

Banks elementary students learn how to deal with peer conflicts

Role-playing by elementary school Conflict Managers delighted the Banks School Board at their March 11 meeting. The board also heard a presentation by a representative of the Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRES D).

Leslie Sipp, Family Resource Assistant, presented the elementary school problem-solving and conflict resolution program. A group of 12 students, who have each been nominated by four or five teachers, has received 15 hours of training in what Sipp describes as "getting along skills." These students, having earned the title of Conflict Manager, are empowered to help other students generate solutions to typical playground problems.

When students are having a problem, such as fighting or bullying, the Conflict Manager will go with them to a quiet place on the playground to discuss the situation and try to help them find a solution. If they are unable to reach a solution, the students are referred to the principal's office.

Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson praised the work of Sipp and elementary principal Marty Vogel in establishing clear disciplinary policy. After having a new principal each year for the last four years, the school's disciplinary policies were beginning to become unclear to students.

ESD services explained

Sally Bunnell, the district's representative to NWRES D, and Jerry Jones, NWRES D Assistant Superintendent, gave the annual presentation of ESD services to the board. According to Bunnell the district uses ESD services in four main areas; special education (including speech and language, emotionally disturbed, autistic, Eng-

lish as a Second Language), Cascade Conservation Corp (alternative school), outdoor school, and technology services (internet connections, accounting, etc.). These are just some of the services that can be provided by NWRES D.

NWRES D will become the largest ESD in the state during this academic year. Composed of all the school districts in Washington, Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties, the ESD serves approximately 30 districts. Providing a variety of services allows each district to tailor the services they use to the needs of their district.

Jones talked briefly about ESD funding. Provided through the state school fund, the ESD receives money in much the same way as school districts do. However, while school district funding has been equalized throughout the state over the last few years, ESD funding had not been. The 2000-2001 legislative session voted to begin a five-year process that will equalize funding for ESDs. Although equalization was fought hard by ESDs such as Multnomah, which received nearly four times the amount received by NWRES D in the 1999-2000 year, the legislature passed measures to equalize funding for all students throughout the state over a five-year period. The legislature also required that 90 percent of funds provided to the ESDs be used for students, allowing only 10 percent to be used for ESD administrative costs. McGlasson complimented Jones on the work he has done in the last year to realign programs and set up accountability systems for each program.

Assessment Director Gary Hartman told the board that statewide assessments would begin in April after Spring

Break. All students will be tested, but students in grades 3, 5, 8 and 10 will be taking the multiple tests required by the state benchmarks in order to measure progress towards the Certificate of Initial Mastery. Elementary Principal Vogel

praised the work of Becky Cotnam on the annual "Battle of Books," which involved 188 students this year.

Winter sports well done

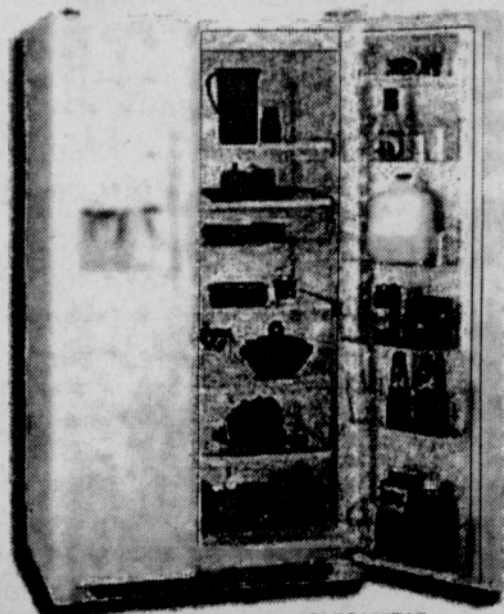
Athletic Director Jim Smith praised the efforts of winter sports teams. Wrestling, swim-

ming, dance and drill, and cheerleading all competed and placed in the top ten of 3A state competition. Smith, Principal Jim Foster, and several directors had high praise for the spring musical.

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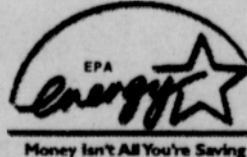
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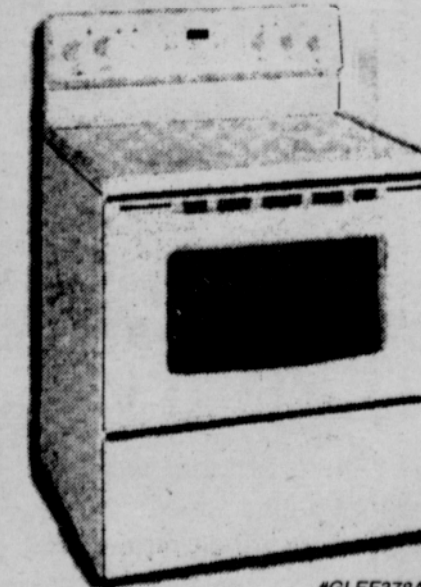
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