

Lake-Lehman program gives 4-year-olds an advance taste of their kindergarten

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

Four-year-olds who will enter the Lake-Lehman School District's kindergarten next fall need not have fears of boarding the school bus, eating in the cafeteria, and finding their classroom.

For the eighth year, Lake-Lehman will hold half a dozen seminars this fall and spring for parents and four-year-old children who will enter kindergarten in September of 1992.

"The program was started to prepare the young children for the full-time school," says Dr. Stephen Boston, director of curriculum and instruction at Lake Lehman. "It was approximately eight years ago the district moved to a full-time kindergarten program."

Boston works with elementary principals Charles James and Robert Kunkle to formulate the program.

According to Boston, the number of parents and children participating in the program has remained fairly constant, with between half and two-thirds of the parents of eligible children participating in the program.

"In Ross we expect 15 to 20 parents," said Boston, "in Lehman-Jackson and Lake-Noxen from 25 to 50."

When the parents and children arrive for most of the programs, they take two different paths.

"While parents are in the seminar the four-year-olds are with the faculty. They have name tags so they can feel comfortable with their classmates. Then they're in the cafeteria, walking up and getting a fork and getting a knife," said Boston. "Our task is to try and

develop a level of comfortability. The obvious fears of a normal five-year-old are reduced a great deal by the program."

Other activities for the children during these programs include: a play/game time; a story time; an orientation to the school building and special purpose rooms, i.e. Library, cafeteria, gym, health room, make and take/arts and crafts; safety in the home and neighborhood, and an orientation to busing.

"One of the things that we do is present each parent with a handbook prepared by the PTA," said Boston. "Parents should be the child's first teacher and if we can assist in that process - that's what we're doing. Some of our presenters deal with math and reading readiness."

Later ones deal with nutrition and bus safety."

There is no limit on the number of parents who can register, but Boston added that "we certainly hope that they will let the local elementary know so we have some preliminary idea of how many people are coming."

Parents are asked to register for the first presentation by calling the neighboring elementary school office and letting them know how many adults and children will be attending: Ross Elementary School, 477-5050 or 256-7897; Lake-Noxen Elementary School, 639-1129; Lehman-Jackson Elementary School, 675-2165.

The program is intended for four-year-olds only. The school district asks parents not to bring younger brothers and sisters unless there is no alternative.

LAKE-LEHMAN PROGRAMS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

- Reading Readiness: Activities and Strategies for Parents and Children, Oct. 22, Ross Elementary, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Oct. 23, Lake-Noxen, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; Oct. 24, Lehman-Jackson, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Follow-up on Reading Readiness, Nov. 12, Ross Elementary, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Nov. 13, Lake-Noxen, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; Nov. 14, Lehman-Jackson, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Math Readiness: Activities and Strategies for Parents and Children, Dec. 10, Ross Elementary, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Dec. 11, Lake-Noxen, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; Dec. 12, Lehman-Jackson, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Nutrition and Health - On this date parents and children are invited to be our guests for lunch with the Kindergarten classes. Explanation of Screening Procedure: Feb. 25, Ross Elementary, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Feb. 26, Lake-Noxen, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; Feb. 27, Lehman-Jackson, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Pre-School Screening and Registration for Kindergarten: Mar. 27, Ross Elementary, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Mar. 25, 26, Lake-Noxen, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Mar. 23, 24, Lehman-Jackson, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Bus Safety and Orientation - Children will ride a bus: April 28, Ross Elementary, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Apr. 29, Lake-Noxen, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; Apr. 30, Lehman-Jackson, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.



Dressing up for fire safety

Dallas Fire Chief Bob Besecker loads firefighting gear onto Mrs. Lynn Nattress, of Shavertown, a teacher at the Little People Day Care School in Dallas as the students watch on October 10. Besecker and firefighter Bill Shaffer gave a presentation for National Fire Prevention Week, October 6 to 12. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

Halloween parade in Dallas October 27

The Dallas Kiwanis Club will hold its annual Halloween Parade on Sunday, Oct. 27. The parade is open to all children in the Back Mountain area from kindergarten thru sixth grade. All parade participants will be awarded treats. Prizes will be awarded for Funniest, Prettiest, Ugliest, Most Original and Best Group.

The parade will assemble in the parking lot of the old Dallas Township School building on Church Street starting at noon. Judging will begin at 12:30 with the parade beginning at 1 p.m. Judging will be done by members of the Dallas Kiwanis Club, Women of Kiwanis and Circle K Club members from the Penn State campus at Lehman.

The parade route will be down Church Street to Center Hill Road and turning right on Center Hill Road to Lake Street. The parade will go left on Lake Street to the center of Dallas Borough. The participants will then march to the Acme parking lot and end at the Eastern Star parking lot where prizes and treats will be presented by Kiwanis members.

Haunted barn ready for new year of scares

The Lehman U.M.Y.F. Haunted Barn is starting the ninth season of haunting.

After so many years it is hard to come up with new thrills for the thousands of patrons that flock to this place of horror, but the people of Lehman have found some more conveniences and some wild new displays for their patrons.

The Haunted Barn now has some new walls, roofing, and steps, quicker-moving lines on-site bathrooms, free gifts, refreshments, and better traffic control. They also have a movie to keep you entertained while you wait, sou-

venir programs, and haunted barn T-shirts. The T-shirts are only \$6.00 for S.M.L. & XL and \$7.00 for XXL.

Inside the Haunted Barn you will be greeted this year by two audio-visual mannequins to chill you to the bone. You will also fight your way through fog to cross the rope bridge over the medieval moat, visit "Mummy's Revenge", view kitchen and bathroom horrors, see "someone's watching you", brush by the "butcher shop", clamor past "the car", squeeze around our baby shark and tear

through our version of Niagara Falls.

If you want a fantastic night of fun, muster up your courage and descend the hill behind the Lehman Post Office on October 18, 19 and 20 and October 25 through 30 from 7-10 p.m. on school nights and 7-11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. It only costs \$3.00 and benefits the United Methodist Youth Group, the Lehman Volunteer Fire Company, and the Wyoming Valley Children's Aid Fun. We'll be spooking for you.

Harveys Lake water study will receive federal grant

Harveys Lake will receive a \$49,000 grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a study of the lake according to U.S. Rep. Paul Kanjorski.

The total cost of the 18-month study will be \$70,000. The federal funding is part of a 70/30 matching grant from the EPA. The borough will meet its contribution towards the grant with donated labor from volunteers of the borough's Environmental Advisory Council valued at \$8,000, and Wilkes University will donate laboratory work valued at \$5,000. The final portion of the costs will be provided by an \$8,000 grant from

the state's Department of Environmental Resources.

The study is expected to begin near the end of the year. Among the things that it will examine are the amount of nutrients, sediment, and pollution which are finding their way into the lake.

Councilman David Abod, chairman of the Environmental Council, said that the Environmental Council will prepare an advertisement for a consultant at their meeting October 16.

Fair Board meeting

The Luzerne County Fair board will meet October 16 at 8 p.m. at the Fairgrounds.

Correction

Due to a reporter's error the reason for Joseph Dwinchik's resignation from the Dallas Borough zoning board was incorrect in the October 9 issue of the Dallas Post. Dwinchik's resignation was unrelated to his work or activities with other organizations.

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