

EDITORIALS

# New method makes math an 'everyday' tool

Maybe it's true that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but teachers in Dallas elementary schools are proving that experienced teachers can learn to instruct math in new and interesting ways. Teachers at the Wycallis and Dallas schools appear to be as excited as their students about the progressive "Everyday Math" program, known casually as Chicago math, after the university at which it was developed.

The curriculum uses common objects and activities to show children that math is not just a bunch of confusing, obscure concepts but a practical tool that we use every day; thus the moniker. For example, students measure their desks and books to learn about rulers, and use a "tool kit" that includes coins and other familiar items. The lesson plan sprinkles math throughout the class day, and each concept will be revisited several times as the school year progresses.

The new program is being introduced to the lower grades, who will follow it through to their high school graduation, at which point it will be taught at every grade level. That kind of continuity can go a long way toward helping everyone — even those who think they're "not good at math" — develop a practical and useful understanding of this vital skill.

# Starting the new year in fun

This is the time for making resolutions, even ones we have no intention of keeping. In the spirit of the season, The Dallas Post is taking the liberty of offering a few resolution suggestions to people who have been in the news in the past year.

**For Bill Peiffer**, president of Dallas Borough Council: A resolution to obtain a manifest for the destruction of cassette tapes of council meetings, so he won't be embarrassed by forgetting how the last one was disposed of.

**For Clarence Newcomb**, Shavertown firefighter: To get some new, stylish outfits for his loyal and long-suffering Dalmatian, Ember.

**For Frank Galicki**, principal of Dallas High School: To study the complete lyrics of Elvis Presley, so at next year's faculty concert he remembers all the words!

**For Michael Gavin**, attorney for Nextel Communications: Next time he's looking for a place to put a wireless communications tower, to find a spot that isn't in the backyard of the new home of a high-powered attorney.

**For Chris Scharff**, soccer coach at Dallas High School: To take the Lou Holtz approach to projections about the coming season, and modestly suggest the team might win more games than it loses, maybe, if enough things go their way.

## Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



If you thought the presidential election was a mess, you ought to check out the "Bowl Championship Series" instituted by the NCAA to stave off demands for a football playoff tournament. For you non-sports fans, bowl games are the ones that take place weeks after the regular season has ended, and which are designed primarily to provide vacations for players, coaches and fans while offering wonderful promotion opportunities for businesses that have nothing better to do with their shareholders' money than to attach the company's name to traditional games. Thus you end up with such stirring titles as "Capital One Citrus Bowl", "FedEx Orange Bowl", and my personal favorite, the "galleryfurniture.com Bowl." (I hear next year's big game will be the "usbankruptcycourt.com Bowl.")

Anyway, since college football is much too pure to engage in a tournament to determine the best team in the land — apparently a critically important distinction on certain campuses — teams are ranked on the basis of their season record and schedule by a computer, which has been programmed to distinguish between a narrow victory over a tough opponent and a blowout of a weakling. Thus, we went into the weekend with this scenario in place: Oklahoma, which was the only undefeated team this season, was ranked Numero Uno, but was an underdog in the national championship game to Florida State, which was ranked second despite having lost to Miami, which was to play Florida instead of meeting Washington, which beat Miami during the season but ended up ranked fourth before pasting Purdue in the Rose Bowl. And that doesn't even count Virginia Tech and Oregon State, each of which handily won their bowl games to end the season with a single loss each.

After Wednesday night, all will be satisfactorily resolved, provided Oklahoma beats FSU by a whisker and Miami barely gets by Florida. If, however, as the touts project, FSU wins and Miami wins big, we could have a "split" national championship, which could very well result in the same fate for the computer that makes the rankings and the skulls of the people who came up with this scheme in the first place.

But no matter what the outcome on the field, you can be sure of one thing: the schools involved will rake in millions in sponsorship and television revenues, beer companies will reach huge audiences, and several players will not bother to finish out the school year. Isn't this what college athletics is supposed to be all about?



Holiday fixture in a holiday storm. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

## Knights notes



Donora Hillard

As temperatures plummet and snow coats the roads, Lake-Lehman will have a new superintendent to dictate school delays and cancellations. Robert O. Roberts, former principal of the MLEB (Middle Level Education Building), was declared the district's administrative leader just two weeks ago. Mr. Roberts had served as acting superintendent following Dr. William Price's July retirement.

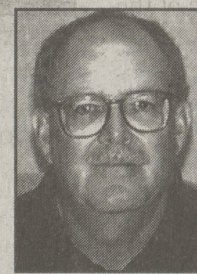
In addition to being the principal of the junior high — a phenomenal undertaking in its own right — Mr. Roberts has been a football and basketball coach, world culture and social studies teacher, chairman of the

# Welcome, Mr. Roberts

social studies department, senior class advisor, assistant principal of the high school and the school district's staff development coordinator. All of this has been accomplished in his 30 years at Lake-Lehman. In interviews he has noted that it is the district's sense of community he values most; involved parents who truly care about their children's education. In fact, his greatest concern is of losing contact with the very students he is attempting to lead, since positions of power often call for isolation.

It is rare and wonderful to find an administrator who truly makes an effort to level with students, encouraging them to enjoy the high school experience. Mr. Roberts believes that education is the key, and has led by example. He began his post-secondary education at

LCCC, moving on to obtain a BA in history and government. He then earned his Master's degree for secondary school administration at the University of Scranton, and acquired his superintendent letter of eligibility from Temple University.



ROBERT ROBERTS

I have known Mr. Roberts for the majority of my high school career; he and my father met in high school and are still friends, conversing at football games and still finding humor in nicknames from adolescence. He has always gone out of his way to be courteous and congenial toward me and the entire student body. I am completely confident he will continue to manage with kindness and respectability in his own unique way.

Congratulations Mr. Roberts, and don't worry; I won't divulge your high school moniker.

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Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

## ONLY YESTERDAY

### 70 Years Ago - Jan. 2, 1931 SHEEP EXPERT TO SPEAK TO SHEEP GROWERS

The William T. Payne Farm, on the Fernbrook-Demunds Rd., would play host to a sheep specialist from the Pennsylvania State College, who would speak on sheep management.

Kingston Twp. Chief of Police Avery was busy running down and killing unlicensed dogs. The State Dept. of Animal Industry ordered the killings due to a number of dogs being bitten by a dog that had rabies.

The Rural Basket Ball League was to get underway at the Dallas High School gym. Games would start Thursdays at 8 p.m., and be followed by dancing. Admission was 35¢ for the game and dance, or 25¢ for the dance only.

### 60 Years Ago - Jan. 3, 1941 FIRST LOCAL MEN CALLED UP IN DRAFT

Jack D. Honeywell, Dallas, and Allen H. Ockenhouse, Shavertown, were the first men from the Back Mountain to be drafted.

John Kuchta, Harveys Lake, was recovering at Nesbitt Hospital from injuries suffered when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver two weeks ago. No trace has been found of the driver.

Harveys Lake Police Chief Ira Stevenson and Patrolman Fred Swanson recovered antiques stolen five years earlier from the Troxell cottage. The loot, two hand-woven bedspreads and a Sterling silver tea service, were found in a home in Luzerne.

### 50 Years Ago - Jan. 5, 1951 LAWSON FAMILY MAKES MOVE FROM ENGLAND

The Back Mountain welcomed the family of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lawson, who moved to Huntville from England, seeking better living conditions than were available in post-war Great Britain. Mrs. Lawson is the daughter of Mrs. Eliza Fielding, Huntville, with whom the family of eight was staying temporarily.

Kingston Twp. supervisors began plans to give several hundred acres of land on top of Bunker Hill to the Borough of Luzerne. Arthur Smith, secretary to the supervisors, said the transfer would save the township and school at least \$1,500 annually.

Dr. L.E. Jordan, president of the Back Mountain Citizens' Committee for Better Schools, responded to critics of a proposed consolidation of schools by pointing out the overwhelming support the concept had from educators and parents.

### 40 Years Ago - Jan. 5, 1961 DR. FLACK LASSOS A DEER

Dr. George Flack, with some help, kept a buck deer out of the way of speeding traffic near his home on Memorial Highway. After enlisting some young men to coax the deer close to his house, Dr. Flack lowered a rope from a second floor sundeck around the animal's neck. The startled deer promptly kicked out the kitchen window before he could be tranquilized and removed from danger by game commission officers.

Paul M. Rodda, Pioneer Ave., was appointed secretary of the Pennsylvania State Society of Architects. He is a partner in the firm of Allen, Rodda and Hauck.

The new A&P Market, the first structure in the new Dallas Shopping Center, was under roof, with interior work taking place at a rapid pace.

### 30 Years Ago - Jan. 7, 1971 FIRST BABY CUTS IT CLOSE

Susan Luksic, infant daughter of John and Lucille Luksic, Overbrook Rd., Dallas, wasted little time in becoming the new year's first baby. She emerged at 15 seconds past midnight, Jan. 1, joining brothers John, 3 1/2, and Michael, 17 months.

Fred Lamoreaux announced that he would retire as chairman of the Dallas Twp. Board of Supervisors after 19 years in the post. He took the vice chairmanship until 1974, at which point he said he would leave the board. He also said he would retire as roadmaster in March.

In order to synchronize publication dates as closely as possible, the 20 Years Ago segment will resume next week.

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