



Focus On Education

Message from the Superintendent... Dr. Jack Leach

It is a pleasure to report to the Hobart Community that design work for the new Hobart High School has begun. Additionally, design work continues for the remodeling of the current high school to make it one of the finest middle schools in the area. Construction of the high school is scheduled to begin in early 2006. Thanks to careful planning and an increase in Hobart's assessed valuation, our community has a unique opportunity to meet the long term needs for the middle school and high school students with no tax rate increase to the debt service fund over the 2004 rate. Following are a few points of interest:

- The School City of Hobart property located on 10th Street allows for the desired programming and development to meet our academic and athletic needs.
- A state-of-the-art new high school will meet 21st century educational needs, accommodating 1200 to 1400 students.
- A new high school will provide flexibility for a logical arrangement of academic departments and career cluster coordination.
- New media and technology will support a dynamic and comprehensive high school curriculum.
- Consolidation of high school physical education facilities, athletic fields, and outdoor activity areas will allow for more efficient student and community use.
- The middle school environment will dramatically improve by discontinuing use of the oldest school building in the community.
- The middle school will have an enhanced environment for the integration of technology and academic team structuring.
- The final solution will be sensitive to neighbors' concerns. Appropriate buffers, traffic control, and utilities will be resolved with the city.

On behalf of the Board of School Trustees and the students of Hobart, I would like to thank everyone who has provided input in this exciting process. Your ideas are important and always welcome.

Ways to Provide Input & Stay Informed as we are Building the Future

BRICK



BRICK

- 1 See page 3 of this newsletter for an invitation to come to a symposium on building a 21st century high school.
- 2 Visit our website at <http://www.hobart.k12.in.us> and click on the "Building Project" link. This will provide you with updates and an email address to offer feedback.
- 3 Visit the School City of Hobart Community Project Center located at 318 Main Street in downtown Hobart.
Monday and Friday
2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am to 12 noon



One of America's Most Promising High Schools!

Hobart High School Accepted as Member of Successful Practices Network



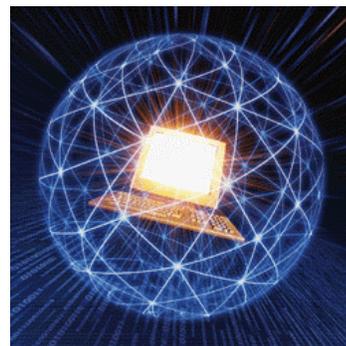
On February 8, 2005 Hobart High School received acceptance for membership in a national network of K-12 schools committed to school improvement and high academic achievement for all students.

The *Successful Practices Network*, sponsored by the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE), Rexford, NY, is a not-for-profit collaboration of good schools that are striving to become great schools. Through the Network, the professional staff of Hobart High School will exchange best instructional practices, successful methodologies and peer support with other member schools.

Network spokesperson **Dr. Willard R. Daggett** describes the collaboration as “a way to link committed educators and district leadership with like-minded practitioners across the country. Even the best schools can’t be expert in every aspect of school improvement. At the same time, these schools have enormous expertise in specific areas to share. The idea behind the Network is to connect schools with other schools that can offer needed expertise and possible solutions.” (See the next page for an invitation to meet Dr. Daggett and hear him speak on *21st Century Schools*.)

Network members identify their own improvement priorities and technical assistance needs as well as the experience and know-how they can share with other schools. Each school works through an assigned Network liaison to establish contact with other schools and with master teachers and senior consultants, who can provide research, data and approaches that otherwise might not be accessible to local educators.

Meeting academic accountability standards under the *No Child Left Behind* legislation presents a challenge for many schools. Cutbacks in state-level sources of technical assistance are forcing districts to find alternative mechanisms that will support their teachers. The Successful Practices Network is an innovative and informal way for schools to share knowledge — peer to peer — through specialty groups for various subject areas, special education, parental involvement, administration and so on.



Members also receive regular communications from the Network related to professional development, instructional tools and education trends.

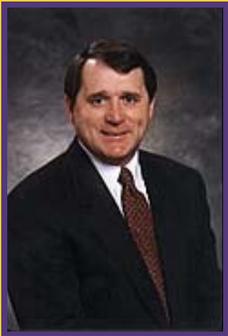
For more information on Hobart High School’s involvement in the Successful Practices Network, please contact Mr. Spitzer, the principal, at 942-8521 or davids@hobart.k12.in.us.

Congratulations to Hobart High School!

YOU ARE INVITED COME GET INVOLVED!



BUILDING THE FUTURE BRICK BY BRICK



Dr. Willard Daggett, President of the International Center for Leadership in Education, is recognized worldwide for his proven ability to move education systems towards more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge for *all* students. He has spoken to hundreds of thousands of educators and education stakeholders. His enlightening messages have helped his listeners to look at education differently by challenging their assumptions about the purposes, benefits, and effectiveness of American schools. Dr. Daggett inspires his audiences both to embrace what is best about our education system and how to make the changes necessary to meet the needs of *all* students in the 21st century.

Our Symposium will give you the chance to learn more about 21st Century schools, discuss the educational future of our community, and provide valuable input on the design of our new school.

Who should attend?

Business Leaders, Civic Groups, Local Governing Bodies,
Community Members, Parents, Students, and Former Students

Purpose:

- ♦ To develop a partnership with the community to create a positive focus on education.
- ♦ To prepare our high school graduates for life through a collaborative effort with the business community.
- ♦ To meet the real life challenges of a high school student.

Session 1

Tuesday - **April 12, 2005**
7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Hobart High School Auditorium
Breakfast



Session 2

Tuesday - **April 12, 2005**
3:30 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Hobart High School Auditorium
Hors d'oeuvres

Important: Child-care will be provided for this session. You must **RSVP** for this service. Please call the administration office at 942-8885 to give us the number and age of children for this service.

Symposium Agenda

I. 21st Century Schools

Presenter: Dr. Willard Daggett

II. Facility Design Presentation

Presenter: Gibraltar Design, Envoy, and School City of Hobart

III. Focus Group Discussion

Guests: An opportunity to offer comments.

Please Join Us in Building the Future!



HHS CIVIL ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE (CEA) STUDENTS Join the New High School Project Team

Project Lead The Way, Inc. (PLTW) is a national program forming partnerships among public schools, higher education institutions and the private sector to increase the quantity and quality of engineers and engineering technologists graduating from our education system. Hobart High School's juniors are taking Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA) C and D quarters, which is the first time it has been offered as a course at HHS through PLTW. The CEA course provides an overview of the fields of Civil Engineering and Architecture, while emphasizing the interrelationship and dependence of both fields on each other. Students use state of the art software to solve real world problems and communicate solutions to hands-on projects and activities. This course covers topics such as:

- The Roles of Civil Engineers and Architects
- Project Planning
- Site Planning
- Building Design
- Project Documentation and Presentation



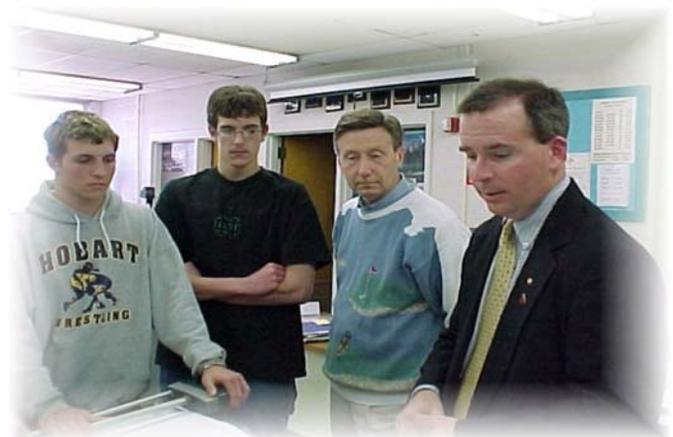
HHS STUDENTS GAIN REAL LIFE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

As these students are required to work on a “real life” project, the new high school presents a most exciting opportunity. Gibraltar Design (architectural firm for the project) and Envoy (project management firm) are working with teacher Hank Jarvis to integrate the spring high school project professional design activities with the class coursework. “We continually look for outreach opportunities with our young people and the business community. The current partnership with Gibraltar Design, Envoy, and our high school seems to be a natural step toward partnering with businesses in order for our students to gain real life work experiences,” according to Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Peggy Buffington.



“When Gibraltar Design was approached by the School City of Hobart for this partnership with the high school students, frankly we jumped at the chance. We find working with dedicated teachers and students adds an enthusiasm to what we do. After all, it is truly what Gibraltar Design is all about,” stated Jim Thompson, President of Gibraltar Design. “Envoy has been involved with School City of Hobart for years and to have something like this come through in the classroom is going to be really special,” affirmed Chris LaFollette, Sr. Project Manager for Envoy.

Gibraltar Design and Envoy are looking to allow the students to see and practice real life aspects of project planning, scheduling, and the technical aspects of design. “It is likely the students will not only learn about the technical aspects of various design professions, but also learn real life skills such as planning their work, prioritization, and communication skills,” stated Brian McFarland, Sr. Design Architect for the firm of Gibraltar Design. The proposed project will be a new Physical Education, Athletic, & Community Pavilion including locker rooms, concessions, classroom, and a dining/hospitality area. The curriculum will lead the class through real practices (learning units) such as soil testing, erosion control and storm water management, site design, structural analysis, appropriate use of materials, as well as general concepts and aesthetic appearance for the building. The Gibraltar Design/Envoy commitment is for this semester, but consideration may be given to the second semester of next year. Regardless, teacher Jarvis will have materials available for future classes, as the anticipated completion date for the high school project is about four years away. “Our young Hobart High School students continue to amaze me with their enthusiasm for learning and their maturity in the classroom. This business partnership excites me,” teacher Hank Jarvis stated.





Written By: Kelly Lence

The *HHS Theatre Program* was founded in 1973 by a group of students under the direction of Miss Shirley Mumaugh. At the time, there were only 20 students in the program, and they adopted the name “Genesius Players” after the Greek god of drama, Genesius.

When Miss Mumaugh devoted herself to the Challenge School program, a series of transient directors took over the drama club. The dedicated students managed to keep the program alive through those tough years. Finally, to the relief of the students, a permanent director arrived at HHS. Miss Cathy Kirsch, (now Mrs. Nelson), took a position teaching English and drama courses in 1998.

The first play under Mrs. Nelson’s direction, *You Can’t Take it With You*, included a cast and crew of 40 students. On opening night, Mrs. Nelson was disappointed to see an audience of just 100 people. When she reported this news to the cast, however, the students were excited to hear such a large number attended. During the few years before Mrs. Nelson’s arrival at HHS, the students had been putting on shows to audiences sometimes as small as 30 people.

Since then, however, crowds have grown tremendously along with interest in the program. There are now almost 100 students involved in the Genesius Players, who put on three productions each year along with other activities within the community. Even other HHS teachers get in on the act, making cameo appearances in some of the productions.

Parents and community members are also closely involved in the program. Mr. Dan Kidwell, Mr. Scott Schnabel, and Mr. Tom Ledyard are the the drama club’s set builders. Each production includes original choreography by Mrs. Tracy Brumley and handmade costumes by Mrs. Diane Glidewell. All other aspects of each production are student-driven, including lighting, sound, and stage management.

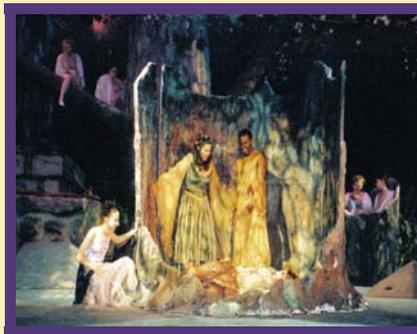


Some of the students involved in the crew put in more hours than the actual actors!

The fall play runs through mid-November, the spring musical takes place in mid-March, and the children’s show is produced in mid-May. Genesius members also participate in collecting gifts for residents of the St. Jude’s House in Crown Point and travel to other high schools performing a Date Rape Awareness skit.

Last December, the Genesius Players held their 5th annual Children’s Workshop. About 20 children, ages 2-13, spent the day at the high school, participating in mini-lectures and putting on their very own production. December’s play was based on Dr. Seuss’s *Oh, The Place’s You’ll Go*, and featured child actors, crew members and even a director.

Theatre is jokingly referred to as “the season that never ends,” as students only have about 5 weeks throughout the year when they are not busy with a production.



With so much behind them, the group is still making history. Their fall play, William Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, featured a very detailed set with an enchanted forest and Greek

ruins. The production was the very first time Shakespeare had been performed on the HHS stage, and students rehearsed throughout the summer to prepare for the daunting task.

Presently, the production *Fame: The Musical* at Hobart High School’s Auditorium is a huge hit! The musical chronicles several students attending the High School of the Performing Arts in New York City, 1980. With upbeat rock’n’roll music, romance, and plenty of suspense, the play keeps the audience on the edge of their seats and leaves everyone with a renewed excitement for the arts. You still have one more weekend to catch the show!



Meet the Real **Soaring** Incredibles! School City of Hobart Students



School City of Hobart should take great pride in the accomplishments of the last several years and look to the future with confidence and great expectations as the results of this year's test scores indicate. We are proud of the outcomes that the students in grades 3 through 8 made on the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) for English/language arts and mathematics. **Our students were INCREDIBLE!**

Increasing student achievement is the focus of our schools, and it drives our work and decision-making. The gains we have made are significant. We have worked hard to attain high standards and that hard work is paying off. In the area of academic achievement, School City of Hobart presents this year's test scores on the following page. Not only did our schools surpass the state-wide average, they made tremendous gains over the 2003-2004 test scores.

We celebrate our students' success! We thank the educators who made this possible, as well as the parents/guardians who assisted with this year's testing workshop. The testing workshop provided students with test-taking strategies and review during the day, and by night, the parents worked with their children on review packets.

The Future and Our Partners: **YOU!**

As we continue to look to the future, let us remember what these tests mean to you and our children. These tests measure a child's mastery of the Indiana Academic Standards which are the skills and knowledge deemed necessary for successful performance in school, work, and in the community.

Success in school is therefore determined by passing the ISTEP+. A child in Indiana cannot earn a high school diploma without passing the ISTEP+ in grade 10, which is the Graduation Qualifying Exam called the GQE for short. Most people probably are thinking, "A child is only in 3rd grade and you are talking success, diplomas and the world of work." The answer is yes! Starting in 3rd grade and continuing up through the 10th grade ISTEP+ (GQE), performance on these tests will predict the success and future of a child. If a child does not pass the GQE— he/she will not earn a high school diploma. Third grade parents may also think that this is so far away. Every school year is critical. As the research and data show, if a child fails the ISTEP+ in any of the earlier grades without serious interventions, they are at risk of not earning a diploma.



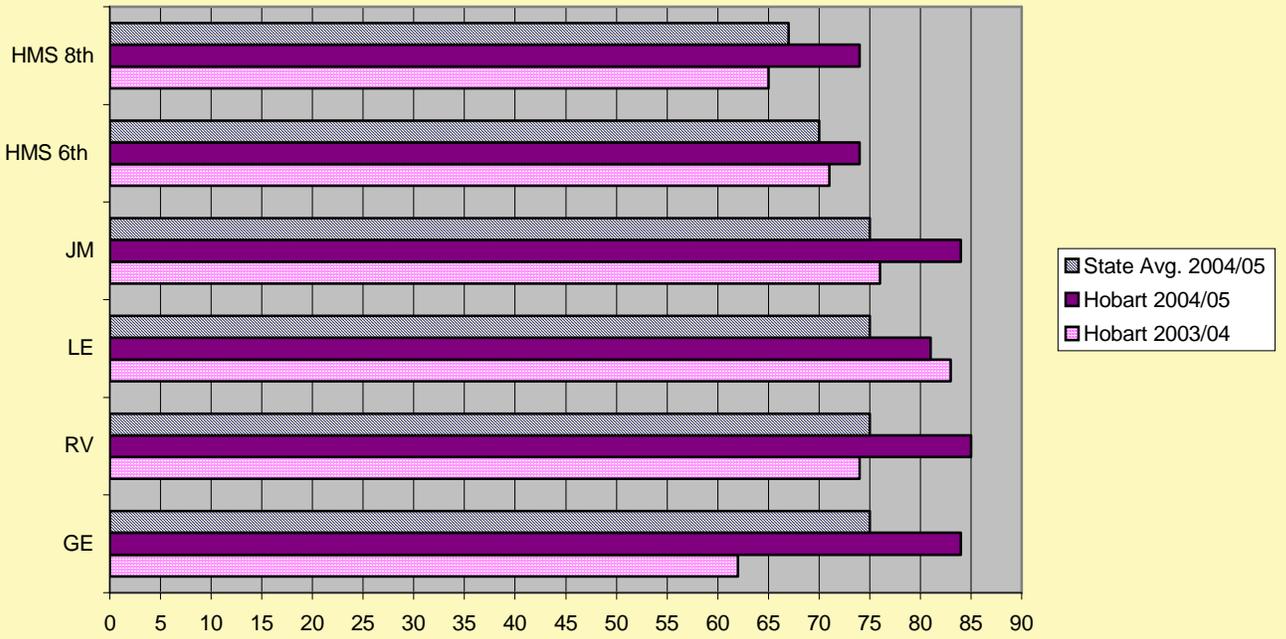
Our children should be working hard every school year. An indication of success is measured on the fall ISTEP+. Every year of passing the ISTEP+ is what will ensure they pass the GQE successfully. ISTEP+ measures success and puts a child on track for a high school diploma and beyond.



The School City of Hobart is proud of every student and thanks the educators, parents, and community who partnered with us to make the 2004-2005 ISTEP scores INCREDIBLE! Please help us by continuing to nurture and ensure that every child grows and learns to their potential. A child's teacher cannot do it alone. We need you as our partner to ensure success! Together, we can ensure that every school year is as INCREDIBLE as the year before.

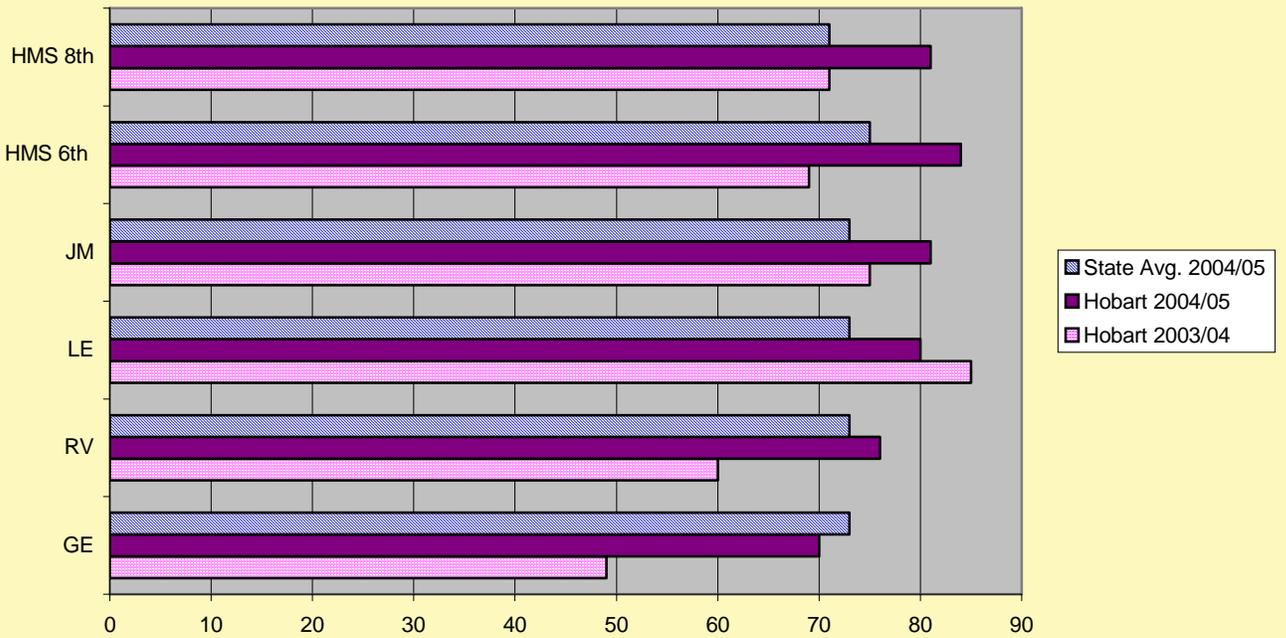
We truly are partners in "Success for All Students."

ISTEP English/Language Arts



	GE	RV	LE	JM	HMS 6th	HMS 8th
State Avg. 2004/05	75	75	75	75	70	67
Hobart 2004/05	84	85	81	84	74	74
Hobart 2003/04	62	74	83	76	71	65

ISTEP MATH



	GE	RV	LE	JM	HMS 6th	HMS 8th
State Avg. 2004/05	73	73	73	73	75	71
Hobart 2004/05	70	76	80	81	84	81
Hobart 2003/04	49	60	85	75	69	71

A LEAPING Good Project at HMS



For the past five years, the sixth grade classrooms have been going on a frog adventure. This adventure is known as Frog Quest. Frog Quest is an interdisciplinary unit during which students go out and hunt for frogs. The purpose of this is to see if the frog's environment is healthy. Frogs are very sensitive to changes in their environment. If their pond or swamp becomes polluted, the frogs can be malformed. Malformations may include one leg, or multiple legs, one eye, and tadpoles without tails.

Why is this study important? Because frogs are so sensitive to environmental changes, they represent to humans a sort of ecological "Canary in a Coalmine." The rapid disappearance or malformations of many species of frogs is a sure sign that something is going very, very wrong on our planet. The students have a choice between five jobs: Data Recorder, Geographer, Netter, Limnologist, and Journalist. The Data Recorders identify the type of frog, measure it, and see if there are any malformations. The Geographers draw a map, describe the surrounding area, and use a GPS unit to get the exact location. Students, who are



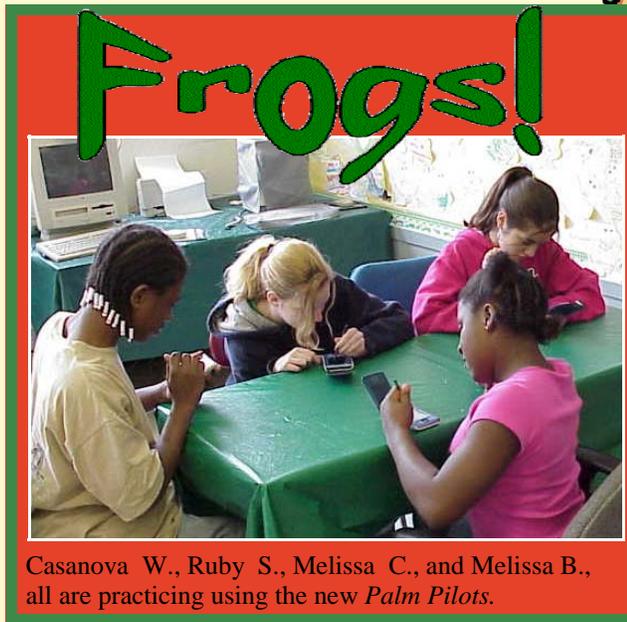
the netters, catch the frogs. These students also get the most wet! A Limnologist will test the water with probes that attach to a palm pilot. They also use different chemicals to test the nitrogen and carbon dioxide levels of the water. The last job is the Journalist. These students write the article about the whole experience. They conduct interviews, take photos and write down what they have observed that day.

The students use many resources including technology during this unit.

This past January, a sixth-grade math and science teacher, Jim Rappold, was awarded a \$2,500 grant from "Best Buy's *te@ch* program." This grant is given to teachers who use technology in their classrooms. This grant and other funds from the School City of Hobart will



allow Frog Quest to a giant leap. This project will take several weeks to prepare. Students must learn the ten most common frogs and toads of Northwest Indiana by their sight and sound. Students must also learn about frogs and their environment. Most importantly, they must learn how to do the different jobs. This will be an exciting spring for sixth graders in Hobart Middle School. The place will be "leaping" with activity. More importantly, students will be contributing data to environmental wellness through this quest.



Casanova W., Ruby S., Melissa C., and Melissa B., all are practicing using the new *Palm Pilots*.



Building "Action Contraptions" at HMS

The seventh grade students in Mrs. Germann's seminar classes at Hobart Middle School are building "Action Contraptions" this semester. Thanks to a School City of Hobart Educational Foundation grant, the students are using hand built motorized machines to focus on exploring, investigating and problem solving.

Three types of construction are done by the students. During exploration, students build models according to plans to aid in understanding concepts. During investigation, students follow instructions to build models that serve a specific purpose. During problem solving, students design and build models on their own. Some examples are a motorized drawbridge, motorized drums, motorized hospital beds, and windshield wipers.



Through the building of realistic motorized models, students develop a strong understanding of mechanical principles. This is a cooperative learning experience based on real-world problems with the students working in pairs to complete their machines. These students are truly finding out that playing CAN be learning!

LOOK!



I Can Read

Liberty kindergarten students and parents recently began a partnership designed to increase early literacy skills.

The project is being funded by a grant from the Hobart Educational Foundation. (See below for information on how you can donate to the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation.) The project involves 62 kindergarten students; kindergarten teachers, Beth Peterman and Vicky Thompson; and the Reading Recovery teacher, Carolyn Polomchak. The teachers hope to encourage and support home reading by providing KEEP BOOKS® that students can easily read and share with family and friends.

The KEEP BOOKS® project will provide inexpensive, easy to read books with carefully selected vocabulary for kindergarten students to use in the classroom and at home. The project will provide 24 take-home books for each child in kindergarten at Liberty. A new book will be introduced each week from late January through June, read at school, and then at home. Each student will also receive in the mail 8 books during the summer to support their reading skills. These summer reading books will be mailed every other week to the homes of kindergarten students.



Students in Mrs. Peterman's PM kindergarten sharing their first KEEP BOOK® with a friend.



Father & son show off their decorated book box.

The project was introduced to parents during a parent/child activity session at the school. Students and their parents worked together to decorate and label the small box that the books will be kept in at home.

Positive student responses to books they can read, understand and "KEEP" provides encouragement to parents in creating the supportive environment that early readers require. The small books fit easily into a pocket or purse, allowing them to be taken along and shared with family and friends.

We cannot wait to see the positive impact KEEP BOOKS® have on kindergarten literacy skills!

The School City of Hobart Educational Foundation

The School City of Hobart Educational Foundation, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organization that helps create links between the public schools, civic groups, government, business and interested citizens. The Foundation continues to fund innovative educational initiatives in the Hobart Schools.

You can support the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation in the following ways:

- **Purchase an Education license plate and designate the School City of Hobart as the recipient.**
- **Honor an Educator**
Each year at Christmas time and during National Teacher Week, May 2nd-May 5th, you can honor an educator with a donation in his or her name to the Foundation. The Foundation notifies the educator of the gift.
- **Make a contribution directly to:**
The School City of Hobart Educational Foundation, Inc.
32 E. Seventh Street
Hobart, Indiana 46342



THE STUDY BUDDY CONNECTION

George Earle School and Valparaiso University

George Earle School is proud to be participating in a pilot program this semester which pairs students in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 with a "Study Buddy" from Valparaiso University. The university students are education majors enrolled in the School/Community classes taught by Dr. Jose Arredondo and Mrs. Del Gillispie.

The "Study Buddy" program is a connected effort between students, parents, teachers, and administrators. The goal is to improve student achievement in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. During the week, twenty-three university students assist fifty-nine elementary students individually with skills, strategies, and support needed for their academic success. Students are scheduled for a minimum of thirty minutes of focused instruction with their Study Buddy during the week. In addition, Valparaiso University students are assisting with learning in several classrooms.



Gagan reads to VU Study Buddy, Jessica Fuhrman while Alexis reviews flash cards with Study Buddy Carolyn Turngren.

Documentation and data are being collected to determine the academic improvement gained through working with a university student.

The "Study Buddy" program is in the early stages, but if smiles are an indicator of success – we're off to a great start!



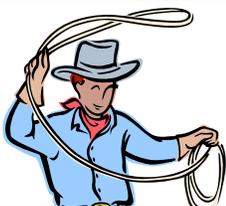
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT ROCKS at Ridge View

Ridge View Elementary looks forward to Junior Achievement visiting their school every year! What started as a collection of small, after-school business clubs for students in Springfield, Massachusetts, has today become an organization comprised of a growing number of volunteers, educators, parents, and contributors who reach out to 4 million students each year in grades K-12. Junior Achievement uses hands-on experiences to help young people understand the economics of life.

Ridge View third graders participated in the *Our City* program, which considers economic development, local businesses, and career opportunities. The fourth graders participated in the *Our Region* program, which explains the economic/business resources found in state and regional economies. Emphasis was put on two of Indiana's main industries: steel and agriculture. The importance of each of these industries and their impact on our state and

region were discussed. After the volunteer's presentation to the class, the classes were engaged in activities such as role-playing and games to reinforce the concepts presented. Fifth graders participated in the *Our Nation* program, which studies business operations and economic issues in the United States.

Each of the Junior Achievement programs are aligned with the Indiana State Standards, and the students truly become immersed in the curriculum presented. In partnership with business and educators, Junior Achievement brings the real world to our students, opening their minds to their potential! As best said by the students, "Junior Achievement rocks!"



KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

The School City of Hobart's Kindergarten Registration will be held April 19, 20 and 21st at all of the elementary schools.

Times for registration will be 9:00 am – 11:00 am and 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Parents may enroll their child if they are five years old before July 1, 2005. They will need to provide the following documents: two (2) proofs of residency, original birth certificate, immunization record and custody papers if appropriate.

Foundations and Traditions Grounded in Hobart History

From the Joan Martin Third Grade Students' Point of View

Students at Joan Martin believe they are **future** Hobart citizens and proud of it. The third grade curriculum provides them with opportunities to discover the history of Hobart. The Indiana Academic Standards state: *“Students will describe how significant people, events and developments have shaped their own community and regions. Students will explain what it is to be citizens of their community, state, and nation.”* Here are some comments and pictures depicting how our third graders have discovered the rich heritage of Hobart and “Brickie Pride.”

In the student’s Hobart History book, they learned about the **first Unitarian Church** which still has the original congregation.



Ginger Bread Houses

“We made a gingerbread community. It taught me about different places in Hobart.”
-Brent



“In my **Hobart History Book**, I learned about the animals and the settlers that lived in Hobart.”
-Jacob



“The **Art Theatre** was big, old and loud. The Polar Express was great!”
-Chris



“My grandpa’s trumpet is at the museum.”
-Ashley

“We went to the **Historical Society Museum**. I learned what a blacksmith was.”
-Hunter



“The most interesting thing was the **Doughboy Monument**. The Doughboy Monument is a statue that we celebrate on the 4th of July.”
-Dimetri



“I learned that **George Earle** was an artist like me. I even learned that there was a grist mill where Bank One is and I also learned how they put horseshoes on horses.” -Justin



“At **John Wood’s Mill**, we learned about making cornmeal.” -Patrick

“We learned that John Wood had to ring the bell, and grind the corn. John built his own house.” -Stephani



Old Mill - “Another fact is that there were three rocks there for making cornmeal.”
-Alex

Sugar Shack - “They make tree sap into maple syrup. The best part of Hobart History is learning about where I live.”
-Braden



SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
32 East Seventh Street
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NEWSLETTER

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POSTAL PATRON

HOBART, INDIANA 46342

“Success for All Students”

Edited by:

*Dr. Peggy Buffington
 &
 Rachel Nicoloff*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

March 18 & 19 HS Spring Musical HS Auditorium 7:30 pm Spring Break March 25th - April 1st	Kindergarten Round-UP All Elementary Schools April 19, 20, 21 9 am - 11 am or 1 pm - 3 pm	April 28th HS Conferences 4-7 HS Talent Show 7:30 pm
April 29th HS Early Dismissal HS Talent Show 7:30 pm	May 6th Professional Dev. Day Early Dismissal HS-Prom	May 19th MS Band Awards Concert HS Auditorium 7 pm
May 24th HS Choral Awards Concert HS Auditorium 7 pm	May 25th MS Choral Awards Concert HS Auditorium 7 pm	May 26th MS Jazz Band at the Bandshell
May 30th Memorial Day No School	June 7th Last Day of School	June 9th Graduation

School City of Hobart web site: www.hobart.k12.in.us