



## They came a'caroling at Gate of Heaven

Students in kindergarten and first grade held their annual Christmas program Sunday, as the youngsters entertained enthusiastic parents and visitors. In photos, clockwise from top: Cheyenne Van-Pelt played Mary and John Patrick Butler was Joseph, accompanied by angels Cara Pricher and Stephanie Amann; Krissy Stanks and Jackie Thomas provided vocal accompaniment; fatigue set in for Haley Dudek; Michelle Fromel carefully spoke her lines; three little kittens, or were they reindeer, from left, Anna Layaou, Kathryn Comitz, Kallysta Panagokos; Andrew Costaris and Alycia Belskis were happy carolers.

POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS



## Dallas tests

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you will be in line for baseline money," Griffiths explained to the school board at its Dec. 10 night meeting.

Scores have gone up district-wide, said Griffiths. The Dallas Elementary School's fifth grade scores of 1380 in math and 1390 in reading, and eleventh grade Dallas High School's scores of 1380 in math, 1420 in reading and 1420 in writing earned the cash from the state.

The funds come with a number of stipulations, Griffiths said. The first half of the money has to be used for staff development or in-services. The remaining dollars will be used for student and staff incentives. By the end of the year Griffiths hopes each school appoints a committee which will hold a public meeting to decide how the funds will be spent. The schools will have until June to spend the incentive grants.

### \$50,660 addition to middle school cost

The Dallas School Board approved a change order for work being done on the \$13.5 million renovation and expansion project at the Dallas Middle School. The change order is in the amount of \$50,660 for removal of existing concrete slab in the middle school locker area. Paul Deglilio, of Foreman Burkavage, informed the board in November of the unexpected problems with the concrete slab in the locker rooms. He said the additional costs came from inconsistency in the thickness of the slab.

The removal of the concrete slab is the second unexpected expense in the project since it began in June. The first was emergency roof repairs, which the building needed. The district is still trying to negotiate down the original \$130,000 price tag for those repairs. With the project 17 percent complete and with an estimated completion date for the project of June 2003, school board members are hoping they don't see many more unexpected expenses for the project.

District Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Mark Kray-

nack presented to the board a proposal for a \$42,488 signage plan for the school district.

The proposal includes replacing the district's sign on Route 309 with a lighted sign that would include a scrolling message line on the bottom used for announcements. A sign would also be placed at the campus entrance at Conyngham and Hildebrandt Roads directing visitors to the various district buildings. Each of the four schools would also have new freestanding signs at road entrances for each building. The proposal also included lettering and logos for the press box at the stadium.

One reason Kraynack said he would like to see the district approve the sign package is to help change the way people give directions to the campus. "At the light turn right at the cows and pass the red barn," he said are the current directions to the campus.

School Board members are considering Kraynack's suggestions.

### Students win first at

#### Scholastic Bowl

Four Dallas High School Seniors were honored at the school board meeting for representing the district at the regional Intermediate Unit 19 (IU 19) Scholastic Bowl. The academic competition is part of the National and State Scholastic Bowl Program.

The first place Dallas team is comprised of Erica Swatko, Tim Faneck, Ryan Morgan and J.P. Urban. They competed against 27 other schools at the invitational competition. Due to the lack of a Scholastic Bowl competition within IU 18, which Dallas is a member of, Dallas students qualified to represent IU 19 at state competition in May.

The students meet once a week during a flex-period to play trivia type games to prepare for competitions. "They each have their own area of expertise which helps when you're building a team," said Catherine Wega, team advisor and coach. The team is also coached by Maureen Whalen.

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