

News & Views

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History is a Matter of Perception



After much research, fourth grade students chose to be either a Patriot or a Loyalist and debated in a re-enactment of the First Continental Congress.

While the presidential candidates are debating, the fourth graders at Lake George Elementary School were debating a 242-year-old argument between the Patriots and Loyalists in a re-enactment of the First Continental Congress.

Bridget Crossman, the elementary school's library media specialist, explained that she, Ginny Mondschein, the K-6 Curriculum Coordinator, and the fourth grade team enhanced the unit on the American Revolution by integrating a new non-fiction reading unit, "Reading History: The American Revolution" into their inquiry-based approach to teaching the subject. "The culminating activity of the First Continental Congress debate is a perfect example of students using what they know. That's what Common Core is all about," said Mrs. Crossman.

"We began the unit by asking the students the essential question; If you were a colonist debating in the Continental Congress, would you break away from the colony or stay loyal to the king?"

Students discovered what the conflict was at that time by doing their own research.

Continental Congress, 1774-1781

The Continental Congress was the governing body by which the American colonial governments coordinated their resistance to British rule during the first two years of the American Revolution. The Congress balanced the interests of the different colonies and also established itself as the official colonial liaison to Great Britain. As the war progressed, the Congress became the effective national government of the country, and, as such, conducted diplomacy on behalf of the new United States.

**U.S. Department of State
Office of the Historian**

They consulted primary documents, which are documents written during the time of study. "Students took note of who wrote the document to determine the perspective in which the document was written," added Mrs. Crossman. "They read newspaper articles on being tar and feathered, poems, and broadsides on buildings. Students also used articles, books and databases for research. They had a good sense of what life was like in 1774 and

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Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Superintendent's Message

Dear School Community,

I think we're skipping winter altogether this year and spring will be here before you know it. Even Punxsutawney Phil didn't cast a shadow, indicating an early spring, which means spring concerts, banquets, and graduation will be upon us in no time.

The school year has progressed with lots of student successes most notably:

- Our Academic Bowl students placed second in the annual competition qualifying them for a trip to the national competition
- Several students' work will be included in Talent Unlimited, an annual literary art journal featuring outstanding poems, essays, photographs, paintings, drawings, and graphic designs created by students grades 7 to 12
- Senior Kerry Walker was chosen to receive the Post-Star's Teen Excellence award as well as finished second in a science competition
- All of our fall sports teams qualified as New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Athlete teams, which means the teams had combined team grade point average of 90% or higher
- Another senior, Greg Johnson, signed his letter of intent to play baseball at Herkimer

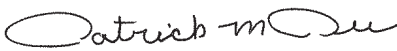
To continue to keep Lake George Central School District on track to provide an excellent educational program, a Strategic Committee was formed. The committee recommended that CASDA, an education and research non-profit at the University at Albany's School of Education, would be best suited to meet the district's needs. CASDA will be reaching out to constituent groups to begin the process of developing a strategic plan. The process should be completed and a plan in place for the 2016-17 school year.

Last year at this time, voters approved the \$2.8 million capital project that focuses on safety, security and maintenance. We are in the process of getting bids in from contractors by mid-March. Then, the work will begin in July.

The school budget vote is also right around the corner on Tuesday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the elementary school gym. It's going to be a tight budget this year, as school districts have not received all the funds they were promised by the state. Therefore, it's more important than ever that parents get out and vote this year. You're welcome to attend our budget meetings. The schedule is listed below.

You can keep up to date on all activities by following me on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LGSCDSuper> and tell your friends to sign up for our e-Newsletter. There's an easy sign up form on our website.

Sincerely,



Patrick Dee
Superintendent of Schools

Upcoming Meetings on the Proposed 2016-17 School Budget

The Lake George School Board of Education has been working on its proposed 2016-17 School Budget. Below are some important dates. For a complete list, please visit the business page on the district website at <http://www.lkgeorge.org/business>.

March 1, 2016 - Tax Cap Information Submitted to the Comptroller
March 8, 2016 - Regular Board Meeting – Instructional Budget Presentation
March 23, 2016 - Nominating petitions available for Board Candidates
April 1, 2016 - Applications for Absentee Ballots available
April 12, 2016 - Board of Education Regular Meeting – Undistributed Items, and Anticipated Revenues – Approval of Budget Approval of Property Tax Report Card
April 18, 2016 - Nominating petitions for Board candidates due

April 19, 2016 - Vote on BOCES budget and BOCES Board of Education Members
April 26, 2016 - Budget available for public
May 3, 2016 - Public Hearing on proposed budget
Meet the Candidates Night
May 5, 2016 - School Budget Notice mailed
May 3, 2016 - Absentee Ballots mailed to disabled voters
May 10, 2016 - Regular Board meeting
Deadline for requests by mail for Absentee Ballots
May 16, 2016 - Deadline for requests in person for Absentee Ballots
May 17, 2016 - Receipt of Absentee Ballots in hand by 5:00 p.m.
May 17, 2016 - Budget Vote - Elementary School

Technology Students Create a Rube Goldberg Machine

The goal of the project was simple: release a tennis ball into a small-scale soccer net.

The more challenging part was to construct a complex machine comprised of a compilation of simple machines to accomplish the goal. A simple machine is a lever, inclined plane, wedge, pulley, a wheel and axel, or a screw. Making a complex machine to perform a simple task is the definition of a Rube Goldberg machine.

Remember Mouse Trap, a board game that was first published by Ideal in 1963? Over the course of the game, players cooperated to build a working Rube Goldberg-like mouse trap.

Designing a complex machine was the assignment for Computer Aided Design (CAD) students in grade 10 at the jr.-sr. high school. They were asked to imagine they were CAD designers who had applied for a position with a high profile engineering firm. One of the skills needed was the ability to collaborate with the existing members of their special task team. As part of the interview process, the task supervisor asked the interviewees to work together with their would-be colleagues to design and construct a complex machine – a Rube Goldberg machine.

Prior to creating the complex machine, students watched videos of Rube Goldberg machines in action. Then, they divided into six teams. Each team created a subsystem of two simple machines yielding a total of 12 simple machines that needed to smoothly transition from one to the next creating one complex machine with the end goal of releasing a tennis ball into a miniature soccer net.

Students brainstormed ideas for the simple machines, designed and discussed transitions with those teams that had adjacent simple machines, and hand-drew engineering drawings of their designs. They constructed and tested each subset independently and then with the adjacent groups. Finally, they constructed the entire Rube Goldberg machine tweaking the design to run smoothly. Students also created detailed assembly drawings of each subsystem on the CAD software and created motion studies showing the action of each subsystem. Philip Gengel, a 7-12 technology teacher, explained that for this unit, the CAD students received points for key words, research and development, system model and CAD requirements. CAD is just one course offered in the K-12 Technology Program. He explained, “We strive to cover every curriculum cornerstone in every grade. Those cornerstones are problem solving, energy systems, modeling and prototyping, computer programming, and design and drawing.”

Charlotte Holding and Patrick Dee worked on the Rube Goldberg unit and both thought the assignment was fun and challenging. Patrick thought the designing part was easy. The challenging part was trying to coordinate the project. “It was slightly organized chaos,” noted Patrick. “There are a lot of different personalities in the class. We needed to have the coolest looking machine.” This project ranked 10 out of 10 for Patrick. He’d do it again and so would Charlotte. She thought it was fun going through the trial and error phase of testing the simple machines.



The Computer Aided Design (CAD) students stand by the Rube Goldberg machine they created.

The Leader in Me's Youngest Leaders

This year, a Student Lighthouse Team has been added to The Leader in Me (TLIM) efforts at the elementary school. TLIM teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader. Designed to transform a whole school, the Franklin Covey program was piloted in second grade in the 2013-14 School Year and now includes the whole school.

For students to be a part of the 16-student leadership team, which is comprised of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, they had to submit an application explaining why they would be good team members. The team meets once a week with the elementary school principal, James Conway or Anne Moellman, the elementary school social worker who brought TLIM to the elementary school.

“It’s a leadership development opportunity for students,” said Mr. Conway. “We’re asking them to look at our leadership environment and tell us what they see. We took a tour of the building and asked them for their thoughts on how to make the school a better place. We asked them for ideas on how to recognize our leaders.”

Different action committees have been formed and the team met with the Lighthouse Team of teachers and parents.

One result thus far, is the students have decided to take on the responsibility of making more announcements.

Plans are underway to recognize leaders in a Schoolwide Leadership Day on Friday, June 3.

The elementary school received a grant from The Leader in Me Foundation to continue its efforts in integrating the process into the school.

Worth Noting

"All Shook Up" Rehearsals Underway



Lake George students in grades 7-12 are currently rehearsing for the Drama Club's spring musical production of "All Shook Up." This musical celebrates the music of Elvis Presley in an original show full of dance, drama and comedy. Mickey Luce is the director and Catherine Reid is the music director.

"All Shook Up" will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, in the jr.-sr. high school auditorium.

General admission tickets are \$10 and will be on sale during lunch hours, from any cast member, or by calling the school at 668-5452. Tickets will also be available at the door on performance nights.

Senior Citizens are invited to attend the matinee dress rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 7. Admission for this performance is free.

Tickets Go on Sale for Rachael Ray on April 2

The Lake George High School and Alumni Association will present the Rachael Ray Benefit Cooking Show from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, April 29.

Proceeds go to 2015 graduate applicants and school projects.

Ticket price is \$25 and tickets go on sale 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 2 at the Lake George High School Office. Credit cards, cash and checks are accepted.



Students Work to Appear in Literary Arts Journal

Congratulations to the seven students from Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School whose written work and photographs were accepted into the 30th Talent Unlimited Literary Arts Journal.

"Talent Unlimited" is an annual literary art journal featuring outstanding poems, essays, photographs, paintings, drawings, and graphic designs created by students grades 7 to 12. The Journal's content is selected by a jury of professional artists and writers.

There were more than 450 works submitted this year from 14 school districts.

The following students will have their work included in the journal:

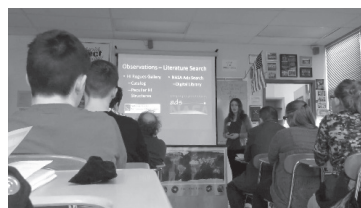
- Joshua DeFayette, a poem, "Simple Vibrations"
- Colby Seguljic, a poem, "The Lion"
- Dalia Wick, a poem, "ADD"
- Julia Dickinson-Frevola, charcoal artwork, "Popcorn"
- Jessica Huber, two photographs, "Cup of Flower" & "Silver Bells"
- Grace Moody, a photograph, "Still Life"
- Natalie Stewart, a photograph, "Organics"

A journal is published and presented to the contributing students at a reception held at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs on April 20.

Congratulations to Kerry Walker

Kerry Walker, 17, a senior at Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School was chosen to receive *The Post-Star's* Teen Excellence award. She is one of 21 students who was recognized at an awards breakfast on Wednesday, March 2 at the Great Escape Lodge. The honorees have demonstrated personal growth, leadership, innovation, and a commitment to the community.

Kerry also placed second in Physical Sciences at the Junior Science & Humanities Symposium held on January 30. She competed with more than 56 other science research students from the upstate region of New York at Burnt Hills-Ballston



Lake High School. Placing second advances Kerry as a poster presenter at the Upstate New York Junior Science and Humanities Symposium March 8 and 9 at the University at Albany.

Good luck Kerry!

Kindergarten Round Up and Registration

Lake George Elementary School will be holding registration for new kindergarteners for the 2016-17 school year during the week of May 2 to 6. Children who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2016 and whose primary residence is in the Lake George School District are eligible to be enrolled. Student Registration forms are available on the District website at www.lkgeorge.org.

A Welcome to Kindergarten information meeting will be held, for parents/guardians only, on Wednesday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Little Theater at the elementary school.

Please contact Natalie Fullen, Kindergarten Round-up Coordinator, at 668-5714 for further information.

Quiz Bowl Team Heads to National Competition



From left: Kirsten Martindale, Kerry Walker, Mrs. Gardner, Richard Custodio, Cameron Hood, Patrick Dee, and Nick King.

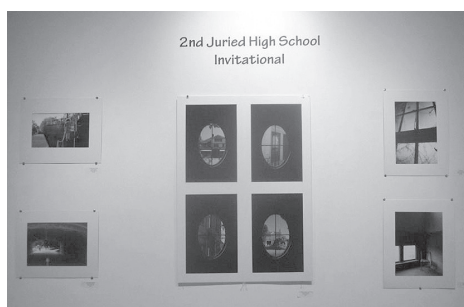
CONGRATULATIONS to Lake George's Quiz Bowl team for qualifying for the National Quiz Bowl Competition. Out of 24 regional teams that competed, our team came in second place, right behind Saratoga Springs.

Second Juried Art Show

In January, the Lake George Senior High Art Club sponsored the Second Juried High School Invitational Art Show at The Shirt Factory Gallery in Glens Falls.

More than 150 photographs or graphic designs were submitted by students in the following high schools: Lake George, Glens Falls, Galway, Argyle, Hudson Falls, WSWHE BOCES, and Ballston Spa. Student jurors were Lake George High School students Sophia Kuntz, Owen Snyder, and Alexis Anable.

Prizes and awards for the artists were made possible by donations from area businesses, Jim LaVigne, and Mary Gavin, who also covered the cost of the gallery space.



Talent Showcased on Stage

On Monday, February 8, the Effective Schools Committee held its 18th Annual Talent Show. The performance showcased more than a dozen talented numbers that ranged from singing, to dancing, to playing piano, guitar, drums, flute, French horn and more.



True to the mission statement of the club, the Effective Schools Committee sent a positive message to the audience. This year's theme was "Awareness" - awareness of all the good that our school and community do for each other. Many of the clubs and local organizations that help through volunteering and performing good deeds throughout the year were mentioned and honored. A special honor was given to Ms. Pam Barker, the junior high art teacher who began this wonderful tradition 18 years ago. Even though she could not attend the show because she has been home battling a severe illness, she was able to watch the entire show from the comfort of her living room through the magic of Google Chat.

Mr. Elder was the emcee of the show. Music teachers Mrs. Baker and Ms. Reid presented an amazing rendition of "What a Wonderful World." They also volunteered and helped all the evening's performers from auditions and rehearsals to performances.

PARP and Math Night

During the day on February 25, songwriter/musician, Jay Mankita, kicked off the elementary school's Parents As Reading Partners (PARP) program with an assembly titled, "Wild About Reading." PARP continues until March 25. Students and parents are encouraged to read together every night for 20 minutes to foster a love of reading and learning together.



Jan Mankita gets the PARP program off to a wild start.

At night, the elementary school hosted Math Night with a fun twist this year. Students in grades K-6, their families, and teachers worked to solve math facts ranging from addition to a mix of multiplication and division. Then, they played BINGO using their answers to match the numbers called. Cheers of excitement echoed through the cafeteria as students won prizes. Jeffrey Crotty and Jonathan Lewis kept families entertained with their stand up comedy skills. Dante Siletti had students show off their coding skills in the lobby, and our youngest mathematicians used manipulatives to help them add their facts. Kimberly Polimeni and Linda Williams from the office, high school students, and elementary student leaders welcomed families and assisted to make this event a huge success.

Nick Rollo, Jazz Saxophonist

Playing saxophone since fourth grade, Nick's passion is music; jazz in particular. In addition to being in the Lake George Jr.-Sr. High Band and Jazz Band, the sophomore takes jazz lessons locally from Greg Mason, who retired as the band teacher from Lake George. Plus, he takes lessons from jazz saxophonist Chris Hemingway in New York City. He said the best thing about jazz is improvisation.

Saxophone music is something the Rollo family is used to hearing because Nick's dad also plays the saxophone and used to be in a local quartet. Nick is the son of Frank and Stephanie Rollo of Queensbury.

It's no surprise that Nick hopes to pursue his love of music. "Preferably performance," Nick added. He's considering going to SUNY Purchase to major in music. Admitting he can't even picture what he's having for breakfast tomorrow, Nick made his best guess of "performing a lot" as to what he'll be doing ten years from now.

Beyond music, Nick is a member on the varsity cross-country teams for both running and skiing.

He may not have time on his hands, but he's collecting it. Collecting watches is Nick's latest hobby. So far he has six

watches. "It's a new thing. I really like it."

Some of Nick's favorite things include Lava Cake and the movie, "Zoolander."

The latest book he read for pleasure is "The Immortal Nicholas" by Glenn Beck.

The person he'd most like to meet is Chris Martin, lead vocalist and co-founder of the band Coldplay.

The youngest of five children, Nick has two brothers and sisters along with four birds and two dogs.

Student Reflections



All Fall Varsity Teams Qualify as Scholar Athlete Teams

Congratulations to all fall varsity teams that qualified as New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Athlete teams.

At the end of each sport season, the NYSPHSAA honors those teams that excel in the classroom. The Scholar Athlete award is presented to teams across the state who have a combined team grade point average of 90% or higher.

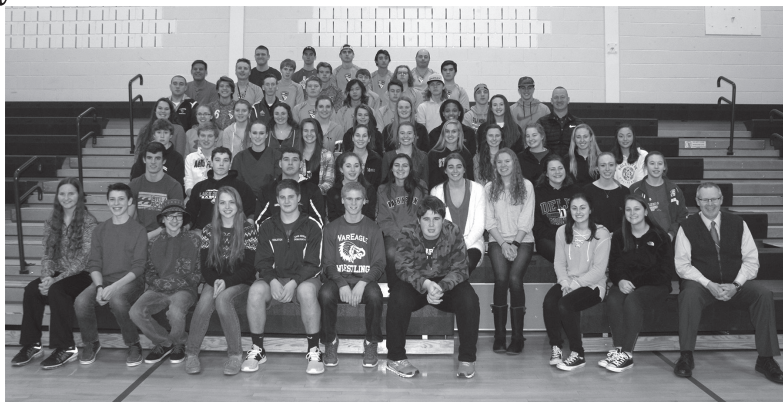
Lake George's fall sports teams that were honored were:

- Girls' Volleyball
- Girls'/Boys' Cross-Country Running
- Boys' Golf
- Girls'/Boys' Soccer
- Boys' Football

Pins are given to team members who have a 90 average or higher and the school receives a certificate from NYSPHSAA to celebrate these accomplishments.

"We're very proud of all our team members and coaches who have worked tirelessly to not only achieve athletic success but also academic success," said Athletic Director Kyle Manny. "The vision of Lake George's Athletic Program states that its education-based athletic program is to be an integral part of its overall educational program and its goal is to ensure that all students make the best use of both their physical talents and limitations while maintaining acceptable standards concerning academic performance."

In addition, this achievement of all the fall athletes means the district is eligible for the NYSPHAA's prestigious Scholar/Athlete Team School of Achievement award given to schools who have all their teams qualify for all three sports seasons of the school year.



Members from all the falls sports teams along with their coaches gather in the gym for a group photo.

American Revolution

Continued from Page 1

used that as evidence for why they would choose to either be a loyalist or patriot."

After researching the topic and deciding which side of the Continental Congress debate they supported, each student created a commercial to persuade people to be on their side.

Using the iMovie app (application), students created a commercial on their iPads. They incorporated either fair-use images from the Internet or drew their own images in Sketch or Paper 53. "That's called app smashing when you use two apps together," informed Mrs. Crossman.

The 55 students in the fourth grade team of Emily Holderman, Kristy Brennan, Paul Kelly, and Lisa Lindsay presented their commercials to their peers and received their feedback on their project. Students sent their commercials as an invitation to people to attend the debate and support their side.

"After their research, the class was divided by who they would support," said Mrs. Crossman. "The debate was a great opportunity for students to use what they know before an authentic audience of teachers, students and administrators. I like that there is a purpose for using the evidence the students' had researched. The debate had a great impact. Each student had a voice as they gave their oral presentation. It's powerful. This is one unit that stays with them."

When the debate was over there was time to reflect about the unit. The students were asked what they would have liked to be different. Their response was they would have liked to have read more books.



Patriots fans try to persuade others to join their cause at the Continental Congress.



Fourth grade students create commercials to convince people to take their side in the Continental Congress debate.

Anna Richichi, Dancer and Baker

Anna Richichi started going to the Lake George Elementary School when she was in first grade having moved from New Jersey. She is the daughter of Angelo and Courtney Richichi of Lake George.

"I just like how everything is friendly and everyone gets along. The teachers make learning fun," said Anna in answer to her favorite thing about school. When it comes to subjects, math is Anna's favorite. "Math challenges you and is sort of fun for me," she admitted. "It makes me feel good. It's relaxing."

She likes to read and participates in Battle of the Books, a reading incentive program in which students test their knowledge on the books they've read. One of her favorite books is "Yellow Star" by Jennifer Roy.

Outside of school, Anna is busy dancing at the Glens Falls Ballet and Dance Center where she takes jazz, tap, and musical theatre dance. Given her experience in dance and feeling comfortable on stage, it's not surprising that she said, "I had the best time of my life" when describing her experience in the Airband Show in January. It was the sixth annual Airband Show that featured students lip syncing, dancing, playing pretend instruments, and performing as if they were in a music video. Sporting a red headband and poofy hair, Anna and seven others performed "Hair" by the Cowsills.

One of Anna's other loves is baking. She said, "I love to bake. I make cakes and cupcakes and I've been trying to make macaroons. Baking calms me down, makes me feel good."

In the rest of her spare time, you'll find her participating in whatever the sport of the season is. Her favorite is soccer, but she also plays softball, and basketball, swims, and skis at Gore Mountain where she takes lessons on Sundays.

"Dancing with the Stars," "American Idol" "Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn" "Liv and Maddie" are her favorite TV shows.

When asked about her favorite movie, she said, "I love the movie, 'Grease.'" She saw the live version that was recently broadcast and loved that, too.

Anna already has a clear vision of the future. When asked what she'd like to be when she grows up, she answered: "An engineer. I want to either design prosthetics or be a design engineer."



Student Reflections

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News & Views is published three times during the school year by the Lake George Central School District to encourage interest in education and to keep the district residents informed of the school's activities and programs.

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RESIDENT

So Many After-School Activities, So Little Time

The after-school options at the Lake George Elementary School are vast and varied for students in kindergarten to grade 6.

"Our after-school programs are tremendous!" said Kenneth Schenk, the K-6 music teacher and Multiple Curricular Integration (MCI) chair, enthusiastically. "It's a juggling act to squeeze everything in."

The MCI committee plans the after-school enrichment options that integrate with the curriculum, provide global and cultural awareness, and have SMART goals. SMART goals are specific, measurable, attainable relevant and time-bound.

After-school activities include: High Potential for grades 1-6, Legos Club for grades 1 and 2, Art for grades 3-6, Media Club for students in grade 6, Foreign Language Club for grade 3, Chess for grades K-6, Builders Club for grades 5 and 6, and Sports for grades 3-6. In addition, students in grades 4-6 have the opportunity to take band and chorus. Plus, Instrumental All-County and Vocal All-County students are accepted by audition.



Students practice their basketball moves in the after-school sport program with Blake White.

The K-6 physical education teacher, Blake White, said, "After-school sports are available daily and exposes students to a wide variety of sports including soccer, field hockey, cross-country running and skiing, wrestling, floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, 'kidnastics,' which is gymnastics, lacrosse, track and field, and golf at Top of the World Golf Course.

The elementary library media specialist Bridget Crossman explained, "Many of the after-school activities are an extension of the classroom giving students an opportunity to further explore the topic. For sports, students pursue whatever is going on at the time in gym. High Potential students delve into science, technology, engineering and math or STEM, computer science, and robotics."

"Chorus is for students who love to sing," added Mr. Schenk.

Whenever there's a break in programming, there are special activities at the library. For example, prior to the two-week holiday break in December when there wasn't band or chorus, students repurposed books to make bookmarks, ornaments, and decorations. "When there's a little window of opportunity, we add something special for the students to do," said Mrs. Crossman.



In the after-school art program, students paint scenery that will be displayed at the Elementary Spring Concert on April 20 in the jr.-sr. high school auditorium.