

## Lake-Noxen

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Both agree that team-teaching allows them to address more issues than they could in a "self-contained" room. With team-teaching, the walls are literally torn down to create large open spaces for the teachers and students.

"(Working together) gives us the opportunity to know our students, know their individual needs and discuss individual problems with them," said Jachimowicz. "It's fun for the teachers to find other teaching techniques. We discuss a lot of activities that aren't possible in a self-contained room. The development of the curriculum is better when we work as a team."

All four teachers meet once a week to plan lessons that will enhance each subject.

Garrety, who is a new teacher, believes the possibilities are endless with team-teaching. "It's easier to integrate subjects (with this system)," she said.

Garrety said one activity they planned together was the Heritage Game. Students form groups and try to get from San Diego to Maine, using maps and their minds.

"They have to figure out what route to take and have to report on historical landmarks they will encounter on the way," said Garrety. "The game incorporates many different areas." The students keep a diary where they can use their imagination and write about all the highs and lows of traveling. Also, they use math skills while calculating points and learn teamwork by working in a group. "It's a lot of work, but they love it," said Garrety.

Edwards and Rich Cronan teach math and science across

*We discuss a lot of activities that aren't possible in a self-contained room."*

Patricia Jachimowicz  
Lake-Noxen teacher

the hall from language arts. During the first switch of the day, the students participate in Team Assisted Instruction (TIA). They break off into groups of four and work through their math booklets. Students of all different levels are put into the groups. When each person is finished with his or her assignment, someone in the group corrects it.

"The kids can help one another," said Edwards, who has worked in the district 23 years. "The teachers help with the major difficulties." Edwards said TIA helps students learn teamwork and allows them to work at their own pace. During the second part of the class, the teachers instruct on new material.

Although it is not part of the set curriculum for lower grades, the teachers often work together anyway. Virginia Ide and Georganne Jones are second grade teachers who have chosen to work together on lessons for 10 years.

"It offers so much more to children. We put ideas together and offer different viewpoints and a way of teaching (to the children)," said Jones.

The two teachers and reading specialist Joel Heldredge work together to teach their students about each state in the nation. Collectively, Ide and Heldredge have been to all 50 states and



share their personal knowledge and photos with the students.

Ide told a quiet group of second graders about her journey up into the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and to Memphis. Many of the students "oohed" and "aahed" when she mentioned her trip to Elvis Presley's house.

"It's great. We pool all of our resources. But, at this age the students still need to be with one teacher the majority of the time," said Ide.

McLaughlin-Smith said Lake-Noxen Elementary has scored high the last four years on standardized tests and he credits team-teaching for a good part of this progress. This is particularly outstanding because Lake-Noxen is at a lower socio-economical status than other elementary schools in the area. The majority of students receive either free or reduced-cost lunches, he said.

Looking through Mrs. Ide's photo albums

with pictures from all over the United States, from left, first row, Chris Barbacci, Kayle Teetsel, Ben Norris, Ramah Williams and Brian Shurmanek. Second row, Deanna Dragon, Kirsten Jackson and Courtney Gleco. (Top photo.) In right photo, Kevin Hadsall takes control of the rake and shows his classmates how its done.

POST PHOTOS/  
KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER



## Author will sign books April 11

Barbour Publishing Company and author, Sally Laity will hold a book signing party at Gifts From Above Christian Bookstore, in Dallas on Sat. April 11, from 1-3 p.m.

Although Laity presently lives in California, she is originally from Dallas. She grew up in Dallas and graduated from Westmoreland Area High School. She estimates that 50 percent of her stories take place in the Back Mountain or Wilkes-Barre, and attributes this to a familiarity with her "roots."

Laity is a Christian contemporary and historical romance author. Her current release from Barbour Publishing company is entitled *Only You*. Another love story collection, *1 Do*, is scheduled for release in May.

All persons who have an interest in meeting this local author are invited to come to Gifts From Above Christian Bookstore.

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## Jacket

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have a jacket.

Former supervisor Walter Glogowski recommended that the board "re-examine the budget for overages." He explained the past use of a "fluid budget" where overages of one department can be turned over to another for needed unbudgeted items or emergency situations.

Edward Chesnovitch questioned the board again on the idea of having police officers take part in a re-qualifying physical exam. Chesnovitch is concerned about the officers maintaining physical conditioning and has made specific reference to the Berwick Police Department, which has put a conditioning program into effect.

Chief Jones says he has already talked with the officers about the idea and they would all welcome such a program. "In fact, the officers have requested the use of a swimming pool to maintain physical conditioning," he said. Jones feels confident that he and his officers would pass such a test.

Fred Murray, an active follower of the ongoing court case between Jackson Township and American Asphalt, again asked board members for an estimated cost of these proceedings.

Blythe Evans, solicitor for the board, responded, "For the 15 month ongoing case, a total of

about \$28,000 has been expended, approximately \$500 a hearing or about \$1,200 a month." The next hearings are scheduled for April 29 and 30. This puts the total number of hearings in the last 15 months over 30.

The last issue brought to the attention of board members and Chief Jones was a concern of many on Monday night. Several citizens spoke about the speeding problem on several different roadways which host bus stops. Citizens requested beefing up patrols. Chief Jones agreed to increase patrols in those high traffic areas that also serve as bus routes.

## Project

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Council last fall to pitch her idea. Council was surprised but very enthusiastic about Tara's ideas. "She's an excellent role model for other students," council member Jay Pope said. "Hopefully this is only the beginning. She seems to have a flair for dealing with people."

Council member Martha Weber is also enthusiastic about the project. "We thought it was a great idea. They're working really hard on it," she said. Pope added, "Council is supporting her and her classmates 100 percent. The borough is also going to be involved monetarily."

Todd Buckley, a 7th grader at the middle school, is one of the students involved in the project. The Dallas Township resident explained why he joined. "The community gave me so much that I felt I had to give the community back something."

Elizabeth Eby, an 8th grader, joined the group for similar reasons. "I thought it would be neat to see what we could do for downtown Dallas and I thought it would be a fun project to work on," she said.

Dallas Middle School principal Tony Martinelli has been helping the group facilitate their events.

He said he wasn't surprised that the students took an interest in local government. "I'm never surprised at anything our students do," he said. "I think it's a great effort on their part. They're learning a lot about civics and government."

The group is still in the fundraising stage. They've sold peanuts in holiday tins, held bake sales, and hosted a volleyball game between WKRZ-FM and Dallas Middle School staff. They have also received contributions from the community.

The group has raised \$2,000 so far, but they're not finished yet.

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Recently, Sue Hand donated a painting which they will raffle. They will be sponsoring a car wash. They will sell t-shirts, and they also intend to have a flea market. Mrs. Puchalsky said their goal is to raise another \$3,000.

So what will they do with the funds? Tara hopes to buy park

benches, flower boxes, and banners to make Main Street a more inviting place. "If we free up enough money, we'll buy a sign for Dallas that says 'Welcome to Dallas,'" Mrs. Puchalsky said. Mrs. Puchalsky said the group hopes to put benches and signs in place in July or August.

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