b>22</b> Hamburger Soup Relish Tray Cheese Sandwich Bananas Milk	<b>23</b> Tuna Hotdish Peas Bread & Butter Apple Milk	<b>24</b> Bologna Sandwich Tomato Soup Celery Sticks Cake Milk	<b>25</b> Pizza Lettuce/Tomato Banana Pudding Salad Fruit Milk
<b>28</b> Hot Dogs Potatoe Salad Baked Beans Apples Milk	<b>29</b> Wild Rice Hamburger Hotdish Corn Salad Lettuce & Tomato Ice Cream Milk	<b>30</b> Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy Peas Bread Milk	<b>31</b> Beef Stew Cole Slaw Brownies Bread & Butter Milk	<b>1</b> Fish Nuggets Bread & Butter French Fries Mixed Veggies Chocolate Pudding Milk

Cooks: Peggy Lund, Evelyn Olson, Elaine McFatridge