

# The DALLAS POST

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## DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Fundraising scheme victims may now recoup money

By SARAH HITE  
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Victims from a fundraising scheme headed by former guidance counselor John Wolensky will have a chance to be reimbursed, as the school board passed a motion Monday night to offer compensation to those affected.

The board voted to allow Business Manager Grant Palfey to begin gathering data to determine specific amounts students and parents paid for the Princeton Review practice scholastic aptitude

test from 1997 through 2008.

Beginning on April 14, those affected will be able to file a claim on the district's website, [www.dallassd.com](http://www.dallassd.com). Superintendent Frank Galicki said those filing a claim must provide their full name, mailing address, year the test was taken and the number of tests taken. Information must be provided to the district by no later than October 14. Galicki said checks will be distributed about a month after claims are filed.

Wolensky pocketed money from a fundraiser in which students were overcharged as much as \$15 for a practice SAT test be-

tween 1997 and 2008. He also took money from student meal accounts and football helmet funds.

Wolensky pleaded guilty to a theft charge in February 2009 and was sentenced to two years probation. He admitted to taking \$24,683 and was ordered to pay restitution to the district for the misappropriated funds, but a report released last year from the state auditor general's office contended Wolensky may have taken more than double that amount.

Galicki said the money Wolens-

See SCHEME, Page 11

## NOTICE

EDITOR'S NOTE: This notice has been issued by the Dallas School District regarding overcharges paid for practice SAT exams from 1997-2008.

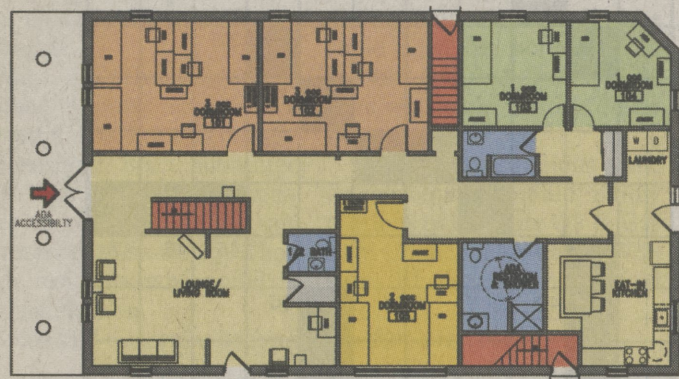
The Dallas School District intends to do all things necessary to reimburse students or parents of students for overcharges paid by them for enrollment in the practice SAT examinations during the years 1997 through 2008.

We are in the process of accumulating all of the necessary data. In order to verify our information, please go to our website, [www.dallassd.com](http://www.dallassd.com), to gather pertinent information regarding the manner by which the refunds will be distributed.

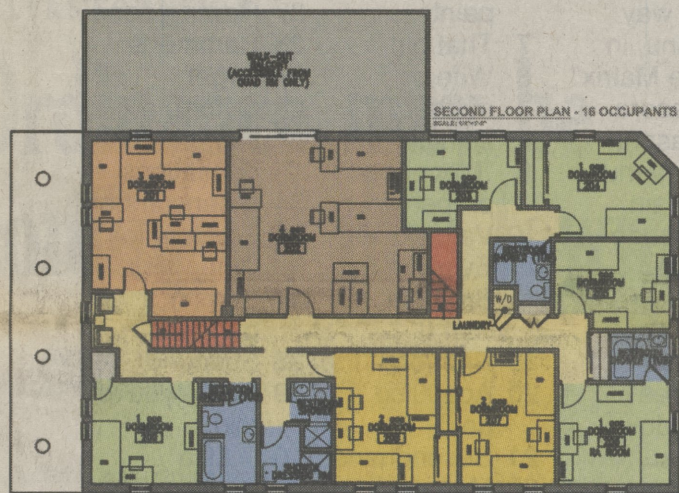
Please verify your name, mailing address, year of exam, number of times participated and where the check should be sent (if to another address).

This process will take place for a six-month period starting April 14, 2011 through October 14, 2011. Refund amounts will vary based on the amount paid for the test and the number of times the test was taken. Checks will be sent within one month of receipt of the necessary verification of information.

All unclaimed or designated funds will be placed in an escrow account managed by the Business Office to aid Dallas students who cannot afford to pay for testing (PSAT, NEDT, SAT, etc...). Dallas students who request financial assistance will complete an on-line form and return it to the Business Office for review. Please email your completed information to the following address: [pracsatrefunds@dallassd.com](mailto:pracsatrefunds@dallassd.com).



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - 10 OCCUPANTS



SECOND FLOOR PLAN - 10 OCCUPANTS



## FACILITY AMENITIES

- EAT-IN KITCHEN WITH FULL SIZE APPLIANCES
- LOUNGE/LIVING ROOM
- SLEEPING ROOMS AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS OCCUPANCY COUNTS
- WALL TO WALL CARPETING IN ALL SLEEPING ROOMS
- AIR CONDITIONING THROUGHOUT
- ADA ACCESSIBILITY
- SLEEPING ROOMS AVAILABLE ON FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR
- LAUNDRY FACILITIES ON FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR
- THREE RESTROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR
- TWO BATHING FACILITIES (ONE ADA) ON FIRST FLOOR
- FIVE RESTROOMS/BATHING FACILITIES ON THE SECOND FLOOR

## LOCATION

- DOWNTOWN LOCATION
- WALKING DISTANCE TO RESTAURANTS AND SHOPS
- WALKING DISTANCE TO THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCE BLDG.
- ON-SITE PARKING

hemmler + camayd architects

This architectural drawing shows how Misericordia University plans to convert the former Snowdon Funeral Home on Machell Avenue in Dallas into a dormitory for upper-level and graduate College of Health Sciences students.

## Former funeral home just part of plans for Misericordia expansion

By SARAH HITE  
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Misericordia University recently purchased the Snowdon Funeral Home on Machell Avenue in Dallas, and the restoration of the building is just one of a few major projects the university has on its agenda this spring.

Paul Krzywicki, assistant director of marketing and communication at the university, said the school purchased the 5,483-square-foot Snowdon Funeral Home for \$445,000 with the intention of renovating it into a dorm for upper-level and graduate College of Health Sciences students.

"Plans right now are for renovations to begin in May and to be ready for the fall semester," said Krzywicki.

The project has not yet been put out for bid, but Krzywicki says the building will be designed to accommodate 26 students and one resident director. Plans include eight single rooms, three double occupancy

rooms, three triple occupancy rooms and a quad that will have a walk-out balcony.

The student living quarters will include safety cameras, student ID card access, about 25 parking spaces and shuttle availability to the College of Health Sciences located in the former Commonwealth Telephone Co. building on Lake Street.

Krzywicki said the additional space was needed because enrollment has increased at the college, and this space offers a location close enough to campus for upper-level students as well as the ability for students to easily travel to off-campus sites for clinical assignments.

Transfer students enjoyed living quarters at the Beaumont Inn on Route 309 during the 2009-10 academic year. The university had a one-year lease with inn owners Jim and Beth Harkins, who renovated the property for student use. Krzywicki said the university was in negotiations to purchase the Snowdon property at the time, and the Beaumont Inn will no longer be utilized by Misericordia University.

"We used it for a year, but it was just too far away for our students," said university president Michael MacDowell.

Jim Harkins said he and his wife renovated the property in

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the hopes that the university would utilize the building for a longer period of time. He said they are currently brainstorming other uses for the property, which include reopening the facility as a restaurant/inn.

MacDowell said the university provided little or no housing in the past for graduate students, and based on enrollment rates for the College of Health Sciences, the Snowdon property seemed to be a good fit for upper-level students.

## New dorm and daycare

Krzywicki also said the campus will expand upon its existing space at 301 Lake St. Plans have been drafted to build a dorm to house up to 90 students as well as a daycare on the university's current baseball field across from the Anderson Sports and Health Center.

The proposed building is similar to the floor plan of the old Dallas Township High School building MacDowell had presented to the Dallas

School Board late last year. The board did not make a decision before applicable tax credits and grants expired at the end of the year, and the project fell through. Now, university officials are working on plans to put a similar building on the campus.

"We were sorry that the (Dallas) board determined not to go ahead at this time, but as we explained to them we just couldn't wait," said MacDowell. "We needed to have a new residence hall and we believe that the concept of a residence hall combined with a daycare center is an effective way to move, so that's what we're going to do. We're just going to do it on campus."

The plans for the old township high school included 50 apartment-style living quarters for students and a daycare to be run by the Hildebrandt Learning Center, offering students in corresponding fields hands-on learning experience. The new,

## Students travel by standing still

By SARAH HITE  
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Artistic students traveled through time to discover ancient cultures during a class presented by Everhart Museum Education Coordinator Jeff Kuratnick at the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock.

The five-week course, called "Around the World," shows students five different ancient cultures - Egypt, Oceania, Rome, Africa and the Native Pacific Northwest - reflected in the permanent collection featured at the Everhart Museum in Scranton.

"Are you ready to travel around the world in the next four weeks?" Kuratnick asked the 18 youngsters on March 1.

"That's impossible!" shouted one student.

"Do we need airplane tickets?" asked another.

Without moving from their seats, the students quickly got to work on the first week's project - a cartouche. Kuratnick explained that a cartouche, which is from the ancient Egyptian culture, was like a family crest.

According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, a cartouche refers to any decorative oval-shaped shield. Egyptian rulers were often honored with hieroglyphics etched onto an oval, framed clay piece and the deceased had cartouches placed on coffins to preserve the memory of his or her name.

Kuratnick said it's important to be exposed to other cultures at an early age.

"They'll understand different perspectives, and if they see something strange, they won't be put off by it," he said. "This class offers learning about cultures they might not run into."



Grace Stang, 6, of Meshoppen, works on creating an Egyptian cartouche out of clay.

He encouraged students ages 5-12 to decide what they would like to reflect about themselves on the clay piece. After a few minutes of sketch time, students were given pieces of self-drying clay to etch and mold into reflections of their lives.

Ben Keiser, 12, of Tunkhannock, wanted to engrave some lightning bolts onto his personal cartouche.

"I just like them," he said.

Ben attended the class with his brother, 5-year-old Zak, and sister, 7-year-old Meghan, to learn more about the days of yore through art.

"I enjoy learning about different places like Egypt and Rome," said Ben. "I like the history and the cool monuments. I like King Tut."

King Tut, or Tutankhamun, may have become Egypt's most famous pharaoh after his treasure-laden tomb was discovered in 1922. The boy king came into power when he was just 9 years old and died 10 years later in 1323 B.C.

Zak didn't know what he

See TRAVEL, Page 9



Zak Keiser, 5, of Tunkhannock, finishes his clay Egyptian cartouche.



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See HOME, Page 12