



SOUTH LAKE SCHOOLS

Community Newsletter

APRIL 2002 • VOL 6, Issue 5

South Lake Schools Win Awards

Koepsell Wins State Golden Apple Award

Koepsell Education Center is pleased to announce it has been recognized by the state of Michigan as a recipient of the Golden Apple Award for student performance on the MEAP tests. It was among 96 schools statewide, and one of

the 9 in Macomb County, who were honored for scores on the winter 2000 tests.

The award includes a handsome trophy of a golden apple, along with a check for \$50,000 to be used at the

school's discretion for school improvement.

Award winners include 87 K-5 schools which achieved a composite 60+ point increase in fourth and fifth grade MEAP scores over the past three years. Subjects include science, math, reading, and writing.

The staff at Koepsell has dedicated itself to improving student performance and achievement and have attended numerous training sessions and conferences, much of it on their own time in the summer or on Saturdays. Parents have generously supported Collaboration Meetings on early dismissal days which played a key role in enabling staff to work closely together for the benefit of students.

The Koepsell staff is especially proud of their students who have taken responsibility for their own learning and worked hard throughout the year. This has been a true "team" effort with teachers, parents, students, and the support of South Lake Board of Education. Thank you and Congratulations to everyone who helped earn this award.



Koepsell teacher, Jan Drapeau & Koepsell Principal Pam Balint with Golden Apple Award

Michigan Blue Ribbon Award Ceremony

On March 1, 2002, South Lake High School students, staff and state officials gathered in the auditorium to celebrate South Lake High School's recognition as a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School.

South Lake High School was one of seven high schools in Michigan this year to be so honored. During the presentation of the Award, state officials pointed out that the Blue Ribbon status is truly unique, if one considers there are over 3,800 schools in Michigan.

In addition to the trophy that was presented to Principal Brian Campbell, by State School Board President Kathleen Strauss and member Sharon Gire, State Senator Ken DeBeaussaert, State Representatives William Callahan and Michael Switalski, and Mayor Curt Dumas all presented resolutions and/or proclamations from their respective organizations recognizing and acknowledging South Lake High School students' and staff achievements.

This honor is based upon a comprehensive written report, data showing sustained student academic performance over the previous five years and a visitation by state officials to confirm the data and performance levels.

Brian Campbell summed up the celebration by stating, "What I liked best about the celebration was that it brought students, staff, community members and state officials together to recognize South Lake High School staff and students for their sustained and focused efforts over the past five years. The award also signifies that the preparation of our K-8 students provides a strong underpinning for our students' successes."



South Lake High School Principal, Brian Campbell accepts the Blue Ribbon Trophy



Sixth Grade Classes Explore Mexico



The sixth grade classes at Avalon Elementary have recently completed a unit on Mexico. For many weeks they studied the country's location, cities, climate, landforms, history, traditions and customs. The students participated in various activities including map drawing, creation of posters, research on the computer, creating a travel brochure on a city in Mexico, learning about the culture through videos and many more! The students really enjoyed the unit and took interest in all aspects of Mexican life.

As an end of the unit activity, the classrooms decided to have a Mexican Fiesta. The students made pinatas and painted them the colors of the Mexican flag in preparation for the fiesta. The children listened to Mexican music and the band students even learned a Mexican song on their instruments, especially for the party! Students and teachers enjoyed nachos, tamales, Mexican rice, tortillas, salsa, guacamole and lots of candy. The students were able to break their pinatas and share the surprises that were

inside. They even participated in an educational lottery that incorporated many questions that related to the unit.



Pictured Above: Michelle Raymond-PTO President, David McDowel-Elks Exalted Ruler; Chet Bauer-Avalon Principal, Donald Pope-State Youth Activities Chairman, Karen Olechiv- Parent, Larry Steele-Chairman of Trustees and Avalon Student Classroom Representatives

St. Clair Shores Elks Donate Funds For Avalon's PTO Playground Equipment Drive

When Mrs. Karen Olechiv, Avalon PTO parent, approached members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 34 to support the Avalon PTO and its endeavor to fund replacement playground equipment for Avalon, the St. Clair Shores Lodge donated \$3500 as seed money!

The Elks motto is, "Elks Care, Elks Share." Elks Lodge No. 34 stayed true to their motto with this magnificent contribution to the students of Avalon. Take a bow, Elks Club Members. The students and parents of Avalon cannot thank you enough for such a outstanding contribution!

The Avalon PTO Playground Fund is off to a great start with this significant donation. The Avalon Elementary School is planning a **SpringFest and Silent Auction for April 27th from 11:00am to 4:00pm.** Proceeds from this day of family fun will go toward the playground fund.

Teamwork

During the 2000-2001 school year a new program to instruct reading and writing skills at the high school level was implemented. This new program is called *LANGUAGE!*.

Two teachers, Marlyn Weiss, special education teacher, and Matt Boggio, Speech and Language Pathologist, received specific training in order to be able to effectively teach this program. Mrs. Weiss teaches *LANGUAGE!* daily in her classroom. Once a week Mr. Boggio collaborates in this process. Mr. Boggio states, "The collaboration allows us the flexibility to give more individualized attention to those in need."

LANGUAGE! is a literacy intervention curriculum. It is designed to teach students all the essential skills of reading, language comprehension, and composition in a systematic, cumulative curriculum.

Both teachers have observed student growth in the areas of reading and writing as a result of using this program. Mrs. Weiss states, "What I like about this program is that it takes the students from where they are and strives to bring each student to grade level."



Owl Pellets



Fifth grade students in Mrs. Menge's classes at Elmwood school are disecting and studying owl pellets in science class.

After digestion, the owl regurgitates a pellet that contains indegestible parts of prey. Students dissect the pellet and from the sekeltal remans reconstruct the prey that has been swallowed.

Students find it fascinating and a great hands on experience.

Elmwood Celebrates "March is Reading Month"



First Grade students at Elmwood anxiously await as a name is drawn for someone from their class to bowl with Mr. Sprys, principal



Miss Reinhard presents gold medals to 5th grade students



Ms. Olivero presents gold medals to 6th grade students

Elmwood celebrated Reading Month with an Olympic Theme. Students read about sports heroes, decorated their classroom doors, and competed for medals as they kept track of the amount of time they read. Special assemblies were held throughout the month. The month began with a "kick-off" assembly to reveal the plans for the month. Next there was an assembly about the magic of reading, complete with a magician who performed many amazing tricks for the students. Author Cynthia Furlong-Reynolds spoke to the students about the importance of detail and accuracy in writing, and finally, the month ended with an assembly to present students with gold, silver and bronze medals for their reading achievements. A drawing took place to determine which students would celebrate the success of reading month at a bowling outing with Mr. Sprys.

Author Visits Elmwood Elementary

Author Cynthia Furlong-Reynolds visited Elmwood Elementary. Her books include "L is for Lobster" (Maine alphabet), "H is for Hoosier" (Indiana alphabet), "S is for Star" (Christmas alphabet), and "Our Hometown" (history of Chelsea, Michigan). Autographed copies of these books are still available for purchase at the Elmwood library. Call 445-4332 for more information.



Cynthia Furlong-Reynolds reads one of her books to kindergarten students



Fifth & Sixth grade students participate in a skit for Cynthia Furlong-Reynolds' presentation



Cynthia Furlong-Reynolds asks the students in the audience what they remember about the skit that just took place as Chelsea and Angie listen.



Marine Biology Swims Deep in South Lake High School

South Lake High School juniors, Stephen Crutchfield and Victor Maisano have chosen an independent study course in the field of Marine Biology. This field of independent study is a branch of the new course offering of Aquatic Biology



Victor Maisano and Steve Crutchfield in front of showcase reflecting their studies in Marine Biology

taught by Mr. Daniel DeMarchis. This is the “maiden voyage” year for the Aquatic Biology program. Both Steve and Victor are researching a variety of topics during this semester long effort, some of which include: coral reef ecology, endangered species awareness, bioluminescence, fish behavior and other marine environment topics.

One of the projects Crutchfield

and Maisano have completed is the construction of a showcase reflecting their studies in Marine Biology, for all South Lake staff and students to view. They selected the topic of bioluminescence as the focus of this showcase. Using black lights, sand, model aquariums and live fish, they transformed the science showcase into a deep-sea experience filled with a multitude of eye-catching lights, motion and facts about bioluminescent fish.

A second project is in the making. With a generous and much appreciated donation from the Mom and Dad’s Club, Crutchfield and Maisano will be introducing a marine ecosystem aquarium (salt water) within the next month. Their goal is to maintain this marine habitat and to study first hand how a saltwater environment works. They have already assembled and are currently maintaining a freshwater tank. They have begun construction on a saltwater tank and will soon begin the process of introducing a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate species. Maisano and Crutchfield are already immersed in the challenges of maintaining such a tank and plan on displaying this

saltwater aquarium in the high school Resource Center for all to enjoy.

To help fund this project, Crutchfield and Maisano have developed an “Adopt-a-Fish Program” in which school groups, staff members and any other interested parties can purchase fish for the aquarium. They hope that this program will allow others to share in their enthusiasm for Marine Biology. Maisano



Steve and Victor put the finishing touches on their new aquarium

and Crutchfield will carry their interest in this topic to next year and then hopefully turn their project over to the next capable group.

Culinary Arts Students Compete at MCCC



On March 21, 2002, students from South Lake High School’s Culinary Arts classes competed with other Macomb area schools at Macomb County Community College Center Campus.

The following is a listing of the students, the category they competed in and their ranking.

Honorable Mention

Kristina Crockett/Marti Ramus

Decorated Centerpiece

Silver

Brian Ancona/Dominique Buonbrisco

Dessert (Ebony/Ivory Cheesecake)

Marisa Dewandelar/Laurie McLaughlin

Dessert (Chocolate Hazelnut Torte)

Justyn LaFata/Mike Spinazzola

Hot Food Entrees

Preschool Hearing & Vision

The Macomb County Health Department will be providing free vision and hearing tests for preschool children over the age of three at **Elmwood Elementary School** on **Friday, May 17, 2002** in the afternoon only. Please call **412-5945** for an appointment.



Medieval Feast at the South Lake Middle School Castle

Our 7th grade Social Studies classes have been studying Western Europe during the Middle Ages (500 A.D. to 1500 A.D.). They have studied the history, geography, civics, and economics of this unique time period.

To bring this time period alive for the students, a Medieval Feast occurred at the end of this unit. The Medieval Feast was held in the cafeteria, otherwise known as the Great Hall. Each student was required to bring a wooden bowl, spoon and metal drinking cup or mug. The menu included: soup, cider/apple juice, bread, and cherry tarts. Many parent volunteers assisted by participating on the day of the feast, as well as handling food preparations for the feast itself. In addition, students, teachers and volunteers were required to dress in Medieval costumes in order to attend the feast.

Listed are brief explanations of some of the activities the students completed

in preparation for the Medieval Feast.

Guild Signs - Each student studied guilds in their social studies class and then designed and created their own guild using supplies given to them. The signs were made to advertise a craft of the Middle Ages such as: shoemaker, jeweler, hat maker, baker, etc.

Heraldry - Each student created a sign that was symbolic to what the knights wore that distinguished their family from others.

9 Men Morris Tournament/Knight Selection - This Medieval game was enjoyed by adults and children alike. For our purpose, it served as the means to determine who would become knights. All students competed in a tournament held in math class. Winners from each class were then responsible for making shields and were knighted at the feast by their king and queen.

Armor Making - No Great Hall is complete without armor of the brave knights decorating the walls. Students who were interested created their own armor using tinfoil, cardboard, and designs given to them in science class.

King & Queen Proclamations - It wasn't easy becoming a King or Queen in the Middle Ages and that still rings true today. Students interested in becoming royalty did research, through their language arts class, on a monarch of the Middle Ages and then presented a proclamation of their own on video. From the proclamations a king and queen were selected as well as a prince and princess. All participants who gave a proclamation were automatically dubbed as nobles.

Through the cooperation of all students and teachers, a successful integrated unit took place that allowed students to go back in time.

Pare Activities



Pictured at the left are parents who were invited to join Pare students for a popcorn chicken and mashed potato lunch on March 20, 2002. The children were excited to dine with their parents. Afterwards the students showed them the many hallway displays about respect, responsibility, honesty and cooperation which students created as part of Pare's cross-age tutoring program.

At the right, Pare students raised money for the American Heart Association by participating in "Jump Rope for Heart." Kindergarten through sixth grade jumped for a cumulative total of 4,700 minutes or 78 hours and donated over \$1,900.00 to the American Heart Association.





Teachers of the Year



Joanne Machesky

Joanne has taught in South Lake Schools for 32 years with 17 years at Pare Elementary. She also taught at Fairlane, Avalon and Elmwood. Joanne is a graduate of Wayne State University. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, traveling and touring lighthouses.



Sherri Becker

Sherri has been a Language Arts teacher at South Lake Middle School for the last five years. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan. She coaches boys and girls basketball, girls volleyball and co-ed track.



Norm Stevens

Norm has been with South Lake Schools for over 34 years as physical education teacher. He is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Master's Degree from Wayne State University. Previously, Norm coached the varsity boys swim team and was an assistant football coach.

School Board Candidate



Lois M. Cardenas

Lois M. Cardenas a 32 year resident of St. Clair Shores, and a three term Board member is employed part-time with the Michigan Humane Society and St. John Hospital. She has two sons, Edward (Cathe) and Victor, who are South Lake graduates. Lois has been a member of the Avalon PTO, South Lake PTC, as well as having participated in various committees though the Michigan Association of School Boards and the Macomb County School Board Association.

Previous Board experience and a long standing commitment to the district are Lois' main reasons for choosing to run for re-election. Lois would like South Lake Schools to maintain the excellent programs that are offered, improving on them as needed. She would also like to see new programs added that would enhance the future of all South Lake students.

Lois believes that the challenges South Lake will face in the next two to three years are maintaining a balanced budget and the safety of our students.

W R I T E - I N CANDIDATES

Any person wishing to become a "write-in" candidate for the regular election must file a **Write-in Candidate Declaration of Intent by 4 p.m., Friday, June 7, 2002.** Failure to file a Write-in Candidate Declaration of Intent will disqualify the votes for the write-in candidate.

Winterguard Wins State Championship

For the second year in a row the South Lake High School Winterguard (called the South Lake "Essence") has proven they are NUMBER ONE in the State of Michigan! The team placed consistently in first or second place at each of six invitationals throughout the season. Their excellence in performance caused a "bump up" into the higher "Class A" earlier this season and, still the team came through with the championship trophy.

Shown top left to right: Allison Hoepner, Robert Ardelan, Ashley Hessel and Andrea Guilbault.

Bottom left to right: Annette Maxwell, Marika Villaraza and Darcy Downing. (Not pictured Danielle Fasseel). Photo by Liz Fisk





Cruising Through the Past and Present



Mr. Chmielewski's multi-age social studies class travels through time and to exotic locations. The fifth grade students (pictured at the left) set out on a voyage in time to research colonial America. Each team of students chose a different colony to research. The sixth graders (pictured at the right) set out on a journey of their own. Each team of sixth graders chose a Caribbean Island. Their goal was to create a resort complete with a brochure of all the island's attractions and culture.



Pot Luck Dinner at Koepsell

Where could a family eat so well for only dollar each? Koepsell Education Center's Annual Pot Luck dinner, of course! The table was loaded with good food and delicious desserts provided by Koepsell parents. Students, staff and parents enjoyed a dinner filled with good food and good company. Some parents were overheard saying, "What's for dinner next year?"



Koepsell Education Center Accepting Applications for the 2002-03 School Year

Koepsell Education Center, a 2001 Golden Apple Award school, is now accepting kindergarten applications for the 2002-03 school year. Limited openings are available in grades one through six.

Koepsell offers multiage and looped classrooms with a Glasser based philosophy in decision-making.

Koepsell Education Center is a school of choice within South Lake Schools for children of all abilities.

Please consider joining one of the Koepsell Learning Families.

For more information, contact Mrs. Pamela Balint, Koepsell principal, at 445-4315.



Mardi Gras

Wearing brightly colored masks and beads and with magic beads tucked into their pockets, the Early Childhood children at Koepsell celebrated the beginning of Mardi Gras by dancing through the halls. The parade was led by Koepsell parent and professional trumpet player, James O'Donnell.

Applications for Absentee Ballots Available

Applications for absentee ballots for the upcoming Board of Education election are available now. Please call 445-4213 to request your application for an absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots will be available by Tuesday, May 21, 2002.

The South Lake Schools regular election will take place on Monday, June 10, 2002. One vacancy exists for a term beginning July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2006.

Solar System Studied

In Mr. Wyber's Class, students have been studying and visiting the solar system and learning about the sun, planets and their moons. They did reports and made posters and models. Students also presented oral reports to the class.





South Lake Schools Continues As A School of Choice

In March of 2001, the South Lake Schools Board of Education authorized the Administration to place up to 130 new, non-resident students under Section 105 Schools of Choice. This action was taken as part of an overall plan to balance the budget.

In September 2001, there were 81 new, non-resident enrollments. By February 2002, 66 students were still enrolled. The budget for 2001/02 was built on the enrollment of 81 Choice students.

Our budget projection for 2002/03 is based on an additional 20 new students, over the current year's budgeted Choice enrollment (81). To help maintain a balanced budget, we need to open a minimum of 35 new spaces under Section 105, Schools of Choice.

If current Choice enrollment is subtracted from the authorized total of

130, there are 64 slots potentially available. In March 2002, the Board authorized the enrollment of up to 64 additional students. Section 105 Schools of Choice is limited to students who legally reside in Macomb County.

Based on this year's experience, school officials know that the proposed limited choice program can be implemented without negatively impacting students or increasing costs to the district. Coupled with new funding for Special Education and other proactive cost-containment measures, South Lake Schools continues to project a balanced budget for the 2002/03 school year.

Questions regarding open enrollment under Section 105 Schools of Choice may be directed to Mrs. Irene Speir, Curriculum Director, 23101 Stadium Blvd., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080, (586) 445-4390. The deadline for Section 105 Schools of Choice applications is May 15, 2002.

VOTING/PRECINCT INFORMATION

The following polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday June 10, 2002.

B (SCS Precinct 102 & Township of Lake, as situated in South Lake Schools)
- Elmwood Elementary School, 22700 California

D (SCS Precinct 103) - South Lake Middle School (Maxine), 21621 California

E (SCS Precinct 104, Eastpointe Precinct 12) - Avalon Elementary School, 20000 Avalon

G (SCS Precinct 105, Eastpointe 17 & 12) - Pare Elementary School, 23500 Pare

For additional information, please call 445-4213.

Calendar of Events

April

- 22-30 HS MEAP/HST Testing
- 24 MS half day AM Classes
Koepsell Early Dismissal 1:50 PM
- 27 Avalon SpringFest/Auction 11-4
- 30 Reproductive Film Preview
Avalon 7:00 p.m.

May

- 1-3 HS MEAP/HST Testing
- 1 Koepsell Early Dismissal 1:50 PM
Dads/Moms Club 7:30 PM
- 3 MS Progress Reports Mailed
HS half day AM hours
Incoming Freshman Orientation
Junior/Senior Prom
- 7 Elmwood PTA 7 PM
- 8 HS Progress Reports Mailed
- 9 Avalon PTO 7 PM
- 13 Honors Night 7 PM
Quill & Scroll Induction 8:30 PM
- 14 Pare PTO 7 PM
Koepsell Family Council 6:30 PM
- 15 Koepsell Early Dismissal 1:50 PM
Board of Ed Mtg 7:30 PM
- 16 NHS Rehearsal 7 PM
NHS Induction 8 PM
- 17 Honors Breakfast 8 am
- 20 Band Boosters 7 PM
- 24 Half Day All Elementaries
- 27 Memorial Day NO School
- 28 MS Honors Night
- 29 Spring Athletic Banquet

June

- 3 Senior Banquet 6:30 PM
- 4 Graduation Macomb Ctr 8 PM
- 5 Koepsell Early Dismissal 1:50 PM
- 12 MS Half Day
- 13 Last Day of School;
Half Day All Schools



South Lake Schools
23101 Stadium Boulevard
St. Clair Shores, MI

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**SOUTH LAKE SCHOOLS
2001-02**

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