

Kain,

~~See~~

These were sent to me. I
have no idea what to do with
them.

Craig Wright



State of New Hampshire
House of Representatives
State House, Concord

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

April 15, 1999

TELEPHONE
603-271-2136
FAX
603-271-2016

PETER HOE BURLING
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. President,

Enclosed, please find a petition from the citizens of Cornish, New Hampshire calling on both you and Congress to fully fund the federal government's share of the cost of special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Since its enactment in 1975, the IDEA has helped millions of children with special needs to receive a quality education and to develop to their full capacities. The benefits of IDEA extend far the classroom, breaking down stereotypes and ignorance about people with disabilities and improving the life and economic opportunity for millions of Americans.

However, the federal government currently funds less than nine percent of the actual cost of special education services; significantly less than the 40 percent promised. By neglecting its promise, local school districts and state governments end up bearing the largest share of the cost of special education, while also creating hardships for disabled children and their families.

We, the citizens of Cornish, call on you and the members of Congress to comply with IDEA and fund 40 percent of special education services, ensuring that all children, regardless of disability, receive a quality education and are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Hoe Burling", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Peter Hoe Burling

**A PETITION FROM THE CITIZENS OF
CORNISH, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**calling on Congress and the President of the United States to fully fund
the federal government's share of the cost of special education services
under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

WHEREAS, since its enactment in 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has helped millions of children with special needs to receive a quality education and to develop to their full capacities; and

WHEREAS, the IDEA has moved children with disabilities out of institutions and into public school classrooms with their peers; and

WHEREAS, the IDEA has helped break down stereotypes and ignorance about people with disabilities, improving the quality of life and economic opportunity for millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, when the federal government enacted the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in the 1970's, it promised to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education services; and

WHEREAS, the federal government currently funds, on average, less than nine percent of the actual cost of special education services; and

WHEREAS, local school districts and state government end up bearing the largest share of the cost of special education services; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's failure to adequately fulfill its responsibility to special needs children undermines public support for special education and creates hardship for disabled children and their families.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED CITIZENS OF
CORNISH: That Congress and the President should fulfill the federal government's
obligation to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education services as promised under
the IDEA, to ensure that all children, regardless of disability, receive a quality education
and are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve**

NAME

ADDRESS

Jim Osterlund

East Rd Cornish NH

Alma Jacklin

P.O. Box 226 Cornish Flat NH 03746

Shirley Sullivan

Rt 120
East Rd Cornish Flat NH 03746

Mona Smith

P.O. Box 229 Cornish Flat N.H. 03746

C.D. STAFF

P.O. Box 121 Cornish - NH 03746

Ed Black Jr.

P.O. Box 121 Cornish Flat NH 03746

Arnold L. Wilkie

P.O. Box 225 Cornish Flat NH 03746

Susan Borchert

RR2 Box 406 Cornish NH 03745

Juan Allen

P.O. Box 145 Cornish NH 03746

James E. John

P.O. Box 133 Cornish Flat NH 03746

Susan Curtis

P.O. Box 81 Cornish Flat NH 03746

Evalett Carr

P.O. Box 89 Cornish Flat NH 03746

Richard Melloch

P.O. Box 263 Cornish NH 03746

1/2 St. Andrew

P.O. Box 274 Cornish Flat NH 03746

Laura White

Center Road HCR 75 Box 95 Cornish NH

Wm. W. Wason

Vacker Rd Box 584 Cornish

Fred C. Sullivan

Brookside Farm Cornish Flat NH

James R. McArthur

Rt 120 Cornish Flat NH

~~Walter Allen~~

POB 505 Cornish Flat NH

Frank H. O'Connor

CENTER ROAD - CORNISH NH

NAME

ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS
John Park & Terrie	
Marjorie & Andrew Jeffers	Center Rd Cornish
Jimmy & Kinigaga	School St. Cornish
Gerlene Guillette	Townhouse Road
Douglas Guillette	TOWNHOUSE ROAD
Bruce Wasserman	P.O. Box 57 Cornish Flat
Colleen Tompkins	RR2 Box 476 Cornish NH 03748
Debra	P.O. Box 365 Cornish Flat
Heigh Callahan	Po Box 157 Cornish Flat 03746
Brian Mudgett	Skyline Drive South Cornish
Pam Ann	RR2 & Box 512 Cornish NH
Kimberly Pa	RR 2 Box 485 Beechwood Ave Cornish NH
Sherril Nahn	School St Cornish Flat NH
Anthony Newton	School St. Cornish Flat NH
Dee & Bob	RR 3 Box Cornish, NH.
Ann Miller	PO Box 256 Cornish Flat NH
Just Wynne	Pob 149 Cornish Flat, NH
Walter D'Amico	PO Box 38 Cornish NH
Ray Thompson	Potato Hill Rd. Cornish, NH
Stephen Phillips	HC 1275 Box 150 Cornish, NH

NAME

ADDRESS

John Dryflout Cornish New Hampo^{me}

Janet Lord Cornish NH

Martha Churchill Cornish New Hampshire

Brookford Churchill Cornish New Hampshire

Richard Scherer Cornish New Hampshire

Eileen Ballard Cornish, NH

Belden Ford Cornish N.H.

Patty J. Carl Cornish NH

Leola Callahan Cornish Flat NH

Margaret Mesette Cornish, N.H.

W.D. Mc Cornish NH

Roggy Dunn Cornish NH

Douglas Blair Cornish NH

Donald Dunn Cornish NH

Mie Pearson Cornish N.H.

Walter Danja Cornish N.H.

Kathleen L. Jordan Cornish N.H.

JOHN SCOTT CORNISH, NH

Henry Hony Cornish Flat, NH

NAME

ADDRESS

Bruce Pimston RR3 Cornish nh 03745

Cynthia Stuartland RR2 Box 387 CORNISH NH 03745

Theresa De Villers RR #2 Box 906 Cornish, NH

Jim Debb RR #2 Box 906 Cornish, NH

Steve W. Lewis Sr. RR 2 BOX 329 CORNISH, N.H. 03745

William St. Julien RR #3 BOX 63 CORNISH, NH

Brenda Jordan RR 2 BOX 331 Cornish NH

Alan Tenkshy HCR 75 Box 18 Cornish NH

Doane Tenkshy HCR 75 BOX 18 CORNISH NH

Robert Ballard RR2, BOX 361, Cornish, NH 03745

Cynthia Jensen Box 228 Cornish, NH 03745

Genevieve Alexander RR2 Box 390 Cornish NH 03745

Shirley A. Hageman RR3 Box 174 CORNISH, NH 03745

Don J. Tracy 40 Box 65 Cornish Flat, NH 03746

R. McJannet RR2 Box 2 Rt 124 Cornish Off 03745

Susan Wild RR2 Box 326 Cornish N.H. 03745

John W. Wild RR3 Box 28 Cornish NH 03745

Audrey M. Jacques PO Box 237 Cornish Flat NH 03746

Susan Perkins PO Box 170 Plainfield NH 03781

Robert S. Paine PO Box 070 PLAINFIELD, NH 03781

NAME

ADDRESS

Donald Burt RR2 Box 580A CORNISH
~~Ed~~ Demers RR-2 Box 407 CORNISH NH
 Joan M. Puri PO Box 124 Cornish Flat, NH 03746
 Eliza M. Nil RR2 Box 389 Cornish, NH 03745
 Shirley Bladen RR2, Box 595 Cornish, NH 03745
 Sawadhamman PO Box 31 Cornish Flat, NH 03746
 Rebecca & Marie RR#2 Box 407 Cornish, NH 03745
 Raymond Adams RR#2 Box 409 Cornish NH 03745
 Anne M. Keen PO Box 24 Cornish NH 03746
 L. B. Colby Box 24 Cornish, NH 03746
 Marcia Oard POB 34, Cornish Flat NH 03746
 Louis O. Zyl RR2 Box 514 Cornish, NH 03745
 James R. Jordan RR2 Box 331 Cornish, N.H. 03745
 Nora Lees Gordon PO Box 248 Cornish Flat NH 03746
 Luella Demers RR#2 Box 407 Cornish, NH 03745
 Barbara Pearson RR#2 Box 464 Cornish, NH 03745
 William W. Fitt PO Box 206 Cornish Flat NH 03746
 Kathryn Patterson RR#2 Box 484 Cornish NH 03745

NAME

ADDRESS

Caroline Starrs

Cornish, NH

Caroline Starrs

Kate Freeland

Cornish NH

Carol Kaminie

Cornish, NH 03746

Theresa B. Scott

Lower East Rd Cornish, NH

Margaret A. Water

Leavitt Hill Rd Cornish, NH

Kendra Kym

Cornish NH

Colleen Salinger

Lang Rd, Cornish, NH 03745

Bred Schad

School St Cornish NH 03746

Eric J. Webb

ERIC J. WEBB

PO Box 155 CORNISH FLAT, NH 03746

Thomas Delaney Jr.

RR 3 Box 295 CORNISH, N.H. 03745

Eric Delaney

Cornish, N.H.

James E. Foss

PO Box 137 Cornish Flat NH

Karen Foss

School 1st. Cornish

Warne Gray

Cornish N.H.

Tammy Gray

Cornish, N.H.

Scott Morse

Cornish N.H.

Elizabeth Han

Cornish, NH

Erin J. Han

Cornish NH

Larry Ruval

East Rd Cornish N.H.

NAME

ADDRESS

Alfred J. Benware Rte 120 Cornish NH

Heriber W. Poir Center Rd Cornish N.H.

D. J. K... Center Rd Cornish NH

Pauline H. Rand Cornish Stage Rd Cornish Flat, NH

Maries Joarona RR3 Box 33 Cornish NH 03745

K. Marie Steven RR2 Box 396 Cornish NH 03745

Alanson Jones " " " "

Sheela M... RR2 Box 318 CORNISH 03745

Elizabeth Catering RR#2 Box 498 B Cornish NH 03745

Michael M... cornish N.H.

Martha T... R3 Box 80 Cornish NH

Nancy Wightman PO Box 223 Cornish Flat NH

Ram A. Woodman PO Box 364 Cornish Flat, NH

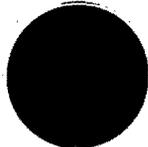
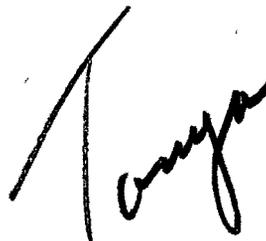
Nancy Reed RR#3 Box 24 " NH 03745

John J. Furrum RR2 Box 457 Cornish NH 03746

Sarah A. Osterlund RR#2 BOX 500 CORNISH NH 03745

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 18, 1997



MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED
PAUL WEINSTEIN

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Sen. Lauch Faircloth (R-NC).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress, forwarding copies to the Office of Legislative Affairs, attention Chris Walker.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

TED STEVENS, ALASKA, CHAIRMAN

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
SLADE GORTON, WASHINGTON
MITCH McCONNELL, KENTUCKY
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RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
BEN NIGHORSE CAMPBELL, COLORADO
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
LAUCH FAIRCLOTH, NORTH CAROLINA
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ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
DALE BUMPERS, ARKANSAS
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA

STEVEN J. CORTESE, STAFF DIRECTOR
JAMES H. ENGLISH, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

AUG 12 PM 4:31

August 8, 1997

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

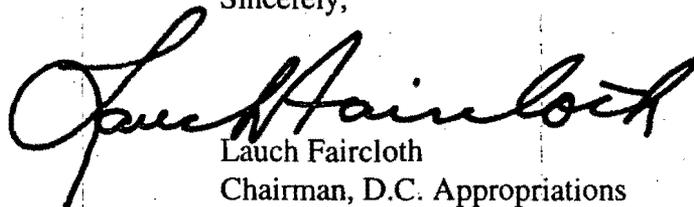
Today it was announced that District of Columbia Public Schools would open three weeks after the regularly scheduled opening date. I think that this is both a tragedy and an embarrassment that this is occurring in our Nations' Capital. Now is not the time to assign blame, but rather to act to help the situation.

This spring, during consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill, I tried to obtain new money to insure that the schools opened on time. That effort was unsuccessful.

I am writing to urge you, as soon as possible, to use whatever federal resources are available to speed up the repair of the schools so that they can open on schedule. I can assure you that I will work with the Appropriations Committee to minimize any impact to other agencies whose resources might be used in the effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Lauch Faircloth
Chairman, D.C. Appropriations
Subcommittee

LF/jeh

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 15, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President from Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen(R-FL).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress. Please forward a copy of the response to Chris Walker, Office of Legislative Affairs.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

COMMITTEES:

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT REFORM

CHAIR:
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
POLICY AND TRADE

VICE CHAIR:
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WESTERN HEMISPHERE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

2240 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0918
(202) 225-3931
FAX (202) 225-5620

DISTRICT OFFICE:
9210 SUNSET DRIVE
SUITE 100
MIAMI, FL 33173
(305) 275-1800
FAX (305) 275-1801

December 22, 1997

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

JAN 18 PM 2:59

Dear President Clinton:

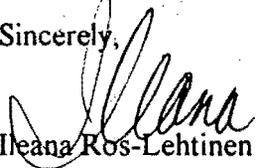
Various of my Congressional constituents, representing the Dade County Public School System, have contacted my office to voice their strong support for H.R. 3086 and S. 1396, the Meals for Achievement Act recently introduced by Representative Lynn Woolsey and Senator Tim Johnson, respectively.

These bills introduced in Congress will "amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1996 to expand the School Breakfast Program in elementary schools and to provide greater access to snacks in school-based childcare programs."

My constituents state that recent studies have shown the strong correlation between proper nutrition and academic achievement. As you have already begun to work on your 1999 budget, they kindly request that you "not forget this basic tool which improves school performance."

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL:jt
cc: Elaine Osburn, Region Coordinator
Department of Food and Nutrition
Dade County Public Schools
7042 W. Flagler Street
Miami FL 33144

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 19, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED *Cohen/Martin*
DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL (DPC)

FROM: JANET MURGUIA *JM*
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President from Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-IL) and others.

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress. Please forward a copy of the response to Peter Greenberger, Office of Legislative Affairs.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Peter at 456-7500.

Enclosure

BOBBY L. RUSH
1ST DISTRICT
ILLINOIS



COMMERCE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRADE, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION
ENERGY AND POWER

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 5, 1998

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge your strong support for the federal initiative to connect our nation's classrooms and libraries to the communications network. As you know, the bipartisan Telecommunications Act of 1996 extended our nation's historic commitment to ubiquitous phone service at reasonable rates to include discounts for advanced telecommunications services to our nation's schools and libraries. In establishing the "e-rate," Congress and the Administration recognized how connecting classrooms to the Information Superhighway would give America's students— rich or poor—urban or rural— access to an education that prepares them for a successful future in the global and digital economy. Since most poorer children do not have access to the Internet outside of school, connecting classrooms assures that our country is not divided digitally— into a nation of information haves and have-nots.

Like any new initiative, implementation of the e-rate program as part of our historical commitment to universal service poses numerous challenges. This includes how to establish a new universal program amid all the other changes resulting from the 1996 Telecommunications Act. We strongly believe that the Federal Communications Commission, the Departments of Education and Commerce, and the not-for-profit Schools and Libraries Corporation established to administer the program in a non-partisan manner, have worked closely with the States and the local school districts to establish the schools initiative in a fiscally responsible manner that supports local control of education. We further believe this is why over 30,000 applications from schools and libraries have been submitted for discounted services and connections.

Some critics, including some of our Colleagues, on both sides, have intensified their criticism of this national commitment to connect classrooms. They charge that the e-rate will force the phone bills of inner city residents to soar. We do not want to see our constituents bear the burden. Our nation's telecommunications carriers, who sat with us at the table in crafting the landmark 1996 Act, agreed to contribute to the universal service fund to support the e-rate. In return, the industry has realized billions of dollars in access charge reductions.

The implementation of the e-rate preserves local decision making over education spending. School districts themselves decide which eligible services they need, develop a technology plan, and obtain the necessary sign-off from their state. Only applicants who demonstrate that they have successfully completed this process become eligible for discounts on the cost of telecommunications services and network connections. Could there be a more grass-roots "national" initiative? In addition, the e-rate is not a "free" rate. Schools and school districts, depending on their need, pay as much of 80 percent of the total cost of the discounted services. Only the neediest communities receive the steepest discounts.

You and your Administration are strong advocates for making sure our youth have the education and skills they need to succeed in the information economy of the 21st century. We now urge you to use the wisdom and leadership of your Office to weigh in on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Cook

Nancy Perri

Carrie P. Meek

Jim L. ...

Donald W. Payne

Danny K. Davis

Jerold Nadler

William ...

Tom ...

Tom Barrett

Robert ...

Conroy C. ...

Gene Jackson Sr

Rose J. Johnson

Elizabeth Jones

Myra R. Jones

George E. Brown, Jr.

Ed. Jones

Maxine Waters

Jim McDermott

Carlos Romero Barcelo

Jim McDermott

Earl Hummer

Cal Dooley

Joe Berman

Bob Wise

Brian S. Keal

Tom Lantos

John Fetter

Ellen Dawson

Harold Ford, Jr.

Bob Clery

Robert A. Underwood

Tom Banks

Pat Putsch Carolyn B. Mahy

Earl F. Hilliard Louisa Sanchez

Elyak E. Cummings Johnson

Sam Fan Jim Oberstar

Alfred A. Johnson Wm. J. Mason

Wddie Bernice Johnson Barbara Lee

Gene Youngren Al Hanger

Carrie P. Meek Alced. Hastings Pt-23

Tom H. Lyle Robert L. West

James E. Clyburn Flame Waters

~~Fourns~~ ~~Regina Attardo~~

~~Al R. [unclear]~~

Zoe [unclear] Jim McGovern

Tom [unclear] Tom Allen

George Miller

[Blank lined area]

Members of Congress signing letter to President Clinton in support of E-Rate, June 5, 1998

Bobby L. Rush
Nancy Pelosi
Carolyn Kilpatrick
Roberto Menendez
Tom Barrett
Luis Gutierrez
William Lipinski
Danny Davis
Donald Payne
Jose Serrano
Carrie Meek
Jerrold Nadler
Tom Lantos
Xavier Becerra
Esteban Torres
Jim McDermott
Eni Faleomavaega
Glenn Poshard
George Brown, Jr.
Maxine Waters
Carlos Romero-Barcelo
Major Owens
Cal Dooley
Earl Blumenauer
Robert Underwood
Rosa DeLauro
Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Ellen Tauscher
Richard Neal
Bob Etheridge
Chaka Fattah
Harold Ford, Jr.
James Oberstar
Ken Bentsen
Elijah Cummings
George. Miller
Loretta Sanchez
Tom Allen
Sam Farr
John Baldacci
Zoe Lofgren
James McGovern

**Members of Congress signing letter to President Clinton in support of E-Rate, June 5,
1998 - continued**

**Peter Deutsch
Sheila Jackson-Lee
Silvestre Reyes
Gregory Meeks
Ed Towns
James Clyburn
Melvin Watt
Bennie Thompson
John Conyers
Charles Rangel
Barbara Lee
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Al Wynn**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 26, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED
DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

FROM: JANET MURGUIA *JM*
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President from Rep. Ted Strickland (D-OH).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached letter and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress. Please forward a copy of the response to Eli Joseph, Office of Legislative Affairs.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Eli at 456-7500.

Enclosure

TED STRICKLAND
6TH DISTRICT, OHIO



RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

OLDER AMERICANS CAUCUS

EDUCATION CAUCUS

STEEL CAUCUS

MINING CAUCUS

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS CAUCUS
FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND POWER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3506

March 12, 1999

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The President
The White House
102 East Wing
Washington, D.C. 20500

MAR 17 PM 2:47

Dear President Clinton:

I would like to share a letter with you from one of my constituents. Debbie Biggs is an elementary school principal who has written about the condition of her school. I think that you will find her letter and enclosure moving.

Mrs. Biggs is the principal of the Jackson Elementary School in Jackson, Ohio. She is concerned about the state of "property-poor districts such as Jackson that have been doomed to struggle under the school-funding system..." She is very interested in how your school modernization proposals could impact her crumbling buildings.

Mrs. Biggs' letter further illustrates what I have learned from doing a study on the condition of schools in my district. This study found that these schools are in desperate need of our assistance. For instance, as Mrs. Biggs explains in an enclosed article from *The Columbus Dispatch*, "I get \$1,000 for the year for paper, art supplies, books, Band-Aids, jump ropes, balls, bulletin boards, copy paper, periodicals -- everything you can think of that a building needs." She adds that, "As you can imagine, it doesn't go very far."

Knowing that we share an interest in the modernization of our nation's public schools, I wanted to pass this information along to you on behalf of Mrs. Biggs. I sincerely hope that the Congress will make meaningful progress on this issue this year.

Sincerely,

Ted Strickland

D.C. OFFICE
336 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5705

MAIN OFFICE
1236 GALLIA STREET
PORTSMOUTH, OH 45662
(740) 353-5171
TOLL FREE IN SOUTHERN OHIO:
(888) 706-1833

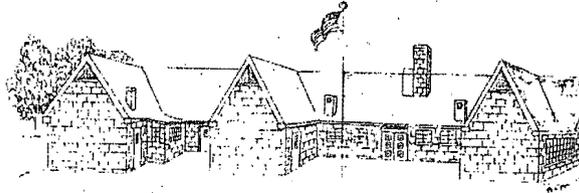
WESTERN OFFICE
36 E. LOCUST STREET
WILMINGTON, OH 45177
(937) 382-4585

CENTRAL OFFICE
200 BROADWAY AVENUE
JACKSON, OH 45640
(740) 286-5199
(740) 286-6647

EASTERN OFFICE
254 FRONT STREET
MARIETTA, OH 45750
(740) 376-0868

Jackson City School District

Superintendent's Office
379 East South Street
Jackson, Ohio 45640
614/286-6442



Jackson Elementary School
236 Savageville School Road
Jackson, Ohio 45640
614/286-3088

Deborah Biggs, Principal

Jackson Elementary School

February 4, 1999

Dear Mr. President:

My name is Debbie Biggs, and I am an elementary principal for Jackson City Schools, located in Southeastern Ohio. I listened to your State of the Union Address on January 19. I am in full agreement with your philosophies and planned course of action for the continuous improvement of education. I am writing this letter to inform you that my students and staff, need, deserve and strongly desire to be one of the 5000 new schools you would like to help build.

Despite poverty and numerous challenges, Jackson City Schools are working aggressively to reverse and make a difference in the lives of the children we serve. We, as a district and individual buildings, are working on a continuous improvement plan to take us into the next century. We cannot, however, do it alone.

The Ohio state data indicates our per pupil wealth is 40% less than the state average. The state has set aside some money to help poorer districts build new schools. Jackson City Schools however, have slipped through the cracks, placing us years away from any assistance. This is why you must help us. If the state of Ohio has overlooked our rural district, we call on our leaders in Washington to take notice. Our children are just as worthy of an excellent education in a safe environment as other children in this great nation of ours.

I am enclosing some information and newspaper articles concerning our plight. Please hear our plea.

Sincerely,

Debbie Biggs
Principal

Jackson City Schools

Enrollment - 2805

1 High School built in 1931 - Addition 1956

1 Middle School built as an elementary in 1950 - New addition in 1995.

Money to build from an individual's gift. No local or state money used.

6 Elementaries - built from 1912-1955

Buses must cover 2200 miles a day.

Some of the classrooms house 32 per room - State average is 22

1998 - 114 scholarships worth \$550,000 were awarded - many from local industry and individuals

Partnership with the University of Rio Grande

Partnership with Burger King, Inc.

Grants obtained:

Martha Holden Jennings Foundation

Family & School Partnership Initiative

School-to-Work

Vital Links

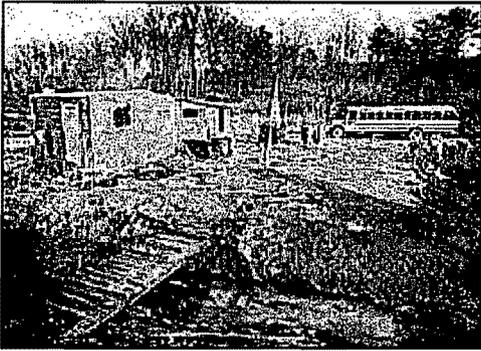
The Pillsbury Co. Foundation Grant

Ohio Environmental Education Fund

Title I & Title VI

Success for All Students

The financial support from the grants provided field trips, science equipment, computers, teacher and administrator inservice, and much more.



Chris Russell/Dispatch

A bus drops off Jackson Elementary pupils at their home in southeastern Ohio. In its ruling, the Ohio Supreme Court noted the inadequate state of schools in poor districts, including Jackson, an area hit hard by poverty and unemployment.

For now, schools can hope

I have a
Kdg. + 5th
Grader living
in this.

On a personal level, the Ohio Supreme Court's landmark school-funding decision did nothing yesterday to cushion the fall of a Jackson Elementary School pupil who came down hard on a flood-buckled floor.

The water that filled the aging building earlier this month lifted up hundreds of tiles, creating a mess -- and running up a bill -- that the Jackson City School District is ill-equipped to handle.

But the 4-3 decision declaring the funding system unconstitutional is allowing principal Debbie Biggs to dream, at least about her chances for a new floor.

Grander visions are kept in check.

"Southeastern Ohio has a wait-and-see approach," said Biggs, who leads the small, rural school in Jackson County.

"Obviously, we need some new buildings. That's no big secret. But people have to understand: It won't be tomorrow. We might be tripping and falling all spring."

Jackson Superintendent Jack Coyan said the flood soaked his threadbare budget.

Including damage to maintenance equipment, computers, paper and other supplies, the district is looking at a \$150,000 loss. It has no flood insurance.

This article
appeared in
the Columbus
Dispatch
3/97

"Were our financial situation different, we'd have had that floor addressed at an earlier time, absolutely," Coyan said. "We're not able."

Conditions in Jackson County and in other poor districts were cited by Justice Francis E. Sweeney in his majority opinion.

"More than three years after the 1990 (Ohio Public School Facility) Survey was published, Superintendent of Public Instruction, John Theodore Sanders, averred that his visits to Ohio school buildings demonstrated that some students were 'making do in a decayed carcass from an era long passed,' and that others were educated in 'dirty, depressing places,'" Sweeney wrote.

"Another major health and safety hazard is asbestos, which has yet to be removed from 68.6 percent of Ohio's school buildings, in direct violation of a 1987 mandate by the United States Environmental Protection Agency."

The floor that must be replaced in Jackson is asbestos tile, Biggs said.

Coyan has requested assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to cover the cost.

Some other examples cited -- including a coal-burning furnace in Lawrence County's Dawson-Bryant School District and the crumbling ceilings in Perry County's Southern Local School District -- have been remedied since the suit was filed six years ago.

The Nelsonville-York City School District in Athens County soon will open a new building to replace one that Sweeney singled out for, literally, "sliding down a hill at a rate of an inch per month."

Nelsonville-York Superintendent Jack Hillyer said that despite the benefits of extra state building money, the court's decision was necessary.

"Remember, that was a short-term fix," he said. "And I appreciate that short-term fix. I really do."

"But we have low property valuation. It takes many mills to raise much money. As long as we're dependent on tax money, we're probably not going to have enough money to

educate children the way we should."

Jackson treasurer Ernie Strawser said legislators haven't been serious enough.

Increases in the proposed budget, he said, amount to "a \$73 annual increase per Jackson student -- or about 42 cents a day."

"We can be gradual about this forever, but every year that we're gradual means that another generation isn't served."

Strawser said he is "saddened" when he hears complaints about the ruling.

"It sounds cliché to say, but now's really the time to sit down, roll up our sleeves and see what it's going to take to do the job," he said. "I think when we think about the kids, we'll do the right thing."

Mary Helen Harvey, superintendent of Trimble Local Schools in Athens County, said her district of 1,173 students in the Glouster area is the second-poorest in the state.

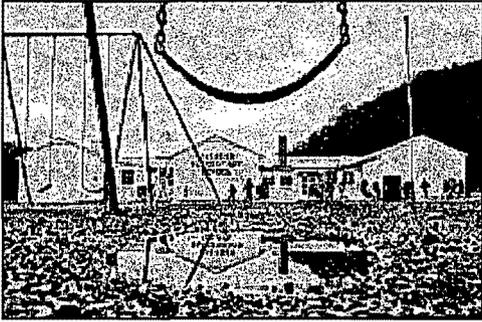
"But people shouldn't think poor means inferior," she said yesterday. "You can still do a good job when you work hard, and (our students) work harder when they go to college. . . . The opportunities that students have should not be determined by where they are born or go to school."

Harvey said that in the last decade, "We have had quite a few that go on to two-year and four-year colleges.

"I think they are seeing that education is necessary, and employment opportunities in southeastern Ohio aren't there for people to make the kind of wages they would like to.

"The problem here is there is no tax base, no industry. . . . In Athens County, education is the biggest employer with Ohio University, Hocking College and the local schools systems," she said.

[Back](#) to today's news from the *Dispatch* home page



Chris Russell/Dispatch photos

On a rainy day early in winter, recess is confined to the small area of paved playground at Jackson Elementary School.

"I get \$1,000 for the year for paper, art supplies, books, Band-Aids, jump ropes, balls, bulletin boards, copy paper, periodicals -- everything you can think of that a building needs. As you can imagine, it doesn't go very far."

-- Debbie Biggs
principal



Principal Debbie Biggs checks a kindergartner for head lice. Outbreaks of lice and scabies are common.

Schooling on a shoestring

Jackson County elementary battles poverty, funding woes

By Rita Price
Dispatch Staff Reporter

March 26, 1997

JACKSON, Ohio -- The groaning yellow school bus, twice-a-day witness to young life in this Appalachian county, makes its way up hill and hollow.

To the visitor unaccustomed to the rugged, roller-coaster route, too few stops occur in the foreground of sturdy, well-kept homes.

One child looks over her shoulder shyly as she strides up a worn path to the small camper that serves as her house. Two others negotiate mounds of rubble and discarded tires before climbing the plywood ramp that leads to their dilapidated mobile home.

An older boy, quick to notice the visitor's stares, wrestles with shame.

"I know you're going to think our house is trashy," he said. "But we're building another one."

Somber, however, is hardly the prevailing mood aboard Virgil Goff's bus No. 14, an uncomfortable but dependable giant serving Jackson Elementary School's far-flung attendance areas.

A few pupils giggle and tease; several others join the blaring radio for a group version of *You Ain't Much Fun Since I Quit Drinkin'*.

They all know, well before Goff hits the next gravel road

"People here are so used to saying: 'We're going to make do. We'll make do.' And then you see what most other schools have, and you have to ask: 'Why? Why don't our children get those opportunities? Are we making do?' "

**-- Ernie Strawser
treasurer**



Russell Gillum, 9, relaxes with his new puppy outside the family's mobile home.

or hairpin stretch of ridge, when it is time to hold on -- tightly. The visitor, who has been asked several times whether she's going to be sick, possesses no such knowledge.

The boy who worried about his house senses an equalizing moment and peers over the bus seat.

"If you think you're having fun now," he said with a grin, "wait till you see how he goes over the bridge."

Knowing the pupils

First-year principal Debbie Biggs also climbed aboard the buses when school began in the fall.

She wanted to get a feel for what and where her "Jackson E" pupils come from, she said.

"One family did not have a door -- there's a blanket hung up. The little girl turned to me and said, 'My dad's in prison, and my mom didn't want me.' But she was patting me, trying to make me feel better. I told her that, of course, people want her, because she's special. She said, 'Me? I'm not special. I'm nobody.' "

Such snapshots of despair don't shock Biggs as they might others. A lifelong resident of Jackson County, she well knows the region's perennial problems -- widespread unemployment, low-wage jobs, rampant family poverty.

And she knew when she moved from her job as assistant principal at Lick Middle School to the helm of Jackson Elementary -- the Jackson City School District's smallest and poorest -- that she would see even more of those problems etched in the faces of children.

Fifty-five percent of Jackson Elementary pupils receive free breakfasts and lunches at school; an additional 13 percent qualify for reduced-price meals.

About 40 percent have no telephones in their rural homes, a thorny problem for teachers who need to communicate with parents about behavior, schoolwork or illness.

Outbreaks of head lice and scabies are regular occurrences, as are quiet efforts by the Jackson staff to provide proper clothing for the kindergartner who comes to school in December without a coat.

"I can't do anything about their home life, particularly," Biggs said. "But an education is the only thing they can grab onto to break the cycle. If we're not going to help them break out, the cycle is going to continue, and we'll all pay."

Biggs thinks Jackson Elementary has an obligation "to make up for some of the poorness." But its effectiveness has been limited, she believes, by a poverty continuum that puts poor children and poor schools on the same line.

"To me, this is sending a message that you're nobody -- you don't count," Biggs said. "How in the world do you justify this place when someone else has a heated swimming pool?"

"Heck, I don't even want a swimming pool. I don't begrudge the Dublins of the state for having them. But we're not getting the basics. I think a gymnasium is basic. I think computers in every classroom is basic. I think up-to-date books is basic.

"I've got kids here who have never seen a skyscraper or ridden an escalator. They don't leave the county. I need the tools to be able to show them that this isn't the only way to live."

Property-poor districts such as Jackson have been doomed to struggle under the school-funding system that was declared unconstitutional Monday, said Jackson treasurer Ernie Strawser, who applauded the Ohio Supreme Court ruling.

"Our voters are doing what's being asked," he said. "They're voting in the millage that would stand with anyone in the state. Whenever I go to Columbus, I'm not embarrassed by our effort. The wealth is just not here to tax."

Per pupil, the Jackson school district has about \$50,000 in local property valuation. The state average is about \$90,000. With an annual per-pupil cost of \$4,304, Jackson ranks 585th among the state's 611 districts, according to the Ohio Department of Education.

"The thing is," Strawser said, "there are faces behind this whole process of numbers. Let's all get serious and start talking about kids."

Wanting more for youngsters

About 155 pupils attend Jackson Elementary, a white, cement-block building that proudly proclaims itself in hand-painted red letters.

Little about the school's structure and style has changed in the 25 years since Madora Gillum, who has four sons at Jackson, went to school here herself.

It still has no gymnasium, no more than a scrap of paved playground. Music classes are squeezed into a small end of the busy cafeteria, which may, on rainy or cold days, be simultaneously hosting a physical-education class.

The entire art program is contained on one movable cart; the tiny, unstaffed library, which teachers and parents are working furiously to update, still has too many crumbling, outdated books.

But Gillum, a 37-year-old single mother who struggles to support her boys on a combination of public assistance and part-time work, has faith in these walls.

"I have a goal," she said one day after volunteering during the school's Secret Santa program. "And that is to see my kids get an education. I want them to live better than I live. I don't want them to work part time and be on welfare."

Against a lot of odds, Gillum already has one son in college, at the University of Rio Grande in nearby Gallia County.

Jackson teachers say her other sons are bright, funny children who need to be challenged. They also have a staggering amount of poverty to overcome.

Nine-year-old twins Russell and Trevor, 8-year-old Wyatt and 6-year-old Chad rely on school for two of their three daily meals and most of their books and toys. Gillum's cluttered, aging mobile home often is in a state of chaos.

"We know the background they're coming from, and I guess I was amazed at how well-disciplined they are," said second-grade teacher Sandy Mustard, who has Wyatt in class this year. "They want to do well. They have a good attitude."

Mustard, a Jackson Elementary alumna who has bypassed chances to work elsewhere, is a loyal devotee of its warm, familylike atmosphere. She wishes it could offer more tangibles -- a microscope, a new computer program -- to the Gillums and other children.

"I think that's the really big downfall here," Mustard said. "I see the really bright child suffering."

Denise Fite, Jackson's third-grade teacher, has Trevor, Russell and her 8-year-old son, Randy, in class.

"I live in town, and I bring both of my boys out here because I believe it's a good school," Fite said. "But I know we don't have the hands-on materials that you see in a lot of districts. We have the textbooks, and we go from there."

Trevor, who easily manages straight A's, "should be pushed," Fite said. Were he attending a school in a wealthier community, he probably would have access to many of the things that exist only on Fite's classroom wish list.

"A satellite system for educational shows would be great," she said. "And COSI. I would like to take my kids to COSI."

Just as it is rarely possible for teachers to schedule field trips, it is impossible for Jackson Elementary to provide daily contact with a school nurse, guidance counselor or speech therapist. The district's eight schools share one nurse and one speech therapist. One guidance counselor -- a new position this year -- serves six elementaries.

"Around here," speech therapist Sherry Meyers said, "it's language problems to the hilt."

But because the district's other speech therapist works full time in a pre-kindergarten program, Meyers is all Jackson -- and the other schools -- has.

"It makes me sick -- just makes me sick," she said. "Do you really think 20 or 30 minutes a week is going to do the job? What happens if I miss a day or they're sick? Inconsistency just blows a kid away."

Meyers is working with nearly 70 children a week, including one shy, smiling Jackson Elementary pupil who is

in kindergarten for the second year. Her speech is so poor that she often is not understood; Meyers wants to refer her to private therapy.

"Sure, we're fulfilling standards," Meyers said. "But that's irrelevant. The kids aren't learning."

Finding solutions

Because it is part of a district where bare-bones budgets have long been the norm, Jackson Elementary is used to looking inward for help.

Rare is the fresh coat of paint or new rug that isn't somehow linked to the generosity of a parent, teacher or local business.

"I get \$1,000 for the year for paper, art supplies, books, Band-Aids, jump ropes, balls, bulletin boards, copy paper, periodicals -- everything you can think of that a building needs," Biggs said. "As you can imagine, it doesn't go very far."

Each classroom teacher has a \$100 budget for the year, a sum Fite says "doesn't make a dent in the bucket. I spend \$100 before the door opens."

Staff contributions are not merely a poor-school phenomenon, but in schools such as Jackson Elementary, they are less optional than critical.

"We have to buy our own sponges to wash the blackboards," Fite said. "Then you have the kid who comes along and is already on free lunch and breakfast, and he wants milk. So I pay for it out of my own pocket. I won't turn a child away from milk.

"Same thing happens," she said with a smile, "when I see that child without a coat or mittens."

Staff members also regularly provide money for workbooks and weekly readers. Even when a \$33 fee is broken into payments, secretary Janice Kight said, some families struggle.

But those same parents may well offer sweat equity, the kind that has helped Jackson shine more this year than most.

The Parent Teacher Organization is responsible for a modest library renovation; staff members mutually joined a book club so they could donate new books.

Biggs solicited new flags from local congressmen, persuaded Wal-Mart to give her \$300 worth of shrubbery; enlisted her son, an art student, to paint murals; and spent \$500 of her money to turn a storage room into a teachers' lounge.

Even the chair she sits on is hers.

"I could have spent some of the building budget on the office," said Biggs, who does not have one of her own. "But I couldn't justify it."

Strawser, the treasurer, said many poor, rural communities have a stubborn sense of pride. Instead of decrying the irony of a grant that provides new computers for classrooms without the electrical outlets to run them, staff members sigh and take on another problem.

They look for electricians, saw the legs off old desks to make computer furniture, bring in wall mirrors so that little girls can check their hair in the bathroom.

For more than two decades, Kight, the ever-calm secretary, served as Jackson's de facto leader for half of each school day. Until Biggs received the job this year, even the position of Jackson E principal was part time.

"There's almost a risk in showing that we're getting by here, that we're not headed for the loan fund, because that gives a false sense of security," Strawser said. "People here are so used to saying, 'We're going to make do. We'll make do.'"

"And then you see what most other schools have, and you have to ask, 'Why? Why don't our children get those opportunities? Are we making do?'"

Mark Abell, director of admissions at the University of Rio Grande, recently drove a student to Jackson to provide a special enrichment program. He also handed Biggs \$100 for the needy family of her choice.

"We are located in southeastern Ohio, in an Appalachian area, so we are very sensitive to the needs," said Abell, whose wife, Hillary, teaches at Jackson High School.

"Rural poverty doesn't get the attention. The inner-city screams of crime, drug use, huge societal problems. What this screams of is just individual pain and suffering."

Abell said he often steers extra help, such as an annual university-sponsored trip to its Little Buckeye Theater, toward elementaries such as Jackson.

"Access to places like institutions of higher learning should not occur first when they're seniors in high school. The die is cast then. Right now, these kids are so optimistic and hopeful," Abell said, peeking into the cafeteria. "By the time my wife gets them in class, a lot of them are beaten down."

Sizing up the school

Ten-year-old Seth Mercer, one link in a small circle of fourth- and fifth- graders sitting on the library floor, happily offers a broad opinion of his neighborhood school.

"I like it," he said, shaking his head for effect. "I like it a lot. I like it because of the fun stuff we get to do, and I like it because of Mrs. Biggs."

His classmates wiggle, look away and eventually nod in agreement. A few minutes pass before they decide they'd also like to add a few gentle criticisms.

"The playground gets flooded, and we use the lunchroom when it rains," said Katie Cosby, 9. "It gets kind of crowded. The soccer nets aren't soccer nets. They're too short to catch the ball."

Justin Wilson, 9, said what the school really needs is a gym. Earlier that wet day, physical-education teacher Paula Erwin -- who works out of her car trunk -- tried to lead exercises in a desk-filled classroom.

"That's what I'm a wantin'," Justin said without a hint of bitterness. "I help my dad sell candles, and I just might try and get enough to help build one -- a big one."

"And the one thing I have to say about this library is, we need some new books."

"These are all old and ripped," Katie said.

"Sometimes," Seth added, "they fall apart."

Were Seth, Katie and Justin to venture much beyond Jackson County, Biggs knows, their assessments might be less kind.

"They know this is old," she said. "They don't know to gripe."

But the Jackson High School student council officers found it hard not to when they returned from a December visit to Dublin Coffman High School.

"They have this big room with nothing but college material in it," said Jamie Hale, 17. "Most of us didn't even know they have that stuff."

Kristin Gilliland, 17, was awestruck by Dublin's Internet room, reference room, number of advanced-placement courses and science equipment.

At Jackson High, science teacher Charles Bowman said, the labs have "nothing modern, and we haven't for years. There's no way we could run an AP chemistry course because we don't have the facilities. It's like it was 40 years ago when I was in school."

Biology labs fare even worse: Teacher Diane Richards has to bring in buckets of water for experiments.

"I think we have educational opportunities in Jackson, and some excellent teachers," said 17-year-old Morgan Washam, who visited Dublin. "But the fact of the matter is, they have a lot more opportunities."

Still, what many people don't understand, said Kay Jewell, a first-grade teacher at Jackson, is that equity advocates don't expect instant parity with rich, suburban districts. They expect compassion and honest effort.

"We've got people up here, and we've got people down here," Jewell said, holding her hands a foot apart. "You just have to make sure you're trying to pull the bottom up."

If the Gillum boys are aware of the obstacles life has put before them, they aren't saying. Or perhaps they're merely busy jumping over each one.

Madora Gillum's tired eyes sparkle a bit when she describes

their plans. The flat voice gains pitch.

"Trevor's already telling me he's going to be a doctor. I said, 'Yes! Go for it!' Wyatt, he wants to build skyscrapers. Russell wants to be a lawyer. Chad, he's the only one who hasn't got his head out of the clouds," Gillum said of her youngest.

"He'd still like to be a cowboy."

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Highlights In Special Education

WINTER 1998 / VOL. 19 NO. 4

Creating a Learning Society: Jackson City Schools/ University of Rio Grande Partnership Benefits Students, Staff, & Teachers-in-Training



Faculty members from the University of Rio Grande's College of Education have joined forces with Jackson Elementary School staff to improve the academic and behavioral performance of children with and without disabilities. Through the establishment of a unique partnership with Jackson Elementary, teachers-in-training are provided with in-depth exposure to

the classroom *early* in their university program and prior to the standard student teaching experience.

While university students receive obvious professional and personal gains from this arrangement, Jackson Elementary School teachers believe that children — especially nonidentified youngsters who have instructional needs similar to their peers with disabilities — are the ultimate

beneficiaries of the partnership. "Any time you put two instructors in the classroom at the same time, you cut the student-teacher ratio in half and you get nothing but gains," explained special educator *Tammy Wyant*.

Traveling Parallel Paths

In the summer of 1997, University of Rio Grande (URG) professors *Dr. Ralph Shibley* and *Dr. Charmaine Lepley*, developed a plan to significantly improve the preparation of special education teachers/intervention specialists. Acting on their belief that early and extensive exposure to a variety of classroom environments is a critical component in preparing URG graduates to meet the needs of children with disabilities "across the spectrum" (i.e., from kindergarten through twelfth grade, and from ages five through 21), they approached Jackson Elementary School.

At about the same time, Jackson Elementary School staff were engaging in their own buildingwide reform efforts to more meaningfully include children with disabilities in regular education environments for a majority of the school day. Teachers, who were opposed to inclusive practices three years ago, are now outspoken advocates for educating children with and without disabilities together.



Dr. Ralph Shibley, professor at the University of Rio Grande (URG), demonstrates an instructional approach to URG student Tasha Sommer.



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SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

NANCY ANN EBERHART
INTERIM CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER

JOHN HERNER, DIRECTOR
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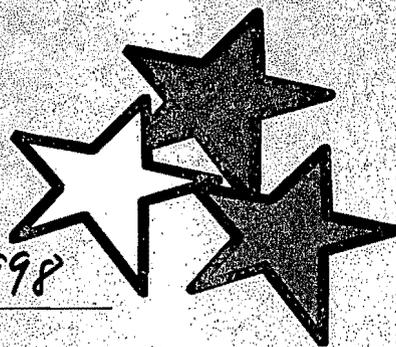
Jackson Elementary

Is a Member of the
National Network of
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To Improve School-Family-Community Connections

Joyce Epstein
Joyce Epstein, Director
Partnership Schools
Johns Hopkins University

June 1998
Date



Franklin County Organized Labor

Youth Services Award



in recognition of your community service projects.

Debbie Biggs
Teacher

Jackson Elementary
SCHOOL

Professional Guild
UNION SPONSOR



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Medical Center
17273 State Route 104
Chillicothe OH 45601**

January 8, 1999

In Reply Refer To: 538/135

Ms. Debbie Biggs
Jackson Elementary School
236 Savagville School Rd.
Jackson, Ohio 45640

Dear Ms. Biggs:

On behalf of our veteran patients, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of the children's letters of appreciation (received 12/3/98).

It would be impossible for our staff to fulfill all the special needs of our patients. Only through the efforts and generosity of our volunteers are we able to offer so much to our hospitalized veterans.

Thank you, once again, for your kindness. It is indeed comforting and a reassurance to our veterans that they are not forgotten.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gayle Ison".

GAYLE ISON
Chief, Voluntary Service



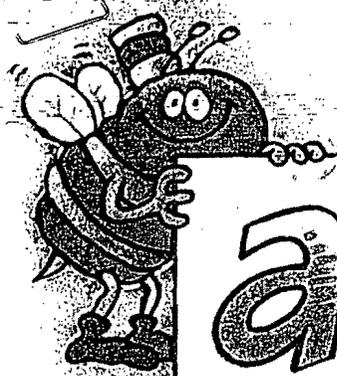
Jackson E. Students Honor United States Veterans

Students at Jackson Elementary celebrated Veterans' Day with special guest, Chief Petty Officer Paul Haller of the United States Naval Reserve. Chief Haller expressed his pride in serving this great country. He explained how we need to celebrate Veterans' Day as a way to honor past and present veterans for their dedication and valor. Chief Haller shared many items used daily by service personnel while on the field. The students especially enjoyed a video displaying pictures of historical monuments, military bases, and Naval carriers and aircraft. The video concluded with the popular Lee Greenwood song, "God Bless the U.S.A." Chills and a few tears were experienced by all as the students joined voices in a salute and tribute to our veterans. Pictured are Chief Haller and Russell Gillum.



Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Grant Awarded

Jackson City Schools were recently awarded a Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Grant. The purpose of the grant was to expose the district's fourth- and fifth-grade students to a planetarium experience. The monetary contribution enabled Jackson City Schools to take the 420 fourth- and fifth-graders to Shawnee University's planetarium in Portsmouth, Ohio. The students were required to identify seasonal constellations, planets, nebula and star clusters at the planetarium. They returned to their classrooms to continue their investigation of the "night skies" with films, reports, art projects and computer software. Pictured are Jackson Elementary students and teacher Mrs. Mary Hess. Instead of making Christmas cookies, the students made cookies of planets and stars.



ANNOUNCEMENT



At the Burger King benefit night held Nov. 5, pictured above with Burger Bear are teachers, Joye Adkins and Dennis Fite, and student Paul Snyder. Pictured below are "Friends of Burger King" - T. J. Mustard, Adam Whetstone, Courtney Rouse and Ben Harris.



Jackson Elementary, Burger King 'Partners In Education'

Jackson Elementary and Burger King Restaurant share a bond of being Partners in Education. Burger King treats seven of Jackson Elementary's students to lunch every month. The lucky pupils are selected by their teachers for displaying the virtue of the month. The staff is also treated to a free breakfast twice a year.

Burger King will be presenting their Stranger Awareness Program to the Jackson Elementary kindergarten class in December. In May, they will provide hamburgers for Jackson Elementary's Olympics.

Jackson Elementary has two

benefit nights at Burger King to help raise money for field trips to Columbus. The money from the aqua skills game located on the counter of the Jackson Burger King is also donated to the school to help pay for the buses used to go to Columbus.

Those at Jackson Elementary feel very fortunate to have the financial support and the educational support Burger King Restaurant has given. Several of the employees at Burger King say they have enjoyed working with the school as much as the students have enjoyed Burger Bear and his friends.

Owls, Planes, Coal And More

Field Trip Provides 5th-Graders Hands-On Education

BY RED THOMPSON, JR.
Times-Journal Writer

Scientific theories and concepts came alive for fifth-grade students in the Jackson City School District Thursday afternoon as more than 200 students visited Canter's Cave 4-H facility for a special learning expedition.

The purpose of the trip was for students to learn more about science-related topics in a hands-on fashion. The event was paid for by the Vital Links Grant, which the district received earlier in the year. This grant also provides added funding for science classes.

Many people from different organizations were on hand to demonstrate their various hobbies or occupations. Those persons and the topics they discussed were: Mildred and John Finsel, water-related occupations; Cindy Jenkins, Mead Paper; Gail Laux, birds; Kyle Lewis, aeronautics; Dave Samples, archeology; and Brenda Weber of the Sands Hill Coal Co., coal.

The youngsters were mesmerized as Lewis, at his station, displayed his radio-controlled-model airplanes. He displayed many of his bigger planes and explained how they were built. Later, he did a flight exercise for the entire group.

Flight of a more natural nature was being explained just across the way as Gail Laux, the executive director of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, displayed many different types of birds.

Among those fowls displayed



Photo By Red Thompson

Learning more about birds such as falcons was just part of the purpose behind a day-long, scientific expedition for Jackson School District fifth-graders held at Canter's Cave 4-H camp last Thursday. The bird was being held by Gail Laux, the executive director of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary.

were falcons, owls and chicken hawks. The owl drew a popular response as it flapped its wings when the youngsters had a chance to see it. However, the students could not pet the birds due to their place on federal protected list.

Laux also explained why the owls are known as nocturnal creatures.

"The owl is very slow in movement and therefore has to sneak up on its prey," Laux told *The Times-Jour-*

nal. "It can hunt successfully during the day, but it's easier for them to operate under the cover of darkness."

The students took a deep interest in all of the activities offered during the day and enjoyed the outcomes associated with the event.

Event coordinator Debbie Biggs, also the principal at Jackson Elementary School, extended her thanks to everyone for participating in the

event. She also believes this has a positive long-term effect on learning principles.

"One of the best ways to learn through first-hand experience," said Biggs. "Also, having all students together builds strong within the school district."

She and the other school leaders are hoping these kinds of learning activities will continue to be offered in the future.



Photo By Red Thompson, Jr.

Franklin Elementary School student Jessica Henderson (with hands up) was looking toward the sky as Kyle Lewis (not pictured) was putting on his radio-controlled airplane demonstration. Aviation principles were only one of seven scientific activities displayed at Canter's Cave Thursday afternoon.



Photo By Red Thompson,

Brenda Weber from Sands Hill Coal Co. got a receptive response from the Jackson fifth-grade students. Just after her discussion on coal and coal mining, the youngsters took a moment to have some fun during the day-long scientific, fact-finding mission at Canter's Cave 4-H camp in Jackson Township.

Principal, Legislator In Good Guy/Gal Spotlight

Last Wednesday in this space, the editor tossed sweet-smelling editorial bouquets to Jim Riepenhoff, Tom Evans and the trio of Lady Baesman, Dick Billman and Alana Billman.

These five persons were honored in the editor's first installment of his annual Good Guys/Good Gals column. It's meant to be a journalistic tip of the hat to Jackson Countians who through their achievements, deeds and examples, made a positive impact on the lives of local folk during the past year.

Riepenhoff spearheaded the bond issue campaign that will result in the construction of two new buildings for the Wellston City School District. As mayor of Jackson, Evans has presided over an efficient and progressive municipal administration without the benefit of a city income tax. Meanwhile, Mrs. Baesman and the Billmans teamed up to organize one of the most successful charity fund-raisers in the history of the county -- the Relay For Life event in August that supported the American Cancer Society.

But even as I write, they are moving to one side so other worthy Jackson Countians can join them in the spotlight. And here they come, two more Good Guys and Good Gals...

Some colleagues may have wondered if Debbie Biggs made the correct career decision several years ago when she sought the position of principal of Jackson Elementary School.

The Jackson resident and veteran Jackson City School District educator had been the assistant principal at Lick Middle School and her hard-working, hands-on style made her respected by her superiors, peers, staff and students.

But the Jackson Elementary assignment brought with it some sobering challenges and disadvantages. Perhaps more than any other single building in the district, the students come from outlying areas and a greater percentage of them from modest to poor backgrounds.

Also, the building and facilities are somewhat old, deficient and generally lacking. When the Jackson Elementary's plight became better known statewide because of an in-depth article in *The Columbus Dispatch* and because of damages caused in the 1997

THE EDITOR'S DESK



BY PETE WILSON

flood, the school has become something of a poster child for educational want.

Not content to bite her lip and simply "get by," Principal Biggs has spearheaded an effort to raise the bar at Jackson Elementary School. She has gladly and gratefully accepted donations and contributions from richer districts such as Thomas Worthington and Cincinnati Indian Hill.

She has been willing to try new programs and pursue grants in order to improve and expand the educational opportunities at her school and broaden the students' horizons. She has attempted to improve the facilities by seeking donations, but also has drafted her artistic son to paint murals throughout the building to make it a brighter and more attractive place.

Through it all, she has demonstrated an estimable commitment and indomitable spirit to succeed at her mission, which isn't about just running a school. More importantly, it's about truly helping and caring about the children in her charge.

Very quietly and with little fanfare, State Representative John Carey of Wellston has become not only one of the most liked and respected public servants in all of Jackson County, but a major political voice and force in the region and state as well.

When the election returns came in late on the evening of Nov. 3, they showed the Republican Carey

a runaway winner not only in his home Jackson County, but in each of the four counties that comprise the 94th Ohio House District.

Although Republican-leaning Jackson County saw fit to send Democrats to both the Congress and the state senate, they overwhelmingly supported Carey in his bid for his third two-year term. In fact, Carey rolled up a higher individual vote total in Jackson County than any other contested candidate.

Carey, who began his political career as a popular and effective mayor of Wellston, took his knocks before gaining success of the regional level. He lost by a big margin to incumbent State Representative Mark Malone in 1992 before breaking through and upsetting Malone two year later. He followed up this success by trouncing different challengers in both 1996 and 1998.

The reason that many didn't perhaps notice this big political accomplishment is Carey's humble manner. Unlike most politicians, he doesn't try to bring attention to himself and he doesn't spew populist bombast that sounds good, but means little in the real world. And Carey has kept in close contact with his constituents through regular forums in the local communities and by maintaining a regular schedule of appearances at local events.

In his low-profile, non-confrontational way, Carey works within the system to get things done for his district and for Jackson County. And, of course, it helps that Carey is a member of the majority party and that he's viewed by his colleagues as a team player. As a member of the powerful Finance Committee, he should be in a position to make sure that Southeastern Ohio, the 94th District and Jackson County get a fair shake from state government.

Carey's influence and presence was likely a factor when the state, through the Ohio School Facilities Commission, allocated more than \$28 million for a major school-building construction package for the Wellston City School District. He is also working on a legislative plan that would help districts such as Jackson City that are years away from state building assistance under the current formula, but yet are saddled with old buildings in need of immediate replacement.

Carey has also worked to bring



DEBBIE BIGGS,
Jackson Elementary
School Principal



JOHN CAREY,
State Representative,
94th House District

state money to other district projects, including the Markay Cultural Arts Center in Jackson and the University of Rio Grande. On the economic development front, he also worked to pass legislation that would make it more viable for developers to establish industrial parks in this area.

Through it all, John Carey has remained the same person -- polite, unassuming, accessible and committed to public service and making a difference for his home state, district, county and community.

(More Honorees
Later This Week)



Photo By Pete Wilso

Jackson Elementary School Principal Debbie Biggs (left) gratefully accepts 28 boxes of new or gently-used books donated by the Cincinnati Indian Hill School District that were delivered Dec. 22 by Indian Hill teacher and former resident, Dr. Melba Reno (center), and her brother, Jim Price of Jackson.

'Adopted' Local School Receives Literary Gift

BY PETE WILSON
Times-Journal Editor

When students return to Jackson Elementary School Monday after the holiday break, even the skeptics in the bunch will believe there really is a Santa Claus.

In this case, "Santa Claus" was impersonated by students and residents of the Indian Hill School District, who generously donated 28 boxes of new or gently-used books to the local school. Indian Hill is a wealthy district in suburban Cincinnati.

The delivery of the hundreds of books was made on Dec. 22 by Jackson resident Jim Price and his sister, Melba Price Reno, a kindergarten teacher in the Indian Hill District. On hand to gratefully accept the literary gift was Jackson Elementary Principal Debbie Biggs.

Since the students and parents of Indian Hill Primary School basically decided to officially "adopt" Jackson Elementary as a continuing goodwill project, Mrs. Reno indicates that more and other types of donations will be made. School supplies will likely be the next category of giving.

The project was initiated when Mr. Price suggested to his sister that Indian Hill consider adopting Jackson Elementary. He was familiar with the school's problems and material shortcomings, which result from a lack of wealth. The 1997 flood also damaged the school.

"I got a phone call from Jim, who had talked to a parent who was concerned about school supplies," Mrs. Reno recounted. "He said we (Indian Hill) should adopt this school."

Price said he told his sister, "it was payback time," a reference to her days growing up in a big family in Jackson County, and now having the golden opportunity to help a school in her home county that did not enjoy the same educational advantages as her current school.

Mrs. Reno broached the idea to her principal, Sandy Harte, and she found her to be very receptive to the notion of helping Jackson Elementary. A committee was formed and it was decided to "adopt" the local school.

BOOKS:

Continued From Page 1

"The response was phenomenal," Mrs. Reno recounted. "Not one person said no." She noted that staff, students and parents were enthusiastic about the initial book-donation project and responded by donating a veritable library of children's books.

Mrs. Biggs was delighted with the donation and says the books will be used in the main to establish badly needed classroom libraries, which will increase the opportunities for students to read.

Noting that some of the books are part of the Accelerated Reading Program, the principal said she would strive to find the related computer program that can be used in tandem with the books.

Although Jackson Elementary is definitely not Indian Hill Primary School, Mrs. Reno was impressed with the efforts of Mrs. Biggs and the staff to help Jackson Elementary in being the best it can be.

"You've done a wonderful job with what you have," she told Mrs. Biggs as they finished a quick tour of the building.

"We've come a long way," the principal responded, "but it's a continuing thing."

Another major step on that path was taken last Dec. 22, thanks to a local family that remembered its roots and the generosity of a school district a hundred miles away.