



PIONEER



School District

N E W S L E T T E R

THIS JUST IN:

As part of **Arcade Winterfest**, Pioneer High School is once again hosting the Royalty Pageant on Friday, Feb. 11, at 7:00 p.m. The following Pioneer seniors are vying for Winterfest king and queen honors:

Taylor Griffith, Lindsay Bucholtz, Lisa Vonzagorski, Rahel Wilson, David Miller, Kodi Tidd, Paige Anderson, Tim Hager, Kris George, Lindsay Gebauer, and Jessica Bockhahn.

Also, look for the band He-Ros, featuring Pioneer Middle School vocal music teacher Kim Higgins, at Arcade Winterfest on Feb. 12 at 2:00 p.m. The group will be appearing at the log cabin inside Arcade Village Park, and admission is free. Donations will be accepted at this time to benefit Asian tsunami relief.

See page 5 for more Arcade Winterfest details.

Hail to the Chief: Pioneer sends 43 students to Bush inauguration



One of the many stops on the Pioneer High School 2005 inauguration tour was the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History, where Ashley Glasner, left, Rahel Wilson and Paige Anderson posed in front of a de-activated nuclear warhead.

They say the third time's the charm. If that's true, then the Jan. 19-22 trip by Pioneer High School students to the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C., is destined to go down in history as an enduring and worth-

while learning event.

Forty-three students and five chaperones embarked on the four-day, three-night bus trip. They departed after school on Jan. 19, the day before President Bush took the oath of office for the second time.

This was the third time former Pioneer teacher Jeff Mason had headed up a trip to the nation's capital with students to witness the inauguration. In 1997, he accompanied six students on a "spur of the moment" trek

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to see President Bill Clinton sworn in a second time. Then in 2001, he organized a trip with over 100 students on two buses.

For the most recent trip, only one bus was required. The group consisted of advanced placement U.S. History and European history students.

Mr. Mason arranged for tickets ahead of time with through local congressional offices, so that all of the students could witness the inaugural spectacle from a standing area in front of the U.S. Capitol. From a stage near the steps of the Capitol, President Bush was administered the Oath of Office by ailing U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Mason and three students visited the offices of freshman representative Randy Kuhl, picking up the last of the commemorative inauguration tickets that permitted students inside the capitol perimeter.

Security was tight, as one would expect in the first post-9/11 inauguration. Protesters, most of whom opposed Bush administration war policies, were kept a considerable distance away from the president and his entourage.

The inauguration field trip was planned with close attention to the New York State learning standards for social studies. As stated in Standard 5, "Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the necessity for establishing governments; the governmental system of the United States and other nations; the United States Constitution; the basic civic values

of American constitutional democracy; and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, including avenues of participation."

Back aboard the bus, students swapped stories about the inauguration and shared their impressions of democracy at work. For much of that day, the group was joined by U.S. Army National Guard Sgt. Ben Olin, a 1998 Pioneer graduate who was on the first inaugural trip in 1997. Part of his recuperation is being spent in Washington after he was injured by a roadside bomb while serving in Iraq last fall.

"With a large number of street closings, it was very difficult to get around the city," Mr. Mason noted. "But we had an extremely patient and well behaved group of students."

After a dinner stop, the tour resumed with evening visits to some of Washington's most famous

landmarks. These included the new World War II memorial, the Lincoln memorial, Korean War memorial, and sites honoring President Franklin Roosevelt and Albert Einstein. At the Vietnam War memorial, students were able to view the names of three Delevan servicemen who died during the conflict.

On a crisp Friday morning following the inauguration, the group headed to Arlington National Cemetery for a guided tour of the Kennedy family burial site and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe gave way to stops at Ford's Theater and the house where President Lincoln died.

A quick stop near the White House provided a chance to take some once-in-a-lifetime photos, then the students and chaperones spent several hours at the Smithsonian Institution, "America's attic."

With the sun fading behind the Capitol and Washington Monument, students visited the Iwo Jima memorial. A local shopping destination, Pentagon City, provided the evening meal and opportunities to purchase souvenirs.

An early return to the hotel — which is located between Washington and Baltimore — allowed for swimming and relaxing. A planned stop at Gettysburg on the way home was cancelled after the park was closed due to bad weather. It was just as well — in spite of the snowstorm bearing down on the Northeast, the group was able to return home to Pioneer well before nightfall.

Pioneer history teachers Glen Shanahan and Jay Brinker were chaperones, along with art teacher Renee Weber, Jane Antkowiak of the high school office, and Mr. Mason. Several parents also came along.



The solemnity of a visit to the Lincoln Memorial is not lost on Zach Bray and Randi Pierce, as they stand in the shadows of the Great Emancipator.

National Honor Society inducts 30 new members

The Pioneer Chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony on Monday, Jan. 3, in George C. Crawford Auditorium. With the addition of 30 new members, the chapter's membership stands at a total of 100 sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Chapter President Laura Reisdorf introduced the other four officers, Vice President Case Ronan, Secretary Kodi Tidd, Treasurer Sara Watkins and Historian Erin Mannion, who conducted the traditional candle-lighting ceremony. Each officer spoke about one of the characteristics of NHS membership — Character, Scholarship, Leadership, Service — and lit a candle for that characteristic.

Most of the inductees were then escorted to the stage individually by a current member of the chapter, while several others were escorted by graduate members of the Pioneer chapter or other chapters. High School Principal Terry Grajek led the inductees in the membership oath.

The guest speaker for the ceremony was Kerry Linderman, the student intervention coordinator at the high school and a graduate member of the Pioneer chapter. Mrs. Linderman compared the challenges of life to the challenges of competing in a triathlon.

Mrs. Sworts is 16-gallon blood donor

Mrs. Mary Lou Sworts, secretary of the Pioneer Teacher Center, was recently awarded a 16-gallon donor pin from the American Red Cross, for having donated blood a total of 128 times.

Mrs. Sworts (right) has been donating blood for over 50 years. She tries to donate the maximum number of times each year, which is six.

"A few years ago I met a veteran who had donated 29 gal-



The Pioneer High School chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 30 new members at its annual induction on Jan. 3.

The evening concluded with a reception in the cafeteria for the inductees and their families.

The inductees included Jordan Benkelman, Nicole Bower, Kyle Conroy, Nicole Fehringer, Malcolm Fraser, Lukas Gill, Sarah Hanley, Brian House, Brenda Kristich, Steven Maher, Donald McKerrow, Ian Moltrup, Kerrie Moore, Lauren Murphy, Jessica Nickerson, Jessica Perkins, Mackenzie Pierce, Stacy Polek, Charlie Quinn, Jonathan Rabey, Jordon Rabey, Kelly Sallander, Kayley Schulmeyer, Tanya Schutte, Adam Slocum, Melissa Tresley, Joseph

Wasko, Holly Wisniewski, Kameron Wittmeyer, and Aleah Zimpfer.

The induction was the culmination of a process that began in October, when students who were academically eligible were invited to provide evidence of their character, leadership and service. A five-member Faculty Council

then reviewed the materials and voted upon each potential member.

The new members will now have the opportunity to become involved in the many service projects of the Pioneer Chapter, which is advised by Janice Fisher and Jeffrey Mason.

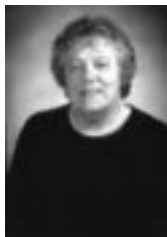
Delevan PTA set to mark anniversary

The 108th anniversary of PTA is Feb. 17, and the Delevan Elementary PTA chapter is marking the occasion with a look back at its nine-year history.

Delevan PTA will have a foyer display that commemorates the chapter's growth since its establishment in 1996. Everyone is encouraged to view the display during their next visit to Delevan.

"One area our PTA has excelled in this year is membership growth," said chapter president Trisha Reisdorf. In December, our membership topped 200 and continues to grow. New memberships are being accepted through March; for more information, contact membership chairperson Tammy Smith at 716 492-4256.

In addition, Delevan PTA will mark Founder's Day by awarding one of its key members an honorary lifetime membership. The name of the individual will be revealed during morning announcements at the school on Feb. 11.



lons, so my 16-gallon pin looks small in comparison," said Mrs. Sworts.

Mrs. Sworts has worked for the teacher center since 1992, and was previously secretary for the former Delevan-Machias Central School

Visit by officers highlights careers in conservation

By Molly Bliss, Pioneer FFA Reporter

Two local New York State Department of Conservation (DEC) officers recently visited Pioneer High School.

Officers James Hunt and Roger Ward visited students enrolled in the Wildlife class offered through Pioneer's Agriculture Department. They discussed the importance of their jobs their day-to-day duties and responsibilities as conservation officers.

To begin the presentation, Officer Hunt gave a brief overview and background of the DEC, which traces its roots back to the 1880s. At the time of its origin, the DEC was the only statewide program of law enforcement, predating even the state police. At that time, however, the department dealt only with animal control, not yet the environment, and employed only eight to nine men to cover the entire state.

During the 1970s, environmental conservation was added to the list of responsibilities for the DEC. Later in the 1980s, conservation officers gained

the same responsibilities and power of law enforcement officers.

As students listened to the two guest speakers, questions about how the men became conservation officers emerged from the audience. Officer Ward explained the complex process one must go through in order to become a DEC enforcer.

First, one must take and pass a written test. From there, the top candidates are chosen from all of the participants across the state. However, depending on the number of openings in this career field, one may have to wait a few years in order for the test to be given.

After that, those who pass the exam must take a physical test and succeed in all areas. Only about 50 percent do. Next they go through military-style training before being sent to New York City for the final training.

"New York City is full of action for

new conservation officers," said Officer Ward.

At the conclusion of their presentation, officers Hunt and Ward conducted a presentation for the students. Along with the two men was Officer Hunt's K-9 unit dog, Matz. Officer Hunt received his new dog last July.

For three to six months, each dog and officer must attend an academy to train both the dog and the officer. Officer Hunt's dog specializes in sniffing out venison and gun powder, a trait which he explained is very useful in this area. For a demonstration, the officers hid a tube which contained venison and had the dog search the room for it. Matz found it in no time.

Not only is Matz a great sniffer, but is trained to protect Officer Hunt. To demonstrate this, Officer Ward dressed in protective gear and advanced on Officer Hunt. Instantaneously, the dog "attacked" Officer Ward.

Middle school recipient of grant to promote student health

Pioneer Middle School is one of four schools in Wyoming County to be awarded a grant from WISH – the Wyoming Initiative for School Health.

The grant is provided by the Family and Consumer Sciences Department of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County, and supervised by agent Kim Bank. The purpose of this grant is to help students and their families learn how to live healthier lifestyles.

"Some ways in which we are trying to maximize physical activity and nutrition programs are already in place, and are meant to enhance the core academic courses," said teacher Linda Rubeck. "We are sponsoring walking programs using pedometers and measured lap courses. We are finding that students love to sign out the pedometers and walk and talk with their friends."

Sixth grade teacher Frank Guzetta distributes WISH water bottles as incentives for students to walk on their own and keep records in their agendas.

"The WISH program has inspired me to get my students moving and thinking healthy," said teacher Michele Schubert. "Our class swims for 40 minutes once a week and last spring we walked using our pedometers funded by the program. The water bottles donated by the WISH Program were a great incentive for my students."



Pioneer Middle School principal Ravo Root, second from left, is joined by teachers Linda Rubeck, Frank Guzetta, and Michele Schubert in accepting a WISH grant for student health.

With the help of a few family volunteers, staff members have some adventurous activities planned for the final "five-star" phase of the grant. Walking, drinking water, eating five fruits and vegetables

a day, and getting at least five hours of exercise a week are the objectives of the plan.

Hundreds of students participated last year, and more are expected to this year.

FOCUS: 2005-2006 Budget

Officials begin shaping next year's spending plan

Pioneer School District will continue to stress needs-based budgeting as officials begin to mold the 2005-2006 spending plan.

Business Administrator Jeffrey Petrus said his office has been collecting information from building principals and other staff since mid-December. Based on this information, Petrus will present a draft budget to the Board of Education on March 1.

"This year's process is much more focused on linking each individual program to the educational development of children," said Mr. Petrus. "We asked staff to specify how programs contribute to district-wide goals, building action plan goals, or other goals identified in district-adopted plans.

Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Bowen said staff were not only asked to detail program priorities and needed resources, but how the program will be assessed and ways in which it could still be offered even if the funding cannot be supplied.

"It will be another year of questions with regard to the state budget and how

much aid Pioneer will receive," said Dr. Bowen. "Our sense is that we will need to be very conservative in our budgeting for 2005-2006."

In Gov. Pataki's state budget proposal last month, Pioneer's aid increased about \$485,000, or just under 2 percent. Most school districts saw an increase in aid with the governor's proposal. However, unlike in recent years when the legislature has increased funding to schools above Pataki's proposal, the legislature's ability to make meaningful alterations has been greatly diminished. This is because of a court order in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) and a recent Court of Appeals decision.

"We need to concentrate on maintaining quality educational programs while trying to find more cost-effective ways of providing them," said Dr. Bowen. "We must continue to search for grants and other possible alternative funding sources that will help out our general fund budget. We need help from everyone in the district to accomplish this."

Pioneer budget timeline

March 1: First draft of the 2005-2006 general fund budget to be presented at Board of Education regular meeting.

March 8: Special Board of Education meeting to discuss amount of final budget and other spending concerns.

March 15: Further budget discussions at regular meeting of Board of Education.

March 29: Special Board of Education meeting (if needed).

April 5: Prepare budget for final adoption.

April 12: Target date for final budget adoption.

May 17: Annual Budget Vote

Pioneer schools host Winterfest events Feb. 11-13

Again this year, Pioneer School District is playing a big role in Arcade Winterfest.

The Winterfest Royalty Pageant happens at the high school's George C. Crawford Auditorium on Friday, Feb. 11.

The high school gym will host the annual volleyball tournament on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Arcade Elementary School is the site of an arts and crafts show and sale that happens both Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 12 and 13. Entertainment will be provided in the school auditorium on both days.

Look for Pioneer PRO members collecting donations at various sites on behalf of Asian tsunami relief.



A Capitol Idea

Students in the Arcade Elementary School classrooms of Mrs. Madeline Hall and Mrs. Judie Carmody held an Inauguration Day Ball on January 20. Dressed in their "formal" attire, the students learned about the inauguration and celebrated the event with dining and dancing.

Pilot program highlights role of classroom technology

English language arts and social studies students in the Pioneer Middle School classroom of Patricia Hoffman have been piloting a program in which the use of email and technology play a significant role in the classroom.

Mrs. Hoffman sends the students their assignment in the form of an email message, and the assignment itself contains Internet links to various websites and activities.

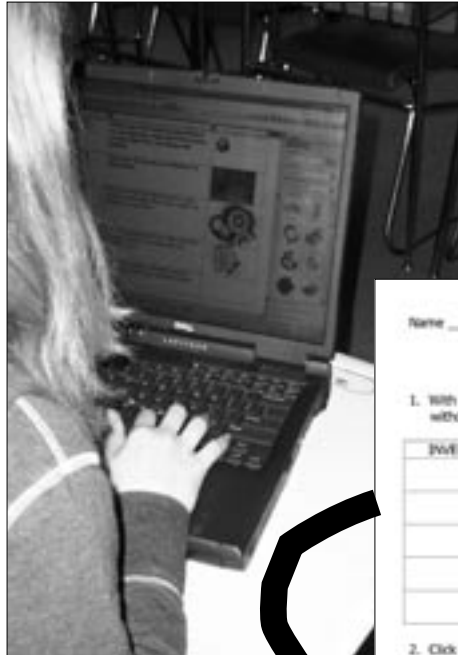
Students can then print out the assignments and complete them, or complete the task right on the computer.

“The technology is very beneficial as it saves the students a great deal of time and engages them in multisensory learning,” said Mrs. Hoffman. “I can email them links that even help them with homework.”

“The next step,” Mrs. Hoffman continued, “will be to teach them how to create a list of ‘favorites’ to use as problem-solving tools when they begin to struggle with homework.”

Using email limits the possibility of students stumbling upon unwanted sites, and makes them more efficient learners by offering direct links to needed materials.

“If a student is absent, they need simply to go to the Internet and print out their assignment,” said Mrs. Hoffman. “Some have even learned how



LEFT: Kaci, a student in the Pioneer Middle School classroom of Mrs. Patricia Hoffman, uses email to receive and complete an assignment on inventors. BELOW: The worksheet contains links to helpful Internet sites.

Name _____ Date _____

Whose Idea Was That?: Inventions Contract

1. With a partner, brainstorm at least 5 inventions that you feel you could not live without. Complete the chart below after you've discussed your reasons.

INVENTION	Reason that I couldn't live without it

2. Click on the link below. (You may have to hold the CTRL key down and click with the mouse.)
<http://www.cbc.ca/kids/personal-the-1st-history-of-american-default.html>

Assignment:
 With a partner, complete the following graphic organizer. Use the "new" button to submit work!

Item	In your own words, explain why it is useful and how it affected the future.	Picture/Symbol of Invention
B.C.		
B.C.		
B.C.		
A.D.		
A.D.		
A.D.		
A.D.		

to create an attachment and send their completed assignments back to me.

“Such skills will follow them into the working world one day. Such knowledge will give them the edge they need to be successful in life after school.”

Pioneer board mulls possible lunch price increase

Rising costs of goods, services and equipment are making it necessary for Pioneer School District Food Service Department to request a 25-cent increase in the price it charges for lunch.

Food Service director Catherine Pritchard renewed her recommendation for a price increase at the Feb. 1 meeting of the Board of Education. The board is expected to act on the change at its Feb. 15 meeting, with the new pricing structure due to take effect on March 1.

“We are taking this approach because the board has asked us to try to gather as much public input on the change as possible,” said superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Bowen.

Under the proposal, the cost of an elementary student lunch would rise from \$1.00 to \$1.25, and the middle and high school price would go from \$1.25 to \$1.50. Breakfast prices would also increase.

“We want to make clear that we are

doing this only as a last resort,” said Dr. Bowen. “For several months, we have been researching ways to cut costs, improve efficiency, and deal with increased expenses in the areas of labor, food and supplies, and equipment.

“We’re confident that Pioneer’s food service program can be self-sufficient, appealing to its customers, and a provider of nutritious meals,” said Dr. Bowen.

During recent meetings between administrators and food service personnel, cafeteria staff voiced their support for changes that keep the district’s student meal program intact. They also suggested several ways to make the program more efficient by eliminating waste and lowering costs.

Dr. Bowen stressed that the proposed 25-cent increase in the price of a meal would be in effect through the end of the 2004-2005 school year. “At that time we can gauge whether the change has had an

impact on losses in our food service department, and if fewer customers are taking advantage of the program.”

Pioneer’s food service program ran a deficit of \$68,200 last year, a figure that would have been closer to \$100,000 had there been any equipment purchases. The district spent an average of \$31,500 in that area in 2002-2003.

A la carte and adult lunch prices were increased last fall, and free and reduced lunch participation has increased, improving the fiscal outlook. However, while daily revenue increased by \$116 from 2003 to 2004, daily expenses rose by \$259 over the same period.

There has been no lunch price increase since August 2000. Over the last two years, salaries have increased about \$14,000 per year, benefits have risen about \$15,500 annually, and dairy and delivery costs are also up dramatically.

Coach Ron Brunner runs victory total to 200

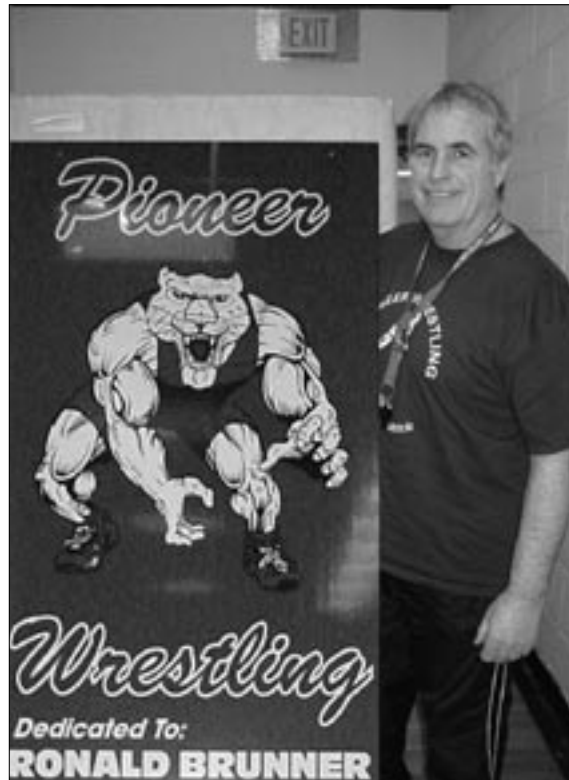
The storied career of Pioneer wrestling coach Ron Brunner reached another milestone on Jan. 26, when he chalked up varsity win number 200.

The Panthers defeated Williamsville East, 58-12, to secure the mark for Coach Brunner.

Brunner was honored with a plaque prior to the team's season-ending match against West Seneca East on Feb. 2.

An Orchard Park native, Brunner has been a physical education teacher and coach at Pioneer since 1967. He started at the former Arcade High School.

Brunner was a Pioneer junior varsity wrestling coach, compiling a record of 135-30 over 14 seasons,



Pioneer wrestling coach Ron Brunner recently celebrated his 200th varsity victory.

before taking over for former varsity coach Dick Post prior to the 1984-1985 campaign.

"Twenty years, it really hasn't sunk in," said Brunner. "I didn't even know I had 200 wins before someone told me."

Brunner is 200-58 for his career, including a 9-3 mark for this season.

"Pioneer is truly fortunate to have a coach of Ron Brunner's quality," said the district's athletic director James Graczyk. "For him to perform as well as he has — for as long as he has — is truly a testament to his career. I speak for the hundreds of students whose lives he has touched when I say 'thank you'."

Aggression Replacement Therapy offered again at high school

Pioneer High School students will once again be offered the opportunity to participate in free Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART) in an effort to reduce bullying and improve school environment.

The ART program will be held in 10 sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., starting Feb. 8. Students have to commit to attending all 10 sessions in order to participate.

ART is sponsored by Pioneer's A-OK office (716 492-9485).

In ART, students learn to be in control, to become empowered in developing self-respect and relationships with others.

"Ideal candidates would be kids who feel bossed around or wish others would get off their back," said A-OK director Kay Kilburn. This is the second year ART has been offered at Pioneer..



The Power of Giving

Pioneer High School student Steve Maher, left, and teacher Kathy Morris stand among a roomful of donations collected by Pioneer PRO. The service group sponsored a holiday Giving Tree on behalf of over 30 local needy families. Meanwhile, additional support came from Depew Rod and Rub Club and the Hawkeye Bowmen, who provided supplies for holiday meals for 35 families in Erie, Cattaraugus, Genesee and Wyoming counties.



All Aboard the Polar Express

Pioneer Middle School students of Mrs. Yvonne Gillette and Ms. Pat Noeson recently presented their production of "The Polar Express." Students practiced every day after school to prepare for the play, which included all members of the class. After the performance, cookies and punch were served. About 50 parents, relatives, and friends were in the audience. Cast members included narrators Latisha Neamon, Megan Daughtry, Ashley Crouch, and Alexiss Roszyk; Travis Beckley (boy); Tyler Davis (conductor); Kara Montalvo (girl); Allen Herrick (lonely boy); Joseph Miller (father); Ashley Carnes (mother); Stephen Roberts (elf 3). Ms. Noeson played Santa. The Polar Express train was donated by Tops.

Middle School musical March 4, 5 & 6

Preparations continue for this year's Pioneer Middle School musical, "Dear Edwina Jr.," happening at the school cafetorium on Friday, March 4, and Saturday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 6, at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$3.00 for students and \$4.00 for adults. They will be available at the door and from the middle school greeter's desk the week of the shows.

The storyline is as follows:

Edwina Spoonapple (advice-giver extraordinaire) along with her neighborhood friends put on a weekly advice-giving show in Edwina's backyard in Paw Paw, Michigan. Kids write letters to the cast describing their problems, and the cast answers them through song and dance numbers.

This week's show is extra special. There has been a last-minute cancellation from the Kalamazoo Advice-a-palooza Festival, and Edwina hopes her cast can fill it. Will they? Come to the show and find out!

Busy year continues for Delevan Family Resource Room

Delevan Elementary School's Family Resource Room continues to offer a wealth of programs for parents, children, and caregivers in the Pioneer School District.

Talk Time, a roundtable for parents to discuss school issues and activities, is held Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Music and Movement is held Mondays at 2:00 p.m. This group is for toddlers, preschoolers and their parents, and includes song and group activities.

Story Time for 3- and 4-year-olds is Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

Open times are Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings. For information about these programs, please call 716 492-9478.

Abstinence program seeks coalition volunteers

Pioneer School District's A-OK Project is recruiting volunteers from the community to become part of its A-OK Coalition.

According to project director Kay Kilburn, A-OK has good representation from community-based agencies such as the Councils on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and the Health Departments, but needs more representation from the local community.

"It's critical to program development and evaluation to have input from people who live and work in this community," said Mrs. Kilburn.

The A-OK Coalition meets every other month in the board room of the high school. The next meeting is

Wednesday, Feb. 9, at Pioneer High School from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

A-OK funding sources require the program to have regular coalition meetings and to have representation from several different sectors of the community. Ideally, coalition members would represent the following sectors:

- youth
- parents
- business community
- media
- schools
- youth-serving organizations (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, recreation programs, etc.)
- law enforcement agencies

- religious or fraternal organizations
- civic and volunteer groups
- health care professionals (including mental health and behavioral health)
- state and local governmental agencies with expertise in the field of substance abuse (Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Prevention, etc.)
- Other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse and other risk behaviors in youth

Anyone interested in helping by volunteering for the coalition may call the A-OK Project at 716 492-9485.