

Lake-Lehman school board members honored

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Lake-Lehman School board members received certificates from the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, thanking them for their many hours of service, at the school board's regular meeting Tuesday, January 14.

Presented by Superintendent Nancy Davis, the certificates commemorated National School Board Recognition Month, the theme of which is, "Let's give school directors a hand."

In other business, the board approved the following personnel changes:

Professional staff appointments included Elementary Principal Intern John Baranowski; Deborah Kopko, elementary learning support and Sandra Dobrowski, head cheerleading coach.

The following resignations were

accepted: elementary teacher Susan Stolarick, who will retire at the end of the 1991-92 school year; Charlotte Williams, head cheerleading coach, and Kathleen Warner, secretary.

Substitute professional staff appointments included Annette Walker, English; Joyce Birt, school nurse; Darren J. Minich, janitorial staff and Nancy Oliver, secretary/clerical staff.

Custodial staff appointments included Dale Major, part-time custodian at Lake-Noxen and Barbara Hazeltine, part-time at Lehman Jackson.

The positions of high school night custodian and night custodian to work at the high school and Lehman-Jackson were not filled.

The next regular monthly meeting was set for Tuesday, February 11, at 8 p.m. in the library of the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School.



CAN I HELP YOU? - Kelly Phillips is one of the fifth-grade students who participates in Westmoreland School's Office Monitor program. (Post photo/Eric Foster)

Westmoreland school program gives students a taste of responsibility

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

It's a simple thing, answering the telephone. But for fifth-grade students at the Westmoreland Elementary School, answering the phone can be a source of pride and accomplishment.

It means that they've earned the trust to become an Office Monitor.

An Office Monitor's job is to watch the school's office in their free time. Westmoreland principal Samuel Barbose remembers starting the program six years ago, "almost out of necessity because sometimes there wasn't anyone in the office."

Now students are waiting in line to do it.

"You get to be here and do grown-up stuff," says Nicole Yuknavage. "Answer phone calls from people you don't know, that's fun."

More than fun, Barbose sees serious educational benefits coming from the project - adding a couple of Rs to the curriculum of reading, writing and arithmetic - namely self-Respect and Responsibility.

"It's going to develop additional self-esteem, independence, interdependence, and a sense of responsibility outside the classroom," says Barbose. "They choose to be helpful when others are out playing."

Barbose stresses that the students do not lose any class time by being an Office Monitor. The students also have their parents' permission to participate.

So how do the students qualify to be an Office Monitor?

"Their present teachers and the teachers from the year before recommended them for their outstanding manners and courtesy in dealing with adults and their fellow students," says Barbose. "And their ability to deal with the telephone."

"You have to be good in class," adds Kelly Phillips, who was recently Nicole's partner in manning the fort. "You have to bring in your signed tests and notes. If you don't want to do it, you don't have to."

The students always watch the office in pairs, changing pairs weekly, and the nearest teacher is just down the hall.

"They are not out there as an island," says Barbose. "I always make sure they know where I am."

If there is a problem, one will be a runner to get the nearest teacher for adult supervision."

Carol Wink, the school's secretary, trains the students to use the telephone and intercom, and coordinates the program.

"The kids are very astute," says Wink. "The first few days, I was with them. I spent time showing them how to use the phone, how to use the intercom, how to put a person on hold, how to take a message."

"It's hard to do when you just start. One thing I'm glad I haven't had to do - use the intercom," says Nicole, pointing to the many-levered machine. "And answering the phone, sometimes they have a weird name. One time someone called and asked for Mrs. Wink. They asked 'Who's this?' I said this is her helper."

When the students get a telephone call and are asked to take a message, they know what to do. They get the date, time, name, phone numbers, and the reason for the call.

For their reference, there's a sample telephone message on the desk from John Doe.

Nicole wonders who John Doe is.

"That's what they name people who go to the hospital unconscious," answers Kelly.

The trickiest part of the job for Kelly has been using the copying machine. "We had to get Mr. B to help," she says.

The older students, seasoned veterans in Mrs. Wink's terminology, all refer to their principal as Mr. B.

Nicole says that it's no problem when people come into the office. "You just tell them to sit down and buzz their kid."

The program has proven to be so successful that Barbose says there's no shortage of interested students.

"Even in the fall and the spring when the weather is beautiful, you always have some kids who want to do it," says Barbose. "We provide an opportunity for any fifth grader to participate. They can work towards it if they want."

"I think they're learning something," says Wink, "because they say, 'Gosh, Mrs. Wink, you sure have a lot to do.'"

Shavertown United Methodist Church slates adult forums

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 26, a new phase of the Adult Forum educational program will begin at the Shavertown United Methodist Church. The sessions are held each Sunday from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. and are located in the church lounge.

The program will be as follows: January 26, "Dealing With Family Stress," - led by Dr. James Calderone of College Misericordia; February 2, "A Personal Look at Russia," Part II - "A Russian Perspective," - led by Vladimir Kistanov, a recent immigrant; February 16, "A Christian's Use of Money," Part I - "Money Management and Investments," - led by Charles "Chip" Koehl, Merrill-Lynch Co.; February 23, "A Christian's Use of Money" Part II - "Wills and Bequests," - led by Atty. Benjamin R. Jones III;

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - "A Perspective on the Bill of Rights—Church/State Issues," - led by John Turner, teacher at Dallas Area High School; April 5, 12, "The Art of Story Telling as Communication," - led by Mary Baker, Story Teller and Susan E. Davis, moderator; April 19 - No meeting on Easter; April 26, "Beyond the Grave," - led by Pastors James Wert and Harriet Santos; May 3, 10, 17, "Faith Sharing - A Christian Confronts and Shares the Faith" - Various leaders; May 31, June 7, 14, "Eastern Religions," led by John Turner.

Parents of the Church School children, the congregation, and the public are invited to attend. There is no registration fee or charge. The church is located at the corner of North Pioneer Avenue and West Center Street, Shavertown.



THEY'RE LEARNING RESPONSIBILITY - Among the fifth-graders who take part in the Office Monitor program at Westmoreland Elementary School are, first row, from left: Holly Ramey, Kelly Phillips, Victory Zeigler, Rachel Hiller, Nicole Yuknavage. Second row, from left: Beth Carey, Courtney Kryston, Betsy Rosenthal, Liz Wekss. Third row, from left: Liz Stocker, Katie Russ, Linda Pitcavage. Not shown, Jonathan Humphrey. (Post photo/Eric Foster)

Astronomy

(continued from page 1)

for the public on campus, bringing telescopes, red lamps for night vision, sky charts and binoculars to the lawn by Hayfield House. He hopes to repeat it this year.

"We're very versatile," Rosser continued. "In addition to taking all of our own photos, last year we projected the partial solar eclipse onto a screen so that it was safe to look at with the naked eye. If a notable event such as a meteor shower or comet will be visible on a night that we're normally closed, I'll come out to the dome for visitors. I'd really love to project views of the moon, the planets or an eclipse onto a screen in the Tech building's auditorium. It would be relatively easy to set up."

Several improvements have been made in the dome by Dr. Walter Bennett, a part-time astronomy professor at Penn State. Bennett's experience at the Mount Wilson and Kitt Peak observatories have enhanced Penn State's program. Rosser says. Bennett installed built-in tables, a safety gate and a permanent telescope mount on the platform.

Many astronomy hobbyists have asked Rosser's advice on what type of telescope they should buy. "I tell them to use the two telescopes

that God gave them," he said. "Look at the sky with the naked eye and learn some of its geography, the constellations. Use binoculars for a closer look."

He feels that studying astronomy is very important, especially for children. "Space will play a large part in their future. One of the kids who looks at the sky from this dome might some day design a new propulsion system to take us to other galaxies."

A part-time student majoring in physics at Wilkes University, Rosser has been interested in astronomy since he was a child. He built a three-foot diameter telescope many years ago, using a plywood box, a telescope mirror and all of the necessary mounts.

His three-year-old daughter Rachel shares his interest. "She already understands that we live on a big spinning ball, and that the other lights in the sky are also big spinning balls," he laughed. "Rachel likes to stay up nights and look at the sky. The other night I showed her Jupiter."

If an astronomer's job description includes sharing his sense of wonder with others, then John Rosser has done his job well.

Dallas Township chipping old Christmas trees

Dallas Township supervisors announce that due to the recent inclement weather, the Christmas tree pickup is slightly behind schedule.

"We have picked up roughly 90% of the discarded trees," said Supervisor Frank Wagner.

"Unless we get more snow or ice, we expect that the road crew will be able to finish collecting Christmas trees by the end of the week."

Wagner added that the township has been recycling Christmas

trees into mulch for five years and has purchased its own chipper to make the operation more cost-effective. Mulch is available at no cost at the township building; residents must come and pick it up themselves.

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