

Foreign students make impression

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Adjusting to a new school can be a problem for any young child. Remembering the names of classmates, making new friends or just learning the teaching material itself usually requires at least some period of transition.

Now, picture how much more difficult that transition can be when you're from a different country, speak a different language and have less than two months to make that adjustment.

That's the frightening situation two students at the Gate of Heaven Elementary School in Dallas were confronted with when they arrived here from Costa Rica a short time ago.

But, in just six weeks, Federico and Klaus Kuhn Delgado, fifth and third grade students respectively, have made such an impact on their fellow classmates and have been so delightful that teachers say they blended in right from the start.

"There was no period of adjustment," Elizabeth Umphred, Klaus' third grade teacher said. "He is an outstanding student, perfect scores. All you have to do is explain something to him once and he picks it up."

"And he's not timid. He teaches the kids some Spanish words and we even include some in our spelling tests. Sometimes he'll read poems in Spanish and then English and the students really enjoy him. In fact, some of them had tears in their eyes when they found out he was going back after Thursday." (The two flew back to Costa Rica last week.)

Fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Marcella Hiller, echoed the same high praises for 11-year old

Federico. "He fit right in immediately," she said. "There was no period of adjustment. The kids took to him and he blended right in with them."

"He just gave a report on his country to the other students during the Catholic National Education School Week at a reading assembly. And he not only gave the report but he stood there and fielded different questions with no problems. He was very poised."

Although the adaptation had seemed very smooth to those observing, both boys agreed there was one very noticeable difference.

"We're not used to talking English in Costa Rica," Federico said. "We have bi-lingual schools back home where they speak Spanish and English. But most of the time, we speak Spanish. When we're at home and when we're with our friends, that's the language we use."

For nine-year old Klaus, the problem was a little different. "Sometimes I get stuck on a word or sometimes people talk too fast and I don't understand what they say," he stated.

Aside from those slight setbacks, both demonstrated an exceptionally strong command of the language. The two learned to speak English three years ago on a visit to Miami, and despite the long in-between period of time, neither had a problem reading, writing or speaking it.

The boys had been staying with their aunt, Lucia Kuhn, and her husband at Newberry Estates where they moved to from Nicaragua a few years ago.

"It's been a lot of fun for us," Lucia said. "We don't have any children so when they arrived it was like having an instant family. And they're both very nice."

Like everyone else who has come in contact with them, she, too, was impressed with their initiative and intelligence.

"One of the first things Federico asked me when they got here was, 'what can I do to earn more money?'" she said. "He's been shoveling snow and delivering papers. He's always thinking. Even when he watches TV he's thinking, always creating. And Klaus is the same way."

The two were spending their summer vacation here in Dallas, but flew back last week to begin their normal school year. Their outstanding character has not gone without notice there, either.

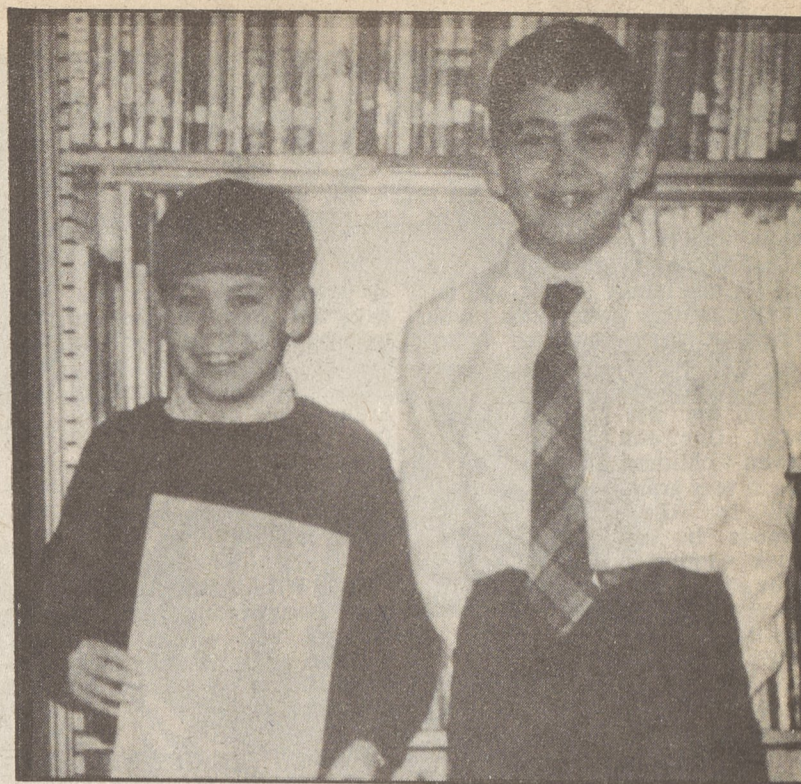
Sister Davida, principal of Gate of Heaven, in fact, received a correspondence from Marielo Alipizar de Jimenez, principal at Saint Joseph's Primary School, where both attend, lauding their academic and overall standing.

For his part, Klaus gave this reporter a very impressive English composition describing his country, family and his experiences here in the Wyoming Valley.

Both have already seen more states than most boys their age. Besides their trip to Miami several years ago, they also made the two-day drive from Miami to the Back Mountain. In addition, they took in New York City, including Staten Island.

The boys said they would miss their new friends and teachers and the different animals they had seen, but most of all they said they would miss the snow.

"We had a lot of snowfights," Federico said. "We made barricades and went sleigh riding. Back home it's very hot. We live near the equator so we never have snow. Even on the coldest days all we wear is a sweater."



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Visiting students

Pictured here, from left, are Klaus and Federico Kuhn Delgado, two Costa Rican children who spent their summer vacation studying at the Gate of Heaven Elementary School, Dallas. The two boys, who were described as "outstanding" students, spent six weeks in the Back Mountain school before they returned home last week.

High School students work with nursery school program

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Junior and senior students in the Child Development Class at Dallas Senior High School are presently conducting a nursery school for 16 three-year-old children, a school which runs over four class periods until March 20. Following the end of the three-year-old sessions, a second session for four-year-olds will begin April 8 and run through May 22.

The high school nursery school project was first initiated in 1974 by Mrs. Nancy Goeringer after discussing it with other people. It was the outgrowth of a psychology class and came at a time when the Vocational Act allowed for such a type program. Some of the children who were in Mrs. Goeringer's first group in 1974 are now members of the sophomore class at Dallas High School.

The 16 children now attending the high school students nursery school project Thursday of each week, sessions similar to the average nursery schools in the area.

Every day, the high school students in the Child Development Class are assigned different projects as well as each student being assigned a certain day to act as director of the nursery school. That student is responsible for planning the day's activities under Mrs. Goeringer's direction.

Each junior and senior student in the class is also assigned one or two of the children to whom they are to give special attention and special help when needed.

The first half of the school year, the high school students studied the development, growth, behavior

and characteristics of children from conception to nursery school age, in preparation for working with the children during the second half of the school year.

The high school students also developed packets of activities for the children - including projects that either amuse or teach such as matching games, puzzles, learning colors, etc. The high school students, in their role as teachers, conduct group activities with the children, teach crafts, teach sign language, help the children make gifts, and plan happy birthday celebrations for the children.

They play original games and activities that teach the children motor control, to identify such well-known items as Noah's Ark or snowflakes, and teach them the alphabet and numbers.

Colorful decorations are on all of the walls and serve a dual purpose to amuse and to teach the children. All of these decorations have been made by the high school students prior to the beginning of the project.

Each child has his or her own name tag to wear in class and each also has his or her own locker.

To the observer, it is difficult to determine who enjoys the nursery school sessions more - the high school students or the children. Students who have a free period or lunch period following class often forego their free time to spend it with the children. The children look with anticipation for their "friend" for the time they are in the class. And when it is time to go home, many of the children want to remain with their new friends.

The success of the nursery school project is evidenced by the waiting list there is every year for children, whose parents would like to have them participate.



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

Making a flower for Mom

Dallas High School students Molly Grasso and Tracey Reese help Nursery School student Laura Yankowski complete a flower to take home to her mother. The high school students are members of Mrs. Goeringer's Child Development class.

Dentists sponsor child's ID program

Children comprise 23 percent of the population of the United States and somewhere between 1.5 and 2 million of them are reported missing each year. Many parent groups and other interested individuals are heightening public awareness by publishing pictures of lost and missing children and advocating child-identification programs.

Up-to-date identification records kept by parents can reduce by hours or perhaps days the amount of time required to establish a definite identification in case of loss.

Since dental charting has traditionally been used as one of the leading methods of identification, several Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania dentists decided they were in the position to expand this method into a more complete compilation of identification information for children in their areas.

Hence, Friday, February 28 between noon and 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 1, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. have been set aside as "I.D. your Kid" days.

Locally, the program will be conducted at Dental Associates in Wilkes-Barre, Trucksville, and Mountaintop. The Back Mountain location is at 210 Carverton Road, Trucksville.

During "I.D. your Kid" days, parents may take their children into any of the dental offices for identification services. In addition to dental charting, other services

available will be handwriting and hair sampling, notation of physical characteristics such as height and weight, collection of medical data, and photos. Pennsylvania State Police and local police have offered their services to assist in fingerprinting at most of the locations. Parents may also have their blood pressure screened while their children are there.

Peterson named chairman

Frank Peterson, 146 E. Walnut St., Kingston, has accepted the chairmanship of "Scott Dieterick for State Representative" campaign.

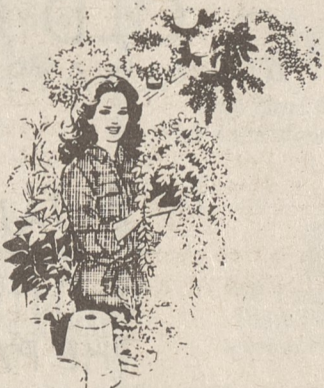
Peterson, a self employed lumber broker, is active in political and civic affairs, and serves on Kingston council and with the Coast

Guard Reserve. Accepting as Treasurer of the campaign is Richard L. Kramer, CPA, 81 Sullivan St., Forty Port.

Plans are being finalized for the opening of campaign headquarters at 327 Wyoming Ave., Kingston, and rallies to be held throughout the 120th Legislative District.

MUM FARM FLORIST

"the petals that please"
114 Memorial Hwy., Shavertown



GREEN PLANT
SALE
20% OFF
ALL GREEN PLANTS

SPECIAL OF WEEK - Mixed Spring Bouquet
\$15.00 Cash & Carry

FLOWER HOUR - 4 to 5 P.M.
2 for 1 - All Cut Flowers

675-2500 675-0414



LAST CALL! YOU HAVE ONLY 10 MORE DAYS*
To Share in Town & Country's Fabulous

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE **SALE!**

SAVE 30% ON OUR PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE COLLECTION
Bring along your Pennsylvania House Bonus Coupon - it may be worth up to \$5,000 on your purchase.

PHONE: 823-0138

SPECIAL BONUS
Get a Clue® Game
(value \$15) with any
Pennsylvania House purchase.

*Sale ends March 8th



Town & Country
FURNITURE GALLERIES
253-257 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre
Open Mon. & Thurs. 9:30 A.M. to 9 P.M.
Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

• FREE PARKING • CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE • DECORATOR SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY

The Dallas Soccer Club
is sponsoring
Crafts & More
Arts & Crafts, Antiques,
Collectibles, Jewelry,
Refreshments.
Dallas Sr. High School
Gymnasium & Cafeteria
Sat., April 19 10-4
8'x8' space - \$10
Corner space - \$15
Call
675-3243 evenings
696-1395 after 3 p.m.

IF . . .

You were denied or about
to be terminated from...
• SOCIAL SECURITY
DISABILITY
• SSI

WE CAN HELP
PUBLIC

BENEFITS INC.
800-628-7500
(24 Hour Toll Free)

CALL FOR A CONSULTATION

Member:
National Organization of Social
Security Claimants Representatives