



# Fond du Lac Ojibway School

## Nii gi ti zi mug Ba baa maa ji moo mazi na igan

February 1989

Cloquet, MN 55720

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### Subcommittee hears students

Sharing information and opinions with a State Senate Subcommittee was the focus of a trip to St. Paul for several students and social studies teacher Mary Cane.

Two 1988 FDL graduates, Renee VanNett and Nicole Ammesmaki; seniors Robin LaFave, Doug St. Germaine and Gladys Martin; junior Chris Knowlen; and sophomore Missy Greensky accompanied Mary, February 9, to view a hearing on The Indian Education Equalization Bill. The bill would help to make the funding of Indian Schools equal to that of public schools.

Renee, a student at Rainy River Community College, was selected to speak before the committee. She shared her thoughts about the Ojibway School's strong points. Mary and Gladys also testified.



### Learning by doing

David Gitzen and Melody Diver constructed a castle out of paper and cardboard for a ninth grade world history project. It was part of their study of Europe in the Middle Ages.

### B.E.S.T. winners announced for November, December

Several students were recognized and rewarded under the B.E.S.T. Kid program for the months of November and December.

The B.E.S.T. Kid program is used to recognize good behavior and academic performance. Students selected in the first and second grades receive a prize. Students in grades 3 through 12 each receive \$25.

#### November's B.E.S.T. Kids:

- 1st- Tabletha Wiesen, 2nd- Steve Fosness. 3rd - Lannesse

- Baker, 4th - Phil Savage, 5th - Erin Cash, 6th - Travis Blacketter, 7th - Mark Bird, 8th - Lori Northrup, 9th - Mel Diver, 10th - Tony Longclaws, 11th - Chris Knowlen, 12th - Jean Skinaway.

#### December's B.E.S.T. Kids:

- 1st - Joshua Baker, 2nd - Jeorgetta Sharlow, 3rd - Janelle Petite, 4th - Russell Savaga, 5th - Danielle Martineau, 6th - Emma Skinaway, 7th - Mark Bird, 8th - Lori Northrup, 9th - Melody Diver, 10th - Spud Fairbanks, 11th - Chris Knowlen, 12th - Jean Skinaway.



## From the Principal

by Phil Minkkinen

The second grading period has ended. Report cards have been mailed to parents. If you have not received your child's report card by now, please call the school and ask for a copy. Conferences were scheduled for the week of February 13.

We are now past the halfway point of the school year. If there are no snow days, school is scheduled to end on May 31. Graduation will be held on that day.

There are a few upcoming events that you will be interested in knowing about. The girls began competition in the district basketball tournaments on February 17, at the new Denfeld gym. The boys begin play a week later, February 24, at the same site.

The school will be hosting the sixth annual Ziigwan Ataadiwin March 10, down at the gym. The event has always been a fun and exciting day for everyone, so I hope you can find time to attend.

The date for the annual

school pow wow has been set for April 7. We will be requesting that the RBC allow us to use the gym on a Friday evening to hold this event. As a lead up activity for the pow wow, we are beginning a dancing and singing unit as a cooperative effort between the Bilingual program and the physical education classes. Pete Gahbow has been brought in to teach students about Ojibwe dance and songs. This unit will be taught three days a week until the pow wow.

Work is continuing on the new school building. We have received a preliminary draft of the educational specifications from the Albuquerque office of Facilities Management. This draft shows a building that is 123,000 square feet. To give you an idea of the size of this building, picture a building five times the size of the total size of the present school building. This new building would allow us to offer programs that we can only dream about now. If all goes as we hope, construction may begin this spring. In fact, as I write this, Don Wiesen and Chuck Smith are in Washington D.C. trying to finalize the arrangements for the building with officials of the BIA. As work progresses, you will be kept informed.

## New detention procedures initiated for grades 1-12

by Marlys Kilen, Detention Coordinator

As many of you parents know from the experience of it, our school is using after-school detention this year as a deterrent in discouraging some of the adverse behaviors in the school.

First of all, I'd like to assure you that our staff is not just slapping these sessions of detention on our students without good reason; usually it is done after repeated warnings. So, if your child comes home and says, "I just did this little thing, and the teacher gave me detention," I would encourage you to sit down with your child and discuss the matter. I would venture to guess that there would be more to it than that.

Basically, detention is assigned for infractions of school rules--skipping classes; tardiness; incomplete/missing homework; use of foul

language/name-calling; use of tobacco products; excessive disruptive behavior in school and on the bus; disrespect to staff/visitors/other students; fighting; and damage to property.

Detention, monitored by a different staff person each week, is held every day after school from 3:05-5:00 (or when the late bus picks them up to take them home, which could be earlier than that) unless there is no bus to bring them home; and

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## INTRODUCING: Social studies, mathematics teachers

This month we would like to introduce the social studies teacher, the mathematics teacher and the Chapter I mathematics team teacher.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies teacher Mary Cane started teaching at the Ojibway School in the fall of 1983.

Mary has quite a diverse curriculum. She teaches American history to 7th graders, geography to 8th graders, world history to 9th graders, American history to 10th graders, United States



Mary Cane



Frances Wabaunsee

government to 11th graders, and sociology to 12th graders.

Though Mary uses many standard textbooks, she does integrate cultural aspects into her teaching. American Indian history and traditions are stressed throughout the curriculum.

Mary earned her B.A. degree from the College of St. Scholastica with a double major in history and American Indian Studies. She has a teaching certificate to teach all of the social sciences. She is currently working on a masters in art history at the University of Wisconsin, Superior.

Her experiences include student teaching at Woodland Junior High School in Duluth, a semester of teaching at Cathedral High School, Duluth, and substitute teaching for Duluth Public Schools. She also was a chemical abuse counselor at the Wren House for one year.

### MATHEMATICS

Jeanette Olson joined the

Ojibway School staff in December of 1982. During her career here, she has taught American government, sociology, future studies, computer science, and mathematics.

She currently is teaching mathematics full-time. Her classes include general math for 7th and 8th graders, Algebra I for 9th and 11th graders, geometry for 10th graders and Algebra I and Algebra II for 12th graders.

In addition to her teaching duties, Jeanette is one of the senior class advisors. She also serves on the Continuing Education/Relicensure Committee.

Jeanette's experience includes teaching math and business courses for Mesabi Community College. Jeanette earned a B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and a B.A.A. from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. She is currently working on her Masters in Special Education at the University of Wisconsin, Superior.



Jeanette Olson

### CHAPTER I MATHEMATICS

Frances Wabaunsee is our Chapter I mathematics team teacher. She taught the summer school math program in 1987 and that fall started in her present position. She shares a classroom with Jeanette Olson, and together they try to meet the mathematic needs of the students.

She teaches Algebra I and provides supplemental math instruction for grades 7-12.

Frances graduated from Bemidji State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Her areas of concentration were physical education and mathematics.

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## Detention, continued

sometimes a different daily schedule, such as teacher inservice days, may pre-empt it. Students are expected to serve their detention time as they are assigned. Only a signed and dated excuse from a parent/guardian ahead of the time a student is to serve will excuse him/her from serving detention on any given day.

If a student skips detention, another session will be added. If a student accumulates three such added sessions due to three (3) detention skips in a row, or gets a total of more than four (4) sessions of detention assigned him/her, s/he will receive one (1) day of out-of-school suspension (OSS). Record of this will go into his/her permanent file, and all previously assigned sessions will then be erased.

Hopefully, a day of OSS will then move the student to keep a clean slate. This doesn't always happen, however; so if a student accumulates three (3) such days of OSS due to detention, the next time it happens, s/he will be asked to stay home for three (3) days. If it happens again, the result will be more drastic action taken by Phil and/or the School Board. Record of same will go into his/her permanent file.

Of course, serving detention comes before sports and/or participating in any other activities, and our students don't always appreciate that; but that is just one more reason for our encouraging them to think twice before doing things that warrant detention assignments.

Serving a detention session (3:05 until the bus picks them up, which could be as late as 5:00) deletes one infraction per day. Students are expected to serve this time in complete quiet and are encouraged to bring their school work to work on and a book to read, as they are not allowed to talk, walk about, or leave the room during the session.

Elementary students, when assigned detention hours, bring a letter home to their parents/guardians indicating the reason(s) for detention; and this must be signed and returned with the student the following school day before the student is allowed back into the classroom. If s/he does not bring it back, s/he has to sit it out in the office or the library until contact is made with the parent/guardian. If no contact is made, it is considered a

skip, and s/he will have another session added. We feel it is necessary for us to confirm this with parents/guardians before keeping them after school. Sometimes these letters don't get home, we realize; and it is not the parent/guardian's fault; but when they do, we would really appreciate your cooperating with us in signing the letter and seeing to it that it gets back to the school with your child. That makes it so much easier for everyone involved. In this respect, it is important that you have current phone numbers filed with the school, so that we can reach you more easily.

When high school students are assigned detention sessions, they are informed immediately by the staff person assigning it; and then the student serves this detention time on the following school day that detention is held. A letter is then immediately sent home by mail to the parent/guardian indicating the reason(s) for his/her detention assignment(s). Unfortunately, sometimes the letter reaches the home after the fact; but we feel that you at least are being informed about the problem.

We're not sure this is the answer to all of our discipline problems here at the school. Although many have learned from it, unfortunately, we are still finding many of the same names on our detention lists day after day. This is where you parents/guardians could really help out. Talk to your child; find out what s/he's thinking. Request a conference with staff involved with him/her, if you're really not sure what's happening. We're here to help, not to punish.

If you have any questions or would like a conference, please call the school (879-4593).

## Frances, continued

Frances taught elementary school for five years before coming to the Ojibway School. Three of these years were at the Chief Bug O Na Ge Shig School and two were at the Kickapoo Nation School in Powhattan, Kansas.

Frances, a Prairie Band Potawatomi, is a Kansas native.

In addition to her teaching duties, she co-advises the senior class.

## Second quarter honor rolls announced

Each quarter, after grade point averages (G.P.A.) are computed, the A and B Honor Rolls are announced. In order to be listed on the A Honor Roll, a student must have a G.P.A. of 3.67 to 4.0. B honor roll students must have earned a G.P.A. of 3.0 to 3.66.

For the second quarter in a row, ninth grader Melody Diver has the distinction of being the only A Honor Roll student.

B Honor Roll students include:

7th grade - Richelle Mullen  
Mark Bird

Ira Aubid

8th grade - Chandra Mullen  
Nikki Reynolds  
Becky Reynolds  
Lori Northrup

9th grade - David Gitzen

10th grade - Tony Longclaws  
Eric Berglund  
James Couture

11th grade - Christine Knowlen

12th grade - Jean Skinaway

## Students busy with written expression

by Mike Rabideaux, Chapter I English  
Students participating in the Chapter I Program have been busy writing this past quarter. Writing is a powerful means of educating because it not only allows students to express themselves, but through their written expression we are able to correct individual mechanical and usage problems. We still attack the good old parts of speech, vocabulary, and spelling, but the difference is that we accomplish more objectives on a more integral basis. Writing is the

key to this method.

You can play a major role in your child's education by "forcing" them to concentrate and complete their homework. We've got a few suggestions that might assist you in your homework policy. If you want help in this area, please contact the English Department, Becky or I would be more than willing to share a few ideas with you. In the meantime, push your child toward school studies -- it's a good investment for the future.

## Beware of new camouflaged drugs

Drugs are now being pushed to younger children in the form of a decal, stamp, or tattoo called Blue Star.

Blue Star is a small sheet of paper containing blue stars the size of a pencil eraser. It is being sold all over the United States. Each star is soaked with LSD and can be removed and placed in the mouth. The LSD can also be absorbed through the skin simply by handling the paper.

There also are bright colored paper tabs that resemble postage stamps and have pictures of Superman, butterflies, clowns, Mickey Mouse and other Disney characters on them. These stamps are packed in a red box wrapped in foil. This new way of selling acid

appeals to our young children.

A child could accidentally happen upon these and have a fatal drug trip. Little children could be given a free tattoo by older children who want to have some fun or by others who are cultivating new customers.

Other forms of these new drugs include a red stamp called Red Pyramid, a microdot in various colors and a Window Pane which can be cut out. These are all laced with drugs.

Please advise your children about these new drug forms. If they see any of the above, they must not handle them at all. These drugs are known to react very quickly and some are laced with strychnine.





After many hours of practice, Headstart (top), first and second grades (middle), and third and fourth grades (bottom) presented Christmas programs to appreciative audiences. The kindergarten also participated.