

# The DALLAS POST

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## Learning process is studied

By REBECCA BRIA  
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Members of the Hildebrandt Learning Center management team were shocked when they encountered glass vases on tables in a toddler room at an Italian learning center.

But the group quickly realized that staff members at the school immersed toddlers in thought-provoking and challenging activities and trusted them to use the glass.

The management team of the Dallas-based Hildebrandt Learning Center traveled to Reggio Emilia, Italy from Nov. 10 through Nov. 14.

William Grant, CEO, Judy Witmer, COO, Tim O'Shea, development, Lauren O'Shea, director of health services, and Leanne Grace, director of professional development and program support, took part in a tour called, "Documentation of Listening" at the Loris Malaguzzi International Study Center.

Reggio Emilia is recognized worldwide for its leading childcare programs and officials at Hildebrandt visited for ideas and inspirations on how they can make their childhood centers better.

The mayor of Reggio, Graziano Delrio, addressed the group.

Grace presented the group's findings from the Reggio trip to Hildebrandt directors and directors of several other local childcare centers on Dec. 18 at Hildebrandt Learning Center in Dallas.

"They ask the children things like, 'Could you draw how small looks?' or 'What would music look like if you could see it?'" Grace said.

In Reggio, children are split between infant-toddler centers and preschool centers as opposed to only being in one building. The learning process is more self-directed by the children and a teacher never teaches but instead serves as a guide on the side. Children with special needs were referred to as having "special rights."

Learning centers in Reggio stress the importance of art and have entire art rooms and studios. Grace observed an art room of toddlers who constructed creations out of clay. The daycare centers also engage in relational architecture and put emphasis on light and nooks and crannies. Prisms are strategically placed where sun enters a room.

"We were in awe of the use of recycled, cast off and everyday materials...nuts, bolts, flashlights, projectors, tubing, natural materials such as leaves, sticks, stones, bark and shells, paper of all shapes and sizes, real clay and wire..." Grace said. "We are inspired to initiate and reinforce the use of everyday 'stuff' and will be looking to create a central depository for recycled materials to be used by others in the early childhood community."

Although other members of the management team who went on the trip did not attend the presentation, they shared what they discovered with this reporter.

Lauren O'Shea noticed teachers allowed children to build bicycles and take apart carburetors as learning experiences.

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JONATHAN J. JUKA/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lake-Lehman football players hold up the Old Shoe trophy after winning the 61st Annual Old Shoe Game on Nov. 1 at Mountaineer Stadium. Lake-Lehman defeated Dallas, 27-22.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Caroline Boris, second from right, and friends jump into Harveys Lake during the Fourth Annual Polar Bear Plunge on March 15. The event is held in memory of Boris' father, Dr. Frank 'Buddy' Boris, a Kingston dentist who died from colon cancer.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The cake at the 'Best of the Back Mountain' awards reception on Oct. 21 at Fire & Ice in Trucksville was a hit. Eighty-two winners in 79 categories were honored with plaques and window decals at the event.



JONATHAN J. JUKA/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lake-Noxen Elementary Principal Debra Demming high-fives her students after making a tandem parachute jump from an airplane on May 28 at Skyhaven Airport in Tunkhannock. Demming's jump was a reward to students who encouraged their relatives to donate 48 pints of blood in March at the school.

## Remembering 2008

By REBECCA BRIA • [rbria@timesleader.com](mailto:rbria@timesleader.com)

**E**ditor's note: The year 2008 was one of high and lows across the country, however, here in the Back Mountain – or at least on the pages of *The Dallas Post* – there were plenty of highlights. Dallas Post Staff Writer Rebecca Bria shares with our readers some of the highest of those highlights.

### January

- The Dallas Post begins its 119th year of publication in 2008. The paper was started in 1889 by A.A. Holbrook, who resigned his position with the Wilkes-Barre Times to publish *The Dallas Post*, the first Back Mountain newspaper.

- Carol King, a former resident of the Back Mountain and a longtime supporter of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, dies on Jan. 4 in Berkeley, Calif.

- After 50 years of service, the Trucksville Pharmacy closes on Jan. 15. Owner and pharmacist Kristen Billek said that her family has decided to close the pharmacy and move on before they're forced

out of business.

- For the first time in the history of Lake-Lehman High School, teachers do not take part in the annual faculty versus seniors donkey basketball game. The teachers do not show at the Jan. 18 game because of an ongoing dispute between the teachers' union and the school board.

### February

- Dallas resident and New York Giants fan Peter Klein roots for his favorite team in the Super Bowl on Feb. 3. The Giants beat the New England Patriots, 17-14.

- Helen Kishbaugh, 86, retires as the

chairperson of the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days campaign at the Shavertown United Methodist Church. In the last 10 years, Kishbaugh, of Dallas, has raised over \$8,000 for the American Cancer Society.

- Twelve-year-old Jason Curtis, of Dallas, sings with the American Boychoir on Feb. 17 at St. Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre as part of the choir's winter tour. Curtis has been a member of the choir for two years and tours nationally.

- John Engler Jr. turns 76 on Feb. 29 but is technically only 19 years old. The Trucksville man was born on Feb. 29,

1932 – a Leap Year Day.

### March

- Chris Higdon, of Dallas, appears on the television show "Deal or No Deal" on March 5 with his 9-month-old dog, Bentley. Higdon wins \$27,000 on the NBC show hosted by Howie Mandell.

- Over 150 people including students, parents, teachers and members of the community pack the Dallas Elementary School gym on March 6 for the school's annual science fair. The fair is sponsored by the Dallas Elemen-

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## This shelter is filled with unconditional love

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### TO DONATE:

Donations may be sent to Blue Chip Farms Rescue Animal Shelter, 974 Lockville Rd., Dallas, PA 18612.

Some of them aren't wanted. Others were given up because their owners can no longer care for them and a few never even had a home to begin with.

But the animals at Blue Chip Farms Animal Rescue on Lockville Road in Centerville are the lucky ones. Blue Chip is a no-kill shelter that keeps animals indefinitely or until they are adopted into good homes.

The shelter was unofficially started about 10 years ago at the home of Margie Bart on Lockville Road after she had retired as assistant plant manager for CertainTeed Corporation in Mountain Top. Bart began to take rescues into her home and recruited her neighbor, Tanya Stankus, to help with the cause.

"I've always had a great love of animals and I've always cared for them," Bart said. "When I re-

tired from my job 10 years ago, I decided to do it full blast."

The name Blue Chip comes from Bart's horse farm, Blue Chip Farms, which houses horses belonging to her friends. Bart decided to keep that name for the rescue, which became an official, non-profit animal shelter about five years ago. The shelter adopted out 65 cats and 42 dogs in 2007.

"To me, they're just such unconditional love," Bart said of animals. "No matter what happens, they're right there loving you. In Luzerne County, the cat population is out of control. I get calls every day. I could take

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Margie Bart talks to "Missy," a long-haired cat available for adoption at Blue Chip Rescue in Orange.



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