

**St. Joseph's  
SCHOOL NEWS**



BY ANNE-MARIE MCGERAGLE & MELISSA PAWLAK

Our girls volleyball team started off on their first game on Oct. 7. They were going to play a double header but the other team forfeited which means we won an automatic two games! What a wonderful way to start off! The boys team is had their first game on Oct. 8.

In some of the classes interesting things have happened so we asked the teachers what was going on. Now you can know too.

Mrs. Barrett's and Mrs.

Munkacsi's classes joined for a Thanksgiving celebration in the gym. They all made place mats and one class dressed up as Indians, and the other class as pilgrims. They all enjoyed eating lunch together as a way of celebrating the first Thanksgiving. The kindergartens are making stone soup.

In Mr. Harkin's class they had a class mass in the church on Friday with guitarists, readers and gift bearers.

In Mrs. Curry's class they did a Thanksgiving Festival. They even popped popcorn off a cob.

Mr. Morris's class made turkeys as their craft last week. They are excited to have a new program on their computer.

Mrs. Spiak's class made a pot of fall vegetable soup using many fresh vegetables from their own gardens. They also made napkin rings and place mats to use at their lunch feast. Everyone will be dressing up as pioneers.

We hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving.

**M.Z. Bennett  
SCHOOL NEWS**



BY LUCAS GREEN & CHARLA BANKS

M.Z. Bennett School is really busy already and everyone is working at being part of activities at the school.

Our Cross Country team ran the North Trials on Thursday, Oct. 8. Our librarian, Mrs. Andrews says "Thanks" for a great response to our Book Fair, and hopes that it will be just as successful next year.

Mr. Mashinter's class will be using the CHAT System through MODEM, which is a Tele Communication program for introduc-

tions to Mr. Shier's class in Georgetown. They hope to be penpals and write back and forth to each other. Mr. Mashinter's class did some fun flying experiments with chestnuts also.

A wonderful visitor arrived at Mr. Shrubsole's kindergarten classroom last week: a huge white turkey in his own cage.

Mrs. Spencer's class entertained us with their version of Robert Munsch's book "Mortimer." Everyone enjoyed it, the performers and the audience.

Our first meeting of The Green Club was Wednesday, Oct. 7. Each Wednesday the members sort fine paper and construction paper for recycling.

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# OMB rejects Rockwood development plan

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Ontario Municipal Board has halted plans for a major housing development on the outskirts of Rockwood because it is premature and not in the public interest.

"It's a moral victory and a vindication," said an elated Eramosa Township Reeve Laverne Harris in an interview Saturday.

"The OMB accepted geological and environmental evidence which showed the Oelbaum plan would have a negative impact on the community. The OMB also listened to local citizens who did their own review of the Official Plan and raised concerns about the development's impact."

In the ruling the Board said it has concerns about the Karst geological formations in the area and the potential for the development of large sink holes since no proper geological studies have been done.

Ron Oelbaum wanted to build 53 large rural estate lots on some of the 98 hectares (241 acres) of land he owns bordering Rockwood

and County Road 44. Oelbaum asked the OMB to approve an Official Plan amendment for an expansion of the Rockwood village boundary, a zoning bylaw amendment and subdivision plan approval. All three were rejected by the OMB in its 47-page decision released last Tuesday.

Harris said the board's decision is a vindication of the new council's policy to be more pro-active when dealing with development proposals. "It's a comprehensive decision which will help out in long-term strategic planning," Harris said. "We now will be able to take a look at infilling plans and our infrastructure system. We will have to back up our position with

solid bylaws and resolutions."

In its decision the Board noted that two previous councils had refused to deal with Oelbaum's proposal and were voted out of office. The Board said that since pressure for development in Rockwood will continue, the municipality, ratepayers and the development industry should establish a better working relationship to avoid costly confrontations in the future.

The Board also agreed with concerns raised by the City of Guelph that an increase of sewage flow from Rockwood could not be handled adequately. Sewage from Rockwood is piped to Guelph's sewage treatment plant.

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