

Westfield Teachers Learn New Computer Techniques

WESTFIELD — Fourth-grade students in the Westfield Public Schools will have 110 new computers and accompanying software to supplement their curriculum this school year.

To ensure optimum use of this technology, all of the district's fourth-grade teachers are attending computer classes this summer in preparation for using the new computers that will be installed in all six elementary schools.

The installation of five computers in each fourth grade classroom will take place as a result of the public's approval of the 1999-2000 School Budget.

Twenty teachers attended two sessions of professional development that took place the last week in June, with a third session planned in August for the remainder of the fourth-grade teachers, as well as for new fifth-grade teachers.

The mandatory training taught in-house consists of four days of classes, led by instructors Darlene Nowak, Director of Technology; Sandi Hilliard, Technology Technician; and Kathy Cook and Mary Dailey, fifth-grade teachers at McKinley Elementary School, all of whom conducted training for fifth-grade teachers last summer.

In the 1998-1999 school year, five computers were added to each fifth-grade classroom in an on-going effort to utilize technology to enhance curriculum.

The four-day course is a comprehensive hands-on introduction covering both the technical abili-

ties of the computer and the selected software, which will be available to the teachers and students.

"We're introducing the fourth-grade teachers to the nuts and bolts of the operating system; keyboarding techniques for students; use of a multi-media encyclopedia for research and instruction; Claris Works advanced functions for graphics and slide shows for student presentations; integrating and managing techniques in the classrooms, and the use of an electronic gradebook for reporting and record keeping," explained Ms. Nowak.

"Another benefit of the course is that each teacher created a project that could be used and shared during the school year," she added.

The fourth-grade teachers who have completed the training thus far include: Claudia Andreski, Jefferson Elementary School; Diana Collins, Jefferson School; Laura Fenn, Wilson Elementary School; Eric Jones, Jefferson; Mary Kane, Wilson; Karen Kashlak, Washington Elementary School; Carole Kling, Franklin Elementary School; Pam Lubiner, Wilson; Rosemary McAneny, Jefferson; Grace McDonald, Washington; Karin Mellina, Washington; Carrie Meyer, Wilson; Paul Nigro, Franklin; Trista Pollard, Tamaques Elementary School; Lori Swanson, Tamaques; Coral Rusnak, Wilson; Diane Russell, Franklin; Greg Slomczewski, Tamaques; Earl Tankard, Tamaques and Pamela Way, Tamaques.



VALUING THE ENVIRONMENT...Staff and Students of Park Middle School in Scotch Plains meet performer Dave Street after his presentation of "The Habits that Save Habitats." Pictured, left to right, are: top row, Park School Principal Rocco Collucci, Park Environmental Club Teacher-Adviser Stacey Opper, Sarah Graziano, Mr. Street, Kimberly Grizzard and Park Environmental Club Teacher-Adviser Margaret Brown, and bottom row, Stephanie Shomade, Salima Kidd, Michelle Kania and Alexandra Fredas.

Environmental Programs Held at Park Middle School

SCOTCH PLAINS — "The Habits that Save Habitats," an assembly program about recycling, litter and pollution, was presented to all Park Middle School in Scotch Plains students on June 9 by performer/teacher Dave Street.

Co-sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association and the Scotch Plains Clean Communities Committee, this presentation capped a year of activities by Park students and the school's Environmental Club.

Mr. Street has brought his state-recognized program to hundreds of schools, colleges and other locations around New Jersey and the Northeast United States. His songs and puppets for younger children teach the importance of recycling and a clean environment. His slides also teach older children how to preserve the environment.

Students of the Park Environmental Club meet twice a week after school. Recently, they have placed blue recycling bins at strategic locations around the school and started a garden which

provided homegrown flowers for teachers on Teachers' Recognition Day.

Highlighting the club's efforts this year was the "Trashless Lunch" challenge that culminated, appropriately enough, on Earth Day, April 22. Monday of that week club members weighed the garbage produced by each grade at lunch. They then made a video promoting reusable packaging and recycling which was shown to students on Tuesday and Wednesday. Follow-up phone calls were made to parents to encourage more environmentally friendly practices.

On Earth day, seventh graders reduced their waste more than 50 percent from 97 pounds down to 47.

Mr. Street told students, "Go enjoy your sports, trips to the mall, swimming, camping, whatever you do this summer. Just take a minute extra each day to clean up and recycle. Remember, life is for enjoyment, but we will all enjoy life the most only if we can breathe clean air and drink clean water."

Mountainside Council Tables Vote on Pact For Comcast Franchise

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meeting, Councilman Werner C. Schon, who serves as Mountainside's Fire Commissioner and also chairs the council's Fire Committee, introduced on first reading an ordinance to amend the stipends paid to Mountainside's volunteer firefighters to cover clothing costs.

The amended ordinance will also provide a new "pay-per-drill" allotment aimed at increasing department recruitment.

According to Councilman Schon, the clothing allowance ordinance will amend an existing ordinance passed in 1989.

Under the amended ordinance, the clothing allowance will be as follows: the Fire Chief, \$1,500; the Assistant Chief, \$1,400; the Deputy Chief, \$1,300; the Captain, \$760 and the Lieutenant, \$660, for this year and for every subsequent year.

According to the ordinance, a firefighter responding to between 60 to 100 percent of fire calls annually will receive \$560. A firefighter attending 50 to 59 percent of calls will be given an annual allotment of \$448, and those who

respond to between 40 and 49 percent of fire calls will receive \$336 toward the cost of their clothing expenses.

Additionally, individuals in training to become a member of the department, described as probationary firefighters under the ordinance, will receive allowances of \$360, \$288 and \$216, respectively, based on the percentage of calls answered. These percentage categories will be the same as those established for department members.

In the same ordinance, the council also introduced a new "pay-per-drill" provision. The program will enable firefighters to earn extra money for their clothing allotments based on the number of fire drills they attend.

The scale starts at \$200 per year for attending 10 drills and rises by \$20 per drill before reaching \$440 for 22 drills, the maximum amount of money a firefighter can earn under the new provision.

The provision also notes that a firefighter must attend at least 10 drills to be eligible for the program.



NEW BANK ON THE BLOCK...More than 150 people waited in line to help celebrate the Valley National Bank branch opening at 1922 Westfield Avenue in June and receive a free Beanie Baby. Pictured, left to right, are: Assistant Vice President Peter Crocchio, Branch Manager Lorrie Jairdullo, Scotch Plains Deputy Mayor Tarquin Bromley, President and Chief Executive Officer Gerald Lipkin; Senior Vice President Barbara Mohrbutter and Assistant Manager Karen Hedler. The branch is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with evening hours on Thursday until 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The branch also has a 24-hour automated teller machine.



GETTING GOOD GRADES...Fourth-grade elementary school teachers in the Westfield Public Schools display the certificates they received upon completion of a four-day computer course required by the district. Twenty fourth-grade teachers have already taken the training, with the remainder of the teachers scheduled for the professional development course in August. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Karen Kashlak, Washington School; Grace McDonald, Washington School; Diane Russell, Franklin School; Mary Kane, Wilson School; and course instructor and fifth-grade teacher at McKinley, Mary Dailey; back row, instructor and fifth-grade teacher at McKinley, Kathy Cook; Greg Slomczewski, Tamaques School; Carole Kling, Franklin School; and Laura Fenn, Wilson School.

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