

One-room school technique revived

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Back in the days of the one-room schoolhouse, a single teacher taught all eight grades, with students working on their lessons in groups. Back then it might have been called team learning.

Today educators have begun to use a form of the one-room schoolhouse in a teaching technique called cooperative learning.

Mrs. Jeris Baranowski, a home economics teacher at Lake-Lehman High School, has successfully used cooperative learning in her classroom for nearly a year. Other teachers in the science, art and learning support departments have also begun using the technique.

At the beginning of the year, the teacher divides the class into groups of students with different abilities. As the class works on different projects, the students rotate jobs in the group: recorder (secretary), taskmaster (leader), checker, questioner.

Although chemistry isn't one of his favorite subjects, eleventh-grader Ernie Chamberlain, a student in Mrs. Gail Keen's chemistry class, enjoys the cooperative learning projects that his class has done this year.

"It makes the time go by faster," he said. "The work seems easier and more fun. It sure beats sitting in class all period just taking notes. I get to put my two cents in. Sometimes hearing a concept or problem translated into the way we kids speak makes it easier to understand."

Since the students rotate jobs in their groups, the shy student won't always get stuck being recorder, with the outgoing or "super-smart" student always leading, he said.

Each student has several turns at each job and many opportunities to contribute to the group's work and overall success.

Science student Dawn Ross said that she and her group enjoy working together. "These are the highest grades that I've ever gotten in a class," she said.

Classmate Keith Martin said that his group prefers working together to the traditional 45-minute lecture.

Art teacher Richard Derby's students have used cooperative learning to assemble a bright collage on a neon-yellow wall in the high school's main corridor, and have now branched out into a clay workshop.

"For the teachers, cooperative learning is actually harder work than the traditional lecture-homework-review method," Baranowski said.

"It takes more time to develop group activities that will expand the textbook and regular classwork. And while the class is working in groups, the teacher also works with them."

The students learn more working together, which allows the teacher to go into more detail on specific units and to cover more subject material during the year, she said. Teachers using cooperative learning also report that the students do better on tests.

Eleventh-graders Karen Komsisky and Gretchen Dershimer, along with several other students, have become involved in another aspect of cooperative learning, in which older, experienced students help the younger ones with problem areas.

Komsisky spends her seventh and eighth period study halls twice a week helping Mrs. Shurites'

learning-disabled students at the Lake-Noxen elementary school.

"I help the teacher prepare displays and coach the kids in reading and their multiplication tables," Komsisky said. "I don't give them any answers. Sometimes it's a challenge to think up ways of helping them get the right answer. The kids look forward to it."

Dershimer spends two study halls at the Lehman-Jackson building, tutoring students. "I'm just starting, but I really enjoy it," she said.

Cooperative learning doesn't teach only subject matter, Baranowski said. It teaches responsibility, cooperation and patience. Although the students are working together, they do not replace the teacher.

"Students learn to take responsibility for their own education, rather than depending on the teacher to spoon-feed them the right answers," she said. "They learn that they won't succeed until their whole group understands the assignment. By emphasizing teamwork over individual competition, I feel that we are also teaching the students skills that will be valuable later in life, out in the workplace."

Baranowski, an 18-year classroom veteran, became interested in cooperative learning last year while taking graduate courses and experimenting with the technique in her classes.

Most of the students in classes using cooperative learning like the format, she said. One class, interrupted by announcements from the loudspeaker, shouted "Don't bother us - we're having fun!"

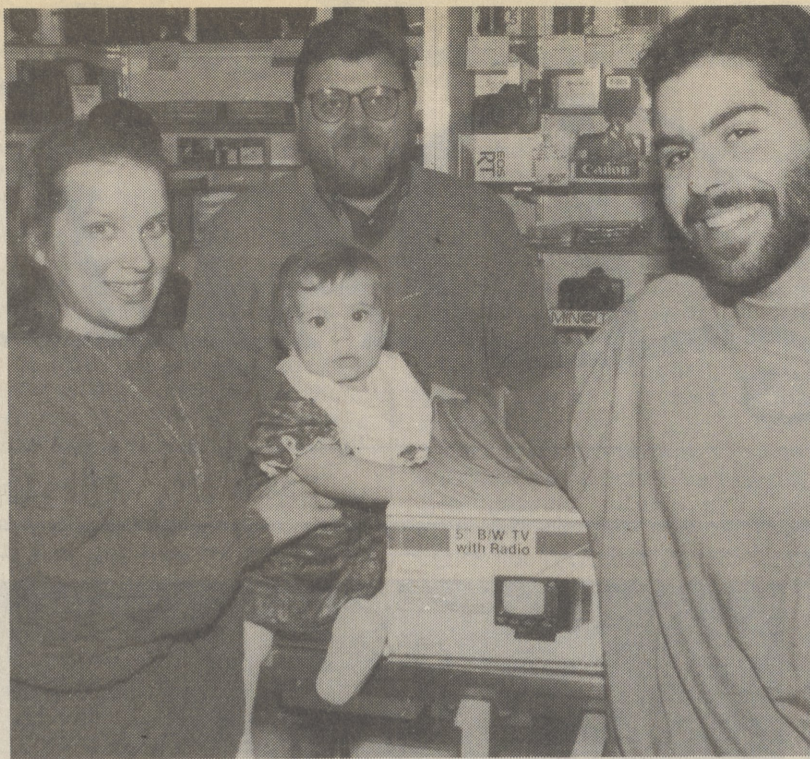


PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS - Kristine Candrilli won a black and white TV-radio as first prize in Dallas Photo's fourth annual Fall Foliage Photo contest. Mrs. Candrilli, left, shows off her prize with her daughter, Kayla, Randy Loyd of Dallas Photo and her husband, Peter Candrilli. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

Photo contest winners chosen

Kristine and Peter Candrilli, a Wilkes-Barre family in the process of relocating to Harveys Lake, won the first prize of a 5-inch black-and-white TV and radio in the fourth annual Fall Foliage Photo Contest sponsored by Dallas Photo. Snapped by Kristine Candrilli, using a Minolta 35-mm camera, the winning photo depicts their daughter, nine-month old Kayla, playing with a pumpkin in a pile of leaves.

"My husband saw the sign the last day of the contest, on his way to the home that we're building at Harvey's Lake," Kristine Candrilli said. "He made a special trip home for Kayla's picture."

Mary Hosey of Dallas won a second prize \$15 gift certificate to Dallas Photo for her shot of a flaming red and orange tree.

Linda Swaboski of Dallas won a third prize \$10 gift certificate to Dallas Photo for her fall lake and landscape.

Judges were Lake-Lehman High School photography teacher Dan Williams, Joe Hand of Sue Hand's Gallery in Dallas and Grace Dove, staff reporter/photographer for The Dallas Post.

Randy Loyd, manager of Dallas Photo, said that he had more than 50 entries of exceptionally high quality photos

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Once again the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Company needs your help. We are selling 1993 Calendars, at a lower price than previous years. They make great gifts.

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Irem Temple art, craft show Nov. 14-15

With a hint of the holidays in the air, the Ladies of Irem Temple prepare to open the annual Arts and Crafts Show, November 14 and 15. The annual event, featuring many specialty items for holiday shoppers will be held at the Irem Temple Mosque, 52 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre. More than 70 vendors will offer buyers items as diverse as hand-crafted dolls, anthracite coal sculptures, leather goods, glass pieces and needlework and embroidery. This year's arts and crafts show is chaired by Laura Burkel with Judy Knorr serving a co-chair.

In addition to the arts and crafts offered for sale, there will be home-cooked foods including clam chowder, chili, whimpies and fresh baked goods. The Irem Temple Clowns will also be on hand to entertain youngsters. The Clowns will feature their face-painting artistry as they make up youngsters who attend the show.

Irem Ladies Arts and Crafts show times are: Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Police report

Kingston Twp.

HIT AND RUN ACCIDENT ON ROUTE 309

According to Kingston Township Police, light damage was caused to a Toyota Camry driven by Karen Brown of Dallas when an unidentified vehicle collided with her automobile on November 3.

Kingston Township Police report that Brown contacted them to report that she was traveling north on Route 309 in the passing lane. She told police that she stopped for a red light at the Route 309, East Center Street intersection. The police report that a cream colored vehicle then collided with her. Brown said that she pulled to the side of the road, and then observed the vehicle proceeding north on Route 309.

A witness informed Kingston Township Police that the vehicle was driven by an older male with a female passenger.

Dingle attends conference

Eric Dingle, Esq., of Trucksville was a voting delegate to Planned Parenthood Federation of America's 76th Annual Conference held October 21-25 in Chicago, Illinois.

Dingle is a member of the board of directors of Planned Parenthood of Northeast Pennsylvania. The non-profit agency provides family planning, counseling and medical services.


The conference was attended by more than 1,200 volunteers and

staff representing 169 Planned Parenthood affiliates throughout the United States. They were joined by leaders in politics, law, medicine, education and the media.

The PPFA annual conference brought together a broad spectrum of family planning experts and supporters. Many took part in workshops covering such topics as teen sexuality, new contraception methods and the growing shortage of physicians performing abortions.

Taxpayer Forum meets November 17

The Dallas Taxpayers Forum will meet Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. at Gate of Heaven, Machell Avenue, Dallas. The agenda will be reports, and planning session for the year.



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