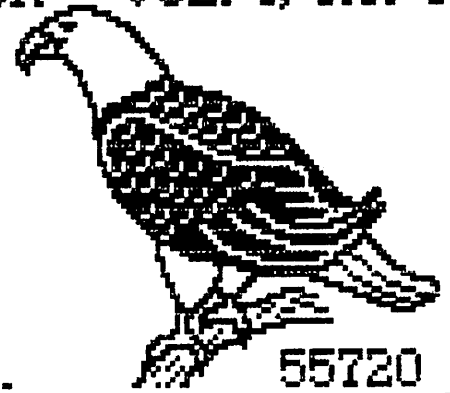




# OJIBWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



MARCH 1990 CLOQUET, MN.

55720

## MAPLE SUGAR HARVEST

Imagine if you will, a spring day, several young students, a couple of teachers and an abundance of energy to burn. This is usually the equation for the annual sugarbush unit!

As the bus groaned to a halt, the exuberant students unloaded at the speed of light and coordination of half grown puppies. "I wanna be first," yelled one student. As the students got their first taste of freedom, snowballs flew and students were pushed into mud puddles.

"Ok, you guys," yelled Mrs. Pincombe, "come over here so Charlie can explain what's going on!"

Once the students were gathered, a short lesson began detailing the basics of plants--and in particular how the sugar is made by the maple trees. During the long summer days, the plants carry on a process called photosynthesis. This is the biological term used to describe the process where a plant uses carbon dioxide and water to produce simple sugars. Some of these sugars are used for growth while the rest is stored in the roots. As Fall approaches, the activity of the maple tree slow and the sap moves down the tree stem to the roots. This is a very important part of the process because ice crystals and frozen sap would break the small tubes located beneath the bark and kill the tree. As the ground cools, the excess water is pushed out of the roots, leaving the sugars behind where they will remain until the ground is once

again warm enough to permit the safe flow of water up the tree stem. Once the temperatures warm to above freezing during the day and night temperatures range in the twenties, the tree roots begin to reabsorb water, and sap starts to make its way up the stem toward the waiting leaf buds. This process makes the sap act like a liquid in a thermometer.

At this time of the year, we venture out into the woods in search of members of the maple tree family. They can be identified by a grayish silver bark and buds which are beginning to swell and redden in color. Once a healthy tree is located, a small hole less than 1/2 inch in diameter is bored deep enough to support a spile (tap) and container to capture the rising sap.

After this process had been explained to the anxious students, we offered tobacco and then rushed off in search of the elusive maple tree. This searching process isn't always easy for the energetic student body and frustration often ensues. "How does Charlie expect us to do this?" muses one student. Another student laments, "I hardly know a maple in summer--Charlie must talk to these trees or something!" Eventually the taps are set and several gallons of sap are collected. Overnight, the sap is stored in large containers at near freezing temperatures to prevent the sap from souring.

Again, these same energetic students begin to assemble a fire pit, and fill it with wood. Mrs. Pincombe and Charlie must have been gone a bit longer than expected because there to greet them are the

students--and a stack of firewood that if lit would burn all spring! After reminding students that we plan to boil the sap and not vaporize it, we reassemble the wood into smaller piles. The fire needs to be small and efficient to prevent too much ash formation because the ash will fall into the boiling sap when smoke curls around the edges of the vats as it rises.

Several hours pass by and constant attention is given to the boiling sap. As the liquid boils, water vapor streams off and begins to take on a familiar caramel color. The air is filled with the aroma of wood smoke and a faint hint of warm, moist maple syrup vapors. With each stroke of the paddle, everyone's anticipations are heightened. It seems that a taste of the half boiled maple syrup just isn't enough.

As time passes, it becomes clear that the syrup is almost finished. Several opinions are shared as to when the syrup is at its best. One student jokes that his family uses the "horseshoe" method with some success. The "horseshoe" method, according to the student, is when "you put a horseshoe in the boiling pot and if it sinks you keep on boiling!"

As the syrup nears finishing, there are several ways to determine the amount of water still left in the solution. One way is to use a thermometer. As the solution boils, the water is driven off leaving behind the sugar which increases the temperature of the solution. Another method is to allow the syrup to drip off the end of the paddle--the more slowly it drips, the thicker the syrup becomes. (One method of boiling allows you to enjoy the syrup in candy form. Allow the syrup to boil until all the moisture is removed. You are left with maple sugar which can be formed into numerous shapes.)

After the syrup is finished, everyone will anxiously look forward to awards day and the raffling off of the finished syrup.



Above: Bear and Charlie tapping a maple?

## GRADE 1&2 SUGARBUSHING

by Mrs. J.

Hello from the first and second grade! Now that it is once again spring time, we are doing many different activities. We will be taking a trip to the zoo in the near future, and we are working very hard in the classroom.

I would like to share one of our latest projects with you. We have been preparing to go to the sugarbush harvest. In our preparation we wrote about what it would be like to gather the maple sap, and then we explored the process of refining the sap into maple syrup. We discussed the importance of this process to our ancestors. The students were then assigned to write on how we harvest maple sap. Congratulations to all students who participated in the writing activity, you all did an excellent job! It was difficult to choose just 4 papers to include in the NEWSLETTER. Listed below are 4 exceptional entries:

Two hundred years ago, I went maple sugarbushing. There are a lot of things to do. First, you have to look for some maple trees, and then drill a hole in the tree. Then put something like a tap in the tree and let the sap run into a pail. Let it drop for a while. Then, after it has boiled, it is done.

by Dale Hovis  
Grade 2

FOND DU LAC SCHOOL  
WILL BE CLOSED APRIL  
12-16, FOR SPRING BREAK

Two hundred years ago, I went maple sugarbushing. There are a lot of things to do. First, you have to look for some maple trees, and then drill a hole in the tree. Then put something like a tap in the tree and let the sap run into a pail. Let it drop for a while. Then, after it has boiled, it is done.

by Dale Hovis  
Grade 2

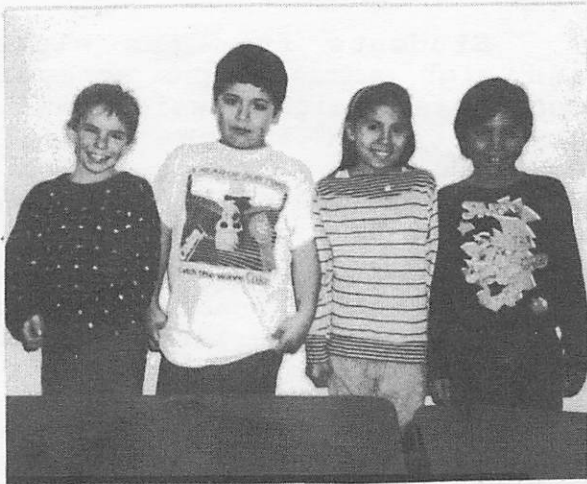
I would go out and drill a hole in the maple tree and put a tap in it so that the sap could go through it, and put a bucket on the end of it. I will boil it in a pot until it is very hot and leave it for a while. Then I would come and get it for my cereal so I could eat my breakfast.

by Travis Benjamin  
Grade 1

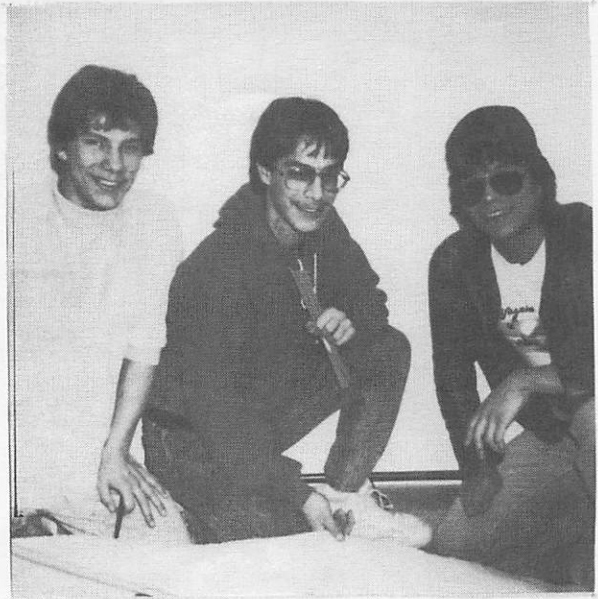
Two hundred years ago, I was a little girl and me and my family went sugarbushing. All of us got to tap the maple tree, and I had a two liter pop bottle and all the sap dripped into my bottle.

And we had to go home, but it was so much fun and we had a great time sugarbushing. Even my baby brother got to go sugarbushing. My mom had to help him sugarbush because he was getting all sticky. When we got home, mom had to wipe him off, and he cried because he didn't like it.

Tishina Benjamin  
Grade 2



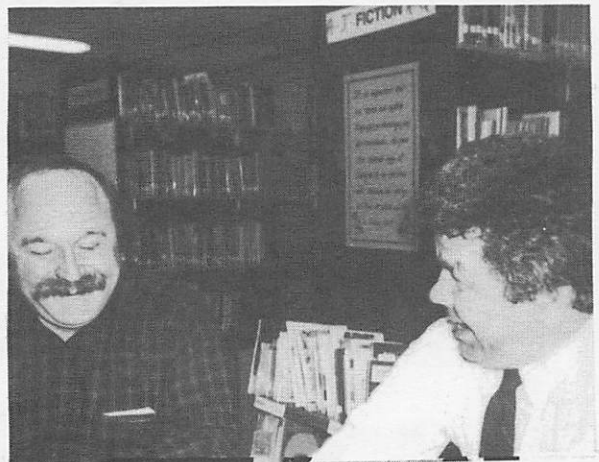
Above: Jaimie, Dale, Tishina and Travis



Above: Pat, Dan and Rick

As part of their speech assignment in English class, Pat Houle, Dan Aubid and Rick Benjamin gave an excellent demonstration speech on the rules, strategies and basic goals of the Moccasin game. We learned a lot from these young men--they really know the game!

Seniors will now focus their attention on filling out job applications, writing letters of application and creating resumes. Students must use the word processors in order to satisfy the requirements of the learning task.



Above: Charlie and Bob

On February 26 Sandy Savage, Bob Diver and Patty Goward were a few of the school board members who joined the staff for a brief social hour in the library. Staff and board members discussed numerous issues concerning the school.



## ORIGINS OF OJIBWAY



Above: David and Mel cut a frog!

As part of the continuing study of the animal kingdom, tenth graders recently completed a three day dissection of the southern grass frog (*Rana pipiens*).

The first day of the exercise was spent in the computer lab familiarizing students with the locations of organs and terminology that would be used and expected of them. The final two days of the exercise consisted of dissecting these rather large amphibians.

Below: Michelle and Michelle watch the frog!



On March 30, the staff at the Ojibway School will be instructed on Pediatric and Adult CPR. The hours will run from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Do you know what the word OJIBWAY means? According to William W. Warren, author of *HISTORY OF THE OJIBWAY PEOPLE*, there are numerous definitions.

Ojib or Ojibwa means "puckered, or drawn up." Warren questioned a number of elders on the meaning of the tribal name Ojibway. They answered that the name derived from a peculiar "make or fashion of their moccasin, which has a puckered seam lengthways over the foot." The Ojibway and other tribes called the special footgear the O-jib-wa moccasin. Soon, the name identified the entire tribe, the Ojibway.

Although Warren believes the moccasin theory to be very convincing, he considers another story told by the elders to be more authentic as to the origin of the word Ojibway. According to this definition, O-jib means "puckerup," and ub-way means "to roast." O-jib-ub-way, therefore, means "to roast till puckered up." Earlier in history, the Ojibway and Fox tribes had fought many battles. When the Ojibway captured their enemy, they would torture them with fire. It is believed that the Sioux and Dahcotas learned this torture by fire practice from the Ojibway, and in time the tribes named the Ojibway because of their tradition of "roasting" their enemies.

### Scoliosis and Growth Screen

Students from the elementary and high school were screened for scoliosis, height, weight, and blood pressure on March 20 and 21. Community nurses from the Min-No-Aya-Win Clinic assisted in the screening program.

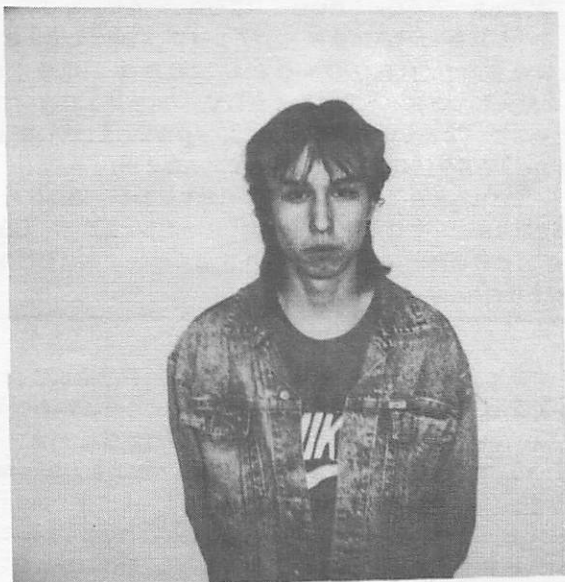
The Ojibway School Newsletter is a monthly newsletter produced at the Fond du Lac Ojibway School, 105 University Road, Cloquet, MN 55720. Dr. Thomas Peacock, Superintendent; Phil Minkinen, Principal; Michael Rabideaux, editor.



Above: Curtis Gagnon with his sled

Curtis Gagnon entertained the students and staff at the Ojibway School on February 27 with a presentation on dog sled teams.

Mr. Gagnon provided an excellent history of dogs and sledding and he displayed various types of equipment that mushers use on the trail. After his presentation, students were given rides on the dog sled. It was a very interesting and educational event.



Above: Congratulations, Ken!

#### Morrin Receives Recognition

Sophomore Ken Morrin was named to the All-Tournament Team in recognition of his play during the

District 26 basketball playoffs. The high-scoring guard averaged 28.5 points per game in the playoffs after scoring 30 against Silver Bay and 27 against Cromwell.

Ken was the leading scorer of the Ogichida boys team this past season. In 17 regular season games he scored 327 points for an average of 21.9 points per game. His tournament performance raised his total to 429 points for a 22.6 points per game average.

Ken's best offensive performances came against Chief Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school when he poured in 38 points and in an earlier game at Silver Bay when he rang up 34. At mid-season Ken was honored by being named to the All-Tournament Team for the Barnum Christmas Tournament.

## FEAR OF THE GHOST DANCE

The following information was taken from John and Claire Whitcomb's UNEXPECTED ANECDOTES ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY. " In 1890, after the Indians had been subdued and confined to reservations, Kicking Bear and other Indians saw a vision of Christ returned as an Indian who told them that the earth would be covered with new soil which would bury all white men. The new land would have sweet grass, running water, and great herds of buffalo. Those Indians who danced the Ghost Dance would be suspended in air as this wave of new earth came and then would be set down on this new land where only Indians would live.

Kicking Bear brought his message to the Sioux reservation and the resulting frenzied Ghost Dances panicked the whites. The army attempted to halt the spread of the dancing, a move that led to the shooting of Sitting Bull during an attempted arrest and the slaughter at Wounded Knee."

PRESCHOOL SCREENING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 6 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE OJIBWAY SCHOOL HEAD START CLASSROOM. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MOLLY AT 879-4593.



## A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

by Phil Minkinen

The month has left us with only about 50 days of school remaining in the year. This is the last week of the quarter; report cards will be prepared and ready for you to pick-up when you meet with the teachers to discuss the progress of your child for the past quarter. The Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday evening from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on April 5. During this time, we will also ask you to complete a needs assessment for our Effective Schools Program. The needs assessment will take you a few minutes to complete, but it is essential in order to best judge what we need to do to improve our school. We will once again offer \$5.00 to all parents who attend the conferences to offset traveling costs. The elementary teachers will be sending a schedule home for parents to meet with teachers. The secondary teachers will be available at your convenience.

During the past few weeks, the school has been busy with the sugar bush harvest. All grades participate in this program, and we will attempt to inform parents of the dates and times so students come to school properly dressed for the outdoors. Teachers will send notes home with the elementary students a day or two before they are scheduled to go.

There is a scheduled staff inservice day on Friday, March 30. There will be no school for students on that day; on April 19 and 20, there will be no school due to the annual Title IV-Johnson O'Malley conference.

### SUPPORT THE CENSUS

"We are all brothers and sisters, but of different nations. Name your Tribe; answer the census." Census counts are important because funding and budget decisions are affected by the counts. So do your part and support the count! Our future as a prosperous Nation depends on your cooperation.



Above: "Morris, it's your move!"

The annual Spring Games were held on Friday, March 2, at the Ojibway School Gym. Grades 7-12 participated in the games, and grade 10 won this year's events having compiled 146 points in a wide variety of contests.

The games included a long ski race, fish bowl, deer toe, checkers, cribbage, Moccasin games, ping pong, two on two basketball, floor hockey, arm wrestling, Carol Beargrease Sled Dog Race, relay race, tug of war, and the classic Joe Mama Snowshoe Race. As you can see, the games offer a balance between physical and mental activities--thereby making the contest fair to all participants, regardless of age or size.

Thanks to the staff and the students, this year's Spring Games were once again a huge success! Megwitch.

### LOCAL ARTISTS SOUGHT

The Fond du Lac R.B.C. is seeking artists to decorate three walls of the Fond du Lac Tribal Chambers. The murals must depict an Indian theme; the murals are to be painted with acrylic on the walls. Sketches should be submitted to:

Jean Mulder or Joan Bonner  
Fond du Lac Reservation  
105 University Road  
Cloquet, MN 55720

Deadline for sketches is April 30.