

The DALLAS POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS AND LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

ART & SCIENCE SHOW AT I'M SO BIG NOW SCHOOL



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Mason, left, and Aidau Kukosky show Mom, Melisa, of Sweet Valley, the bean plants they started at I'm So Big Now School in Dallas.

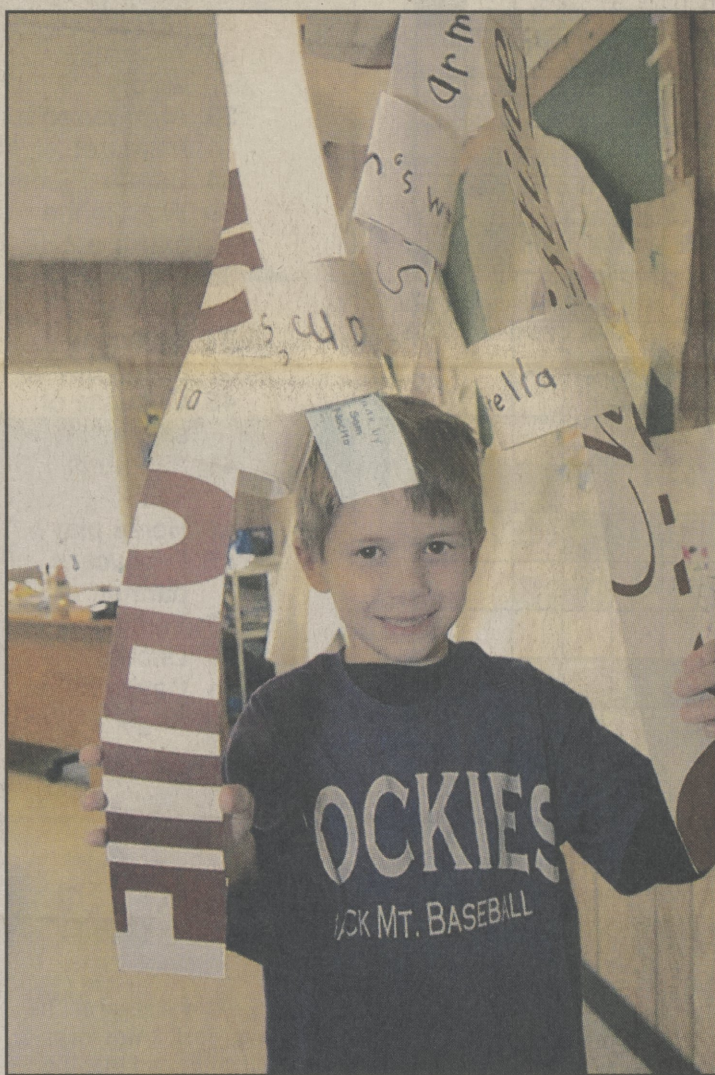
Youngest scientists

The 12th Annual Art and Science Show at I'm Big Now Learning Center, North Memorial Highway, Dallas, was held on Thursday, April 24. This year's theme included Spring Time on the Farm and Our Bodies. Student-created art and science projects were on display and the young artists and scientists were on hand to discuss their works of art.

For more photos, visit www.mydallaspost.com.



Freddie Lombardo gets a boost from his grandma, Diane, after she sees his science project.



Lost in his own creation is 6-year-old Sam Nocito, of Shavertown.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Fifth-grade friends Courtney Wagner, left, Mallory Faux, center, and Kayla Stearn talk about what life will be like after they move on from their elementary schools to Dallas Middle School during a recent get-acquainted dance.

Fifth-grade dance not big hit with principals

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

ON THE WEB

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The dance for fifth-grade students at Dallas Elementary School and Wycallis Elementary School is meant to bring the children together before they begin middle school in the fall.

Yet, neither school principal thinks the dance, which was held on April 21, is a good idea.

"I think there are better ways for them to bond," said Kathleen McCarthy, Wycallis Elementary principal. "I don't think fifth graders should go to dances. Playing sports together, having a picnic - that's a better way for them to get together. I think the middle school's a good time to start dances."

Dallas Elementary Principal Tom Traver agrees.

"They don't know how to act yet," Traver said of the students. "Developmentally, I think there's probably a more appropriate way. I think a better alternative is to have a knowledgeable competition or a field day, or maybe mix the classes together for a day at Dallas Middle School."

Traver also feels students entering kindergarten, first grade, sixth grade and ninth grade should begin school a day before other students in the district. He

says these grades are crucial because kindergartners are going to school for the first time, first graders have to adjust to attending school full-day, sixth graders transition to the middle school and ninth graders go to the high school. Traver feels an extra day would get the children used to new surroundings, schedules, buses and lockers.

The fifth-grade dance began in 2007 and is sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Organizations of Dallas Elementary and Wycallis Elementary. Prior to the dance, a joint roller-skating party was held for the fifth graders of the two schools.

"I think there are better ways for them to bond. I don't think fifth graders should go to dances."

Kathleen McCarthy
Wycallis Elementary
School principal

Parents and students who attended the dance, however, felt it was a good idea

"It (a dance) is better to mingle," said Bonnie Weinstein, a Parent-Teacher Organization parent. "A lot of the kids don't know each other. They've never met."

Jesse Gove, of Dallas Elementary, favors a dance.

"It's better than a skating party," Gove said. "The music's better."

Mike Bendick, of Shavertown,

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Amy Schappert embraces her role as mother of two

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Dallas Post Correspondent

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED ...

For information on "open adoption" call 1-800-355-5500 or 610-432-2384

Trucksville's Amy Schappert is living her dream this Mother's Day and wants to continue to remember the women who gave life to her adopted children. The children's biological mothers are the reason she is celebrating her seventh Mother's Day. Birth-mother Day, Schappert says, is celebrated the Saturday before Mother's Day.

Jim and Amy Schappert have been married 11 years and have two adopted children, Trey, 4, and Steena, 7, who light up the lives of their adoptive parents through a process called "open adoption."

Before they were married, the Back Mountain couple talked about having a biological child and then adopting another one. "We never assumed there would be any problems having our own children," Amy remembers.

But after three years with no

the adoptive process.

Things went slowly with the first agency and, after six months of waiting, the couple was referred to "Adoption from the Heart," an agency in Allentown. The agency handles domestic and foreign adoptions and the Schapperts opted for an "open domestic adoption," an adoption where the birth mother chooses the family she would like her child to live with.

"We were concerned about this at first until we went to classes where we saw that the mothers were just people who had made mistakes," Amy said. The couple went through the usual state clearances, home studies and biographies for their adoption, which can take up to a year or more and cost a few thousand dollars.

As potential adoptive parents, the Schapperts were also able to screen the children for certain preferences they had. Although they considered the medical and social backgrounds of their adopted babies, the trail to a do-



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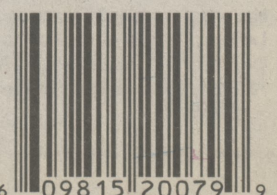
Amy Schappert and her children, Trey, left, and Steena enjoy outside time together after school in their front yard. The family came together as a result of an 'open adoption' process.

mestic adoption, though quicker and less expensive than foreign adoption, can have its ups and down. The Schapperts suffered through two "disappointments" when birth mothers decided at the last minute not to give up

their parental rights.

Opting to adopt two children of a different race, the family has faced challenges in a place where minorities are few. The

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