

## Head Start

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said with an icing-covered smile.

A federally funded non-profit program, Head Start offers enrichment experiences and teaches social skills to prepare children of low-income families and handicapped or disabled children for kindergarten.

Bright signs and pictures remind children to "Use your walking feet" and "Use your inside voices," as the little ones learn to work and play together. Although academics are not stressed, children learn songs and games to review the alphabet, colors and counting.

Head Start encourages parents to become involved in their children's education; mothers help plan and supervise group activities and often come into the half-day class to assist the teachers.

Lake-Noxen school houses the Back Mountain's only Head Start center, which will expand in September to include an afternoon session, which will service a total of 34 children, accord-

ing to executive director Lynn Biga.

Pinpointing where a Head Start center will do the most good is determined by a community needs assessment based on low-income statistics, Ms. Biga explained. The program rents space in the designated school district and brings in its own teachers and support staff to operate the center.

"Our first year of operations at Lake-Noxen was a wonderful year," Biga added. "We have developed a good relationship with the community and the school district."

Head Start's class of 1992 included Brianna Allen, Brandon Cord, Joyce Corey, Raphael Coury, David Hughes, Lenny Karasek, Ryan Kates, Britany Kittle, Joshua Kupstas, Crystal Lasoski, Amanda Perschau, Jared Semanek, Kenny Shefler, Kelly Wasylkewicz and Amanda Wiltsie.

The Lake-Noxen facility's staff includes supervisor Cheryl Tsikalas, teacher assistant Robin Wilson, family worker Debbie Maskalis, health assistant Cindy Brin and bus driver Amy Butler.



**JUST REWARDS** - Head Start graduates Brandon Cord and Mandy Wiltsie check out the goodies in their gift bags after a ceremony Thursday, June 4, at Lake-Noxen School. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)



**LITTLE GRADUATE** - Head Start graduate Brianna Allen received her diploma from teacher Cheryl Tsikalas at a ceremony Thursday, June 4, at Lake-Noxen School. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

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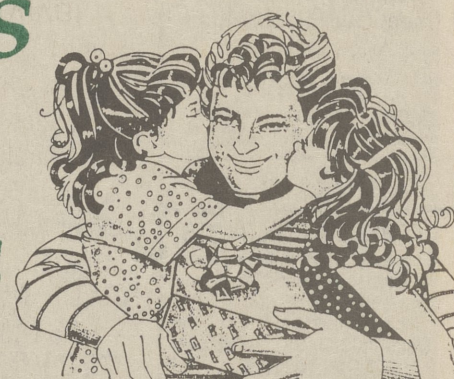
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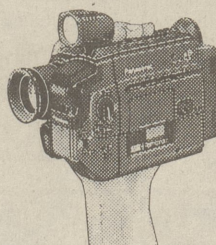
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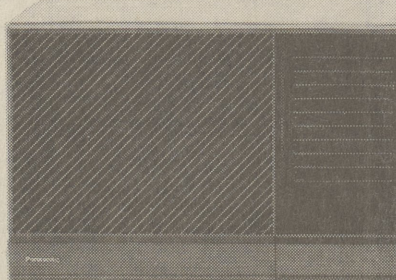
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