

Test scores

(continued from page 1)

dents at Lake-Noxen and 58.4 percent at Lehman-Jackson at the proficient or above proficient level. Middle school scores show 50.9 percent are proficient and the high school is at 49 percent proficient.

"We're using them (test scores) to identify weaknesses and strengths in curriculum," said Roberts. "It becomes like the fox hunt — what are we not doing that we should be." Roberts said the district uses the test scores to identify problem areas and then create changes in curriculum. He said they hired a district-wide curriculum director last year to help with the process.

Michael Speziale, Assistant Superintendent of Dallas School District, said this year his district has not identified any areas they see as problematic.

"Overall we are very pleased with our scores," said Speziale. "Pretty much across the board we're looking at our scores being pretty good."

Dallas saw no decrease at the lower and middle school levels, but did see 60-point drop in its eleventh grade reading score.

"We expect fluctuation, we look for patterns," said Speziale. He said administrators don't be-

"We expect fluctuation, we look for patterns."

Michael Speziale
Assistant Superintendent, Dallas

come concerned about shrinking test scores until they see a pattern take shape for two or three years in a row.

Speziale said five years ago they saw a pattern emerge that indicated writing ability could be improved. He said they addressed the issue by adding a writing course in the middle school. As a result they have seen dramatic increases in writing scores at the middle and high school level.

Dallas's proficiency levels in math show Wycallis Elementary students at 71.9 percent proficient or better and Dallas Elementary at 70.5 percent proficient. The middle school is at 59.5 percent and 56.9 percent of high school students score in that range.

In reading, the elementary schools start out at 75 percent proficient and advanced for Dallas and 82 percent for Wycallis.

2002 PSSA test scores												
	Math score 2002	change from 2001	% below basic	% basic	% proficient	% advanced	Reading score 2002	change from 2001	% below basic	% basic	% proficient	% advanced
Lake-Lehman												
Lehman-Jackson	1330	-70	16.0	25.6	36.0	22.4	1390	10	10.4	21.6	40.8	27.2
Lake-Noxen	1310	-30	16.1	32.1	32.1	19.6	1320	-60	14.3	25.0	41.1	19.6
Middle School	1320	-20	24.0	25.1	36.3	14.6	1350	10	19.8	15.7	39.0	25.6
High School	1320	40	24.0	27.0	27.6	21.4	1340	20	13.7	19.3	54.3	12.7
Dallas												
Dallas Elem.	1380	0	13.4	16.1	32.1	38.4	1400	10	8.0	17.0	46.4	28.6
Wycallis Elem.	1400	20	7.9	20.2	37.1	34.8	1440	30	3.4	14.6	46.1	36.0
Middle School	1360	10	15.7	24.8	34.3	25.2	1410	40	10	11.4	43.3	35.2
High School	1350	-40	21.0	22.0	30.6	26.3	1360	-60	13.7	16.4	51.9	18.0
State Averages												
Elementary	1320	10					1320	10				
Middle	1320	10					1310	0				
High School	1320	10					1320	20				

The middle school shows 78.5 percent proficient while the high school is at 69.9 percent.

To help schools in Pennsylvania achieve 100 percent proficiency levels, the state Department of Education has created what is called the stepped method for schools to follow. The method outlines what percentage of students must be in the proficient or advanced category on the PSSA every year between

2002 and 2013 to achieve 100 percent by 2014.

The guidelines state that 35 percent of students for math and 45 percent for reading are at proficient levels for the 2002 academic year. Both Dallas and Lehman school districts exceed those starting points and are at least five years ahead of schedule.

According to the No Child Left Behind act, if proficiency levels

are not met, a school can be designated "in need of improvement." Upon this designation, students would have the right to transfer to a better performing school. In addition, funds for what are called "supplemental education services," would be made available.

Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, science achievement will also be tested.

"I am satisfied with the test scores. It doesn't mean we aren't going to work harder and by law we're going to have to raise those scores," said Roberts.

Alexis Kuzma wins title

Alexis Kuzma of Shavertown was recently named "Miss Junior Star" in the Star's on the Rise competition held at the Chateau Resort in Tannersville. Alexis competed in the modeling portion of the competition and was awarded first place in formal wear, bathing suit and casual wear. She received third place for the novelty portion of the competition. She is the daughter of Bill and Joan Kuzma, Shavertown. She is in the sixth grade at Dallas Middle School. She studies with Major Performing Arts Center and is active in theatre with Northeast Players. She studies modeling under the direction of Donna John. She is the granddaughter of Thomas and Marilyn Yahara, Lancaster and John and Eleanor Kuzma, Swoyersville.



Lecture on 'Big Bang Theory' at Penn State

Timothy Lawlor, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics and astronomy at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, will deliver a lecture entitled "Big Bang Cosmology and the History of the Universe" on Thursday, December 5 at 12:15 p.m. in the campus Science Center 101. Dr. Lawlor will review the current, leading theory of the origin and evolution of the universe, how it became the prominent theory, and observational evidence that supports it.

As part of the Scholarly Lecture Series, this discussion is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 675-2171.

Send The Dallas Post to a friend. It makes a great gift. Call 675-5211 to order.

PILLOW TALK HOLIDAY HOURS
NOW OPEN SUNDAY 12-4
United Penn Plaza - 288-6188

Harry Potter
AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
Daily 7:00; Sat/Sun/Wed 1:00/4:00

TREASURE PLANET
Daily 7:15
Sat/Sun/Wed 2:15/4:15; Fri/Sat 9:00

COMING DECEMBER 17
"It's a Wonderful Life"
Shows at 2, 5, 8 - FREE First Come, First Seated
Sponsored by COMMONWEALTH Telephone Enterprises

THE DIETRICH THEATER
836-1022
www.dietrichtheater.com
Showtimes effective Friday 12/6/02

GREG WALL GOLF SCHOOL
Give a Golf School For Christmas
2 days (12 Hours) at Pocono Manor April-July \$215.00
For Information Call 587-9931
Our 20th Year

Glenwood Products
SUPER SALES
4 1/2' \$27 7' \$79.95 7 1/2' \$99.95 50 LIGHT SET \$3.99

OVER 75 TREES ON DISPLAY!

- 2' TO 10' HIGH
- SLIM LINE
- WHITE TREES & WREATHS
- FLOCKED TREES & WREATHS
- ICICLE LIGHTS
- TRIM-A-TREE ITEMS
- WREATHS & GARLANDS
- LIGHTS & ORNAMENTS
- REVOLVING TREE STANDS
- OUTDOOR LIGHTED ITEMS
- FIBER OPTIC TREES

24 SALINA ST. MOOSIC, PA 457-5469
HOURS: MONDAY-SATURDAY 11-8 • SUNDAY 1-7

Whatever Your Sport, We'll Make Sure You Always Know The Line-Up.



Want to know who's playing what for whom? The Dallas Post tells you this and more. We don't just give you the plays. We deliver analysis, stats, and more. And you can depend on our delivery staff for timely, courteous service.

For home delivery, call 675-5211 **The Dallas Post**