

Mrs. Cannon reads from one of the big, colorful readers. Sitting is Tony Bevevino, Jessica Smith, Michael Jayne, Eric Lohmann and Mike Diaco.

## Reading

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more about what is going on in the classroom. Spelling words are included in the stories, as well as comprehension and vocabulary. Also, all of the stories are real children's books," said King. Separate spelling, writing and grammar workbooks are used along with reading the stories.

King said the research behind the series shows that it helps to prepare children for state assessment tests that now ask students to give open-ended writing responses to reading selections.

"This is where kids across the state get into trouble. Comprehensive skills are tested after each story (in the series). It's the same type of assessment as the state's," he explained.

"In the real world kids have to go up to things they've never read before and respond to it and com-

*"It was time to change. We want to keep up to date."*

**Sam Barbose**  
Dallas Elementary Principal

prehend it," said King, who has worked with textbooks for more than 10 years.

Barbose said the series is fit for every student. In the past, students were put in groups based on their skill level, but there is research that showed that children who went into the low group never got out.

King explained that Signatures takes the students story by story and puts them into flexible groups, not permanent ones. If they do not understand one story and its lessons, there are extra interven-

tion materials designed to help them get it.

Betsy Cannon, first grade teacher, said she likes the integrated series. "We're still using all of the same concepts, like phonics. But, these use regular library books in a series of stories. The children love the literature. There are great stories," she said.

"The series gives unity because you can keep referring back to the same story (for most of the lessons). Also, the teaching guides have many activities and give many different ideas. There are many choices according to abilities of groups within the class," explained Cannon.

The books are colorful with plays, stories, artwork and biographies about the authors and illustrators. In one of the third grade reading books, some of the

themes include, "The Power of Teamwork," "Discovering Courage," and "Creativity at Work."

Each theme will have a number of stories ranging in length, a poem and picture of a painting or drawing that relates to the theme. For example, within the theme, "Discovering Courage," there is a Norman Rockwell painting of young boy lying on the 20 ft. high dive staring wide-eyed at the water below. Questions ask the student what a specific character in one of the stories would do and why. Also, the books encompass stories about people and places all over the world.

Barbose said the complete reading series is available at the Back Mountain Memorial Library for community use. "They can be used in case someone forgot to bring a book home," he said.

## Garden

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social studies. All are deceased.

Sally Kennard, wellness teacher, joined Wega, Abby Campbell, Karen Klavukn and Larry Schuler on the committee. Kennard has worked at Dallas for 32 years and remembers all eight men. "We learned a lot about handling students from these people," said Kennard. "But there are some stories you can't print," she said with giggle.

"Principals, secretaries and maintenance staff helped with the garden," said Kennard. "People brought in plants and donated bulbs and seeds. Next year we plan to get a sun dial and put up a donated green house for ecology students."

Kennard said she and the other teachers realized that the garden would also touch the students of these teachers. "A lot of people had their lives touched or changed by teachers," she said.

One of them is Sue Hand, who graduated from Dallas High School in 1963. As the head majorette, she worked closely with band director Lester Lewis. "Mr. Lewis was magnificent," she said from her art studio in Dallas. "He was a father figure. He always expected us to do our best and we did. He had patience," said Hand. "He worked to bring out the best in all of us."

Hand thinks the garden is an excellent way to remember teachers. "These people gave so much of themselves to our community," she said.

"Dallas was a very rural com-

*"They gave everything they had to us. We felt like we were their lives."*

**Sue Hand**  
Dallas High graduate

munity and these teachers stood as giants. They were the people we looked up to," Hand said. "The kids now don't remember these people. They were part of what makes Dallas what it is today. They gave everything they had to us. We felt like we were their lives."

Hand recalls the story of how the international Cider Painters art group was named. After telling a painting class how she and another majorette would sneak apple cider onto the band bus, Hand's students decided the group should be called the Cider Painters. So, Mr. Lewis is inadvertently linked to naming an international painter's group.

Kennard said Larry Hilbert, owner of Hilbert's Equipment & Welding and a Dallas graduate, excitedly donated a tiller for the project when he heard that Mr. Rashys's name was included. Also, Garth Fike donated slate stones to serve as a walkway through the garden.

Kennard said the garden will expand next year and eventually take up the entire grassy section between two wings of classrooms.

## Pet owners have many reasons to seek blessings for their furry friends

*"They're a part of our family and faith."*

**Diane Sedlak**

*"We bring her every year. She likes to see the other pets."*

**Kelly Lenehan**

*"It's good to think that God is watching over them."*

**Cara Symons'**

*"They're my family"*

**Laurie Sterling**

*"Our black lab, Agnes, is 14 years old and ill."*

**Melissa Flack**

*"I figured they needed it."*

**Bob Cannon**



POST PHOTO/MEIRA ZUCKER

Bringing their pets for a blessing, from left, Maggie Manzoni with Timmy; and Cara Symons, Lorraine Symons and Rachel Symons with Rascal.



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Standing in the Scholar's Garden, Larry Schuler, Cathy Wega, Sally Kennard, Abby Campbell and Karen Klavukn.



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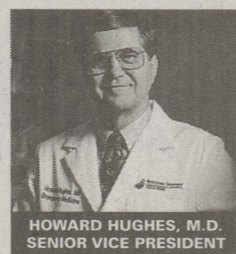

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