

**Friday Spotlight:** Chris Dose of Osceola helps out in a kindergarten class at Bittersweet Elementary School. She reads with



the children and helps out the teacher. "I like to see what's going on in class," said Dose, who has a son in kindergarten.

# HOMETOWN

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2003

SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

LOCAL D7

## School program builds understanding of disabilities

By LISA KOCHANOWSKI  
Tribune Correspondent

All of the students at Corpus Christi School may look alike with their blue and white uniforms, but pupils learned at Disability Day that there can be major differences.

"We have half a dozen physically handicapped students in this school. I wanted kids to understand what they go through," said resource teacher Chris Samuels-Wade.

This was the fourth year for the project at the school on the northwest side of South Bend.

Wade has found that the program benefits the children.

"There is more understanding for their fellow students. They are much more willing to help them and ask to help more often," Wade said.

Grades one through five participated in the activities, led by the seventh-grade students.

The whole school met for a candle lighting ceremony and school sing-along.

Afterward, disability stations were set up throughout the gym and student leaders went through the exercises with the younger grades.

At the various work stations, students learned sign language, tied their shoes with socks on their hands, poured drinks blind-folded and wrote their names while looking in a mirror.

Wade said the exercises not only addressed those children who have physical handicaps but also examined those students who have learning disabilities or perceptual problems.

"It was to just make the kids aware of how hard it is for other kids to learn," said Wade.

Seventh-grader Bill John was a team leader who enjoyed being part of the exercises. He worked with classmate Drew Steinke taking a group of second-graders through the exercises.

"I think this is just great for all kids," Bill said. "I feel bad for them; we're lucky. I want to try and help as much as I can."

Drew found a lot of educational value, but also a new perspective.

"This helps kids so they know how other kids with disabilities do it," Drew said.

Second-grader Anna Wilcoxson got to participate in the blanket roll exercise. She had to lie on the ground and keep her hands in her pockets while Drew and Bill rolled her up in a blanket and taped the sides shut. Anna's goal was to get up off the ground without using her hands, giving her perspective on how it feels to have something like cerebral palsy.

"That was hard," Anna said of the exercise. "This made me learn about people with disabilities."

The same could be said of other Corpus Christi students.

"I want them to have an understanding of what some of their fellow classmates have to go through just to learn. Some kids really have to work at it," said Wade.

## Pupils' essays go high-tech

Elementary kids learn to use PowerPoint

By KEN BRADFORD  
Tribune Staff Writer

You probably know how to do a third-grade geography report.

You get an encyclopedia, scribble down facts and use your best penmanship to fill up a page with your report.

That, of course, is the way things were done before the days of computers.

Now, at Northpoint Elementary School, Katie Inabnit and Daniel Murakowski can make the words flash, dance across the computer screen and appear one letter at a time, with a rat-a-tat-tat sound.

"This is a lot easier than writing it all out," said Katie, a third-grader.

Sixteen Northpoint students in grades one through three learned how to put some gee-whizz into their geography reports through an enrichment project involving the PowerPoint computer program.

It's a way of taking learning past the traditional boundaries, according to Erin Horvath and Heather Trant Short, Penn-Harris-Madison's specialist in gifted and talented education.

"They were studying Asia in their classes," Horvath said. "This is an extension of that."

Northpoint teachers selected eight third-graders, four second-graders and four first-graders for the enrichment project.

"These kids have been exposed to computers all along," she said. "Some have seen their brothers and sisters working with programs like this."

It's likely you've seen a PowerPoint presentation, at work, at church or at a community event. With a computer and a TV screen, you can put together a slide show complete with charts, graphs, cartoons and video.

"This isn't a kid program," Horvath said. "This one's used in the real world."

For Katie and Daniel, PowerPoint allowed them to get excited about their report on Mongolia, a country where the favorite animal is the gerbil and natives look forward each year to the Lunar New Year Festival.

Katie said she's used programs similar to PowerPoint to create posters for her room.

Daniel, a second-grader, said finding facts about Mongolia was simple. What made the project more exciting was the fancy stuff from PowerPoint.

"I had never heard of it until now," he said. "I like to be able to change the backgrounds, put in animation and the dissolve."

Across the room, third-grader Jake Garwood and first-grader Josh Horvath were putting the finishing touches on their Vietnam report.

They both have computers at home but mainly use them for games.



Aryelle Murray concentrates on preparing her PowerPoint program during an enrichment class at Northpoint Elementary School.



Heather Trant Short, a specialist in gifted and talented education, helps Evelyn Huang and Megan Stevens prepare their PowerPoint presentation for a class at Northpoint Elementary School.

"I don't have any homework on the computer," Jake said. "That would be more like for sixth-graders."

He said he enjoyed doing the online research and then exploring how to use PowerPoint.

"It makes it more fun," he said. "I only like things when they're challenging. When it's easy, it's boring."

The program took just one hour a week for five weeks.

One of the goals is that these 16 students will pass along the skills to their other classmates. "They will go back to their class-

rooms and be the experts," Short said. Horvath said it's another case of children picking up skills much earlier than their parents.

"I was in my second year of teaching before I was able to do a presentation like this," she said.

"Now, you have 7-year-olds doing PowerPoint."

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## P - H - M MENUS

**Monday:** Soft shell chicken taco or spaghetti with meatballs, French bread slices, sliced carrots, pineapple tidbits.

**Tuesday:** Chicken nuggets or shepherd's pie, carrot/celery sticks, applesauce.

**Wednesday:** Pizza, corn, fruit treats.

**Thursday:** Taco salad in a tortilla bowl or chicken and noodles, mixed vegetables, chocolate cherry cobbler with whipped cream.

**Friday:** Grilled cheese sticks or corn dogs, tomato soup with crackers, green peas and carrots, peaches.

## MARIAN AND ST. MATTHEW MENUS

**Monday:** Stuffed crust pizza, tossed salad, orange segments, cake.

**Tuesday:** Cheeseburger, french fries, corn, apple cobbler.

**Wednesday:** Chicken fajita, chips and salsa, lettuce and tomato, peaches.

**Thursday:** Spaghetti, tossed salad, breadsticks, pears, cookie.

**Friday:** Fish, french fries, pasta salad, pineapple.

## REAL SERVICES MENUS

**Monday:** Breaded chicken patty with cream gravy, cheesy mashed potatoes, brussel sprouts, sourdough bread with margarine, butterscotch pudding.

**Tuesday:** Chili dog on bun with onions and cheese on the side, tossed salad with ranch dressing, mandarin oranges.

**Wednesday:** Nutrition Awareness Day. Roast beef, garlic mashed potatoes with sour cream and chives, brussel sprouts, wheat roll with margarine, baked apples.

**Thursday:** Pineapple glazed ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, cornbread with margarine, pound cake with blueberry glaze.

**Friday:** Cream of potato soup, breaded fish on bun with lettuce and tartar sauce, creamy coleslaw, blushing pears.

## Community service project a pleasure

By JULIE FERRARO  
Tribune Correspondent

It can be an exercise in creativity, finding ways to perform 30 hours of community service. For two eighth-graders at St. Anthony School, however, fulfilling this requirement for the upcoming sacrament of confirmation became an effort mixing pleasure with a worthwhile cause.

Danielle "Danni" Bittner of Granger and Lizzy Gerard of Niles decided they wanted to help the Friends of Child Abuse Prevention, the organization that does the annual Roofsit, where U93 disc jockeys sit atop a Martin's Super Market to raise funds.

"I get very emotional during the Roofsit," admitted Danni. "I feel sad for those kids. I'm happy I'm not in that situation."

Danni and Lizzy brainstormed a number of ideas, and the Valentine's dance last month was the first in a number of fund-raising events they are hoping to organize. Others include a Port-a-Pit, dress-down days at school and taking up collections Masses.

Working in collaboration with St. Anthony's Parish Youth Group made it possible for the girls to invite not only their classmates at St. Anthony, but more than 100 students from Christ the King, St. Matthew and St. Joseph schools in South Bend.

The students gathered in droves at the Knights of Columbus Hall on South Ironwood.

Over all, the dance raised more than \$600 for the Friends of Child Abuse Prevention.

## Penn students join in by reading to kids

By KEN BRADFORD  
Tribune Staff Writer

Goodwin Krouse remembers the charm of Dr. Seuss.

That's why, for the third consecutive year, the Penn High School senior was helping with the Dr. Seuss birthday party at the Bittersweet Branch Library.

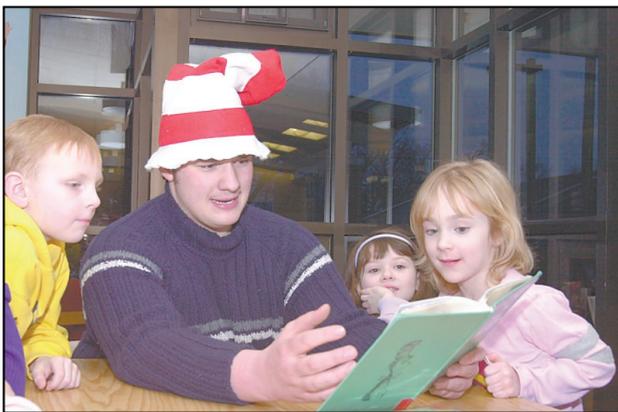
As children gathered to listen, he was helping make Sam I Am come alive in his comic reading of "Green Eggs and Ham."

"I remember having these stories read to me," he said.

"This is really fun. The kids are really cute, and I get to make all these funny noises."

He was among about 60 Penn students reading stories, making Cat in the Hat craft hats and serving up cake to 100 or more youngsters at the party.

It was the fourth year that Penn teacher Mary Nicolini worked with young adult librarian Margo Ferguson on the honoring of Seuss, the doctor of daffy rhymes. It's part of the Read Across



Guests at the birthday party for Dr. Seuss listen as N. Goodwin Krouse, a Penn High School senior, reads from "The Cat in the Hat." From left are Anthony Jankowski, 6; Krouse; and Bailey Hayes and Gabriela Robinson, both 5.

America program. The program is as much for the Penn students as it is for the youngsters who attended.

"It's about the love of reading," Nicolini said. "We ask them about how their parents read to them, and

they talk about so many memories."

March 2 would have been the 99th birthday for Theodore Geisel, who wrote under the name of Dr. Seuss. The party was Monday, bringing in youngsters of all ages.

Daphne Krizmanich of Lakeville

was there with her grandson, Brendan. She was watching as Brendan and mom Melissa Krizmanich of South Bend made a hat out of construction paper.

"I think it's nice the kids have something like this," she said.

She was having fun, even though she wouldn't consider herself a big Dr. Seuss fan.

"I have horrible memories of bringing 'Green Eggs and Ham' home from school to read to my mom," she said, chuckling.

Eric and Deena Chamberlin of Mishawaka were there because they want their son, Harrison, to feel comfortable with books and libraries.

"This is the second thing we've brought him to at the library in the past couple of weeks," Mrs. Chamberlin said. "We want him to learn about the love of reading."

"He's an only child," Mr. Chamberlin added. "He's getting exposure to other kids. Besides, we can only play like a 5-year-old for so long."

In addition to the Dr. Seuss crafts and the reading of Dr. Seuss books, Penn students put on a Dr. Seuss play, "Star Belly Sneetches."