

Waxing historic

Delphi Community Middle School students step back in time to learn and tell about historic people during a Wax Museum. Sixth-grade students chose a person from the past then read biographies and other literature about him or her. Each prepared a first-person speech based on the historic figure's point of view and presented it to parents, teachers and classmates during the event last week. Teacher Wendi Thompson said the program was designed to help students develop standard speaking skills and their efforts were evaluated by teachers during the program. She said she was pleased to know parents and children worked together to build costumes and prepare the 45-second memorized speeches. In the right photo, Anthony Sandora is pictured dressed as George Custer. In the bottom photo, Cody Hanna is also shown as Custer along with Hayes Cronk as Jackie Robinson. Comet photos by Kevin Schnepf



DCSC board spends to keep kids smart and warm

By Kevin Schnepf
Staff writer

Delphi Community School Corporation Board of Trustees invested in equipment to educate students and keep them comfortable in classrooms at their Monday night meeting.

Board members and patrons discussed costs, timeliness and educational needs before the board approved a motion to spend \$64,595 from capital projects funds on electronic equipment. High school principal Barry Stone said students will have access to 32 Macintosh computers for the first time along with 20 "smart board" tablets, 10 projectors and a student response system. He explained the purchase would outfit approximately 50 percent of the classrooms.

Board member Nick Cronk said two DCSC graduates told him recently they were behind in college due to lack of cutting-edge technology at Delphi.

"At first I was hesitant (to approve the motion)," Cronk said. "But I had some insightful conversations. In a time when every penny is crucial, we need to act on a deal."

DCSC Technology Director Scott Gear said the deal included \$9,000 worth of free extras, including digital cameras, iPods, a microscope and other items due to the amount spent.

A three-year preventative

maintenance contract with Siemens for \$34,656, to be paid in annual installments, was approved. The high school's heating and cooling system's software will be updated, 120 sensors will be installed in classrooms to provide room-specific temperature control and training for users will be provided through the deal.

Patron Shawn Ashby asked why work was being done on the system before the board knew if the proposed renovation project would be approved.

"If a building project goes through, will the HVAC system have to change," he asked. "Won't that create the need for a change order?"

DCSC Superintendent Ralph Walker replied Siemens, whose system is currently installed, wanted to continue to work with the corporation if a building project went through.

"Siemens is aware of the potential," Walker said. "They would like to have the business."

Camden resident Kevin Kremer asked if other HVAC suppliers could be contacted for bids. Walker said heating and cooling systems are brand-specific and only Siemens could do the work.

High ability students
Camden Early Childhood Center Principal Carol Coon said due to a change in state

law, elementary schools must identify "high-ability" students and provide them with advanced instruction. Coon received permission to interview elementary students' parents about educational models they would prefer for "high-ability" young learners including the following options:

- A pull-out program in which students are part of the main school body but are removed from some or all regular classes for advanced teaching;

- In-class cluster groups, two per grade level, in which students would remain in the classroom and learn in small groups; and

- Placement in a High Ability Academy, a self-contained facility staffed by a licensed high ability teacher.

Coon explained parents whose children are to be tested would receive a letter of explanation from the school.

Elementary students will take Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and other types of tests to define their individual learning needs.

"An I.Q. test is one of several identifiers to help us identify high ability students," Coon explained.

A selection process will occur and an appeal system will be in place for parents who disagree with placement results.

"We will identify the kiddos in March," Coon explained. "After the selection process we will notify parents in April."

Walker said high ability students were "often very unique" and "not challenged enough." He said more than likely he could "make the academy work" without adding staff.

Patron Everett Snoberger questioned Walker's optimism about information presented regarding lowered class sizes.

"The numbers don't make

sense," Snoberger said.

"We would not have to hire a teacher," Walker clarified.

Coon received permission to continue work on a professional development grant proposal due by the end of this month.

Other business
The board approved the purchase of a plotter/cutter for the graphic arts department for \$1,098. Stone said photography was being phased out to make room for more usable equipment.

The board gave the green light to hold a 2008 Middle School Triathlon the last Wednesday in August. Walker said some middle school students were already "in training" for the event.

Approval of a new cell phone plan was tabled. Board members Cronk and Paul Brown requested other options, including plans with more minutes and additional phones. The board directed Gear to investigate more comprehensive package deals.

An FFA ski trip held last weekend was approved.

Abby Fish will be interim middle school counselor.

The board will hold a regular meeting March 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. A 1028 tax hearing will be held at 7:30.

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Dear Dr. Wise: We just lost a treasured member of the family, our family dog. How can we say good-bye?

Answer: For many pet owners, the end of their pet's life can be a heart-wrenching and especially emotional time. When faced with the decision for euthanasia, even normally hard-hearted individuals can break down. Euthanasia means "easy death" and can really be a blessing for those pets whose quality of life has greatly deteriorated. But still, ending the life of your best friend is difficult. Your veterinarian will help you to understand the process and how to recognize when your pet is suffering. Some pet owners report that "unspoken signs" will pass between them and their pets, signaling that it's ok to let go. It doesn't matter if the death comes abruptly through trauma or gently through a planned overdose of anesthetic at the veterinarian's office; the pet's family is suddenly left with an empty feeling. Many have only treasured memories and a few photographs of their beloved pet. As pets share unconditional love with us, some owners wonder how they can return that love even after their pet is gone.

Mention planning a funeral for your pet and many people might snicker at you. But, memorial services, pet burials, and even pet-loss support hotlines are becoming increasingly more common across North America.

For many pet owners, the "after-life" options for their pet have been limited. Pet burials at home can violate local ordinances and despite the presence of pet cemeteries, less than 10% of pets will be buried there. Most pets end up being cremated with the owner choosing whether or not to keep the ashes.

There is no doubt that our pets touch our lives deeply through their unconditional love. For many, the loss of that love is also the loss of an era of time. As pets live longer, many owners are faced with the death of a companion who has seen them through college, a new career, and maybe even a marriage or two. That loss can be overwhelming for some. Pet loss support hot lines have been set up at many of the veterinary schools and even some of the larger veterinary hospitals. Veterinarians and their staffs can attend training on recognizing extreme grief in their clients and helping clients validate that grief. To many, admitting to that level of sorrow is difficult as people fear the ridicule and scorn of friends and family. But, according to www.pet-loss.net, people should not feel ashamed or embarrassed by these feelings. Grief counseling is often recommended for many pet owners.

Just as our pets now receive "human-quality" medical care, many dogs, cats, and other pets are being remembered in ways similar to human funerals. Ask your family veterinarian or their staff about resources in your area to help when your pet passes away. And remember that grief is a normal occurrence. If you are having difficulty after the death of a pet, seek professional assistance.

If you have a question, write Dr. Wise, Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, 201 S. Capitol Avenue, Suite 405, Indianapolis, IN, 46225, or www.invma.org

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DCHS creates magical musical

Comet staff report

Roger's and Hammerstein's irreverent rendition of the Princess and the Pea, "Once Upon a Mattress," is the musical to be presented by Delphi Community High School. Over 20 students are in rehearsal for the farcical fable scheduled for March 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. and March 16 at 2 p.m.

Seniors and stage veterans Brenton Hathaway, Jenna Buehler and Arielle Brosman perform in the title roles (respectively) of Prince Dauntless, Queen Aggravain and Princess Winnifred the Woe-begone. Sophomore Andrew Martin plays comic relief in the role as the mute King Sextimus, senior Shane Evans as the Minstrel, junior Jimmy Reed as the Wizard, and sophomore Hannah Evans as the Jester. Other cast members include Grace Mears, Chris Mayfield, Zach Cook, Micah Red Elk, James Wethington, Grace Currie, Chloe Fivecoate, Jordan Hudelson, Natalie Garrison, Jenny Maxwell, Elizabeth Britt, Megan Veach, Kyla Francis, Ashlynn Marvell, and Elizabeth Rowen. Carroll County Community Band will combine with DCHS band students for the shows musical accompaniment. The band is under the direction of

Jay Dennison.

Tickets will soon be available by calling the high school at (765) 564-3481. Stage director is Sara Daly Brosman assisted by Kayla Haley. Choral director is Kevin Kayser.

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Nomination forms are available at sponsoring newspaper offices and online at leadersot.com. Nominations must be received by **February 16, 2007**. If you have questions, please call **1-877-760-4978**.

The Carroll County **COMET** Herald Journal **EMBARQ**

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