

## Drug program

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to the Thursday group with a more serious problem: his parents were alcoholics and he was afraid that he would also become one.

With the help of his friends in the drug and alcohol program, he has stepped back from alcohol use, made new friends who don't drink and has begun a good job.

Under Pennsylvania state law, all students are required to have eight classes a year in drug and alcohol prevention. McGee, nicknamed "the drug lady" by her students, teaches every class in the district.

Recently assigned to Lake-Lehman, McGee relies on the strong program set up by her predecessor, Pam McDonald, who left the area at Christmas after working in the district for five years.



"HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE THAT?" - Drug and alcohol prevention/education specialist Lisa McGee meets with a group of Lake-Lehman High School students as part of her work with the district. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

From "Super Puppy" teaching the little ones to stay safe and take good care of themselves to the junior high students' major changes in self-image and the senior high students' awakening sense of responsibility and social conscience, McGee tries to involve her students as much as possible in every phase of drug and alcohol education in the district.

Students are encouraged to help one another, through the Peer Helpers, Students Against Drunk Driving (S.A.D.D.) and visits as role models to the elementary schools to spread the word to "just say no."

Students with serious problems are referred to the appropriate agencies, such as The Bridge, Children and Youth or Community Counseling Services.

"I think that the students are very receptive to the program," McGee said, noting that her former students from a nearby school have passed the word to Lake-Lehman that "the drug lady is cool."

Lake-Lehman is one of 11 Luzerne County school districts utilizing Wyoming Valley Drug and Alcohol Service's programs: two part-time drug and alcohol prevention supervisors, Bill Dougherty and Mylene Krzanowksi, also work two days a week in the Dallas schools. Lesson plans on decision-

making, motivation, withstanding peer pressure and other topics are provided by the agency, but the individual specialist determines how they are used.

Dallas has developed Support for Teens at Risk (STAR), a special intervention program in the middle school and high school, aimed at identifying and referring "high risk" students living with substance abuse, truancy, school phobia, depression or other situations for appropriate treatment, Dougherty said.

The overall message is "You're not alone. You're not a bad kid. We care about you."

"Families with these problems shouldn't be ashamed. They should go for help," said Jen, a Lake-Lehman junior who has been involved in the "drug lady's" programs since seventh grade.

"I've learned to be a lot more understanding, to be there if one of my friends has a problem," she continued. "The most important thing is to let others know that you care."

## Directors

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According to Dallas School District superintendent Gerald Wycallis, displays on School Directors' Month have been set up in the lobby of the administration building. School board members have also been publicly commended in the local press for their work, Wycallis said.

Dallas school board members are James L. Richardson, Clarence Michael, Ernest Ashbridge, Jr., Thomas Stitzer, Ellen Nagy, John George, Thomas Landon, Dr. Richard Coslett and John Cleary.

First officially organized under the Free School Act of 1894 to provide for local control of public education, school districts are administered by locally elected officials, who are in the unique position of also being considered state officials, since as school directors, they also serve as agents of the General Assembly.

According to information furnished by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), board members establish district policies, approve educational programs, provide and maintain the district's facilities, hire properly certified professional and non-professional employees, prepare budgets and raise local funds used by their respective districts in conjunction with state and federal monies to operate all programs.

## American Legion pig roast February 6

Daddow-Isaacs Post 672, The American Legion, will hold their annual Pig Roast, February 6, at the Post Home in Dallas. Serving is 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Post Home. Adults \$6.00, children tickets at the night of the dinner only.

Music for dancing will start at 9 p.m.

## Teacher

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education, will fill James' position as an intern under the supervision of Lake-Noxen principal Robert Kunkle.

Ms. Peiffer is certified to fill that position, as well as being qualified to fill the now-vacant position of supervisor of curriculum and instruction, Ms. Houck said.

According to information

provided by the PAESSP, Ms. Peiffer has earned certificates in elementary education, reading specialist, supervisor of reading and an administrative certificate as an elementary principal.

School district solicitor Peter Savage said that from the district's perspective, Ms. Peiffer's reassignment to the classroom was within the scope of the

Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949.

"Ms. Peiffer's reassignment was a demotion in the sense that she went from serving in an administrative capacity to a classroom position," he said.

The PAESSP attorneys have advised Ms. Peiffer not to make any comments to the press.



## Auxilians Honored

Mrs. Mina McCracken, oldest living member of the Auxiliary of Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, seated left, and Mrs. Geraldine Nesbitt Orr, auxiliary with the most years of service, seated right, were acknowledged during a commemorative luncheon hosted by the executive board of the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Also shown is Mrs. Carol Griffiths, Auxiliary executive board president. The luncheon was among the many festivities conducted this year by the Auxiliary, which like Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, celebrated its 80th anniversary during 1992.

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