

PRE-SCHOOL OPENINGS

The Adams County/Ohio Valley School District has openings for students with special needs in its integrated pre-school classrooms. Currently, there are four such pre-school classrooms in the district: two are located at North Adams Elementary and two at the Oliver School. Integrated pre-school classrooms contain students with special needs, as well as students without special needs.

Who are these children with special needs? Some have physical problems requiring leg braces, walkers, or wheelchairs. Others may have trouble seeing or hearing at normal levels. Some may be slower to develop speech or to get along well with others. Because the list of “special needs” is a long one, careful evaluation and testing is required to identify the specific area that needs special attention. Identifying such needs early greatly increases the chances for success in school for these children.

What should you do? If you know of a child, ages 3, 4, or 5, or if you think that your child might have a physical problem or show behaviors that you think might require special attention, I urge you to contact Josie Winterhalter for more information. Mrs. Winterhalter is our Supervisor for the Integrated Pre-school Program. You can reach her at 544-4116 for more information.

MEETINGS CONCLUDED

Just recently, the third round of staff and community meetings regarding the new elementary schools were held at each of the present elementary school sites. Those who attended were presented with the latest information regarding the building project. They were also given the

opportunity to help make some choices regarding each of the buildings related to floor tile colors, paint colors, and brick and block finishes.

I would like to express my thanks to all who have participated in this process known as “community engagement.” I fully realize that we all have busy schedules and that it is often difficult to squeeze one more thing into any given day. While I am appreciative of those who did attend these planning meetings over the course of the past year, I am also disappointed that more people did not find a way to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity. Whether right or wrong, I have chosen to believe that this lack of participation equates to a high level of trust or faith in the district to make appropriate decisions regarding our building project.

So, where do we go from here? Based upon the input that was received at this latest round of staff and community meetings, revised information will soon be available on our District Website (www.ovsd.us) as well as the PASS Website. In addition, Steed Hammond Paul, Architects, will be creating an information display board for each of the three new elementary schools. These boards will be on display at our present elementary school buildings. You should be able to view them by early to mid-November.

WHAT A BAND!

In case you didn't know, the Annual Circleville Pumpkin Festival is just around the corner. Last year, the band directors from North Adams and Peebles High Schools got together to create a “Fusion Band.” They marched together instead of separately. They played the same music, so

the sound was bigger and fuller. They wore specially-created T-shirts instead of their normal band uniforms.

This year's edition of the Pumpkin Festival is coming next week. The Fusion Band has grown. Now, all four of Adams County's high school bands are joining together as one big marching unit for the 3:00 p.m. and the 8:00 p.m. parades through downtown Circleville on Friday, October 19th. They are practicing separately, but will also be practicing together. They will all be clad in special T-shirts for the occasion. A special banner for this large marching group is being made by Mrs. Beth McElwee, PHS art teacher. The Fusion Band may be made up of any band student who wishes to participate from junior high on up.

The list of band directors from Adams County's four high schools includes Mr. Tim Brown (MHS), Mr. Brian Gruber (NAHS), Mr. John Parker (PHS), and Mr. Carl Schneider (WUHS). My compliments to all of these band leaders and their students for being able to think outside the box, and to make it happen. I hope that there will be a large crowd of Adams County people in Circleville on October 19th to help encourage and support the band programs in our schools.

As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding this or any article, please feel free to contact me at 544-5586. Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent