



Photos by Elliot J. Sutherland/
The Ottawa Herald

Above: The third and fourth grade combined class lines up Thursday at Greeley Elementary School. The school has 52 students enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grades and 15 in the school's new pre-school program.

Right: Greeley Elementary School has served as a kindergarten through sixth grade school since the 1990s.



SCHOOL: Giving students more personal attention

(Continued from Page 1)

Quaintance said he wishes more schools would model after their school, both for financial reasons and educational purposes.

"There should just be discussion as a way to cut back on staff and all over," Quaintance said. "You just don't think about if that certain kid is in first or second grade. You just teach."

He said as a teacher of the fifth and sixth grade class, you have to keep an eye on what all the students are doing.

"There are some things you can combine," Quaintance said. "And then we have an at-risk para who can take a group of five or six kids and work with them a little bit."

For the first time this year, Greeley Elementary School offered an early childhood program. The program is being taught by former second-grade teacher Alisa Self.

"This means we are a play-based school," Self said. "Those with behavior or communication problems are in here, and there are model students as well."

The program has a morning session with eight students and an afternoon session with seven students.

"We create individual goals for them in order to learn," Self said.

She also said because it is special education, all the preschool students get to ride the school bus.

"They all ride the bus, and that's just really neat," she said.

Self said the preschool is the first of its kind in the community.

"The community has just been overwhelming," she said. "When we had career day, we had so many people sign up to help. And we always have people bringing in toys or stuffed animals for us to use."

Quaintance said while there is pressure to meet annual yearly progress reports, the teachers all enjoy working at the school.

"It's a great place to be," Martha McDougal, fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, said. "I wouldn't want to work anywhere else."



Photo by Elliot J. Sutherland/The Ottawa Herald

Ceiling tiles are painted to look like an American flag at Greeley Elementary School. "This is kind of our claim to fame," Alan Quaintance, principal at Greeley Elementary School, said.

"The community has just been overwhelming. When we had career day, we had so many people sign up to help. And we always have people bringing in toys or stuffed animals for us to use."

— Alisa Self,
early childhood program instructor

Kindergarten teacher Mary Cubit has taught at Greeley for seven years.

"It's just a small, nice family atmosphere," she said. "I love working here. We've got good kids and good parents."

Third and fourth grade teacher Kim Miller has 19 students in her class this year — the largest in the school.

"I used to have second, third and fourth," she said.

Terry Entress is the first- and second-grade teacher, and she said working at a combined classes school is fun.

"I just love the small class size I have," she said. Entress said the first-graders in her class prob-

ably are ahead of other first-graders because of the help they get from the second-graders. She has her first-grade students work with second-grade students who help to teach them, and it reiterates the information to the second-graders.

"It really is a win-win for everyone," she said. Quaintance said Greeley has been a combination class school since he has been there, and he is in his 11th year at the school.

"It seems to be working pretty well," he said.

While some teachers have come and gone over the years, the staff now is committed to student learning, he said.

"We used to go through quite a bit of change," Quaintance said. "One year we had to get a whole new group of teachers."

He said former teachers usually have left Greeley to transfer to a larger school.

"The people who have been here the longest are the custodian and the para," he said. "But overall, it's been a very pleasant experience, and it's made me more appreciative. The kids get more personal attention at a small school."

News briefs

PSU rep visiting West Franklin

West Franklin High School students interested in Pittsburg State University can visit with a representative of the university Monday at the high school.

Dana Blubaugh, PSU admission counselor, will be at West Franklin, 510 E. Franklin St., Pomona, at 8:10 a.m. to meet with students and answer questions about PSU and college in general.

For more information, students can call the Office of Admission at PSU at (800) 854-Pitt or visiting the Web site, pittstate.edu.

OU to show HBO Alzheimer's special

A special, free showing of a three-part documentary about Alzheimer's disease, a progressive form of dementia, will come to Ottawa next week.

The HBO-sponsored program, "Hopeless — The Alzheimer's Project" will be screened beginning 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Ottawa University Chapel, 1001 S. Cedar St., chapel room 100, according to the East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging.

The agency has purchased the program to show to area families and residents affected by the disease. The first program is called "Momentum in Science."

Other parts of the program:

- "The Memory Loss Tapes" — 6:30 p.m. Nov. 16.
- "Caregivers & Grandpa, do you know who I am?" — 6:30 p.m. Nov. 18.

For more information, call the agency at (785) 242-7200.

Complaint filed against P&L District

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Kansas City woman has filed a discrimination complaint against the city's downtown Power & Light District.

Khiana Leapheart filed the complaint with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, alleging she was denied admission to the Mosaic Lounge in the entertainment district because of discriminatory application of the district's dress code.

Nick Benjamin, executive director of the district, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Leapheart's lawyer, Arthur Benson, alleges his black client was denied entry while similarly dressed whites were allowed into the Mosaic.

The complaint says the treatment of Leapheart and her family was the result of "a pattern and practice of racial discrimination against minority members of the public, especially African-Americans."

PURSES: Snatched

(Continued from Page 1)

That's exactly the reason Sutton began to phone area businesses after her purse was stolen.

"We're being really careful," Sutton said. "We're always careful. We just think we've been watched."

Sutton said she thinks someone local has been watching the business to wait for the right time to steal from them.

"Somebody has been coming in and eating lunch or just shopping while things were going on," she said. "It had to be someone who knows what we've been doing."

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