

EDUCATION

Teaching method's friends

"My standards have not changed, but my ability to get students to write has," one proponent says.

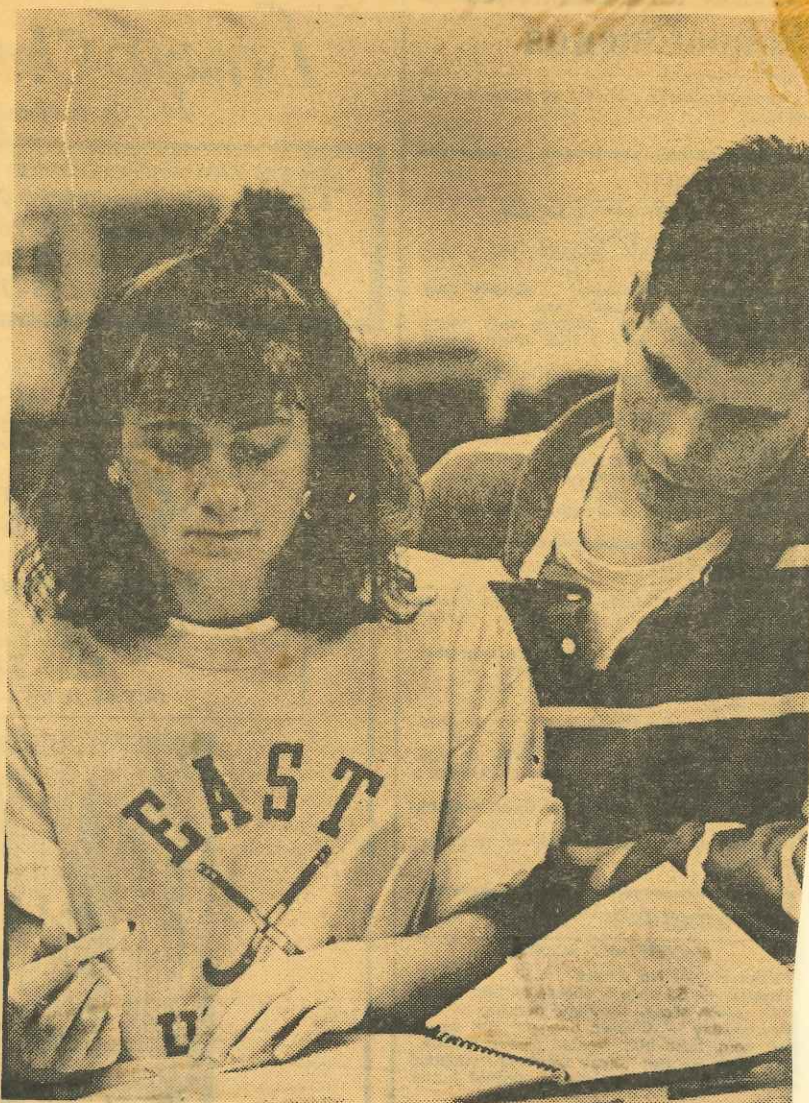
By Joy D. Gasta
Special to The Inquirer

First Krista Finan read her poem about a bubble gum machine and Wendy Fraser read her story "Mermaid Tiffany," which she was writing with Michelle Rosato.

Steve Gillmore passed around his three-part cartoon story about a soccer player. J.J. Pickney was reluctant at first to tell his tale. When he did read "Teradome," about a "perfectly normal kid" sucked into the television by an energy creature, the others loved it.

The students in Jolene Borgese's 12th-grade English class at East High School in West Chester were working on the books they are writing for a group of second graders. The day

(Continued on next page)



Special to The Inquirer / BOB WILLIAM

At East, Kristen Bracken goes over draft with Kevin O'Donnell.

Continued from preceding page
before, they had worked on research papers.

In both projects they use what educators call *writing as process*. In class that means each student finds a topic that's interesting, writes for a real audience and lets creative ideas flow at the beginning. The students then bounce ideas off classmates, fine first drafts and finally perfect final drafts in small groups.

Writing as process in one way another has touched every school in the county in the last several years. Borgese has used writing as process for the last 10 years, since she attended a five-week institute at the Pennsylvania Writing Project at West Chester University. She is now co-director of the project.

The Pennsylvania Writing Project is the first in the state, was founded in 1979 by its director, Robert H. Weiss, professor of English at West Chester University, and was modeled after

writing projects in California. Today there are 144 writing projects in 44 states, seven in Pennsylvania.

The impact of these projects could soon spread.

In January, a bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate that would appropriate \$8.6 million to the projects. Sen. John Heinz (R., Pa.) supports the measure, citing a study done in 1983 that showed a 16.5 percent increase in writing performance of elementary pupils taught by Writing Project teachers, and a 4.5 percent increase for secondary students.

If passed, the Senate bill would provide money for individual Writing Projects at universities to train teachers. More than 100 projects would be started nationwide, including one in central Pennsylvania, which has none now.

Another bill, introduced in January by state Rep. Elinor Z. Taylor (R., Chester), seeks \$240,000 for the writ-

ing projects in the state.

"The Writing Project is the most cost-effective way to train teachers," said director Weiss. "It costs about 10 percent of other kinds of workshops, and it will go under if we don't get the funds." The tuition cost of the five-week, 120-hour summer institute is about \$1,000.

For the last two years, bills to finance the Writing Project in the state House and Senate have been either passed then died in appropriations or have stayed in committee.

"It's nobody's baby," Weiss said. "It's not clearly higher education or

elementary, not clearly state or local. But now the federal bill has moved state legislators to know more about the subject."

The scores of teachers who have been to a Writing Project summer institute or workshop are enthusiastic. In terms that sound like a religious conversion, they speak of holis-

tic evaluation (grading more than the mechanics of a paper) and writing across the curriculum (writing as a learning tool in all subjects). They describe writing as literally a different process than it was a few years ago in most schools.

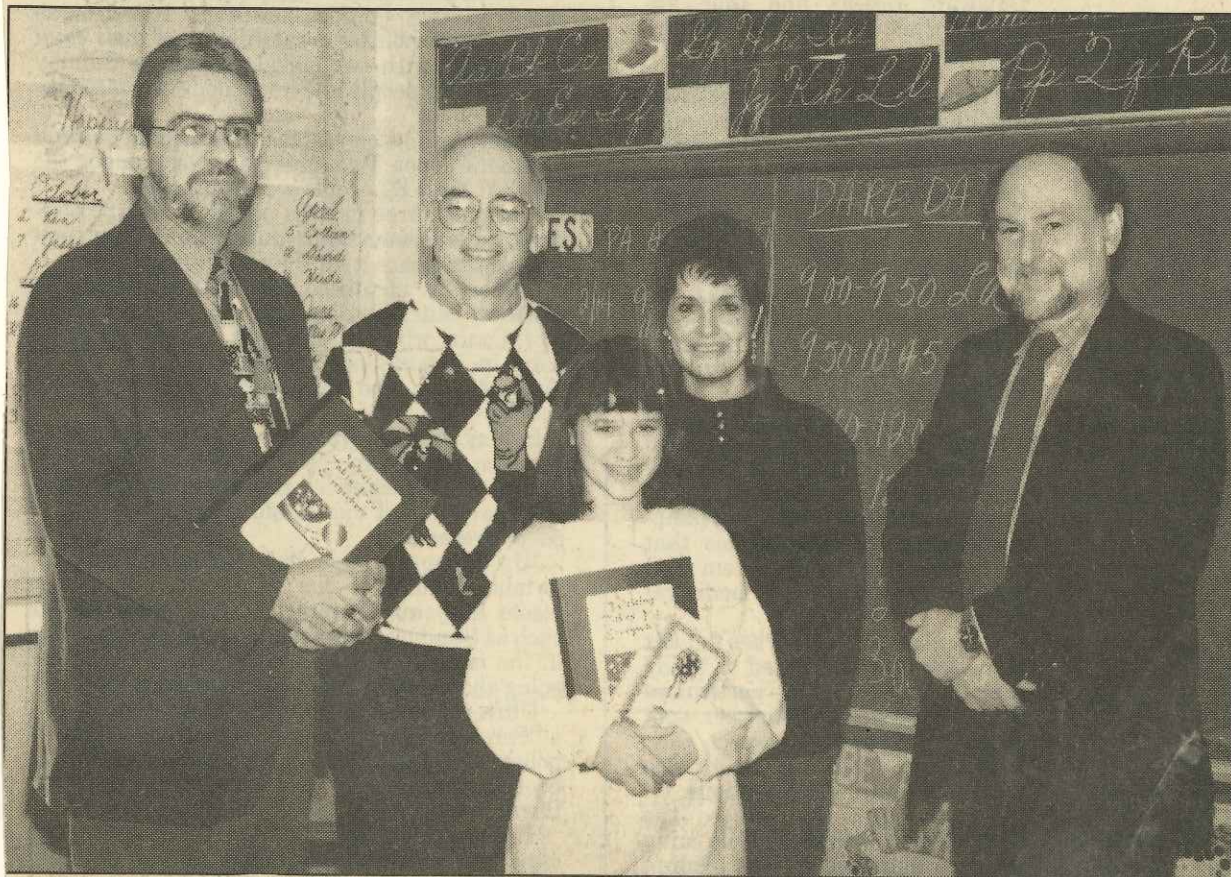
"I was very much a hard, stern teacher," Weiss said. "I would fail one-third of a class. My standards have not changed, but my ability to get students to write has. It helps just to let them choose a subject they're interested."

Weiss said the teaching of English became confounded about 100 years ago by the mechanics of grammar.

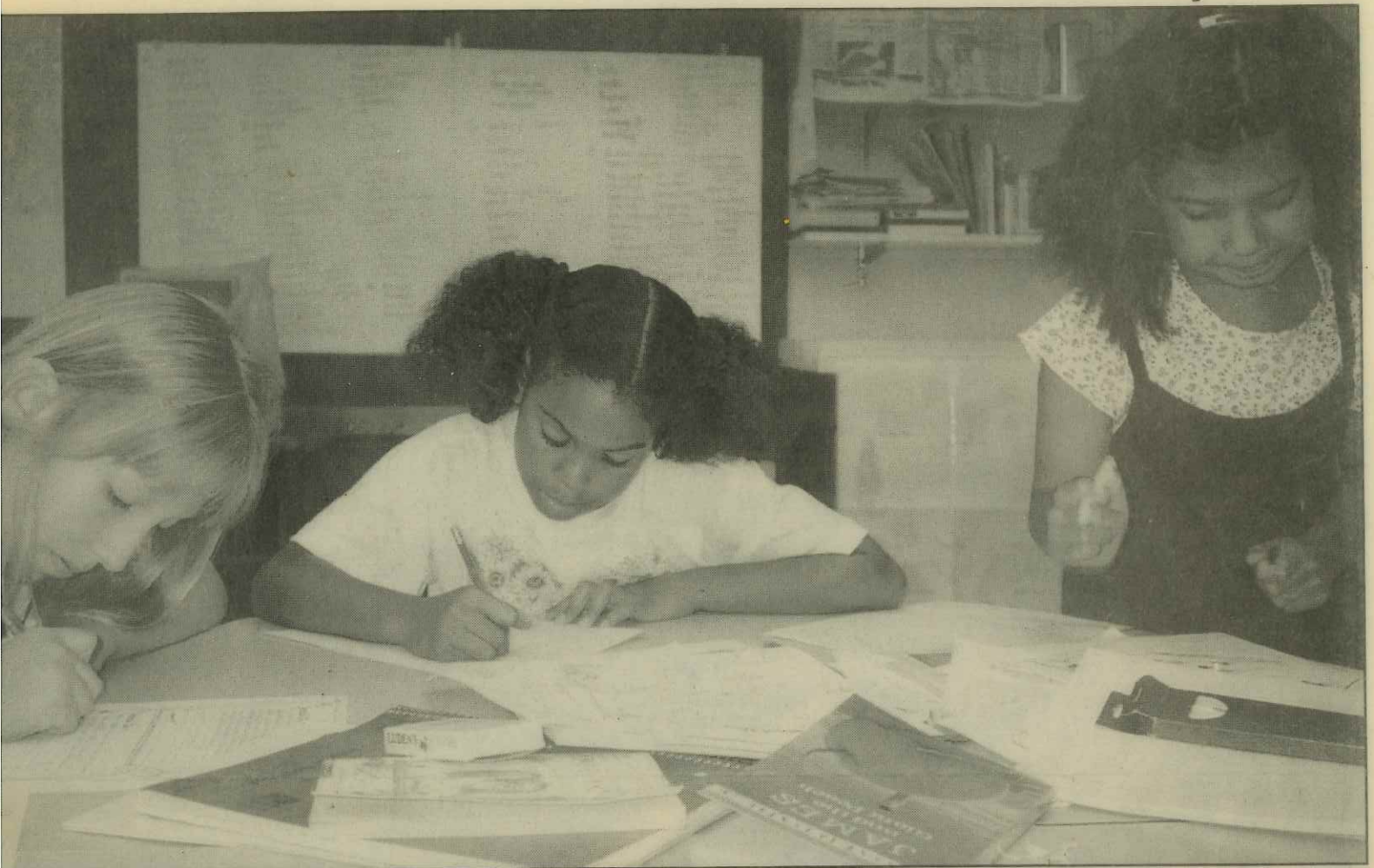
"We're the only English-speaking country which teaches language by drills and skills, by isolating parts," Weiss said. "There's no evidence that attention to grammar helps. Every evidence is that writing atrophies with such attention."

CLOSE TO HOME

DAILY LOCAL NEWS



West Bradford fifth grader Megan Kelly had her adventure story, 'A Place Across the Water,' published in the Pennsylvania Writing Project's anthology of student writing. With her are (from left) West Bradford principal Bob Clegg, parents Michael and Debbie Kelly and Pennsylvania Writing Project director Robert Weiss, a West Chester University professor.



Participating in the Young Writers/Young Readers Program are Jillian Fox, 9, and Ashley Owens, 9, both from Round

Meadow Elementary School, and Meredith Dean, 8, from Highland Elementary School.
(Staff photo by Amy Gianficaro)

Summer reading

Boys spend vacation becoming better writers

By Amy Gianficaro
Staff Writer

UPPER MORELAND SCHOOLS — The first year, 9-year-old Meredith Mintzer adhered to her mother's insistence.

After two years, though, she decided to attend on her own accord. Meredith, an Upper Moreland Middle School student, has no doubts about becoming a writer. In fact, she's not yet sure what career she'll pursue.

For a few days this summer, she's a poet.

Meredith and 54 other local students through ninth-grade students were back in class last year participating in the Young Writers/Young Readers Program at middle school.

Sponsored by the National Writing Project through the Pennsylvania Writing Project at

West Chester University, students test the limits of their writing and creativity during informal morning sessions which concluded Friday.

Piloted two years ago at Upper Moreland through middle school writing center teacher Mary O'Gorman, the program also is offered for a \$165-per-student fee at six other Delaware Valley locations this summer, including this week in the Hatboro-Horsham School District.

Meredith, who has been with the program since its inception, said the student anthology printed at the end of each program year has given her reason to be pleased with the growth her writing has shown.

"I was surprised when I read what I wrote two years ago," she said. "I can really see improve-

ment."

Each student "owns" two pages of the program anthology, published by West Chester University, to showcase poetry, short stories and information about themselves.

Gorman, who coordinates the Upper Moreland program with the help of Upper Moreland teachers Susan Powidzki and Erika Allen, Hatboro-Horsham teacher Phyllis Carrol and Upper Dublin teacher Johanna Berman, said the workshop provides students with time for individual attention and an atmosphere that fosters creativity.

"It's the kind of thing that reminds me why I became a teacher in the first place," said Gorman.

One of the project strategies, said Gorman, is to help students refine their ideas, organize their

thoughts and encourage the process of revision.

Guest author Linda Riley of Elkins Park, who wrote, "TV: What's Behind What You See," worked with students last week in meeting those goals.

Kelly Latta, 9, a Round Meadow student wise beyond her years, said "the kids get a lot of individual attention, and that's good."

"It gets kids to care more about their writing, instead of just 'write this, write that' at school," she said.

Eleven-year-old Jessalyn Edwardson, an Upper Moreland Middle School student, wants to be a poet. She said the relaxed atmosphere at the writing workshop has helped her improve her work.

Writing course is summer fun

By Jennifer Lawson
Staff Writer

In summer, the last place a kid wants to be is in a classroom, right?

Wrong.

Instead of chatting on the Internet or watching *The Price is Right*, some area students are taking a two-week summer writing course, and they're learning that writing can be an enjoyable and worthwhile diversion.

On Monday, students met at William Tennent High School for the first day of the Young Writers/Readers enrichment program, sponsored by the National Writing Project, through the Pennsylvania Writing Project at West Chester University.

See **Writing**, page 4



Spirit/Guide staff photo / SCOTT ROMAN

Terri Kelly, a fifth-grade school teacher for the Quakertown School District, gives words of encouragement to Phillip Patrick, 8, at the Centennial School District writing program at William Tennent High School.

Students find summer fun in writing program

■ **Writing**, from Page 1

ers/Readers enrichment program, sponsored by the National Writing Project, through the Pennsylvania Writing Project at West Chester University.

Under the instruction of Brenda Hurley, a gifted education and English teacher at Log College Middle School, 13 students in grades seven to nine did a little brainstorming.

One student said she did not want to write about anything on her brainstorming list; another said she had trouble with tenses when she writes.

"Don't worry about that now," Hurley said. "We're doing ideas. This is idea day."

From its inception in 1986, the Young Writers/Readers workshop was held only at West Chester University. Two years ago, though, a pilot program was started in Upper Moreland with much success. Now, the program is offered at 15 schools in five counties, with about 1,300 students enrolled. Tennent's workshop meets each morning for two weeks

from 9 a.m. to noon.

"We try to encourage them to like writing," Hurley said. "If they like it, they won't look at it as such an onerous task."

Bruce Seidel, a chemistry teacher at Council Rock High School, has been the director of the program for the past four years, and this is his second year as an instructor. He said the instructors have the students share their writing with each other.

"It helps to make their writing better," he said. Instead of critiquing, he explained that he would give positive suggestions. "Things like, 'If I could change one thing in your story, it would be...'"

At the end of the session, the students' work will be published in an anthology. Each student will have two pages to fill in the

book, which will be distributed to libraries and other school district buildings.

"When the workshop ends, they will be published authors," Seidel said.

At Upper Moreland Middle School last Friday, a different section of the Young Readers/Writers workshop was wrapping up its two-week session. A "gallery" was set up, featuring the students' writings and artwork. Parents were milling around, enjoying the displays.

"They learned how to use the writing process and improve their writing, and they learned that writing and reading can be fun," said coordinator Erika Allen. "It's not meant to be like school."

Jen Christensen, 11, who will be entering sixth grade at Upper Moreland Middle School in the fall, was showing her poetry to her mother.

"She lives to write, so this program was a good way for her to get responses from others," said Linda Christensen. "She's more confident in her writing."

"We try to encourage them to like writing. If they like it, they won't look at it as such an onerous task."

Writing: Practice is the key if kids want to sharpen skills

From page 3A

more to the poem by including family members.

Afterward, Midzak acknowledged the writing process was so difficult that, rather than revise his poem, he preferred to start a new one.

"I like writing, using my imagination," Midzak said.

Sarah Short, 14, also said she liked using her imagination to invent stories that don't have to be true.

"I like how we don't have to tell the truth," Short, a ninth-grader from Richboro Junior High School said. "I like that we can make up stuff that will make it sound better."

But Short said she doesn't foresee a future as novelist.

"To make any money you have to be the very best," Short said.

This is the first year Centennial has offered the program. In past years, it has been scheduled at other sites, such as Neshaminy and Council Rock, said Brenda Hurley, the site coordinator.

There are 28 students in the program, 22 who are in grades five through nine and the remainder are in second to fourth grades. The students come from districts throughout Lower Bucks, and parents pay about \$80 for the two-week program, which ends Aug. 1.

Hurley, a teacher at Tennent, said the program has three teachers who are writing fellows from the Pennsylvania Writing Project.

At the end of the two-week program, the students will have a published booklet with a sampling of the group's writings, Hurley said.

"It's to encourage their fluidness, and when they return to school in September, they will be writing," Hurley said.

In another room, a group of six younger students wrote and edited their poems, recently printed from computers, while others drew pictures to accompany the stories.

Christopher Choi, a third-grade student from Warwick Ele-



Jay Crawford / Courier Times

Sarah Short isn't sure if she'll make a career out of writing. But the Richboro ninth-grader says she likes the freedom in writing, "You can make stuff up that will make it sound better."

mentary School in Central Bucks, said his mother made him attend the camp. He was busy drawing a picture of a whale and a shark to go along with a poem he wrote about his grandfather being saved from a shark by a whale.

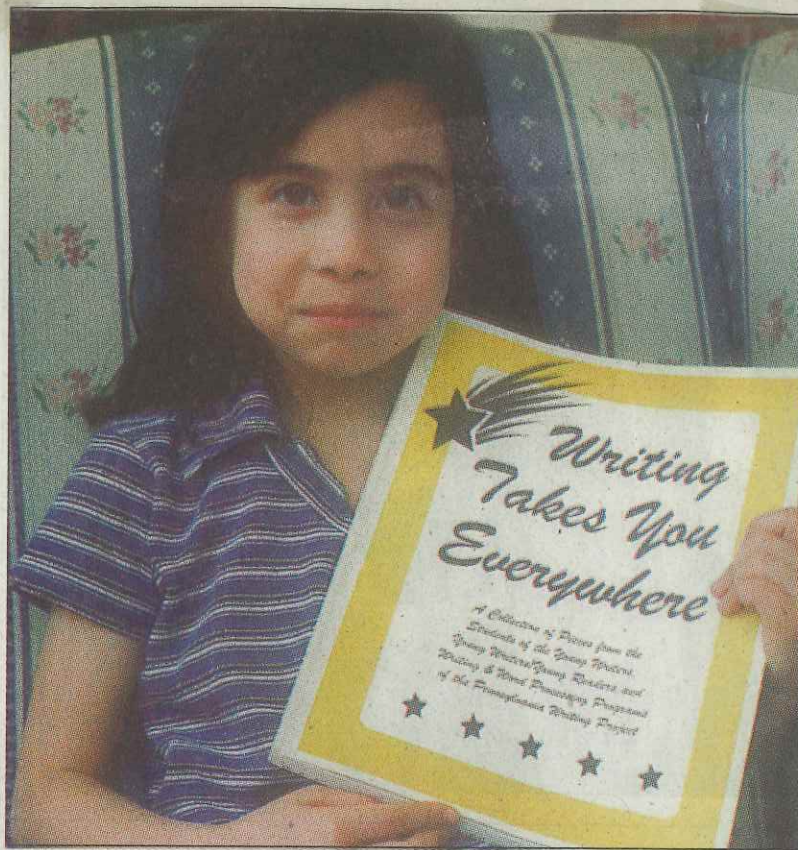
"I like funny stories," Christopher, 8, said. "I kind of like writing, but sometimes it gets boring."

Emily Locker, 7, who wrote a poem about her brother being Marco Polo and making "monkey faces" said she liked writing because she uses her imagination to write stories.

Terri Kelly, a teacher from Quakertown who is teaching the younger kids this year, said her aim is to encourage students and let them know that each of them have things they can write.

Kelly said students attending the program tend to be serious about their writing and about improving their craft.

"It's neat, these kids want to write, they want more, they want to write better," Kelly said.



New Eagle second-grader Lydia Zodda shows the book her poem appears in.

Poets dwell among us

New Eagle second-grader's work to be published in anthology

By Linda Hadley

Main Line Life Correspondent

Lydia Zodda is a pint-sized poet with a grown-up demeanor.

A second-grader at New Eagle Elementary, the 7-1/2-going-on-40-year-old Lydia was recognized for her young talents when two of her works were chosen for inclusion in the anthology, "Writing Takes You Everywhere," published last summer by the Pennsylvania Writing Project at West Chester University.

The Strafford girl and her two brothers attended the 1996 Program for Young Writers and Young Readers in grades one to 12 at WCU because, she explained, "My mom wanted us to improve our reading so she signed us up."

She was the youngest of the over 400 students in the program intended to foster a life-long love

of reading and writing but this didn't slow her down when it like 'Push button'."

came to producing an award-winning poem titled "Moon" and receiving a special mention for her review of the book "Possum Come a Knockin'." She was already an avid reader and writer - at the tender age of 7 - as she went off to the college campus where she honed her skills so she can really zip through her favorite mystery books in the Boxcar Children series.

Does she have a favorite poet? "Shel Silverstein," she replied. "I

What else does a published poet do in her spare time? "I play soccer and Nintendo 64," she lists. "I play piano - that's very good, I like doing homework - sort of - I like singing and playing the recorder and I like the flute a lot - I'd like to play one."

The Beanie Baby craze has not escaped Lydia's attention. She reports not only having a collection of her own but also "introducing Beanie Babies into the life of my piano teacher. She now has a larger collection than mine."

Moon
by Lydia Zodda
My moon is a twister
swirling,
swirling
In the midnight sky.
Everything and every-
one is asking
why.
It is a silver quarter.
It is an apple.
It is a pearl.

Are these myriad interest leading to a career choice? "I want to be a scientist or a singer." Why not a singing scientist? "That's possible," she mused.

At an age when most kids are naming after super heroes or television characters, Lydia has a hamster named Guinevere and five fish: Alexis, Alex, Tam, Big Guy and Catsby. The sixth fish, Allison, died. This menagerie report is delivered with a dead pan expression betrayed by mischievous eyes.

When asked about plans for this summer, Lydia says she will be again attending the Footlighters Theater Camp - mime being one of her favorite activities. "We might go to Europe," she said, then added impishly.

"My brother wants to go to London and taunt the guards at Buckingham Palace."

THURSDAY
July 11, 1991

□ BUSINESS, on 5-B

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SUBURBAN / METRO

BUCKS • CHESTER • DELAWARE • MONTGOMERY

They're much happier campers *Alternatives bring youngsters out of the woods*

By Tanya Barrientos
Inquirer Staff Writer

Open-air torture.
That's what 12-year-old Jake Forger considers traditional summer day camp.

"My father tried to force me to go, but I wouldn't do it. Nature and I don't get along."

The sandy-haired Philadelphian isn't the only one who shudders at the thought of enduring cooked-up fun at compounds with names that sound like tribal potions.

There are lots of kids who consider Mother Nature a distant relative. And they have begun making one, nonnegotiable demand to parents who want to send them to summer camp. It must be indoors.

Not possible, you say? Remember, this is America. If kids want something, entrepreneurs will find a way to give it to them.

So, indoor summer camp it is. No sunscreen. No hiking. No poison oak.

In the Philadelphia and New Jersey area this summer, the sun-shy can opt for movie-making camp (Jake's choice), modeling camp, writing camp, time-travel camp or investing camp. There's even a camp for middle-of-the-roads, where campers can see the outdoors but don't actually have to interact with it.

"Regular camp is good if your kid is athletic," said Frank Keat-



Barbizon instructor Elaine Brunson (left) shows camper Linda Surovec how to turn on a modeling runway.

ing of Willow Grove, who, with Jake and about 28 other youngsters, is attending movie-making camp at Cinekyd in Upper Merion, Montgomery County.

In the warehouse studio, with professional cameras, editing equipment and special effects,

campers spend their days making a motion picture. This year, for about \$600 in tuition, the kids will spend three weeks creating a horror film, complete with a modern-day vampire and ghostly special effects.

"In regular camps, you have to

fit the mold," said Patrick Leyden, a senior at Archbishop Wood High School, who has come to Cinekyd camp four years in a row. "Here, you get to break the mold."

It's not unusual for children to shun customary camp activities, said Judy Thode, who runs the Nancy Thode Camp Advisory Service in Bucks County.

"I'd say two out of 10 people ask for something other than a traditional camp," said Thode. "They usually say that they have a child who doesn't like a lot of competition or isn't into sports."

That's why Linda Surovec, 18, a tall, slim brunette from Warrington, said she chose modeling camp this summer.

"I'm not very athletic," she said as she smoothed putty-colored makeup onto her forehead.

"I think I can get something out of this rather than just playing for a day," said Surovec, who wants to be an actress.

Six girls are attending modeling camp, sponsored by Barbizon School of Modeling in Bala Cynwyd, this summer. For \$1,095, they'll spend six weeks learning how to apply makeup, flirt with the camera, make commercials and walk like Imani.

"This is the model stance," advised instructor Ruth Ann Fisher, a professional model, standing with one foot forward. (See CAMP on 2-B)

Alternatives rescue day campers from the not-so-great outdoors

CAMP, from 1-B
slightly bent knees and a touch of tilt in her hips. Always, always, always, she hammered into her recruits, waik in a toe-to-heel fashion.

In a sort of model musical chairs, the campers — dressed in shorts and high heels — toe-and-heeled up and down a makeshift modeling runway, awkwardly striking the model stance whenever the Caribbean music stopped.

"This is educational, and you don't sweat," said Nicole Shelton, 13, who lives in Germantown and returned for her second session of modeling camp this year.

Using the word "camp" for some of the indoor summer programs is mostly a marketing gimmick, said Thode.

"I think it's an overused phrase," she said. "If the program is really focused totally away from the outdoors, you might want to call it an enrichment program instead of camp."

But, she conceded, if camp means nothing more than recreation, then computer camps, movie camps and writing camps loosely fit the bill.

At Delaware County Community College and at West Chester Univer-

sity, youngsters this summer have flocked to writing camp, choosing pen strokes over sunstroke.

"I begged my parents to send me," said Iain Granville, 11, during his snack break at writing camp, which costs up to \$185 for two weeks of essays, erasers and erudition. Nestled into a brown vinyl sofa inside the air-conditioned lobby of Main Hall, Iain said he wanted to be an author when he grew up.

What about regular day camp? The great outdoors? Birds, leaves, grass and sun?

"Ugghhhh," he and his pals groaned.

Some parents, like Elissa Yunkin of Chester County, insisted that their kids go to non-traditional camp.

"I'm not going to pay for her just to play games," said Yunkin, whose daughter, Leanne, goes to writing camp. "She can do that at home."

Time-travel camp, which begins in August at Delaware Community College, will allow students to study history by immersing themselves into the arts and lifestyle of a particular period in history. In New Jersey, Atlantic Community College in Mays Landing offers a day camp with classes in cooking, magic and financial

investing.

Still, some kids are willing to engage in a modicum of outdoor activities. They may not want to spend all day outside, but they're willing to brave the elements for a 45-minute swim. Burn Brae Creative Arts Camp is ready to oblige.

The camp, in Dresher, is eight acres of wooded land, dotted with 19 pavilions of various sizes. Some are screened-in, others have covered porches, and all are protected from the sun and rain. Campers, who pay up to \$1,645 for eight weeks, pick activities from a menu of acting, voice, music, circus arts and radio production.

Camp owner and director Lisa Kasser said she insisted that her campers partake in 45-minute swimming lessons and 45 minutes of some other "sport," but they can choose aerobics, which is inside.

"This camp is just the right mix," said Wesley Ratko, 13, of Elkins Park, who came to Burn Brae to play clarinet and learn jazz.

"When the temperature is high, you don't have to be outside, but you can be on a porch or something, so you don't get cooped up and miserable," he said. "That's outside, officially, isn't it?"

Pennsylvania Writing Project Youth Programs

West Chester University's Summer Programs for Young Writers and Young Readers ages 6-18
Join a community of young authors and Master Teachers
Visiting Authors and Master Teachers

3 Chester County Locations
Call 1 (800) WRITE-98

In Chester County:
(610) 436-3089
West Chester, PA 19383



<http://www.wcupa.edu/academics/writing/prj/info.htm>

KENNETT SQUARE & COATESVILLE SESSIONS
Young Writers/Young Readers
KENNETT SQUARE July 8-19 9 a.m. to Noon
COATESVILLE July 22-Aug. 2 9 a.m. to Noon

— 30 Kids —

West Chester University
Young Writers/Young Readers • Young Readers
• Young Writers—General • Young Writers—Computers
Writing & Word Processing
All programs meet 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
8-day and 10-day programs run throughout the summer

— April 1996 —

Young Writers and Young Readers

West Chester University's
11th annual Summer Programs

WCU Campus Sessions (Afternoons Only)

Young Writers

(formerly Youth Writing Project)

• July 10-21 • July 24-Aug. 4 • Aug. 7-18

Young Readers

• June 26-30

Writing & Word Processing

• June 26-July 7

Young Writers/Young Readers

• July 10-21 & July 24-Aug. 4

- Instructors are teachers of the noted Pennsylvania Writing Project
- Students experience all phases of writing process in a close, supportive atmosphere
- Two-week programs include workshops with published authors

For registration information
& deadlines,

Call (610) 436-3089

Space is limited



West Chester
University

Kennett Square &
Coatesville Sessions
(Mornings Only)
**Young Writers/
Young Readers**
• July 24-Aug. 4

DAILY LOCAL NEWS, West Chester, Pa., Wed. April 5, 1995

A11

Young Writers and Young Readers

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July 8-19 • July 22 - Aug. 2 • August 5-16

Young Readers

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West Chester
University

Kennett Square
July 8-19
Coatesville
July 22 - August 2
(mornings only)
**Young Writers/Young
Readers**

DAILY LOCAL NEWS, West Chester, Pa., Wed., April 10, 1996

A11

For some kids, the choice is mind games

By TRACY BEHRINGER
Special to the Local News

Although many youngsters see summer as a time for the great outdoors, some children utilize their free time in other ways. Many attend academic or tutorial day camps to improve their skills or for pure pleasure. There are many such programs throughout the county, providing instruction in various subjects, from reading to computers and science.

For the past 12 years, the Pennsylvania Writing Project has sponsored summer youth programs at different locations throughout Chester County as well as surrounding counties. The oldest and most popular program is Young Writers

held at West Chester University. In the two-week sessions, children write many pieces and share their work. They receive feedback and respond to each other's writing. Youngsters also have individual access to Microsoft Word on the IBM-PC to compose, revise, and edit their drafts. Other programs are Young Writers/Young Readers, Young Readers, and Writing and Word Processing.

Youth Program Coordinator Ginny O'Neil said these writing and reading programs are gaining popularity in the five-county region. Last year over 1,000 children in the region participated, 600 taking part at the West Chester University site.

"The programs are not remedial

programs, but provide enrichment. One reason for their popularity is because the settings are not strict classroom settings. All the teachers, most of whom are elementary school teachers, have earned fellowships through our Summer Institute and the children love them," said O'Neil.

In addition to the West Chester University location, Reeceville Elementary School in the Coatesville Area School District and Kennett Middle School in the Kennett Consolidated School District are also locations in Chester County. Children in first through 12th grade may participate in the program. The fee is \$175 per session, and a limited number of scholarships are available. Contact the project at 436-3089.

CLOSE TO HOME ^{c7}

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

Thursday, March 21, 1996

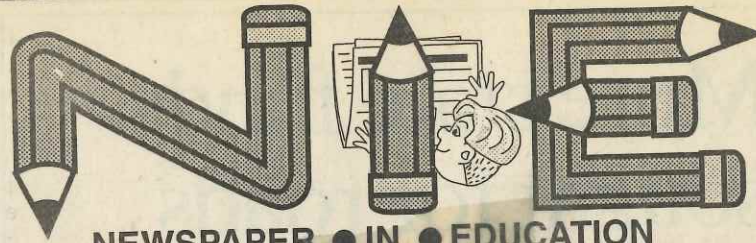


Joshua Kraut, a seventh grade student at Stetson Middle School in West Chester, has an original essay, "A Serene Place," published in "Writing Takes You Everywhere," an anthology of 68 writings by students in the Pennsylvania Writing Project at

KRAUT

West Chester University.

DAILY LOCAL NEWS



NEWSPAPER • IN • EDUCATION

Student reviews

*Roving reviewer***Movie: 'Muppet Treasure Island'**

Now that it's gone from theaters, look for this one on video. It'll be worth the wait!

In this film, these wacky puppets once again take over a classic that only Brian Henson could possibly direct. Instead of



Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol," the muppets star in Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island."

GALLAGHER Stevenson's plot is retold in the enjoyable Muppet style.

This movie was extraordinary and unique. Henson's skillfull direction allows the Muppet tradition, started by his late father, Jim Henson, to live on. There were excellent "non-Muppet" actors such as Tim Curry who was perfect for the part of Long John Silver. The humor in this movie was on different levels, ranging from slapstick humor for the young and subtle humor for grown-ups and older kids. This enjoyable film should be seen by all ages.

Erin Gallagher is a 6th grader at Shamona Creek Elementary School. She has written for the Local News' "Young Writers" column and has attended the West Chester University Youth Writing Project for the past three summers. Keeping her reviews completely in the kids' arena, Erin rates her movies with ice-cream scoops instead of the standards stars.

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

CLOSE TO HOME

D5

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

Young Writers

The third annual Friendship PTA Writing Contest was recently held at Friendship School in Coatesville. The winning entries were written by **Andrew McLean**, a second grade student, and **Kelly Reider**, a third grade student. They were awarded full scholarships to the Pennsylvania Writing Project Summer Youth Program which will be held at West Chester University this summer. Following are the winners.

The Adventures of the Octopus

Once there was an octopus that lived in the sea. He had so many friends. His best friend was Sharkie Shark. They played together all the time. They would chase each other and play cops and robbers. Sharkie usually caught Octo in chase, and Octo usually caught Sharkie in cops and robbers.

One day Sharkie wasn't home, so Octo went on an adventure. He was swimming when he saw a creature he never saw before! It looked like a star that was gold! The star creature moved, and Octo swam away as fast as he could! Then he fell into a cave and hit his head on the bottom of the cave. When he got up, he saw a big box full of shiny stuff. He got closer and then heard a growl. Before he knew it, a bad shark was chasing him.

"Help," cried Octo! "Help, Help!" Finally the shark stopped chasing him. "Whew," he said. Then he looked around and didn't know where he was. He started swimming when he heard a water, splashing, rumble sound. Then he saw a big-g-g-g-g machine. A telescope came out of the top. Octo was scared! Then a big hole opened and a big long thing came out of it! It almost hit Octo. Then it shot another one! It missed him by an inch. Then Octo grabbed the machine, but it hit him with one of the things. Octo was hurt. It was about to shoot another one, but then Sharkie came and hit the machine. The torpedo went the other way. Sharkie saved Octo! Sharkie and Octo together made the machine go away. They were safe!

Sharkie led the way back home. They played and played. Octo never went there again! If Sharkie wasn't home, Octo from then on stayed around his territory! But what do you know, he did go back once! Sharkie and Octo lived "sea happy" the rest of

their lives!

Andrew McLean

It all started on a warm April day. I was walking home from school when I decided to take a different path home. It turned left where I would usually turn right. I walked into a deep green forest. The path I was walking on was a gray stone path. Each step I took made a cloud of dust appear at my feet. As I walked deeper into the forest, I could hear laughter. Deeper and deeper I went. I felt as if I were shrinking. The tall green trees seemed to grow taller and taller by the second. Then the mice I saw were not small anymore. They were taller than me! I walked further and further.

Soon I was standing in front of a huge Easter basket. An old man wearing a crown and holding a paint brush in his hand welcomed me. "Hello, young lady," he said sounding friendly. "Will you join me and my friends in painting these Easter Eggs?" I looked at him and the mice who were busily painting. I nodded happily and said, "I would love to!" I had fun painting. I painted a brick egg, a striped egg, and a polka-dot egg. When I was done painting I seemed to grow taller and taller. Pretty soon the Easter basket was small again. The trees were now not as huge as they were before. I was my normal size again.

I turned around to go to the path I started from. Soon I was out of the forest and onto the familiar path. The sun was shining, and the birds were singing. Did I really shrink? What was in that mysterious forest?

I was finally home. I walked up on the front porch and opened the door. "You don't look well," my mother said. "Let me take your temperature." She took my school books and laid them on the table. She put a thermometer in my mouth for five minutes. "Oh, dear, you have a fever. Your temperature is one-hundred-point-six!"

That was when I told her I would be right back. I ran up the familiar path and into the deep forest. I did not shrink! All I saw was a brick painted egg laying the green, spring grass.

Kelly Reider

PA WRITING PROJECT YOUTH PROGRAMS, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383, 610-436-3089.

Nationally recognized educational/recreational eight and ten day programs in writing and reading for youngsters ages 6-18 at eleven Delaware Valley locations. Mornings at Coatesville, Kennett Square, Norristown, Hatboro, Horsham, Fort Washington, Prospect Park, Media, Chalfont, and Langhorne. Afternoons at West Chester University. Visiting authors and master teachers. Computer facilities at WCU location.



CLOSE TO HOME

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

WCU hosts summer sessions for young writers, readers

West Chester University of Pennsylvania will host the 11th annual Summer Programs for Young Writers and Readers with 10 sessions beginning June 26 and continuing through Aug. 18.

The programs are sponsored by the Pennsylvania Writing Project, a site of the National Writing Project.

For each course offered, the average class size is 13 students per teacher. The students in the program get individual attention while experiencing the processes and stages of writing, including publishing.

Publications featuring the students' work will be made available to local bookstores, libraries, schools, churches and community centers.

Students will participate in work sessions with published authors and attend a final gallery that features their own work.

School-age children in grades one through 12 as

of September 1995 are encouraged to participate in the programs. The programs offered include "Young Writers," "Young Writers/Young Readers," "Young Readers" and "Writing and Word Processing."

An open house for participants in the University programs will be held at 7:30 p.m. May 2 in Schmucker Auditorium to answer questions and concerns of parents regarding the University programs.

Additional programs to be held in Chester County include "Young Writers, Young Readers," for grades two through six at Reeceville Elementary School, Coatesville, and for grades two through nine at Kennett Consolidated Middle School, Kennett Square, from July 24 through Aug. 4.

A limited number of scholarships for the program are available based on demonstrated need.

For more information and applications, call site coordinator Bruce Seidel at (610) 436-3089.

C6

Thursday, April 27, 1995

Youngsters participate in

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

summer writing project

Program improves abilities and attitudes

CAROLINE BURNS
Staff Writer

Sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's hard, but Kathleen Orlik says she likes to start the same way each time.

"First, I like to sit and stare at something and just think. Then I just start writing."

Orlik, 7, is among 950 students who participated this summer in the Pennsylvania Writing Project Youth Programs, which is held here at West Chester University. The 11-year-old program, once held only at the university, expanded last year to seven other locations in Chester, Montgomery, Delaware and Bucks counties. It is designed to enhance youngsters' capabilities and improve their attitudes to both writing and reading.

Orlik attended at Coatesville's Reeceville Elementary School. In late July, she and 13 other students worked with teacher Rita Rotton and a parent volunteer in one of two writing classes.

Rotton encouraged her students, who were between 7 and 10 and attend Coatesville and Downingtown schools, to write the details they'd told her for an exercise on what they like.

"Christian Ogen lives in Coatesville with his mom, dad,

dog Rex and a few dead birds. He likes to play baseball," wrote Ogden. "It's interesting," the 8-year-old said of the exercise.

The Pennsylvania Writing Project started in 1980, six years after the National Writing Project. Both began as teacher training classes and later expanded to include students. The staff development program is still being conducted, and articles by six Chester County teachers appeared in a recent book published by the university's program.

The youth classes, which are attended by students in grades one through 12, are funded with tuitions and gifts.

"I wanted to help motivate her toward writing and to get more pleasure out of reading and writing," said Mary Cunningham, whose 7-year-old daughter Elizabeth attended at Reeceville School.

"This is a pretty focused group. Most of them enjoy doing what they're doing. It's just learning some new skills, getting some neat ideas," she said.

In all, there were seven other writing projects run from other universities in the state. Teachers wrote their own curriculars, said Bruce

Seidel, the coordinator of youth programs here. As encouraging writing has become more common in all school subjects, the summer program is a chance to focus on the discipline, he said.

"It's very homey," he said of the elementary school sites. The program was also run out of middle schools. Last year, there was one, where 30 students attended.

"We're in the school districts where the kids go, and the classrooms are able to be decorated. And this makes the program possible for parents who could not get to the university," he said.

The school-based programs have also drawn in parent-teacher organizations. A parent group at the Coatesville district provided scholarships to at least 11 students this year.

Most students — 550 — attended the programs at the university. That's where Craig Fenimore, a teacher at West Chester E.N. Peirce Middle School, worked.

Fenimore teaches high school students in the program, and said his goal was to keep his classes lively.

"Our philosophy has always been to make it enjoyable. Quite a number of the students are involved in writing before they come to us, with magazines, the year book. Some kids come and are forced by their parents. We hope by the end of the two weeks, they are enjoying it more. But a good number of our kids come because they just love to write," he said.



Winners of a writing contest sponsored by the Reeceville Elementary School PTA were awarded scholarships for the Pennsylvania Youth Writing Project held at West Chester University this summer. Students, from left front are Lauren Beauchamp, Megan Echhoff, Daniel Loschiavo, Michelle Welk; middle from left, Alysia Hedegard, Stephanie Lydon. Adults, from left are Barnia Young, program coordinator, Tom Banan, PTA president, Camie Arvay, principal, Paul Bentley, assistant superintendent, Ann Pristernik, PTA vice president. Not pictured are Jessica Faucette and Larry Benjamin, PTA chairperson. The program is designed for students who want to learn, share and grow as writers and readers. Participants experience all phases of the writing process, including publication. All writing done by participants is eligible for regional awards in several categories. Publications will be offered to local bookstores, libraries, schools, churches and community centers.

Young writers/readers speak for themselves

"I learned to make poems. I wrote about the beach. I learned to write like lightning. I had fun."

David Bentley

"It's great here. I've learned a lot of things. I've read new books. I've made new friends. My teacher is great! I love reading and writing."

Dana Weaver

"I learned that writers have different paces. Some writers write slowly, some writers write fast, and others write in-between. I wrote a poem about 'Terminator 2 — Judgment Day'."

Christian Ogden

"I learned we can be story makers everyday. I wrote a poem about trucks and machines. I wrote about myself, too."

Joseph Lucci

"I learned that when you write a book about when you were little it's called a memoir."

Tony Banta

"Today I took a RISK! I wrote a poem about ME. I love taking risks in Young Writer/Readers."

Kathleen Orlik



Pictured from left front are Lisa McKinney, grade 2 of Beaver Creek School, David Bentley, grade 2 of Friendship Elementary School, Kathleen Orlik, grade 2 of Caln Elementary School. From left rear are special guest local poet/fiction writer Elizabeth Abrams-Morley and Rita Roffon. Roffon and Nancy Kirchgasser, fellows of the Penna Writing Project, were in charge of West Chester University's course for young writers and young readers held at Reeceville Elementary School. Twenty-seven students attended the two-week session introducing them to the writing process and enhancing their reading skills.

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for youngsters ages 6-18 at eleven Delaware Val-
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ty, with visiting authors and master teachers.
Computer facilities at WCU location.

DAILY LOCAL NEWS, West Chester, Pa., Wed., April 3, 1996

D7

Young Writers and Young Readers

West Chester University's
12th annual Summer Programs

WCU Campus Sessions (Afternoons Only)

Young Writers

(formerly Youth Writing Project)

July 8-19 • July 22 - Aug. 2 • August 5-16

Young Readers

June 24 - July 3

Writing & Word Processing

June 24 - July 3

Young Writers/Young Readers

July 8-19 & July 22 - August 2

- Instructors are teachers of the noted Pennsylvania Writing Project
- Students experience all phases of writing process in a close, supportive atmosphere
- Two week programs include workshops with published authors

Kennett Square

July 8-19

Coatesville

July 22 - August 2

(mornings only)

**Young Writers/Young
Readers**

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West Chester
University



For The Inquirer / LINDA JOHNSON

Preparing for a Literacy Fair, students at Round Meadow Elementary School in Upper Moreland have fused reading and writing in all aspects of their curriculum. Students (from left) Ryan Santry, 8; Daniel Sands, 10; and Kelly Latta, 9, are in third grade.

Students take three R's one further

A writing program makes them authors in all areas. The key is revision.

By Wendy Greenberg
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

UPPER MORELAND — When hundreds of parents descend on Round Meadow Elementary School tonight for the Literacy Fair, they will see more than a display of their children's writing.

They will see how writing in schools has moved from "read a book and turn in a report" to an ongoing process in which every student is an author in every subject, even math.

Round Meadow students talk excitedly

about their writing, which by tonight will cover every square inch of the school's hallways — and much of the ceilings. All 810 students are represented.

"It's amazing," said fifth grader Jeff Parkinson. "When I came into first grade, I could write my name and two other words. Now I write adventure stories."

Third grader Jennie Kotschneff said her class read mystery books and wrote case reports to hand to police. Others, such as second graders Weston McQuillan and Tara Zearfaus, advertised books on the back of cereal boxes.

Earlier this week, students hung up newspapers they had produced, which reported the sinking of the Titanic, as part of an ocean study. There are Civil War diaries and writings on wind socks, on license plates and on film strips. There are postcards from

space, posters on endangered species, pledges to save water and math-word problems — all part of the writing program.

"There was a time that no one knew how to teach writing," said Linda Segal, district superintendent for English and reading. Now there is more attention to the writing process, she said.

Teachers in Upper Moreland have tried to engage students in writing about all subjects in all styles.

The district is a pioneer in developing new approaches. It hosted the first off-site summer program for the Pennsylvania Writing Project three years ago. The two-week Summer Programs for Young Writers and Young Readers have spread to 12 sites, including Hatboro-Horsham, Methacton, Upper Dublin, Central Bucks and Neshaminy

See **LITERACY** on B5

LITERACY from B1.
school districts.

This is the fourth year of the Literacy Fair, which was started by principal James Quill, a former reading specialist. Teachers save student work all year so fair visitors can chart their progress.

"It's good for students to see how they have progressed from earlier grades — even from September, said Round Meadow teacher Lynne Dorfman, a "fellow" of the Pennsylvania Writing Project. "Parents can see where the writing is going in higher grades."

And seeing progress, she noted, is usually motivating in itself.

"I used to do small stories. Now I do big stories," said first grader Morgan Monaghan.

"I was just plain before," said fourth grader Kelly Santry. "Now I am more creative and use better words."

Third grader Eric Spicer was proud of his progression. "I didn't have as much description before," he said. "Now I can make little words into big words."

The students have learned, said school reading specialist Dina Cassidy, that "writing is reflective of the subject. We've gotten away from just cute writing. They know there is a target audience."

Multiple revisions are part of the process, as students continuously edit and confer with their peers.

"We joke that along with the three R's, a new R — revision — has been added," Dorfman said.

Robert Weiss, director of the Pennsylvania Writing Project and a professor of English at West Chester University, agreed that "knowing how to get kids to produce good writing is not what schools did well 30 years ago. They looked to grammar books, models and phony formulas like the five-paragraph theme. This carried little interest for young people."

The best motivation for young

writers, said Weiss, who will be a guest tonight, "is ultimately the combination of finding something you'd like to say and knowing someone will see it."

"Writing arises from a desire to communicate. You just see some amazing things where this philosophy is an integral part of the classroom."

For More Information

■ The community is invited to the Literacy Fair, which is scheduled from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Writing Project Enters 10th Year

by Rob Yoegel

When schools end a long but successful year next month, students and parents will have already planned summer activities.

A worthwhile alternative or addition to summer day camp or a trip to the shore is the Summer Youth Writing Project offered at West Chester University (WCU).

Open to any student in kindergarten through 12th grade, the 10-year-old program is sponsored by The Pennsylvania Writing Project (PAWP), established in 1979 by Robert Weiss, professor of English at WCU.

Part of a national initiative which began 20 years ago in California, PAWP is endorsed by state legislators, the Department of Education and the State System of Higher Education.

In addition to its numerous programs geared towards youth, PAWP offers a variety of graduate and in-service courses, workshops and institutes for teachers to promote staff development. Over 400 southeastern Pennsylvania teachers are part of the project.

As the organization's oldest and most popular youth program, the Summer Youth Writing Project is instructed by noted teachers in PAWP.

"We saw this as a way for teachers to use the wonderful training they receive in the Writing Project's summer insti-

tutes," Weiss said. "The overall philosophy is to have fun. This is not school."

Over 300 students attended three two-week sessions last summer. The program is offered in the afternoon and is held in college classrooms.

"It has always been a campus-based program," Weiss said. "I think it's part of the charm. The younger students can say they went to college over the summer."

The main objective is to help youngsters develop an enthusiasm about writing. Students are able to experience all phases of the writing process in a close and supportive atmosphere.

Teachers work with small classes, which average about 10 students, allowing for more personal and uninterrupted attention. Creativity and craft are expressed by writing poetry, plays, short stories or nonfiction.

Smaller peer groups and sessions with published authors are also part of the program. Computer sessions are offered for students who wish to combine the writing program with computer experience and word processing skills.

The Summer Youth Writing Project includes no tests, no grades and no mandatory homework assignments.

"If you enjoy creative writing and would like to have help making your writing better, then this

is the place to allow your mind to wander," said a former student.

Students' work is published in a book at the end of each session and other pieces are displayed in a gallery that showcases work for family and friends to see. Fall reunions are also often scheduled.

Tuition fees are used to fund the program. Partial and full scholarships are available.

This year's sessions of the Summer Youth Writing Project will be held July 11-24, July 25 - August 5, and August 8-19.

Other special youth programs this summer will include "Young Writers, Young Readers" for students in grades two through eight and "Writing the College Admission Essay" for high school seniors.

There are currently over 150 sites of the National Writing Project throughout the country and across the world. There are nine locations in Pennsylvania with the West Chester site being the first and largest.

"We are going to continue to grow," Weiss said. "The boys and girls love it and the parents love it."

Registration for this year's Summer Youth Writing Project is required before Wednesday, June 1. For more information, call 436-3089.

Summer writing program grows beyond its West Chester U. base

By Gloria A. Hoffner
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

Budding Maya Angelous, future Arthur C. Clarkes, and children who just love to read and write have been attending the Pennsylvania Writing Project summer program for 10 years.

Traditionally held on the campus of West Chester University, the summer program this year will also be offered at seven off-campus locations in Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Bucks Counties.

"We don't expect many people to travel more than a 40-minute drive for an afternoon program," said project director Bob Weiss. "Going into school districts will give more students access."

Designed for students in first through 12th grades, the project offers a non-school setting for children to explore writing and reading. From its first summer in 1985, when there were 52 students, the program's enrollment grew to 400 last summer and could reach 700 this summer, Weiss said.

"It's an education enhancement for children who want to be part of it. We have as our goal that the children who leave here will see themselves as improved writers," he said.

The program, which has one teacher for every 13 students, will operate weekly, from June 26 through Aug. 18, at West Chester University, and during July at schools in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties. Children

in any public or private school or who are being home schooled may attend the program at any site.

Students may select a Young Readers, Young Writers or combination session, and may also choose a Young Writers session that includes composing on a computer keyboard.

The West Chester campus sessions will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. The sessions held in local school districts will be from 9 a.m. to noon.

Cost ranges from \$90 to \$195, Weiss said, and \$80 scholarships are available. The deadline for scholarship applications is May 19.

During each three hours of class, Weiss said, students are free to read and create without the restrictions of schedule bells or report cards.

The majority of students are in third through eighth grades, and their writing interests range from essays to fables and science fiction to shape poems.

Instructed in various forms rather than just journal writing, students will write plays and mini-book reviews, Weiss said.

This year, the best of the mini-book reviews written by Young Readers will be published on book markers and distributed to bookstores and schools within the four counties participating in the project, he said.

Original works of the Young Writ-

ers will also be published and distributed locally in a small quantity of paperbacks, Weiss said.

On Oct. 7, he said, all participating students will be invited to West Chester University for a Writing Festival, where students will have an opportunity to celebrate their collective work and meet a professional writer. The satellite sites are as follows:

- In Chester County, Kennett Middle School, Kennett Square, and Reeceville Elementary School, Coatesville.
- In Delaware County, E.T. Richardson School, Springfield.
- In Bucks County, Unami Middle School, Chalfont, and Maple Point Middle School, Langhorne.

- In Montgomery County, Simmons Elementary School, Ambler, and Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro.

In a non-school setting, children enhance their love of reading and writing.

For More Information

■ An open house for those interested in the West Chester campus program is scheduled from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 2 in the Schmucker Amphitheater. Parents interested in the other sites may call 610-436-3089.

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Downingtown
Ledger

2/19-25/97
Vol. 1

Education



Robert Weiss from the Pennsylvania Writing Project presents a Hills second grader with an award for a poem she wrote in over the summer while her principal looks on.

5 students awarded for writing projects

By Ginny O'Neil

Five Downingtown Area students will be honored by the Pennsylvania Writing Project (PAWP) for their contributions while attending the Writing Project's two-week youth programs last summer. Chosen were Antonietta D'Urso, a first grader from West Bradford Elementary School; Emma Russell, a second grader from Uwchlan Hills Elementary School; Stephanie Kasuska, a third grader from Brandywine-Wallace Elementary School; Laura Leonard, a fifth grader from Beaver Creek Elementary School; and Anthony Yannella, a third grader from Brandywine-Wallace Elementary School.

Their pieces were chosen as the best in their class, and appear in the annual PAWP youth publication "Writing Takes You Everywhere." This 157-page book contains works from writing and art award winners as well as a collection of book reviews.

The five students were first honored by the Writing Project at its annual Fall Festival. They were given a journal and a personal copy of "Writing Takes You Everywhere"

The Director of the Pennsylvania Writing Project, Dr. Robert Weiss, visits the schools of each of the award winners and presents them with a copy of "Writing Takes You Everywhere" that the student signs and donates to the school library.

The Pennsylvania Writing Project is entering its 13th year of summer programs. These programs were started at West Chester University in 1984, and in recent years have branched out to 13 other locations throughout Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties.

Last summer, more than 65 students from the Downingtown Area School District participated in these programs, both at the West Chester University campus and at satellite locations.

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Tony Yannella (left) and Connor McNulty (right) work diligently on their writing projects during the Young Writers/Young Readers program held by West Chester University's Pennsylvania Writing Project at Coatesville Area Intermediate High School.

Students Perfect Reading, Writing Skills At Workshop

Continued from page 1

Fitzgerald noted the children seem to enjoy the program very much; many return year after year.

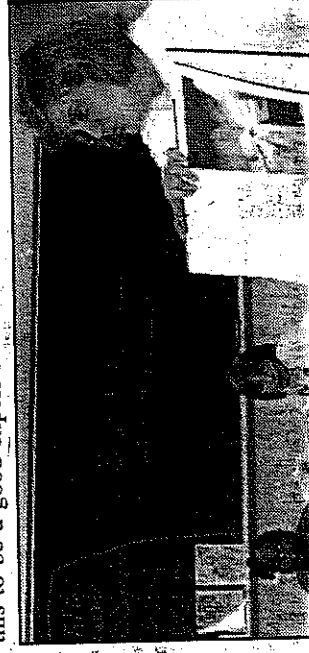
"We have a lot of children here who are readers and enjoy writing," she said. "I think there's a lot of parents, and I speak as a parent myself, who want to find constructive activities for their children that are fun and meaningful at the same time."

"We really try to make that connection. We want this to be a good experience

asking children to pretend they were at the beach and to describe what they saw and felt.

"I made popcorn and we listened to it, smelled it and learned to use our senses," Fitzgerald said. "Then, we also described a place we've been to, to get them into being aware of their environment through their senses."

Phyllis Mater, another instructor, asked her students to write about their visit to an outdoor classroom located in the woods behind the inter-



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"During the first week of the program," Mater explained, "every site has a visiting author. She (Oatman High) presented a slide program 'The cover of the book' Pages from the students' journals are published in an anthology. Each child takes home a copy of the book to keep at the end of the program."

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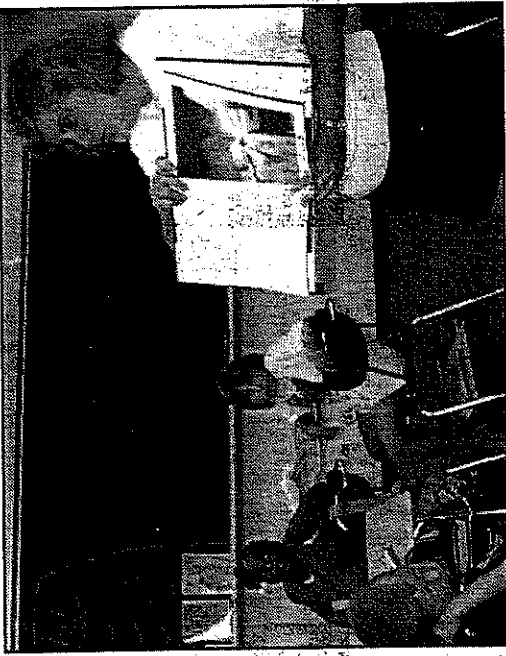
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myself, who want to find constructive activities for their children that are fun and meaningful at the same time. "We really try to make that connection. We want this to be a good experience the woods behind the inter-



Sue Fitzgerald, site coordinator of the Young Writers/Young Readers program held this summer at Coatesville Area Intermediate High School, reads a book to children in the program. and a learning experience."

Each day the program includes writing in a journal, practice exercises, reading and sharing. "We do warm-ups to get them started," the site coordinator said. "We try to be as creative as we can to get them stimulated and enjoy writing."

On one day of the program, for example, instructor Joni Morris held Beach Day,

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"During the first week of the program," Maier explained, "every site has a visiting author. She (Oatman High) presented a slide program about her world and discussed the perspective she writes from."

"She told the students that writing should be about things in their world." The author participated in writing activities with the children and played games. She also introduced her newest children's book, "A Christmas Star."

"Every story she writes has something in it from her past," Maier said. "Her new book has a picture of a church in her neighborhood."

Throughout the program, students are required to keep a journal of their thoughts and activities.

"We hope that when they leave, they will continue to write on their own in that journal," Fitzgerald said.

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Pages from the students' journals are published in an anthology. Each child takes home a copy of the book to keep at the end of the program. The cover of the book is designed by one of the students.

"They get to choose two pages of whatever they've written," Fitzgerald said. "It's exciting because they become published authors for the first time."

All writing done by participants is eligible for regional awards in several categories. Publications will be offered to local bookstores, libraries, schools, churches and community centers.

Fitzgerald said she hopes the children learn lessons during the program that will last a lifetime.

"The children are excited to be here," she said. "It's a thrill working with them. Some of their talent is unbelievable."

Chester County Crowns Dairy Princess

Continued from page 3 youth group.

Erica Lloyd of Pottstown - Lloyd is the 15-year-old daughter of Ron and Cindy Lloyd of Pottstown. Lloyd and her parents operate a dairy farm that includes Brown Swiss, Jerseys and Holsteins.

Throughout the summer, Lloyd actively participates in dairy shows. She is presi-

dent of the Tri-Community 4-H Dairy Club and a member of the 4-H Dairy Judging Team.

At school, she plays the violin and twirls in the OJR Band Front. She is already getting work experience as a future veterinarian by working part-time at Ryerss' Horse Farm for Aged Equines in Coventryville. Elizabeth (Betsy)

Dairy Maids were presented with banners and roses.

Amanda Raser of Nottingham was named Dairy Ambassador. Raser is the 17-year-old daughter of Yvonne and Don Raser.

Unlike the princess and the Dairy Maids, the Dairy Ambassador is not required to live or work on a dairy farm or own a dairy animal. "I read about the contest in the paper," Raser said. "It

Downingtown/Exton

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1997

VOL. IX, NO. 25

Courier

Families In Chester Springs Host Fresh Air Visitors

Lydia Stropko, last summer, Petra and Tom Drauschak of Chester Springs welcomed a youngster from the Fresh Air Fund into their Chester Springs home.

This summer, the family has not only brought back Lyla Jai Smith of Queens, New York, for a visit, but Mrs. Drauschak has become a Fresh Air co-chairperson, encouraging others to take part in the program.

After her appeal for host families at the MOMS Club (Moms Offering Moms Support) of Chester Springs, Deborah Kaplan and her husband, Erik Anderson, also agreed to host a child, Precious Brown, a resident of Brooklyn, New York.

Both 9-year-old girls are escaping the city heat and enjoying a two-week vacation with their Chester Springs families as part of the Fresh Air Fund program, a non-profit agency providing free summer vacations to

"You don't have to do anything fancy; just family things," Mrs. Drauschak said. "They simply want the kids to enjoy every day life."

"It's nice we live nearby because Precious and Lyla can play together," Kaplan added. "Smith enjoys playing with the Drauschak children, Heidi and Andrew, while Brown has been busy with her 'adopted' family including the couple's daughter, Samantha."

"Precious and Samantha get along beautifully," Kaplan said. "They are devoted to each other. They play together and hug each other all day."

Brown has also been given the opportunity to learn about farm animals.

"My neighbor has goats and chickens so Precious has been helping to collect the eggs and feed the goats," Kaplan said. "On rainy days we do crafts or work on our memory books."

The women pointed out that



Lyla Jai Smith of Queens, New York, and Precious Brown of Brooklyn, New York, got to escape the city heat and enjoy a two-week vacation with two Chester Springs families as part of the Fresh Air Fund program. Shown (left to right) are: front row, seated, Brown, Heidi Drauschak, Samantha Anderson, and the Drauschak's dog, Gunther; back row, Smith, Deborah Kaplan, Andrew Drauschak and his mother, Petra Drauschak.

become a Fresh Air co-chairperson, encouraging others to take part in the program.

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Both 9-year-old girls are escaping the city heat and enjoying a two-week vacation with their Chester Springs families as part of the Fresh Air Fund program, a non-profit agency providing free summer vacations to needy inner-city youngsters.

Over 10,000 Fresh Air children, boys and girls age 6-18, are placed every summer in approximately 300 "Friendly Towns" across the United States. Over 60 percent of all children, according to the organization, are invited back to the same families year after year.

Since their arrival from New York, the girls have enjoyed the Kimberton Fair, attended a Fresh Air picnic in Ephrata and picked raspberries. The two families have also enjoyed summer outings together including swimming and shopping.

busy with her "adopted" family including the couple's daughter, Samantha.

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The women pointed out that taking part in the Fresh Air program is not only beneficial to the visiting youngsters, but allows children in the host families to be exposed to different cultures and to have new playmates.

"It's been a rewarding, positive experience," Kaplan said. "It is an adjustment at first, but for the most part, it's been great."

Likewise, the young visitors are also enjoying living the country life. At home in New York their summers are usually spent at the local pool or running through sprinklers on hot nights.

"I like going places," Brown

Continued on page 7

Students Perfect Reading, Writing Skills At Workshop

Even though it is the middle of summer, a group of students are still in school. And, they actually want to be there.

About 35 students from the Coatesville Area School District (CASD) are studying reading and writing as part of the Young Writers/Young Readers program held by West Chester University's Pennsylvania Writing Project.

Students in the two-week program, being held for the first time at Coatesville Area Intermediate High School, are participating in a variety of tasks including writing poetry and perfecting their editing and reading skills.

Young Writers/Young Readers is an outreach program of West Chester University's 17-year-old Pennsylvania Writing Project, which operates a series of youth enrichment programs at 14 locations in Berks, Bucks, Chester Delaware and Montgomery counties. The workshops are modeled after the summer writing programs held on the university campus for the

past 11 years.

Each class is individually developed by the teacher, who has been trained by the Pennsylvania Writing Project.

Sue Fitzgerald, one of the program's instructors, is the site coordinator at Coatesville and a CASD teacher.

"This is the third year that the program is being held in Coatesville," she said, "and the first time at the Coatesville intermediate school."

"Our students are involved in both reading and writing, so we allow them to explore literature. We use literature as a springboard for them to do writing activities from."

She noted that all students are invited to participate in the annual program.

"Brochures go out to all the children in Coatesville," she noted. "We rely a lot on parents and children who have been to the program before and word of mouth. We hire teachers according to the number of students who sign up, although our teachers must be trained by the writing project."

Continued on page 4



Lyla Jai Smith of Queens, New York, and Precious Brown of Brooklyn, New York, enjoy a two-week vacation with two Chester Springs families as part of the Fresh Air Fund program. (left to right) are: front row - seated - Brown, Heidi Drauschak, Samantha Gunther; back row - Smith, Deborah Kaplan, Andrew Drauschak and his

Chester County Dairy Princess, Maids And A

Melissa (Missy) Wertz, daughter of Jim and Marjorie Wertz of Phoenixville, was recently crowned the 1997 Chester County Dairy Princess at a coronation held at Coventryville United Methodist Church.

As Dairy Princess, Wertz, her Dairy Maids and the Dairy Ambassador will represent county

dairy farmers and promote milk products to consumers. Wertz was crowned at the ceremony by Lis Fitch, the Pennsylvania Alternate Dairy Princess.

The princess and Dairy Maids also crowned at the event, are required to live or work on a dairy farm or own a dairy animal. Wertz is associated with dairy farming through her grandmother who lives on Damview Farm in

Local Family Hosts Spanish Student

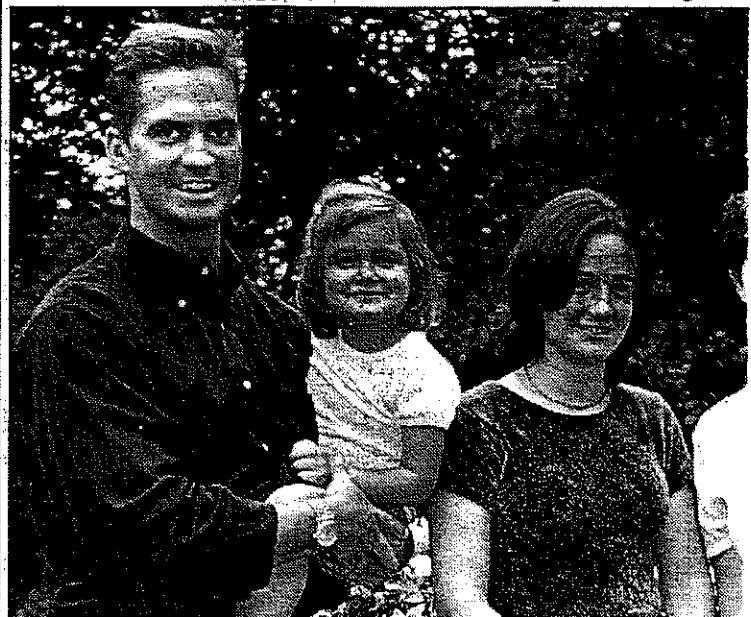
When Josune Zuzuarregi returns to school this fall and is asked the typical question, "What did you do this summer?", she will not give the usual answer.

Instead, the 16-year-old will be able to tell tales of a trip to America, located thousands of

miles from her home in Hondarribia, Spain.

This summer, Josune resided with Eric and Patti Talbert of Chester Springs and their children Evan, 4, and Eva, 3, as part of the Across The World Intercultural Association.

The non-profit group, based in Connecticut, places foreign stu-



The Talbert family of Chester Springs hosted a Spanish student this summer through the Across The World Intercultural Association. Shown (left to right) are Eric and Eva Talbert, and Evan Talbert.

Summer writing project

Thursday, August 4, 1994

The Suburban Advertiser

3

teaches freedom, creativity

BY HEATHER GOODMAN
Correspondent

All school year long students wait for these precious summer months, when they can run free of the watchful eyes of teachers. Yet there are some students who enjoy the classroom, and that's where they can still be found, even in July and August.

West Chester University is hosting its 10th Annual Summer Youth Writing Project sponsored by the Pennsylvania Writing Project for students from kindergarten to 12th grade. The project is made up of three sessions which have been running since July 11 and will continue through August 19, and includes special seminars such as Writing and Acting and Writing for the College Admission Essay.

The program's main goals are to teach writing with freedom and creativity. The curriculum is determined by the teachers.

Each classroom tackles different assignments. In one room students work on things they would like to be extinct.

Another class makes wanted posters for themselves offering rewards for crimes they committed, such as candy snatcher. Another class suggests words they like because of the way they sound.

Seidel, a middle school science teacher in the Upper Darby School District, first came to the project three years ago as a teacher. He explained that in order for teachers to take part in the seminars they must be certified and go through a five-week training period for eight hours a day. Once this training has been completed they may be chosen to teach with

the youth project.

Some teachers have as long as an hour drive to get to West Chester. Cynthia Muse, who teaches in Philadelphia during the school year, says she doesn't mind.

Muse speaks passionately about the writing project and the freedom that exists in the classroom. One of her recent classes

**'They are kids
who love to do
what the teachers
want to do.'**

Bruce Seidel
Program Director

spent the day writing persuasively about the things they wanted to change. Students wrote about the need to stop pollution and the depletion of the ozone layer as well as making it illegal to smoke.

Seidel cites many reasons why teachers want to be a part of the project.

"The classes are small (no larger than 13), we have nice facilities, all the supplies they need, total academic freedom, and it's good pay," he said.

Seidel also reasons that the participating students "love to write ... They are kids who love to do what the teachers want to do."

All of the instructors teach different subject matter.

"Our whole philosophy is that a science teacher or a math teacher can also be a writing teacher," said Seidel, who believes this idea is consistent with new educational beliefs that all subjects should overlap and draw from one another.

There are currently 385 students signed up for the summer sessions, by far the largest number the program has ever enrolled. The students work with all forms of writing including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and scripting.

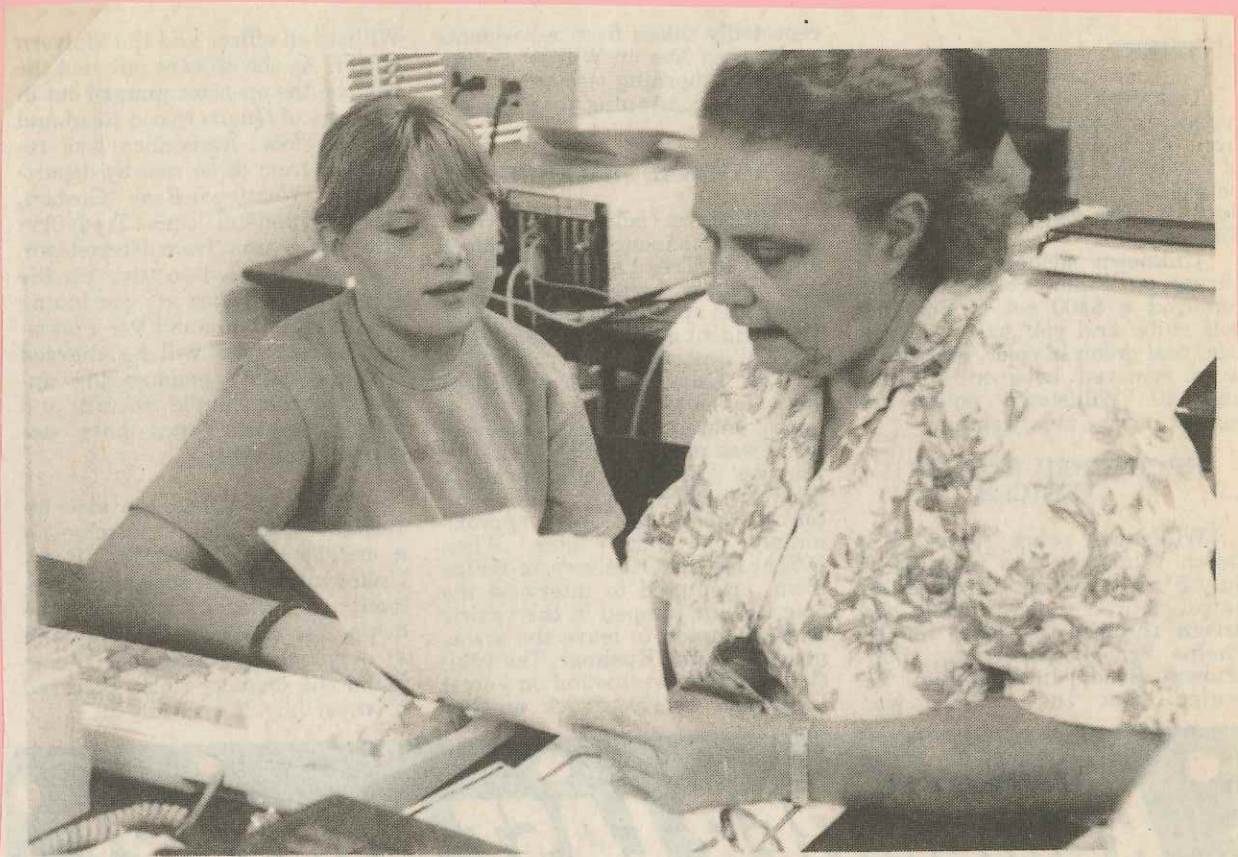
Seidel noted that the same students will come back year after year, as well as attend more than one session a year. He gives most of the credit for the success of the program to the instructors.

"It is the teachers," he says. "We have a solid number of hours, individual reports and a published anthology. Publishing kids early gets them turned on to writing. But the strongest asset is the teachers."

Seidel plans to go one step farther this year with the publication of an anthology featuring work from each student involved in the program. He hopes to distribute copies to the schools the students attend.

But the most important critics are the students. Erin Berg, 8, spoke about her class with a huge smile.

For more information about the Summer Youth Writing Project call 436-3089.



Heather Goodman

LINDSEY VARNEY, 11, receives helpful advice on her work from Gloria Williams, a teacher in the Chichester School District, during the Youth Writing Project at West Chester University.

Young writers

The Summer Youth Writing Project is turning out blossoming scribes who may be the Dickens or Dickenson of tomorrow

By JUDITH CAPAR
Staff Writer

Before Abigail Glaum-Lathbury puts pencil to paper, she already has a vision of what she'll write.

Her mother recalled one recent night when Abigail, lying in bed in the darkness, started to recite a poem.

She called it "Fairy Night," inspired by watching lightning bugs at a friend's house.

"It was so beautiful it brought tears to my eyes," said Linda Glaum. "It was incredible. I said, 'Did you write this down yet?' She said, 'No, but it's etched in my brain.'"

Abigail, a student at West Chester Friends School, is only 9 years old, but has often talked about being a writer.

"That poem more than anything made me realize that she had a lot going on for her," said her mother. "That poem specifically made me realize that I didn't even understand what all was going on."

Glaum said she and her husband, Woody Lathbury, try to encourage Abigail and her sister, Elizabeth, 12, in their interests.

So this July, Abigail honed her writing skills at the Summer Youth Writing Project, which marked its ninth anniversary at West Chester University.

In all, 316 students from first through 12th grade enrolled for two-week sessions, held three hours each day.

The regular sessions, which included a computer option, concluded last month.

Two special classes — Writing and Acting, for 11- to 13-year-olds, and Writing the College Admission Essay, for high

school seniors — are wrapping up the project this month.

Generally, the children who come to the summer camp — like Abigail — are already motivated to work and grow as writers.

Books and reading are important aspects of their lives, and the older students often write for their schools' publications.

"It's refreshing," said Craig Fenimore, a middle-school English teacher in the West Chester Area School District who has taught in the summer program for six years.

"Most of these young people like to be here and are full of enthusiasm. They'd have to be if they are willing to give up two weeks of their summer."

Why send a child to writing camp? Parents attending a session-ending gallery of the children's writing had a variety of reasons.

For kids like Abigail, the workshop was a chance to nurture a talent that was already there.

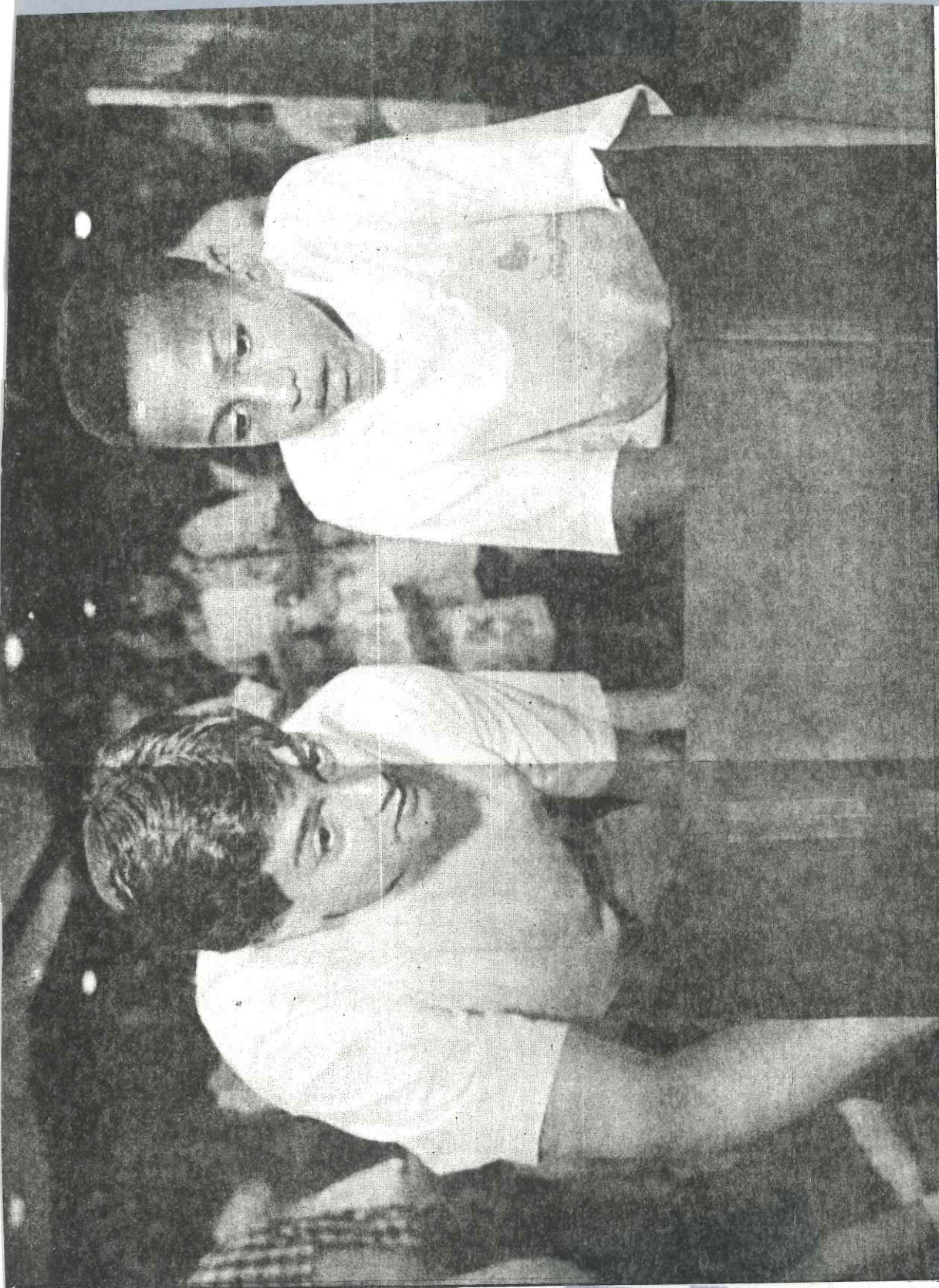
Other parents viewed the camp as a natural extension and reinforcement of their child's interest in reading.

The older children had their own reasons for wanting to participate. Some saw writing as a way to express their feelings. Others thought the practice would help them in college.

But parents and children had one thing in common: Both said the camp was fun.

"We had talked to people last year whose children had done it, and uniformly got positive reviews," said Diana Snyder of East Bradford. "I thought, well, let's give it a try."

She was not disappointed. Eight-year-old Kenzie, a



student at Westtown School, was so enthusiastic that she attended the next session.

Project director Bruce Seidel said many students repeat from summer to summer, but it's a rare one who attends more than one session the same year.

"I think my goals were absolutely met," Snyder said.

"To me, the most important thing was that she loved it ... I just wanted her to feel good about what she was creating.

"It really became a part of our everyday life. In the evening, she would read what she wrote to me, and when her father came home, she had to read to him what she wrote."

The importance of developing communication skills in children cannot be emphasized enough, said Snyder, a speech and language pathologist.

"You just have to be able to read and write — plus it gives you so much in return internally," she said.

Yi-ming Hsu agreed.

Professionally, Hsu has had first-hand experience as a teacher with students who are ill-prepared to write on the college level.

"I have encountered many, many students who cannot express themselves in writing clearly," said Hsu, a professor of educational psychology at WCU.

He praised the summer writing program as "a wonderful project for the children to learn to write well and to communicate in writing. I think that is very important in the learning process."

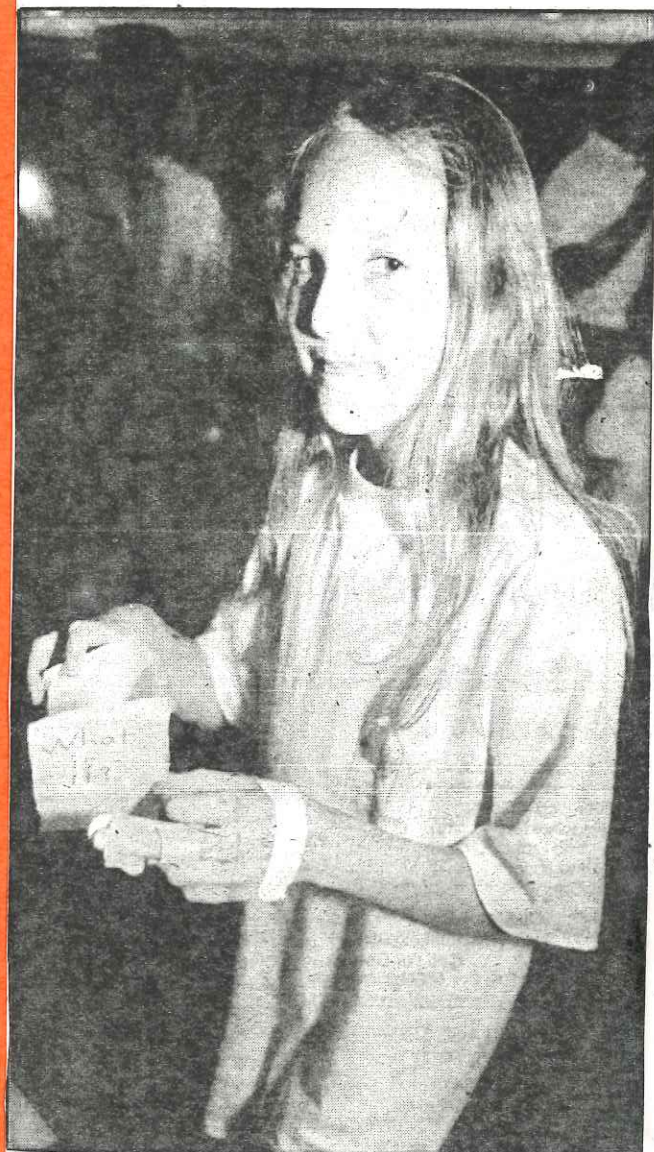
This year, his 9-year-old daughter, Nina, a student at West Chester Friends, attended. Like many of the other children, she said she wants to come back.

Jennifer Goldfarb of Malvern

was one of the repeat campers this summer.

"I like to express myself, my feelings, through my writing," said the 12-year-old student at SS. Philip and James in Exton.

Goldfarb said she's partial to writing poetry because "it has an art and rhythm and it's fun to individualize everything."



Left: Bruce Seidel (left), director of the Summer Youth Writing Project at West Chester University, looks at a display of students' work with Matthew Dowdy, a project participant. Above: Abigail Glaum-Lathbury, 9, was one of 316 students who enrolled in the sessions.

Staff photos by Larry McDavitt

For Kevin Brochet, 12, who attends St. Joseph's School in Aston, the enjoyable part of writing is being "able to have the story go wherever you want it to, and be in control."

Abigail said she often uses writing to work through her feelings.

"Sometimes if I'm sad, I write poetry because it calms me down," she said during a break in her

session. "When I write, I get a vision. I see it in my head.

"You just close your eyes," she said, squeezing her eyes shut. "Or you don't even have to close your eyes. The first thing that comes to mind you write it down."

Getting students to write more and better is the mission of The Pennsylvania Writing Project (PAWP), which sponsors the Summer Youth Writing Project.

In 1979, WCU became the first site in the state for the National Writing Project, under the direction of Bob Weiss, professor of English at WCU.

The Summer Youth Writing Project is just one of many writing-centered programs offered by PAWP, whose main focus is training teachers to teach other teachers about writing and how to incorporate it in the classrooms.

The youth program uses a positive approach to developing students' writing at all age levels. There are no tests, no grades, no assignments the students *have* to do.

Fostering enthusiasm for writing is the project's first goal.

"We want them to learn to enjoy writing," Seidel said. "We feel that with any learning, if there's motivation and a desire, they're going to work harder to get better at it.

"Secondly, we want to teach them as much about the writing process as we can and try to expose them to different types of writing."

What the project offers children is plenty of opportunities to write, and all of its associated activities — brainstorming, revising, sharing and editing.

Seidel said the process is essentially the same regardless of the age of the child; the difference

is in their skill level.

There is no set curriculum. Each teacher, trained through PAWP's Summer Institute, prepares his or her own lesson plans — which they must change from year to year for two reasons.

"We have a number of repeating children — students who have been here five and six summers," Seidel said.

In the first session this summer, 22 of 53 children had attended before.

"The other part of the philosophy is that we want our teachers trying to find better ways to teach things, trying to get different types of writing out of the kids," Seidel said.

Fenimore, for example, had his junior and senior high school students try their hands at

everything from a triolet, an eight-line 13th-century French poem, to a newspaper interview.

Downstairs, meanwhile, Pam Kernan-Howard taped headlines she had clipped from

supermarket tabloids to the blackboard for her class of third- and fourth-graders.

"They're prompts," she said of teasers like, "Which way do your eyes face while you sleep?"

DAILY LOCAL NEWS
Aug 22, 1993



"I use five or six a day and hopefully, by the end, everyone will have found something," said Kernen-Howard, a first-grade teacher in the Avon Grove School District. "Others are

really self-motivated writers. They're really very creative."

Instructors of the youngest children, those going into first and second grade, said their objective was to foster ideas.

"The most important thing for this age group is for them to use their imagination to create stories and to look upon writing as fun, rather than a drudge," said Bernadette Fenning.

She said her group of mostly second-graders was well-read, unpretentious and creative.

"These kids love writing. They get right to it," she said. "It doesn't matter if it makes sense. They're being imaginative."

"In high school," noted Fenning, who heads the English Department at Archbishop Carroll High School, "adolescents are afraid to say too much. These kids don't care. They say what they feel like saying."

The staff of the Summer Writing Project tries to sustain the students' enthusiasm long after the children have left.

At the close of each session,

the students select their favorite pieces — enough to fill a page — for publication in a book they'll receive in the mail in the fall.

"Every kid wants to have their work in a book," said Seidel. "We reinforce that by telling them their work is going to be seen and read by a lot of people."

Along with the compilation of all the children's work, parents receive an individual report on their child's progress, Seidel said.

Each year, the children are also invited to a fall reunion, and can bring a friend who didn't attend camp.

One almost-second-grader said she couldn't wait to return. Part of what made the program fun for her was its location.

She boasted: "When I go back to school in the fall, I'm going to tell my friends I went to college this summer."

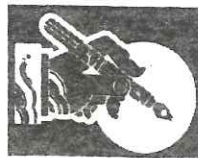
For more information on the Summer Youth Writing Project, call 436-3089.

FAIRY NIGHT

*On a summer night,
On a hill,
Lies a little house and a
pond,
And a field.
On that very field,
An overwhelming sound,
Of the fairy dance,
For all the babies that,
Were born,
Their first cry,
Shattered into 100 pieces,
And all those 100 pieces,
Are the fairies that dance
tonight,
Emerging from the
heavens,
To show feelings of*

*emotion,
Exploding with joy,
And happiness,
The fairies are dressed,
in their finest clothing,
Looking like 1,000
Candles being lit,
And blown out.
That is the Night of the
Fairies.*

Abigail Glaum-
Lathbury, 9



"WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"

*"With liberty and justice
for all,"
cried the general as they
went to war.
"With our efforts, the flag
shall never fall!"
"with liberty and justice
for all,"
"we'll be heroes; our
pictures hung on a wall!"
"We'll crush their forces at
the shore!"
"With liberty and justice
for all,"
cried the general as they
went to war.*

A triolet
Kevin Brochet, 12

Women writers escape from daily stress

By Andrew Brady
Production Manager

Women writers need to escape from the pressures of modern day life in order to develop their potential, according to Dr. Connie Garcia-Barrio, professor of foreign languages at WCU, who lectured on "Where Women Write," last Tuesday in Sykes Union art gallery.

Garcia-Barrio outlined her own experiences as a free-lance writer and her stay at Cottages at Hedgebrook, a retreat for women writers in Washington state. She said she "got into" freelance writing through having "310" articles published.

"I had enough rejection slips to paper my bathroom," she said. After a visit to Cuba and several other Spanish-speaking Latin American countries, where she learned about "black folklore," she was subsequently published in *Essence* with an article affiliating Latin American culture to a com-

mon African heritage.

Garcia-Barrio advised her audience to "write on spec" to a publisher who is likely to be interested in a specific subject matter.

It was in this fashion that she had articles published in a medical journal, on the subject of child hearing loss, and in *Essence*, with an article about "home schooling."

Both of these topics were of personal interest to Garcia-Barrio, whose own child suffered from a temporary hearing loss. She also became aware of parents' wishes to have their children educated on religious or African-American grounds.

"Writing has become a way of educating myself for things that interest me," explained Garcia-Barrio. "You get to talk to experts," she said, which means "publicity for them."

Because of her experiences in Latin America, and her expertise in the Spanish language, Garcia-Barrio was sent to Ecuador on a "press trip."

In her lecture, she told of the

"great experience" of travelling the Amazon on a "floating hotel and canoe," as well as "swinging, Tarzan style, through the jungle."

Garcia-Barrio's adventurous spirit took her to the Cottages at Hedgebrook, located on Whidbey Island in Washington.

Residencies at the Cottages, explained Garcia-Barrio, are allocated to women "of all ages and from all cultural backgrounds" who are devoted to writing.

Publication is not a necessary end product, all that is asked is that the women commit themselves and be "the best possible writers they can be." This message was reinforced through a videotape shown by Garcia-Barrio, portraying life at Hedgebrook.

Garcia-Barrio spoke of the Cottages as a place where one could "settle into solitude," in an atmosphere in which she could concentrate upon her writing.

She told of how she would "listen to spirituals under the moonlight," and would sometimes cry during her stay at the retreat.

The only time the women



six individual cottages met together, Garcia-Barrio said, was for dinner, at which time breakfast materials were distributed for the following morning, while lunch was brought to

each woman's cottage.

Garcia-Barrio claimed that discussion at dinner, contributed to a "complete change" in the outline of her novel. She emphasized the point that being prepared to accept criticism can only make one a better writer, a factor she attributes to her writing "fifty pages - good pages" of her novel dealing with Black History in Philadelphia during her stay at the retreat.

Garcia-Barrio encouraged her listeners to involve themselves in writer's groups, and offered titles of publications detailing specific areas of interest for the prospective writer.

When asked about the financial cost of spending time at Hedgebrook, Garcia-Barrio replied that in her case, she "didn't pay anything except for transportation." She said that each woman's situation is evaluated separately and that financial constraints should not affect eligibility.

Remember the kids

**BUSINESS
CARES**
ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Shrinking resources and intense competition have forced some corporations to cut support to community organizations. But others have found ways to make community involvement an integral part of their company's marketing strategies.

One company, Mellon PSFS, introduced its *Focus on Learning* program in January 1992 as a specific response to the bank's retail marketing mission. "A key objective was to maintain a local identity for the Mellon PSFS branch network," says marketing director Melinda Lovern. "We chose to focus our efforts on education and sports. *Focus on Learning* is the umbrella for all of our education-related programs."

One of these programs is *Express Yourself*, a school-based essay contest. The program has reached over 500 schools and more than 10,000 youngsters. Topics have ranged from why learning is important to endangered species. The topic, violence in the community, generated some 1,700 entries and gave birth to a new initiative, *Stop the Violence Starts with ME!*, which asks students to pledge to do their part to stop violence. "Our goal," says Lovern, "is to collect 50,000 signatures."

The program has been supported by public-service TV announcements and public rallies, including one recently at the LOVE sculpture at JFK Plaza. "This program," says Lovern, "has given the community something to latch onto."

ANOTHER COMPANY WHOSE strategy stresses education is Apple Computer, which has made grants to schools in the Delaware Valley.

A grant from Apple, for instance, is helping South Philadelphia High keep students in school. "We're competing with the streets," says Tina Petron, head of the school's

science department. "These kids could be making \$200 a day as lookouts for drug dealers. We needed an edge to keep them in the classroom, and we've got it now through our Apple computers."

Apple Computers are being used to breathe new life into the study of biology. Students grow plants, keeping track of their growth and checking soil pH and moisture using their computers, which are linked to soil probes in the school's greenhouse. Other software enables students to "peer" into a lake in Oregon to learn about the food chain and interrelationships between species of fish.

In the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District, Conestoga High School was a recent recipient of an Apple *Library of Tomorrow* grant, which Conestoga used to build a technology training and update center.

The grants have, in effect, put students behind the wheel of a vehicle much more powerful than any old internal combustion engine.

**How some
companies
make community
involvement part
of their marketing
strategies.**

By BRUCE ROSNER



Many companies are able to include community involvement in their corporate strategies. Here, students benefit from corporate involvement in their school through Mellon PSFS's *Express Yourself* essay contest. Apple Computers also helps local schools with grants and equipment.

Dear Author: Your Book Has Changed My Life

By CLARE ANSBERRY

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Although they've never met, Chris Harris felt he could bare his ninth-grade soul to the author Howard Fast.

"Just once, I would like for [my dad] to say 'That was an excellent grab at second base,'" Chris confided in a letter to Mr. Fast. "Most of the time it's 'Come on you know you can do better than that.' . . . Deep down I know that he loves me a lot. I just can't help to wonder why he doesn't show his emotions."

Chris's letter was among 9,000 written by junior- and senior-high students as part of a contest sponsored by Read Magazine and the Library of Congress. The topic: How books have changed their lives. The essays, in the form of letters to authors, deal with everything from molestation to the death of a pet. They offer a hopeful sign in our video-cluttered culture, says Cathy Gourley, associate editor of Read Magazine. "Who says kids aren't reading?" she asks.

Chris read Mr. Fast's "April Morning," a novel about a young man trying to win his father's respect during the Revolutionary War, as part of a history assignment. He expected a boring rehash of a colonial battle. "It fascinated me how it was a lot like my life," he says.

Joni Boynton, a seventh grader from Lewiston, Minn., had just finished reading Wilson Rawls's "Where the Red Fern Grows," about a boy and the death of his two dogs, when her own dog, Bear, was shot by hunters. "As he lay - his head in my lap with such pain and agony it broke my heart," she wrote to the author. "This episode seemed unreal. Why or how could anyone be so cruel . . . It helps knowing someone else has gone through the same kind of pain."

No one knows for sure whether kids are reading more or not. There are some positive signs: Sales of juvenile trade books almost doubled to an estimated \$2.09 billion in 1993 from \$1.05 billion in 1987, according to the Book Industry Study Group. And book-oriented children's shows like Reading Rainbow are among the most popular public television shows.

Still, kids confess they don't read that much. If they don't have jobs after

school, they have play rehearsals and wrestling practice. And while reading is considered work, movies and TV are entertainment. Just look at the 1992 Reading Report Card from the U.S. Department of Education: Fewer than 25% of students in grades 8 and 12 read every day, and the same percentage never or hardly ever read for fun. Meanwhile, 65% of the 8th graders and 47% of 12th graders watch three or more hours of TV a day.

Teenagers say their parents aren't much better. They spend all day in front of computers and unwind in front of the TV.

Their reading seems limited to newspapers or magazines.

Avi (who goes by his first name only) is a popular children's book author who says there's no question kids read less. He adds, however, that books have an undeniably profound impact on kids' lives. Whenever he visits schools - some 30 to 40 a year - he asks kids to name a TV show that is like their own life.

"They can never come up with one," he says.

Daniel Boorstin, Librarian of Congress Emeritus, says books hold power over all generations because the experience of reading is so personal. "You can possess [a book,] hold it. No one knows what you're reading and feeling. You make your own world," he says. Movies and television are almost too realistic, he adds.

Indeed, young adults are unexpectedly seeing themselves reflected in the pages of books. "Your book captured me," wrote Jennifer Marvin to author Hannah Green about "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden." Ms. Green's account of a young girl suffering from mental illness.

"Let me explain. I am 16 and I have been diagnosed with manic depression and am on several medications. Luckily my case is mild, but that doesn't mean it isn't hard . . . I fight living in a world of my own also," she wrote, closing with "My deepest gratitude and love."

The books have changed the students, and the contest has changed the teachers. Linda Vegh, an English teacher in Corpus Christi, Texas, says she used to make all book selections herself and assign home-

work on everything students read. As a result, students often read solely in search of answers about character development and theme. Now she lets students pick their own books.

Ms. Vegh says she would never have assigned "The Courage to Heal," for example, a chronicle of sexual abuse, which explains how victims resolved their fear and guilt. But Lula Jones, a 12th grader at the public high school where Ms. Vegh works, picked it up. She wrote that she had been molested for several years, was afraid of being home alone and of the dark.

"I felt as if there were something wrong with me because I can't stand for people to touch me," she wrote to authors Ellen Bass and Laura Davis. "Just reading the stories of all those women eases the pain and maybe one of these days with the help of your book, that little girl inside of me will be at peace with herself," wrote Ms. Jones.

As much as books change for every reader and generation, they also offer a reassuring constant: the hero, who unlike many of today's role models, will never change or disappoint.

Aslum Khan, a senior in Rolling Meadows, Ill., lost his mother to cancer, felt alienated from his father and, as an Indian and Muslim, from most of society as well. He picked up "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" because he heard Malcolm X's name in a couple of rap songs.

Before he read the book, he was like every other high school kid: "I was afraid of everything. I really doubted myself," he says. All of those feelings, he says, changed after reading the book. In his contest-winning letter to Alex Haley he wrote, "I realize now that I am a talented, good person and nobody can tell me otherwise . . . Suddenly everything my mother had told me about honesty, doing well in school and not following the crowd had new meaning to me."

Not every letter was a thank you note. Some offered advice. Suzanne Lanza, of Park Ridge, Ill., suggests that author Michael Crichton lighten up. The setting, characters, action and dinosaurs in "Jurassic Park" "were perfect," she wrote. But she could do without the "technical stuff."

"Do you think we're all scientists and study DNA day and night," she wrote. "What I'm trying to say is make your books so everybody could read them and so you don't have to be a scientist to understand them . . . Otherwise I would say this is an excellent book."

Excerpts From the Essays

Dear Hannah Green,

Even though Deborah's story isn't real, it is to me, and it gave me hope and courage to face my own problems. If Deborah could do it, why couldn't I?

To Mr. Shel Silverstein,

I find more wisdom and more life in a poem written on the neck of a running giraffe than in many of my long-winded textbooks.

Dear Ellen Bass and Laura Davis,

Maybe one day with the help of your book, that little girl inside of me will be at peace with herself.

Students Attend Writing Project

Thirty-seven students from the Downingtown School District and 15 Coatesville students are among the almost 400 participants in the annual summer Youth Writing Project held at West Chester University's campus in July and August.

Run by the Pennsylvania Writing Project (PAWP), a nationally recognized staff development program for area teachers, the Youth Writing Project encourages participants to work, learn, share and grow as writers. The students experience all phases of the writing process, including publication.

The young writers spend their afternoons for two weeks composing and revising memoirs, articles,

poems, letters, plays and stories under the guidance of PAWP-trained master teachers and several local authors. The best of their writings will be published in a book to be distributed to area schools and libraries.

PAWP's summer youth programs, now in their 10th year, have been noted in the Congressional Record and cited for excellence by the National Writing Project.

For more information, contact the Youth Writing Program at 436-3089.

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An afternoon experience
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August 8-19, 1994 - both sessions open

*Instructors are noted teachers of the
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* Students experience all phases of
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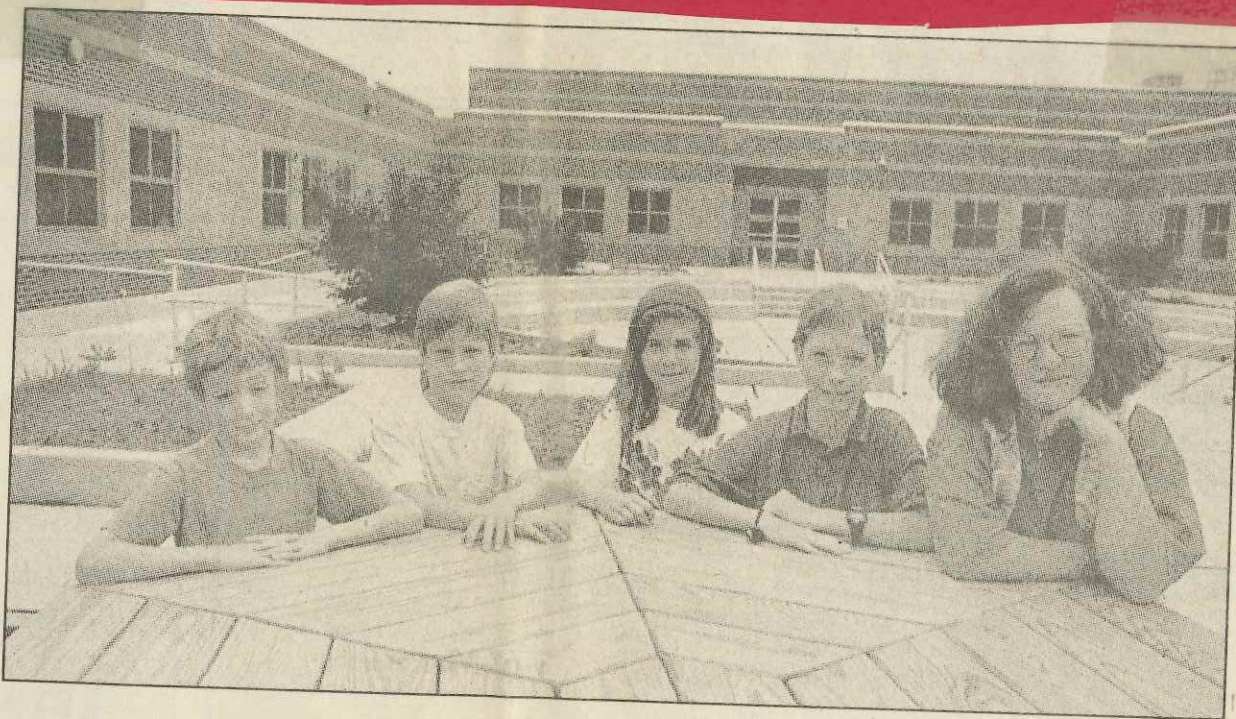
West Chester
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CLOSE TO HOME

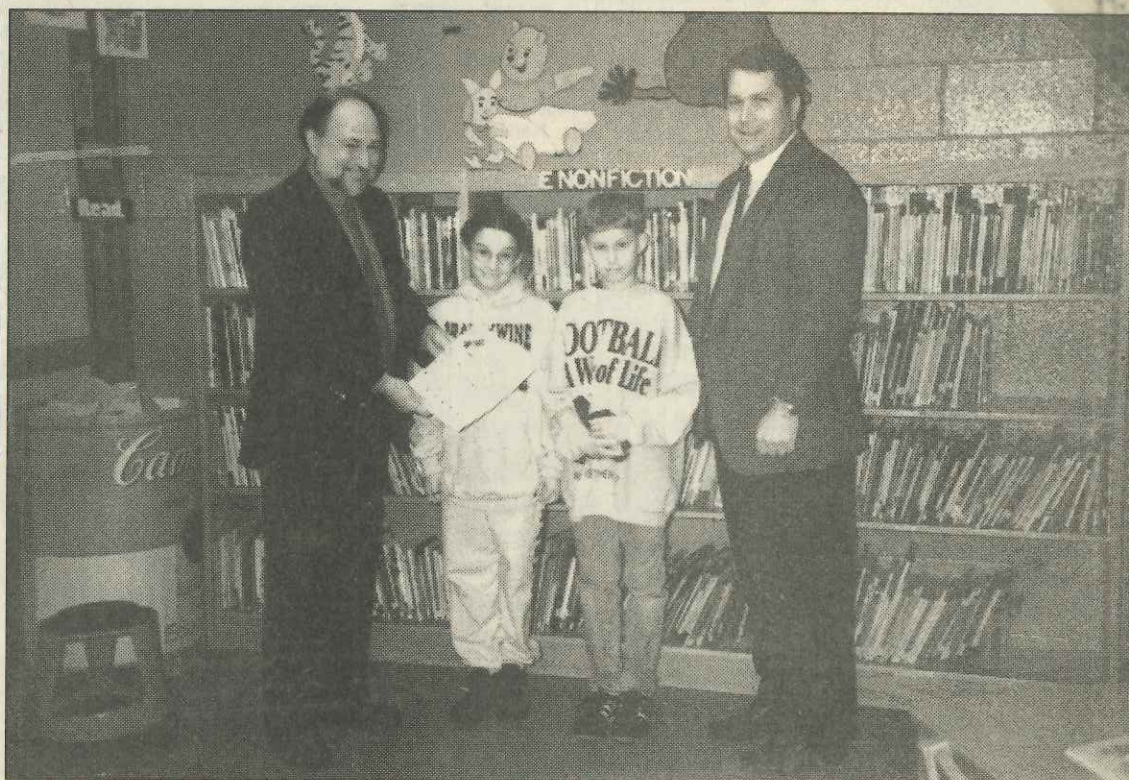
DAILY LOCAL NEWS

Wednesday, July 6, 1994

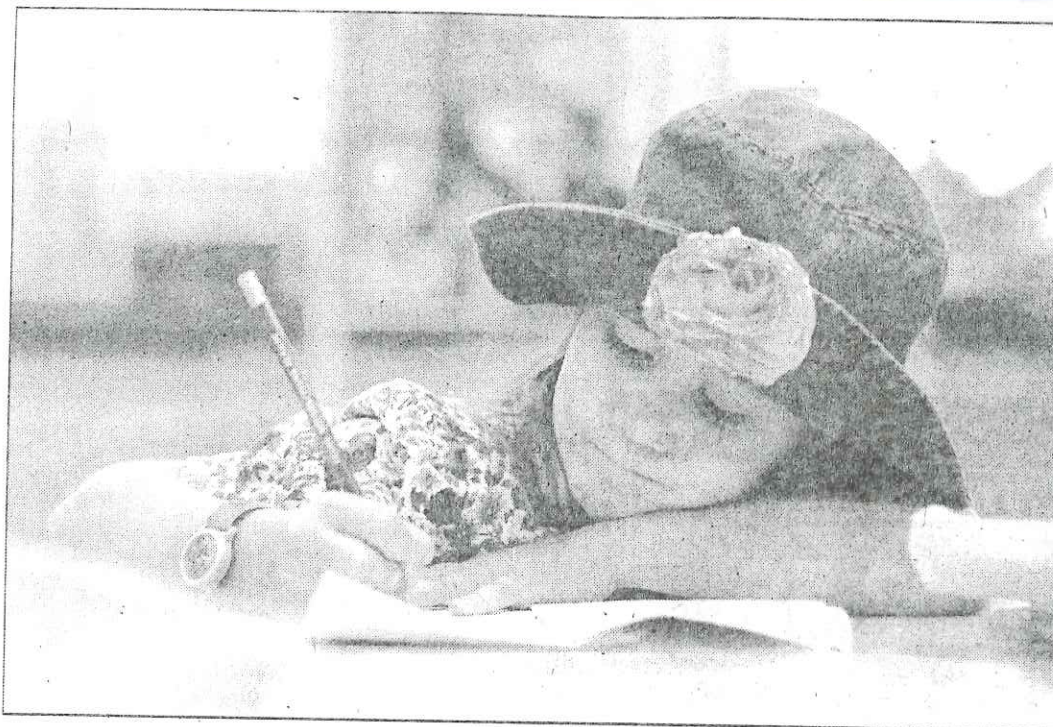


Reeceville Elementary School students who will attend one of the Summer Youth Writing Project sessions at West Chester University are (from left) James Filetti, Shawn Talucci, Lauren MacNeil, Jeff Emmons and Jennifer King. The students won their spots in the session by winning a writing contest sponsored by the PTA of the school in Coatesville. Winner Megan Haines is not in the picture.

Staff photo by Bill Lyons



As Principal Richard Orth (right) looks on, Pennsylvania Writing Project of the Brandywine Wallace Elementary School third-graders Stephanie Kasuska and Anthony Yannella with a copy of "Writing Takes You Everywhere," the annual collection of the best work of students in the Writing Project's Summer Youth Programs. The anthology includes the students' original stories, and was donated to the school library in their names.



Kathleen Orlick, 7, works on a story Monday as part of the Pennsylvania Young Writers Project, locally sponsored by West Chester University, at Reeceville Elementary School in Coatesville. Staff photo by Bill Lyons

The write stuff DLN 8/1/85 A3

Summer young writers project develops local talent

By CAROLINE BURNS
Staff Writer

Sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's hard, but Kathleen Orlik says she likes to start the same way each time.

"First, I like to sit and stare at something and just think. Then I just start writing."

Orlik, 7, is among 950 students participating this summer in the Pennsylvania Young Writers Project, which is sponsored here by West Chester University. The 11-year-old program, once held only at school, expanded this year to seven other locations in Chester, Montgomery, Delaware and Bucks counties.

Orlik has been attending at Coatesville's Reeceville Elementary School. Monday, she and 13 other students worked with teacher Rita Rotton and a parent volunteer in one of two writing classes there.

Rotton encouraged her students, who are between 7 and 10 and attend Coatesville and Downingtown schools, to write the details they'd told her for an exercise on what they like.

"Christian Ogen lives in Coatesville with his mom, dad, dog Rex and a few dead birds. He likes to play baseball," wrote Ogen. "It's interesting," the 8-

year-old said of the exercise.

The Pennsylvania Writing Project started in 1980, six years after the National Writing Project. Both began as teacher training classes and expanded to include students in 1984.

The youth classes, which are attended by students in grades one through 12, are funded with \$165 tuitions, \$17,000 in federal funds, \$3,000 in state funds and a \$2,500 contract. It cost about \$300,000 to run the program last year.

"I wanted to help motivate her toward writing and to get more pleasure out of reading and writing," said Mary Cunningham, whose 7-year-old daughter Elizabeth is attending at Reeceville.

"This is a pretty focused group. Most of them enjoy doing what they're doing. It's just learning some new skills, getting some neat ideas."

In all, there are seven other writing projects run from other universities in the state. Teachers write their own curricula, said Bruce Seidel, the coordinator of youth programs. As encouraging writing has become more common in all school subjects, the summer program is a chance to focus on the discipline, he said.

"It's very homey," he said of the

elementary school sites. Last year, there was one, where 30 students attended.

"We're in the school districts where the kids go, and the classrooms are able to be decorated. And this makes the program possible for parents who could not get to the university."

The school-based programs have also drawn in parent-teacher organizations. A parent group at the Coatesville district provided scholarships to at least 11 students this year.

Most students — 550 — attend the program at the college. That's where Craig Fenimore, a teacher at West Chester E.N. Peirce Middle School, has been working this summer.

Fenimore teaches high school students in the program, and said his goal is to keep his classes lively.

"Our philosophy has always been to make it enjoyable. Quite a number of the students are involved in writing before they come to us, with magazines, the year book. Some kids come and are forced by their parents. We hope by the end of the two weeks, they are enjoying it more. But a good number of our kids come because they just love to write," he said.

CLOSE TO HOME

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

Club Notes

Club to stage flower show

"Sixty-five and Growing," a flower show, will be sponsored by The **Club of Little Gardens of Malvern** in celebration of the its 65th anniversary.

The show will be staged from 1-4 p.m. Sept. 8 at Paoli Presbyterian Church, 225 S. Valley Road, Paoli. Any amateur gardener is invited to exhibit, and entries will be accepted from 9-10:30 a.m. the day of the show. Judging will take place at 11 a.m.

The show will have three divisions. Horticulture will include roses, marigolds, zinnias, container-grown plants and other garden flowers. Design will include five classes — "Starting out Small," "Design of the '30s," "Enduring Charms," "Celebrating in Style" and "Design of the '90s." Special Exhibits will include Horticultural Therapy and Trees. For more detailed information, call 610-644-8057.

The show schedule has been approved by the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania and the National Council of State Garden Clubs Inc.

Aglow Fellowship to meet

The West Chester Chapter of **Women's Aglow Fellowship** will have a to their desert meeting on Aug. 21 beginning with fellowship and refreshments at 7 p.m. at the Ramada Inn on routes 1 and 202 in Chadds Ford. A door donation to cover costs will be appreciated. No reservations are needed.

Special guest will be Jane Yacoe, who found an intimacy with Jesus as a young girl, lost her way and found it again.



Local literature poet-fiction writer Elizabeth Abrams-Morley (left, rear) visits the West Chester University Course for Young Writers and Young Readers at Reeceville Elementary School in Coatesville. Twenty-seven students attended the two-week session sponsored by the Pennsylvania Writing Project. Abrams-Morley is with teacher Rita Rotton and students (from left) Lisa McKinney, Beaver Creek Elementary School; David Bentley, Friendship; and Kathleen Orlik, Caln.

A poets' haunt in Center City is no more.

Bookstore's regulars stage one last reading

By Suzanne Sataline
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

The chapbooks have been packed away, ones with lines such as "Ag-nese keeps Campari in the crispier" and "You feel bad about killing the two goldfish." The coffee-pot is unplugged. The framed New Yorker covers are stowed.

Alas, City Book Shop has closed. For three years, the little store for literary castoffs stood quietly at 1127 Pine St. Maybe you've been inside and poked through the dusty romance novels. But with foot traffic thinning out, rent skyrocketing to \$900 and an armed robbery in March that made more security necessary, the owners of this storefront in the trendy but struggling neighborhood of Washington Square West decided it was time to shut down. Leonard Gontarek and Cathy Orr-Gontarek closed City Book's doors Sept. 29.

The couple took with them not just the paperback editions of *Eye of the Needle* and *The Gang that Couldn't Shoot Straight* but the shop's stage for stanzas — a dusty scuffed floor under the fuchsia ceiling with

golden stars. City Books was, foremost, a reading space, one where the tentative found their voice and the shy were asked to speak up. The weekly readings and poetry workshops became a fixture for the small, but very active literary set in the city. The store began publishing books of poetry and provided a place where small publishers could sell books of their own.

For some, it was a way station. "I don't know what I'll do next time I'm unemployed," joked Danny Romero, one of City Book's regular poets.

There are other places in Center City for poetry — Doc Watson's and Zoot, to name a couple. Both slip in readings besides the live music. But to the regulars, City Books was special, their island of civility amid the hookers and hoodlums of 13th Street.

"We wanted to create a place where there could be a community of writers if the writers in this town felt it was necessary. And that happened," said Gontarek, a published poet. "I think, somewhat immodestly, we've had an effect on cultural life

See **BOOKSTORE** on B5



The Philadelphia Inquirer / DIRK SHADD

Alicia Askenase was among those sharing poetry at the City Book Shop on Pine Street for the last time. The store closed Sept. 29.

author

Poets offer a few last words at city bookstore

BOOKSTORE from B1
in Philadelphia for a few years. And that's something."

Not everything read or spoken at City Books was literature, but it was a place for possibilities. Especially to the store's loyal following, a collection of characters who gathered weekly in front of the window strung with Christmas lights to share private thoughts in free verse. The regulars included a fabulously famous city poet, a former school-teacher with excellent posture, an ex-con, a garrulous public defender, a Papa Hemingway sort and a self-described Louisianian "fashion time bomb" wrapped in a purple suit and beret with the unlikely name of Ramonir Luza Jr.

Late last month, the crew of regulars, about 35 of them, gathered to mourn, in part to wake, and to toast with cheap champagne, the store and its founders. They were a family, one after the other would say. And they were left to wonder what would become of those ties and, perhaps, themselves.

"It's the end of an era," said Sid Bloom, the father of one of the poets, as he shook Gontarek's hand.

Gontarek cleared his voice and opened the reading as latecomers hustled in through the rain on a dank, rainy Friday. All the folding chairs were taken, even the ones that had been borrowed from Giovanni's Room, the bookstore up the street. So the younger poets flopped on the floor.

Thus spake Gontarek

Then he drew out of the pocket of his olive plaid jacket a poem he had written. Gontarek, a slight man with thin hair and crooked teeth, began in a voice at first tentative, then wistful:

... Oh my reader there is almost nothing
I wouldn't do for you
I would sweep
the dragon flies on the front porch

to hear his work."

Francis returned to read more, sharing at one point a reworking of *The Wizard of Oz*. Francis transformed it into a metaphor for love affairs, where the Scarecrow and the Lion were past loves and Dorothy ended up living with the Tin Man. "It was pretty extraordinary," Gontarek said.

Since then, Francis has been featured at several readings. And Gontarek has published a collection of

Francis' work.

That last night, the store owner asked his young friend to be the final reader. Francis, his hair slicked back, smiled suavely, and stood at center stage. Leonard, he joked, why was the store closing? "I think it was Sylvia Plath who said, 'Didn't you pay the gas bill?'"

And then, from a sheaf of paper ripped from a spiral notebook, its edges curled, he spoke and metaphors and similes swept forth.

Of the poem into a pile.

*It would be neat as a campsite.
I would extricate the cat of
darkness*

From your tree.

*You would not have to call
the fire department. I would iron
your thin dust coverings. I would
get the box
down from the top shelf in the
closet.*

*I would, for you, walk through
fires,
work the grill at your August
barbeques.*

At the very least.

The poem is about himself, he said, but he also tried to speak for all poets. "You are always a young poet, you're always learning," he said later. "On this occasion, it seemed significant."

When he started the open readings, Gontarek was adamant that they be audacious, but never amateurish. "We knew the only way to develop an audience was if there was a standard — and it is mine. It didn't mean that all the poets were similar. ... So when an audience came they never said, 'That's dreadful.'"

Maybe. Maybe not. The group's taste runs from the romantic to the raunchy, from the whimsical to the wild. From their mouths came lovely images of "bird bath sponges," wild rimes of howling verbs and "Leviathan on the spin cycle" and snatches of weirdness with "Prozac incertitude" and "dwarfed Buddhas."

Many in the City Book crowd weren't confident poets when they first walked in. At first curious about the store, then inquisitive about Gontarek, some of the regulars found their voice along the way. Gontarek invited them to read their work or to feature, which meant they were allowed to read a lot. He hopes they will return in January, when he hopes to sponsor readings at Robin's Books on 13th Street.

One of Gontarek's favorites is Edward Francis. A thin, pale young man with an atrophied left arm, he can be as shy and awkward as his writing is forceful and graphic. Years back at an open reading, Gontarek had finished announcing the names of people who would be reading when he felt a tap on his shoulder.

"Do you think there'd be room for me to read?" It was Francis. "This was a tentative, shy poet," Gontarek said, "but clearly he wanted people

*THE FINAL READING
AT CITY BOOK SHOP
TUESDAY 7:00 PM
WITH 30 OF PHILADELPHIA'S FINEST
POETS & WRITERS
September 22, 1983, 1403, Maple College
auditorium, 1000 Locust St.
1500 Locust St.*

A sign at the shop announced the Sept. 22 last reading.

The place attracts professional poets. Tina Barr, a widely published poet as well as a teacher, has found comfort in the Philadelphia poetry scene, in part, because of City Books. When she lived in New York, she could see nationally published poets every week. Yet here she hears range.

The man in the cereal

"There's a real democracy, a kind of teaching workshop," Barr said. "It's like being outside the academy."

Way out. David Baratier, a recent arrival from Albany, N.Y., reads that he is "eating all this cereal so I can glimpse myself, floating in the bottom."

Ron Carter was one of the newer poets. A writer since he was a kid, Carter started using drugs and then fell in and out of prison during the last 10 years. He was released in January after a burglary rap and now writes all the time. On that last night he read "Wannabe," a muscular and angry poem about all the wasteful young men he met behind bars. "My poetry," he explained after, "helped me remember who I was 10 years ago."

You say this is what it takes to be a man
I hear no other voices saying this.

Storyteller fills tales with life

He finds ideas everywhere, especially in his African heritage.

By Denise Breslin Kachin
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

WEST GOSHEN — A story is a like a living thing, breathing and growing, taking on a life of its own.

That was the message Tololwa W. Mollel, a Tanzanian storyteller and author, brought to creative writing students from East and Henderson High Schools yesterday.

Speaking to about 50 students at East, Mollel, now of Edmonton, Alberta, spoke about the process and joy of writing.

The author of seven children's books, Mollel travels throughout the United States and Canada speaking to students about his craft and telling stories to audiences of children and adults. He will be making other area appearances through tomorrow.

Mollel relies on the lore and legend of his African background in bringing his children's stories to life. Folktales from other countries also give him ideas. His latest book, *Big Boy*, has its roots in a Haitian folktale about a boy who gets his wish to be big.

Students sat in rapt attention as he read *Big Boy*, using his expressive voice and hands to bring feeling and emotion to the story.

But it was his experiences as a writer that interested the students and their teachers, Jolene Borgese from East and Martha Hansen from Henderson.

There was a collective gasp from the students when Mollel told them it can take as many as 25 drafts to



Azure Marlowe asked Mollel how he handled the loneliness of writing. He said he talks to himself and takes walks.

arrive at a finished product that he deems ready for the editor.

Borgese smiled. "Many times," she told Mollel, "my students have trouble reworking a story one or two times. I can tell them rewrites are important, but when someone like you tells them, it has more impact."

Henderson junior Azure Marlowe asked Mollel how he deals with the loneliness of being a writer. "When you're a writer, you are always inside your own head," she said. "It's not like being involved with drama, where you have others to bounce off ideas."

"Well, I talk to myself a lot," Mollel

replied, bringing smiles to many students' faces. "When ideas are hard to come by, I find taking a walk helps."

Mollel is an Arusha Masai, who grew up on his grandfather's coffee farm in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro. He received degrees in literature and theater from the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and a master's degree from the University of Alberta.

He is married, with two sons, ages 13 and 10. "I find my sons are my toughest critics," he said with a grin.

Asked whether he uses longhand or a computer to do his writing, Mollel said he prefers to compose in longhand.

"In the first drafts, writing is supposed to be messy and rough," he said. "Only after I feel it is ready for the editor do I put it on my computer. Then, it looks finished."

Mollel's visit is being sponsored by the West Chester University (WCU) Committee of 16, a human relations group made up of faculty, staff and students, the WCU English department and the state-funded Pennsylvania Writing Project.

Today, Mollel will appear at Philips Auditorium on the WCU campus, in a free program geared to preschool and elementary school children, from 9:15 to 11 a.m.

Tomorrow, the public is being invited to hear Mollel at a free program at the West Chester Community Center from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The center is located at 501 E. Miner St.

Feb 12, 1997

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

NIE



Newspaper in Education

'101 Dalmatians'

By ERIN GALLAGHER

There is an old saying that says a leopard can't change its spots, but I learned that a dalmatian sure can — and this movie proves it. Everyone expected "101 Dalmatians" to have everything similar to the animated version (except the fact that the dogs were real). But as the movie comes to life, new and unexpected aspects are weaved into the hilarious storyline. Right from the very beginning, unique surprises are unraveled, making the "everyone knows this movie" "101 Dalmatians" into an exciting movie that grabs everyone's attention. This improved the Disney classic but it has more than a "Disney Twist." (and that surprised me!)

I was honestly expecting this movie to be exactly the same, but believe me, it was not! It was even better than the animated version. The dogs and even the actors and actresses in this movie were well-suited for their parts, especially Glen Close, who played Cruella DeVil. No one else could have brought her to life as cleverly as she. Her "villain-ish" acting brought strength to the character of Cruella that may be a little fearful for young children. The dogs were adorable, even in some scenes where the dogs were developed from Jim Henson's creature shop. People who love cute dalmatian puppies, or the thrill of a good classic movie, should see this exciting film, or patiently wait for the video release.



ERIN GALLAGHER
Roving Reviewer

Erin Gallagher is a 7th grader at Lionville Junior High School. She has written for the Local News' "Young Writers" column and has attended the West Chester University Youth Writing Project for the past four summers. Keeping her reviews in the kids' arena, Erin rates her movies with ice-cream scoops instead of the standards stars.

Ratings Key

- 1 scoop — Don't waste your time or money.
- 2 scoops — It's okay if there is nothing else to see.
- 3 scoops — It's good — you won't be disappointed.
- 4 scoops — Go buy your tickets now!



Student reviews

Roving reviewer

Eye on 'Babe'

By ERIN GALLAGHER
Special to the Local News

If you haven't seen "Babe," try to go see it. The special effects were awesome and the story line was great!

I think of "Babe" the pig as the type of person we really need in the world today. Someone who



treats others fairly, and listens to people without interrupting them and telling them what they are saying is stupid. And also someone who doesn't

feel like others are inferior to them; someone that others can tell secrets to, and not be worried about put-downs concerning their feelings.

I liked "Babe" a lot. It was a little slow, but it was really funny. "Babe" is a modern-day fable, which taught the Golden Rule and not to be prejudiced.

What was really interesting to me was that most of these characters resembled people I know in real life.

If you have seen "Babe" — go see it again. I think people of all ages will enjoy this movie.

Erin Gallagher is a 6th grader at Shamona Creek Elementary School. She has written for the Local News' "Young Writers" column and has attended the West Chester University Youth Writing Project for the past three summers. Keeping her reviews completely in the kids' arena, Erin rates her movies with ice-cream scoops instead of the standards stars.



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Student reviews

'Roving Reviewer

On 'Gold Diggers: The secret of Bear Mountain'

By ERIN GALLAGHER
Special to the Local News

If you like adventures, suspense, mysteries or legends, go to your nearest movie theater and buy a ticket to see "Gold Diggers: The Secret of Bear Mountain." It is definitely one of the best movies of the month.

Two teen-aged girls — one (Jody) known to be a liar, thief, and a troublemaker — the other (Beth) who is smart, pretty, and popular — become friends after some unusual events bring them together. Beth realizes that Jody is



GALLAGHER

not so bad — she just has many family problems and her behavior is her defense.

Even with the town against Jody, she and Beth set out with one goal in mind — to find the gold belonging to the legend of Molly Morgan.

They are really tested when both of them have to fight for survival — both in their adventure and their personal lives. Is it possible to save a friend, even if it seems the odds are against you?

I really liked this movie a lot. It teaches people about how friends help friends no matter what — even if it seems impossible to do so.

This movie was fast-moving and exciting. No one would have fallen asleep and every minute there is a new problem that needs an answer. It's for children over 7 because young children might not be able to handle the intensity of some scenes.



Erin Gallagher is a 6th-grader at Shamona Creek Elementary School. She has been a Women's Community Club of Uwchlan essay winner and PECO Energy Women's History Month essay winner. She has attended West Chester University Youth Writing Project for the past three summers. Keeping her reviews completely in the kids' arena, Erin rates her movies with ice-cream scoops instead of the standards stars.

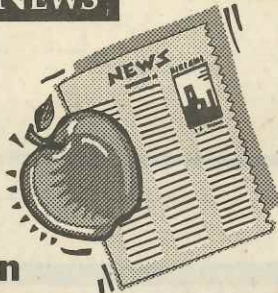
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DAILY LOCAL NEWS

NIE

Newspaper in Education



Student reviews

On the 'First Kid'

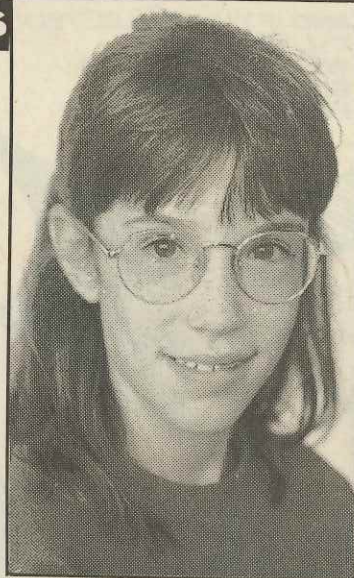
By ERIN GALLAGHER

How would you like to be the most popular and famous kid in the country? Wouldn't you love to be the president's son or daughter? Kids all over the country would love that position. Everyone, that is, except Luke Davenport, the "first kid." Luke tries to do everything in his power to see that his father will not be re-elected. He does not want another four years of Secret Service bombarding him, the lack of privacy, and not being able to see his parents. Luke can't do anything, he can only be a prisoner in the White House walls.

But when Agent Sam Sims is hired to be Luke's guard, things change for Luke. He has a little more space. And finally, Luke

makes friends. With Agent Sims' help, can life be somewhat normal for the "first kid"? Or will it always be "life in a fishbowl"?

With this being an election year, the opening of this movie was perfectly timed. It is a really good film to see. It is very intriguing and keeps you involved in the story. The movie is for all



ERIN GALLAGHER
Roving Reviewer

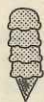
ages, and the hilarious jokes make it enjoyable to all people. This is a great movie, so go to the nearest theater and see "First Kid."

Erin Gallagher is a 7th grader at Lionville Junior High School. From her early kindergarten books (tied together with yarn) she has progressed to winning awards such as Women's Com-

munity Club of Uwchlan essay winner, and PECO Energy Women's History Month essay winner.

In 1993 she also wrote a story for the Daily Local "Young Writers" column, and she has attended

West Chester University Youth Writing Project for the past several summers.



Tornado warning: 'Twister' is here

"Twister" has made a whirlwind rush to theaters everywhere. Although it is rated PG-13



(mainly because of possible intense scenes for children and some bad language), older children and adults will love this movie. This is the first

GALLAGHER weather-related movie to receive a 4, by me and other critics.

Billy and Jo, a divorced couple, are meteorologists (weather scientists). Billy invented "Dorothy," a machine that goes up into a tornado and releases little "balls" that interpret information. But other scientists copied the idea and named it DOT 3. Billy, Jo, and their crew, chase the Hollywood-generated tornadoes and try to be the first ones to successfully release Dorothy and get information.

So far, they have no such luck. Dorothy 1, 2 and 3 are blown over and fail. Jo now needs to think of a way to make the final "Dorothy" work and make it read information in a tornado.

"Twister" was a fantastic movie! You never wanted to turn away from the screen. Digital sound made the movie come alive. Although it was great, some twisters looked fake and "Hollywood-generated."

Erin Gallagher is a 7th grader at Lionville Junior High School. She has written for the Local News' "Young Writers" column and has attended the West Chester University Youth Writing Project for the past four summers. Keeping her reviews in the kids' arena, Erin rates her movies with ice-cream scoops instead of the standards stars.

Ratings Key

- 1 scoop — Don't waste time or money.
- 2 scoops — OK if there's nothing else to see.
- 3 scoops — Good — you won't be disappointed.
- 4 scoops — Go buy your tickets now!



Young Writers

The following are the winning writings from Coatesville Area School District students participating in the West Chester University Youth Summer Writing Project.

The Dirt Pile

One day my dad had a truck come. It delivered a dirt pile. The next day I was really excited, I got on my ruined up jeans and a T-shirt. I went outside to play in my dirt pile. I played race cars with my jeep and one of my dump trucks.

My friend came down from his bus and wanted to play in my dirt pile too. So he went inside his house and he came out all dressed to play in the dirt pile. He wanted to build a tunnel that was for "No Girl's Allowed". We tried to build it, but we couldn't because the dirt kept caving in.

Next we played Ninja fighter with sticks. Then we played pirates and the dirt pile was our pirate ship. After that we played house and Paul was the dad and I was the brother. Then my Dad had to use the dirt pile for his project of filling in the hole under the step. I felt kind of upset that Dad was taking most of the dirt pile because that dirt pile was really a lot of fun to play in. The dirt pile was some of my favorite toys to play with.

Daniel Loschiavo
Kindergarten
First place winner

Kindergarten

I like Kindergarten
So will you
The teacher is fun
So are you
It's very fun to learn
You will like it too!

Megan Echhoff
Kindergarten
Second place winner

Prize by Prize

Today I entered a book contest. I'm pretty sure I'll lose. Tonight I'm going to start reading.

Oh, I'm Jessica Brown. You see, I stink at everything. I've never won anything, but maybe, the "Loser of the Century." I don't mean to sound greedy, but I would like to win once. My little brother has tons of ribbons and he's not even in Kindergarten! I'm in seventh grade too. Anyway, if I win this book contest, I'll get a Blue Ribbon and \$66, but I doubt that's going to happen.

I don't mean to sound conceited, one night I had this dream, that I won everything. That's probably in the distant future. My life would be ruined if I didn't win anything! You have to turn in how many books you've read by next Tuesday. I've only read nine short books so far. Tomorrow I'm going to start a chapter book that is called "Away With The Night."

So I only read 100 short books and 20 chapter books. I spent all my spare time reading. I read the most in my class, but I don't know about my grade. "Jessica Brown," said my teacher, "You have won the book contest for your grade."

"Yes!" I shouted, "I won."
"You will get your ribbon and \$66 on July 20th," said my teacher.

On July 20th I received my prize! Ever since then I've won prizes! I may not win everything, but when I win I know it was because I did my best!

Michelle Welk
First Grade
First Place Winner

My Horse Story

Once I was picking a horse out for my family. It was hard because there was a lot of them. I picked the first one and took her home.

"This is our house. How do you like it? I must name you. Is Den good? No, because you are a girl. Oh I know, Misty. Oh Misty, I love you. Monday we will go riding again."

Misty and I went on a pony trail. It was fun. Misty had some water and an apple.

"Good night Misty. I will always love you."

Lauren Beauchamp
Second Grade
First Place Winner

A Trip to the Sky

In the year 1890, Melissa and I found a snowman in my backyard. We didn't know who built it. "Let's knock it down," I said. "Don't knock me down." We looked around for the person who was making the snowman talk. "Stephanie and Melissa, time for lunch," my mom called. "But mom," I said, "there's a talking snowman out here and we have to find out more about it."

"There's nothing out here. Don't be silly. Come in for lunch."

After lunch, we went outside to talk to the snowman. "How did you get here," I asked him. "I traveled back in time," said the snowman. "Who made you?" we asked. "Queen Cold. No one can see me but you," he said. "Cool! Do you want to come inside?" I asked. "OK," said the snowman.

We played everything we could think of. After he went back outside, I asked my mom if Melissa could sleep over and she said yes. When we woke up the next morning, our snowman was gone. But there was as note in the snow. It said, "Girls, I forgot to tell you my name, it's Gizmo. I got captured by King Sun. Please come and save

me. I'm in the sky and a big bird will come and take you there. They are trying to push me in the fire. Please hurry! You will know where to find me because of the bright flame."

All of a sudden a big red bird came down and we hopped on. We were there all day looking for the flames. I looked at my watch, it was 9 at night, but it wasn't dark. When we found Gizmo, we found out why it wasn't dark. King Sun wanted to be the only one in the sky so he tied up the moon and all the stars. We dressed up like clouds and rescued Gizmo.

Since he was white everyone thought he was a cloud.

We jumped on the big red bird and took Gizmo back to Queen Cold and his family. We missed Gizmo, but we never had to go to bed again because the moon and stars are still tied up. So if you ever find a snowman in your back yard and you did not build it, don't be surprised if any time soon you take a trip to the sky.

Stephanie Lyon
Third Grade
First place winner

An Anthology of Poems

About the Rainforest
Lions are vicious
Pandas are cute
Giraffes eat tree leaves
And parrots eat fruit.
Parrots eat fruit seeds
Pandas eat bamboo
Lions eat raw meat
And Cheetahs do too.

About the Jungle...
Zebras have black stripes
Giraffes have spots,
And with these for camouflage
They're really got the hots.
Panthers and Jaguars
Tigers and more.
If you live in the Jungle
One could come knocking
At your door.

About the Ocean...
Seaweed, Seaweed
You're some shade of green,
Seaweed, Seaweed
You're slippery it seems,
Seaweed, seaweed,
What a wonderful thing,
Seaweed, seaweed
Product of being.
Dolphins eat fishies,
Sharks will eat seals
If you ever go diving
be careful of eels.

Jessica Jaucette
Fourth Grade
First Place Winner

The Attic

I heard a creak, I heard a crack,
Up in the attic way in back.
I sat there and wondered what it
was.
I sat there and wondered what it
does.
I was afraid to go up and see,
But at the top of the steps, there
was a key.
I opened the door...and to my
surprise,
I found a furry critter with bright
yellow eyes.
I screamed so loud, you wouldn't
believe,
All I wanted was this furry thing
to leave!
I picked him up and threw him
as far as I could throw,
And then I started running as
fast as I could go.
I ran out of the attic so very fast,
I thought I was really safe at
last.
Oh man, oh man was I ever
wrong.
I tripped over the stairs and flew
very long.
I fell face first on the floor,
I looked up and saw the door.
I turned the knob and saw the
critter.
My lips turned blue and my teeth
started to chitter.
I pushed the critter out of the
way,
Now that was a very scary day!
The critter is no longer around
Because I buried him six feet un-
der the ground.

By Alysia Hedegard
Fifth Grade
First place winner

An Anthology of Poems

"On a Spring Day"

On a spring day I hear the birds
sing.
On a spring day I like to play on
swings.
On a spring day the grasshop-
pers hop,
On a spring day the blossoms
will pop.
On a spring day the trees are
pretty,
On a spring day I like to play
with my kitties.
On a spring day the grass is
green,
On a spring day that is what I
have seen.

"COMPUTERS"

COMPUTERS come in different
sizes
COMPUTERS come in different
shapes
COMPUTERS come from dif-
ferent places
COMPUTERS have a funny face
COMPUTERS come in black and
white
COMPUTERS come in color
print
COMPUTERS have a big capac-
ity
COMPUTERS sometimes smell
like lint
COMPUTERS help us make
things neater
COMPUTERS help us do things
well
COMPUTERS can be good assis-
tants
They have a color, look and
smell.
COMPUTERS have a memory,
They call is CPU
It sends out pictures, letters and
They then appear to work for
you!

Jessica Faucette
Fourth Grade
First Place Winner

Young Writers

The following poems were written by students in the Coatesville Area School District who participated in the Young Writers/Young Readers program sponsored by West Chester University at Reeceville Elementary School.

My dog can play. My dog can pay. My dog can lay. My dog can stay.
My dog can sue. My dog drinks dew. My dog can chew. My dog can moo. My dog licks you.
My dog can sit. My dog can spit. My dog can play with a kit. My dog can hit. My dog can play in a pit.

Are You Afraid of the Dark?

C-L-I-C-K, C-L-I-C-K, C-L-I-C-K. WOW! A spooky place.
E-E-A-K-K
Come on let's get out of here!
WOW!
A treasure box and a combination lock.
But we don't know it.
Let's get out of here!

Fall
dead leaves
crunch, crunch, crunch
riding a go cart through the leaves
favorite season

John Buckalew
Grade three

Baseball Game

It's about home runs
RBIs
Strike outs
It's about "You're out!"
Yelling
Booing
It's about Fresh air
Pizza
Hot Dogs
It's about a batter yelling at the ump.

Skiing

skis, poles
falling, zooming, racing
fun, cold, easy, exciting
sport

What am I?

In some schools I'm a rectangle.
In others, round like a clock.
My inner part is like a screen.
You hear your principal from me.
What am I?

Sean McKinney
Grade three

I Like

I like a key
and I like tea.
I like to take sand
and bury my hand.
I like the ocean
and motion.
I like my friend
and I like to bend.
I like the sea
and I like me.

My Friends

My friend Hannah's a nice girl.
She helps me when I'm in trouble.

We do a lot of things together.
My friend Kate is kind.
We do a lot of fun things together.
My friend Aerial is caring
We have a lot of fun.
She's in my class.
My friend Kim is nice.
We play most of the time
and we have fun.
My friend Colleen is kind.
Most of the time we play
in the summer in the sprinkler.

Winter
snow, cold
sledding, snowing, freezing
fun, presents, ice, vacation
season

Megan Friel
Grade four

Rules

Some people say rules keep you from getting hurt at play, but I say rules just get in the way. So many parents say, "If you don't follow rules you will pay." But anyway there's no way rules can say you can't have a good day!

Farm

It's about horses in fields,
kittens born overnight,
roosters waking all still sleeping.
It's about the cow mooing while being milked,
a pig oinking hungrily for food,
the lamb baaing.
It's about the smell of fresh air,
flowers in the garden,
large apple orchards.
It's a beautiful day!

Beth Skovira
Grade four

If I Ran the World

If I ran the world there would be no such thing as broccoli and the words, "Eat your dinner" and "Drink your milk," would never be said. And if I ran the world then beef stew wouldn't exist. If I ran the world everybody would have a pool and a Nintendo. Hmmm... If I ran the world it just might be nice!

Camp Tockwogh

It's about friends
sleeping bags
cabins
It's about cocoa
hot dogs
soda
It's about fresh air
food
pine trees
It's about Dad saying,
"Stay up as long as you want."

Sandal

walking, standing
running, skipping, falling
footwear, cool, black
shoe

Emily Barr
Grade four

Young Writers

The following poems were written by students from the Coatesville Area School District who participated in the Young Writers/Young Readers program at Reeceville Elementary School, sponsored by West Chester University.

The Parade

I can see the drummers beating the drums.
They sparkle in the sun light.
I smell the tasty chocolate candy.
I hear the music playing.
I taste the grape lollipops
I touch the hot sticky coins thrown on the street.

Someday...

Someday I'll be able to stay at Water World all day long.
Someday I'll write a book that everyone will want to read.
Someday I'll be a consultant for McKinney Consulting, Inc.
But right now it's time for a hug.

Water World

We're finally here.
I see a big yellow slide.
It looks fun.
My Mom and I go down together.
We zoom down.
It's fun.
I see a stubby little white slide.
I decide to go.
I do a big belly flop.
Ouch!!!

Lisa McKinney
Grade two

Where Am I?

I see some slippers.
I hear the applause.
I smell the roses.
(And other flowers)
I taste gummy bears.
I touch armrests
and my hands are clapping.
Where am I?

An Upside Down Day

I love my Mom.
I love my Dad.
I love my cat.
I love my dogs.
My Mom drops me off at
Young Writers/Young Readers Class.
My Dad goes to work.
My Dogs go outside.
My cat does a cart Wheel????!!
Kerplow!!!

My Friends

I see Janice.
I hear her whispering.
I smell peppermint breath.
I taste mints — winter mints — and soda.
I touch the wrapper of the mints.

Kathleen Orlik
Grade two

Little and Big

I used to be a little TV.
But now I'm a big screen TV.
I used to be a little house,
But now I'm the White House.

Terminator 2 — Judgement Day

I see the blood.
I hear guns.
I smell fear.
I taste popcorn.
I touch the popcorn bowl.
I see death.
I hear screaming.
I think he's going to blow someone's brains out.

I like my Mom,
I like my Dad,
I like my Grandmother,
I like my Grandfather.
But most of all I like my dog and cat.

Christian Ogden
Grade three

To: Amy

Even though you are lazy and sleep a lot I still love you. I wish you were still a kitten because you would be more playful. Try not to eat and sleep so much and I'll be nicer to you. Cats are my favorite animals so that's how you got to be my cat. I just want you to know that I love you very much!

The Zoo

I see some lions, zebras and giraffes.
I hear kangaroos jumping up and down.
I smell hamburgers and chicken nuggets.
I touch the fence while I'm looking at the tigers.
I taste Sprite during lunch.

My Color Poem

Purple is a plum.
Yellow is the sun.
Red is a rose.
Peach is the color of our sin.
And rose is the color of your shirt.

Jennifer Reardon
Grade two

I Love

I love my Mom.
I love my Dad.
I love my sister.
I love my cats.
But most of all,
I love my family.

At Veteran's Stadium

I see the players on the field.
I hear the bat crack.
I smell the popcorn.
I taste popcorn and soda.
I touch the handles on the seat.

Green Things

Green is grass,
Trees and lollipops.
Green is a sticker,
peas and green beans.

Alex Tremblay
Grade 2

8/24/95

DLN Close to home P.C.G

Young Writers

The following poems were written by students from the Coatesville Area School District who are participating in the Young Writers/Young Readers program sponsored by West Chester University.

Green

Green is brussels sprouts
And broccoli, too.

Watching TV

I see Bugs Bunny.
I hear Tweety Bird laughing
I can smell dinner on the stove!
I can already taste dinner in my mouth!
I touch the couch.

How I have Grown

I used to be a mouse house,
But now I am a castle
I used to be a pebble,
But now I am a boulder.
I used to be a seed,
But now I am a tree.

Tony Banta
Grade two

The Beach

I see the ocean coming on the beach.
I hear the waves lapping loudly.
I smell chicken nuggets on the boardwalk.
I taste icy, cold lemonade.
I touch hot sand

Someday...

Someday when I am 16 years old,
I'm going to ride my motorcycle
and I'm going to drive a car
But right now I am going to ride my bike!

I like red.
I like red apples.
I like red grapes.
I like red cans.
I like red ketchup.
Red is my color!

Dave Bentley
Grade two

Summer

I like summer because
I can go to the pool
and there's no school.
My dog is funny
and so is my cat.

Buttonwood Beach

I hear the boats.
I hear sea gulls.
I smell the sea.
I taste pool water.
I touch the sand.

Things I Never Want to Do Again

I hate getting dressed.
I hate getting up in the morning.
I hate choking on candy.
But what I hate most,
Is going to the mall without buying anything!

Elizabeth Cunningham
Grade two

Golf

Sometimes my Dad takes me to play miniature golf.
When we get there and start playing,
I usually get at least 3 holes in 1,
but my Dad usually wins!

When we're playing we're always good sports.
After we're done playing
we get a bite to eat.

My Grandmom

My grandmom is like a flower
growing in the sun.
My grandmom is like a tree
It's roots in the ground.
My grandmom is like a jacket
that keeps me warm.
And my grandmom is like a pillow
that lets me sleep.
That's my
Grandmom!

Under My Bed

I see darkness all around.
I hear my cats coming under, too.
I smell old stinky socks.
I taste the dust.
I touch the floor.

Lauren Earle
Grade three

Favorite Colors

I want a black car.
I want a white car.
I want a red car.
I want a blue car.
But most of all,
I want a green truck.

My Favorite Things to Do

I like to make things.
I like to watch TV.
I like to swim.
I like to read.
But most of all,
I like to play football!

Watching A Race

I see race cars.
I hear an engine.
I taste popcorn.
I smell smoke.
I touch the fence.

Dennis Herr
Grade three

Trucks and Machines

I see dump trucks on the road.
I hear backhoes digging.
I smell gasoline.
I taste grape bubble gum.
I touch a loader that is parked.

Favorite Foods

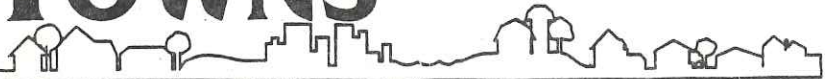
I like cheese pizza.
I like corn on the cob
at dinnertime.
I like seafood.
I like chips on my hot dogs.
I like fish.
I like iced tea.
But most of all,
I like cakes!!

I've Changed

I used to play,
But now I work.
I used to read baby books,
But now I read chapter books.

Joseph Lucci
Grade three

The Record OUR TOWNS



Some of the 57 children at the Young Writers and Readers program at Upper Moreland Middle School listen as teacher Sue Powidzki reads to the class.
(Staff photos by E. Stace Leichter)

Campers willing to write home

Children focus on writing, reading skills at daytime program

By Jolyn Resnick
Staff Writer

There's a tent right in the middle of the classroom, with a river flowing nearby.

Trees line the walls, and a "no hunting, no fishing" sign adorns an aquarium.

On the door, a sign proudly proclaims the visitor is entering "Camp Writesalot."

It may not be your traditional summer camp, but for 57 children from Bucks and Montgomery counties, the Young Writers and Young Readers program is the best thing going.

The two-week program, conducted every weekday morning at Upper Moreland Middle School, is sponsored by the National Writing Project through the Pennsylvania Writing Project at West Chester University.

Although it is 11 years old, it did not become a regional event until last year, when the Upper Moreland School District was chosen to pilot off-campus programs.

"I always wanted to go to camp," said 11-year-old Lindsey Makofka, a student at Upper Moreland Middle School. "This is like day camp."

Lindsey, who won the Women's Club writing award recently, said she simply "loves reading and writing — no ifs, ands or buts."

But, she said, most of her friends and neighbors don't understand.

"My friends don't appreciate fine poetry," she said. "No one on my block understands."

Jim Kent, a 13-year-old Warrington resident who attends school in Central Bucks, said his parents suggested he sign up for the program.

"Last year, I went to a school for study skills," he said. "It was boring. This is pretty good."

Jim said he reads what he wrote to his parents every day.

Ten-year-old Jackie Starnier of North Wales didn't have to be talked into attending the program. She went last year and couldn't wait to go back.

"I really want to be a writer," she said. "And, usually, I don't have time to write."

Jackie is well on her way to fulfilling her dream: *Heaven is a place of dreams.*

A place where,



Teaming up on a reading project are Rebecca Wagner (left), 10, and Lindsey Makofka, 11.



*grown men weep.
Where children are,
reunited,
with parents,
grandparents,
and friends.
That died not,
long ago.
In heaven you see,
the world with,
different eyes.
You see everything with,
beauty and good in,
every creature.
There is no,
fear in heaven,
for you are in,
THE HOUSE OF GOD.*

Most of the youngsters started reading and writing at an early age, and most said their parents read a lot, too.

And when they come back from the program,

most play with friends, but also find time to read at home.

"I'm kind of tired when I come home," Julia Gatenby, 9, who attends Abington Friends School. "I watch television, read, and — sometimes — play outside."

Eva Liggett, 8, of Cheltenham, said she usually goes home and reads again.

The students are broken up into age groups — they range from second grade to ninth grade. But they also work together occasionally to put together an anthology of their creative endeavors.

This sense of cooperation helps the students better their writing skills.

"Sometimes, I don't have ideas," said Rebecca Wagner, 10, of Abington. "This gives me ideas."

One of its most important aspects, however, is giving students a chance to do what they love, with people who love to do the same things.

According to Andrea Walker, 12, of Richboro, "writing is a way to express your feelings."

The two-week program costs \$165 per child.

And according to site coordinator Mary O'Gorman, who teaches at the middle school, it's not limited to children who are identified as gifted.

In fact, she said, most are not.

"They are just interested," O'Gorman said.

Of the 19 older students in the program, seven are involved in the swimming team, others are interested in other athletic programs and a few play musical instruments.

The programs are casual and not structured, she said, to allow the children the opportunity to express themselves in the most positive way.

"This reminds me of why I became a teacher," she said, beaming.

CLOSE TO HOME

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

WCU hosts summer sessions for young writers, readers

West Chester University of Pennsylvania will host the 11th annual Summer Programs for Young Writers and Readers with 10 sessions beginning June 26 and continuing through Aug. 18.

The programs are sponsored by the Pennsylvania Writing Project, a site of the National Writing Project.

For each course offered, the average class size is 13 students per teacher. The students in the program get individual attention while experiencing the processes and stages of writing, including publishing.

Publications featuring the students' work will be made available to local bookstores, libraries, schools, churches and community centers.

Students will participate in work sessions with published authors and attend a final gallery that features their own work.

School-age children in grades one through 12 as

of September 1995 are encouraged to participate in the programs. The programs offered include "Young Writers," "Young Writers/Young Readers," "Young Readers" and "Writing and Word Processing."

An open house for participants in the University programs will be held at 7:30 p.m. May 2 in Schmucker Auditorium to answer questions and concerns of parents regarding the University programs.

Additional programs to be held in Chester County include "Young Writers, Young Readers," for grades two through six at Reeceville Elementary School, Coatesville, and for grades two through nine at Kennett Consolidated Middle School, Kennett Square, from July 24 through Aug. 4.

A limited number of scholarships for the program are available based on demonstrated need.

For more information and applications, call site coordinator Bruce Seidel at (610) 436-3089.

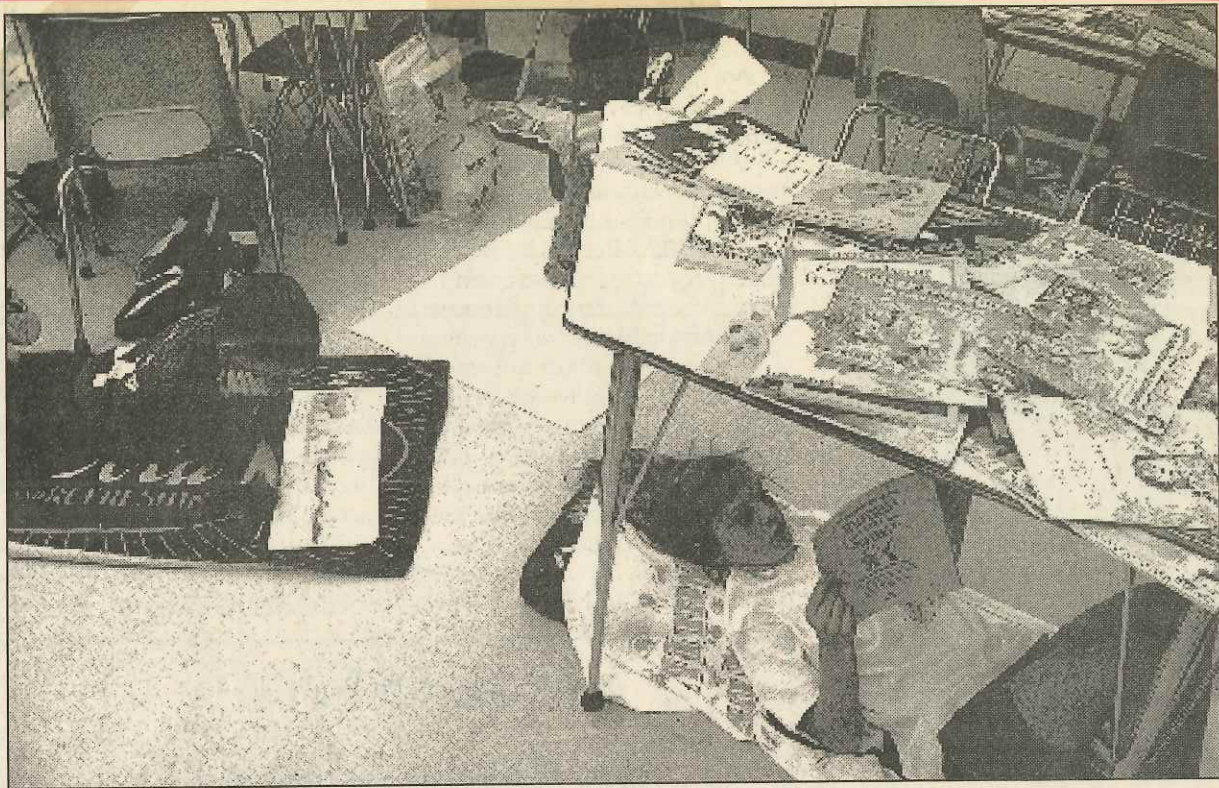
Writing/Reading program set

West Chester University's Pennsylvania Writing Project announces its **Young Writers/Young Readers** program to be held for students in grades two through six at the **Reeceville Elementary School** from July 24 to Aug. 4.

The program is for students who want to learn, share, and grow as writers and readers. Participants experience all phases of the writing process, including publication. Small peer groups and sessions with published authors are included. Students will also gain strategies for choosing books and will take part in read-aloud activities.

The fee is \$165 and the sessions, from 9 a.m. to noon, will include a mid-morning snack and drink. Registration deadline is July 8. For a brochure and application, call site coordinator Rita Rotton at 610-436-3089.

D.N. School Notes 5/30/95



Spirit/Guide staff photo / GEOFF DUNN

Nine-year-olds Kelly Latta and Mike Ciccotti read during the Young Readers/Young Writers Program.

Students choose classroom for summer fun

■ Writing, from Page 1

writing center where they do a variety of things from reading to writing poetry and short stories with computer assisted writing, she said.

"This is a very positive, relaxed atmosphere for kids," said O'Gorman.

"We have the freedom to write whatever we want," said Laura Robinson, 13, who is back for the second year and plans to come back for a third.

"You just have fun here," said Dan Latta, 12, who is in his first year with the writing workshop.

Down the hall and to the left, music is playing in the room for

kids in the 10-to-12 age group where they will be doing a combination of both reading and writing. Directly across the hall from the older kids, the youngest group is decorating the classroom with a variety of things one would take to the beach.

"This year the kids have a beach theme," said O'Gorman, as the children placed sand buckets made out of construction paper on the wall.

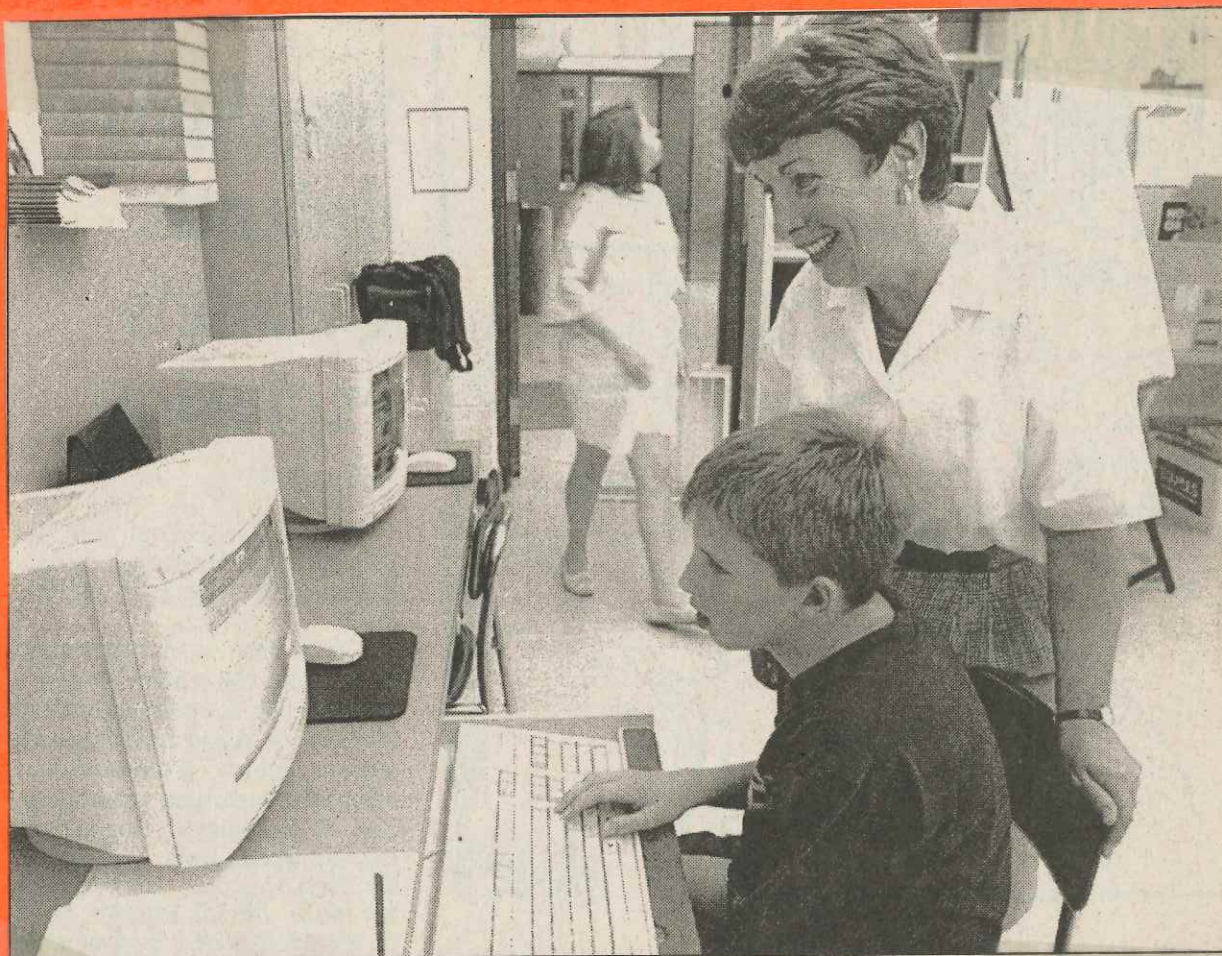
"The program is geared towards the appropriate age group," she said. "The young children work in a creative environment and there are two teachers so they get a lot of individual attention."

At the end of the two-week program, students will have the opportunity to see their work published when an anthology and book reviews are put together in a booklet for all students and their families and friends to see, O'Gorman said.

The writing workshop is sponsored through the Pennsylvania Writing Workshop through West Chester University.

July 19, 1995

PUBLIC SPIRIT • The Willow Grove Guide



Mary O'Gordan and Nick Reich, 11, of Ambler, work on an essay at the writing seminar. In photo below, fifth and sixth grad students read books outside the middle school.

Area kids take a 'vacation' with books

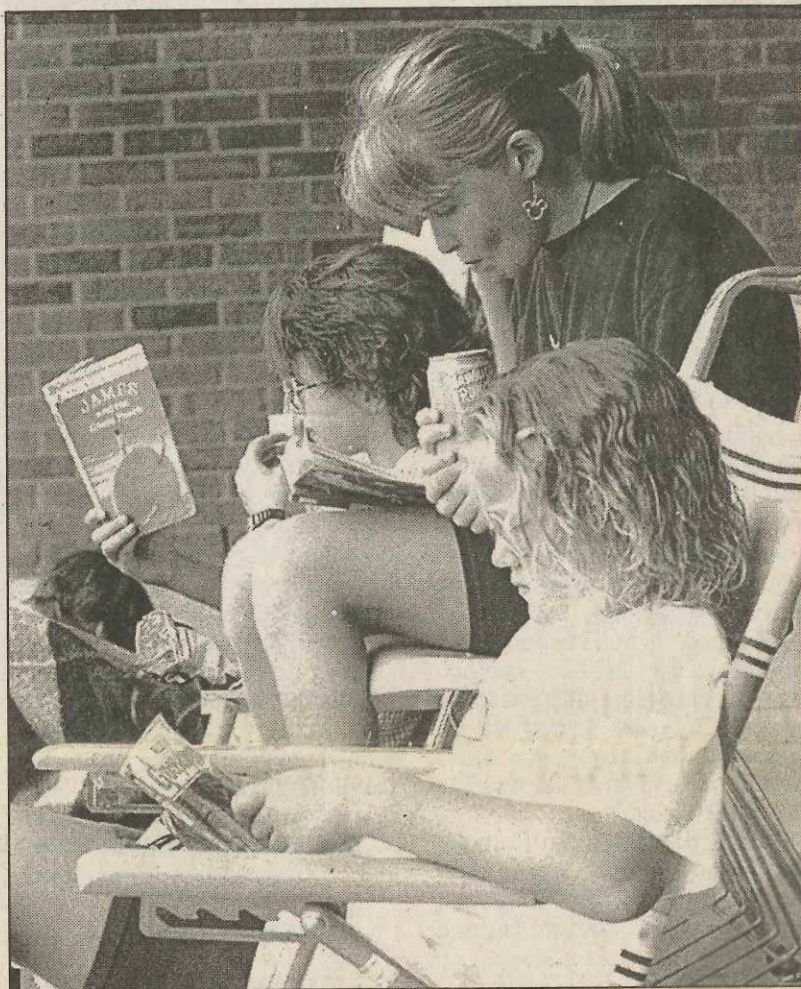
By Nancy Houtz
Correspondent

The Pennsylvania Writing Project Summer Youth Programs, which was recently extended to include Upper Moreland and surrounding school districts, is currently holding a two week program in the Upper Moreland Middle School.

Through this program, more than 57 students from Upper Moreland, Upper Dublin, Abington, Cheltenham, Central Buck and Abington Friends had a chance to develop their reading and writing skills in an informal but structured atmosphere.

"The kids have all come here because they want to be here," said Mary O'Gorman, one of the team teachers for the project. "They all love to read and write and they have such a good time. It is unbelievable what these students come up with."

The program, which is sponsored by the National Writing Project through the Pennsylvania Writing Project at West Chester University, was piloted in Upper Moreland last year and was brought back due to positive feedback from teachers, students and parents.



Academic, computer, performing arts camps growing in popularity

By TRACY BEHRINGER
Special to the Local News

While many youngsters see summer as a time for the great outdoors, some children prefer to spend their time in other ways. Academic, art, music and performing art camps are all available locally. Providing instruction for pleasure as well as for skill improvement, these camps have become very popular.

For the past 13 years, the Pennsylvania Writing Project has sponsored summer youth programs at different locations throughout Chester County and surrounding counties. Enrichment programs for school-aged children in the first through 12th grade, the writing and reading workshops are experienced and enjoyed by thousands of students each summer.

The oldest program is the **Young Writers Workshop** held at West Chester University. In the two-week sessions, children write many pieces and share their work. They receive feedback and respond to each other's writing. Other programs are Young Writers on Com-

puters, Young Writers/Young Readers, and Young Readers.

"These programs are not remedial programs. They are for highly motivated students," said youth program coordinator Ginny O'Neil.

One reason for their popularity, O'Neil said, is because the workshop settings are not strict classroom settings. All the teachers, most of whom are elementary school teachers, have earned fellowships through the Project's Summer Institute. Also, she said, the groups are kept small.

In addition to the West Chester University site, which fills up quickly, according to O'Neil, there are workshops offered at many other schools. Reeceville Elementary School in the Coatesville School District, Kennett Middle School in the Kennett Consolidated School District and Twin Valley Elementary in the Twin Valley School District are also local program sites. A limited number of scholarships are available. For more information, contact the Project at 436-3089.

Futurekids Computer Camp, in Exton, combines the latest in

computer technology with themes and subjects kids love. Organized into one-week learning modules, each program offers different teaching levels geared to student's age and computer proficiency. Some of the new camps this summer include Pet Shop, Fundamental Programing and Intelligent House.

"Futurekids offerings promise kids not only lots of fun, but also a summer of learning and discovery that will benefit them for the rest of their lives," said Linda McElevenny, director of Futurekids.

Morning camps, for 4- to 9-year-olds, run 9:30 a.m. until noon, and afternoon sessions, for 6- to 15-year-olds, runs 12:30 until 3 and 3:30 until 6. This summer the programs will also be offered at four schools in the Downingtown School District: West Bradford, Shamona Creek, Uwchlan Hills and Downingtown High School.

This summer, for the ninth year, the **Chester County Intermediate Unit** will offer its **Summer Academies** for students in grades 5 through 10 in public and non-public schools. A county-operated facility that provides many services to Chester County schools, the Intermediate Unit has a wide array of enrichment courses which enable students to grow academically and personally. Programs are provided in such subjects as photography, calligraphy, hands-on science, video production and beauty care. Prices vary depending on the subject matter. Registration does not begin until mid-April. For more information

See Skills, page 7

GREAT VALLEY NATURE CENTER SUMMER NATURE CAMPS

Ages 3-13

Call For Reservations & Info

(610) 935-9777

Rt. 29 & Hollow Rd., Devault
North of 202 at Great Valley

Skills

Continued from page 6

and for applications, contact the Chester County Intermediate Unit at 524-5059.

One popular art camp is the **Wayne Art Center Summer Art Camp**, located on Maplewood Avenue in Wayne. With over 20 different programs, such as Budding Artists and Mudworks for preschoolers, to Puppet and Marionette Making for ages 6 and up, Thematic Cartooning for ages 8 and up, and Printmaking and Papermaking for ages 11 and up, the center has something for everyone. Beginning in June, there are four sessions that run throughout the summer. Morning and afternoon times are available for two- and three-day-a-week sessions.

Early walk-in registration is April 15 and 16. Due to limited class size, early registration is recommended. No phone registrations are accepted. For information, call the Wayne Art Center at 688-3553.

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If your child has a flair for the performing arts, there are many opportunities for learning and fun this summer. In Kennett Square, the **Summer Day Camps in the Performing Arts** are presented by Carousel Performing Arts Cen-

ter. The center has been offering programs for children since 1989 and began operating their summer camps three years ago. Some of the choices this July and August include Musical Theatre, Drama, Dance, Fine Arts, Creative Dramatics and Kindermusic Adventures Camp. For more information, call 444-1948.

This summer the **Dance Center and Brandywine Ballet Company** are sponsoring two summer dance and acting camps. A children's camp will run July 21 through Aug. 1 at The Dance Center, the official school of the Brandywine Ballet Company, in West Chester. Classes include, Ballet Technique, Pointe, Choreography and Acting. An Intensive Ballet overnight camp will run July 7 through July 19 at the Southern New Jersey School of the Performing Arts. This session will include a vigorous dance and choreography schedule for the intermediate and advanced level dancer. The professional faculty includes Robin Morgan, artistic director, San Diego Ballet and Ian Archer, director, St. Louis Ballet. To find out more, contact The Dance Center at 696-5023.

■

There are even some summer camp options that offer a combination of traditional day camp programs with specialty classes. At the **Brandywine YMCA** in Coatesville children may do scien-

tific experiments and learn about recycling in the Science Camp, and have recreational swimming as part of their day. They may decide to take advantage of instrumental instruction and dance routine development with other daily camp activities in the **Dance/Music/Drama Camp**. Contact the YMCA at 384-5084 to find out more.

The **Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium (DARC)** also provides many youth workshops, in addition to their traditional day camp programs. Children may try such diverse workshops as French conversation, Environmental Series, and Cartooning. To find out which youth workshops will be offered this summer, contact DARC at 269-9260.

There are dozens of ways to make sure your child benefits from a camp program and has a good time doing it. But be certain to include your child in the decision-making process so he or she looks forward to the experience.

Sunday, July 2, 1995

Adding academics to summer equation can improve students

READING from MD1

dents, the long summer vacation disrupts learning. Forgetting the basics during the summer for lack of practice results in as much as four to six weeks of review in September and October to get them back on a learning track, proponents of year-round schooling estimate.

At the Benchmark School in Media, more than 300 children are reading and writing each morning. There is encouragement to both students and parents to do extra reading each evening.

"We know that the number of words read by a child correlates with progress in reading," said Sally Laird, director of Benchmark's summer program.

Parents are forewarned that the school expects them to spend at least 30 minutes a night reading to their children, she said.

Especially among those who are just learning to read, "children lose a lot of ground over the summer," Laird said. "We know, too, that you get better at what you practice. You get better at what you do."

At bookstores with large children's sections, such as the Chester County Book Company outside West Chester, parents can assemble a collection of activity books that focus on such skills as math, reading, science and geography.

Math Wizardry, like an earlier Barron's publication, *Science Wizardry*, offers a hands-on approach that Book Company worker Mary Klein describes as "learning while you're experimenting."

One idea in the book is that a child keep track of earned run averages, and the book gives instructions about how it's done. Another idea: Build an abacus. The book offers several tips on ways to use the ancient Asian calculator.

Some books come with teaching tools, such as numbered dice, a bag of coins or a measuring tape.

"There's a learning component" to many of the activity books, Klein said.

"They're not just connect-the-dot kinds of things."

A series called BrainQuest uses a question-and-answer format to cover a range of topics that a typical first grader, for instance, should know. Other workbooks focus on word power or math and are published either by age or by grade.

Klein praised one book, *The Rajah's Rice* by David Barry, calling it a "mathematical folk tale from India."

In the book, a young girl makes a bet with the wealthy landowner, reminding him how wealthy he is and persuading him to put a grain of rice on each square of a checkerboard and to double the amount of rice on each square each day.

"As it gets doubled, it becomes this huge amount of rice. ... It's a fun

story," the book clerk said.

Klein said camp counselors, teachers and parents doing home schooling are among her customers.

One parent who teaches her three children at home, Lorraine Blescia of West Chester, said everyday events offer lessons to children. She suggested, however, that parents tackling academic subjects during the summer avoid a strict academic approach.

"I think the best way to teach your children is through fun and through games. Summer is a time to have off, away from heavy academics," Blescia said.

She said her children, ages 14, 11 and 6, have learned a lot about handling money and percentages by stopping at yard sales and flea markets, seeking to purchase games and other items. She said she also encourages reading, as often as possible.

Area libraries offer story hours and reading incentives in addition to lending books and videos.

At the Upper Merion Township Library, 500 children signed up last week for the summer-long reading program, said Joane McNamara, director of children's services at the library. The children keep track of how many books they have read, by author and title, or how many books are

read to them if they can't yet read.

"The children certainly seem to enjoy it," McNamara said. "And when they go back to school in the fall, they have an advantage because of all the reading they have done over the summer."

That library also offers four story hours a week in the summer for younger children.

Spennato of the Intermediate Unit said having a good time is a key goal of the Young Writers/Young Readers program he runs at the R.T. Richardson Middle School in Springfield. The program for more than 100 Delaware County students in second through ninth grades is a spinoff of a writing project at West Chester University.

"We want the kids to have a good time, enhance their skills, maintain the skills they acquired in the spring, and help them carry over what they've learned to the fall," he said.

Spennato recommended that parents invest in books for a home library. Local schools sometimes share age-appropriate reading lists with local bookstores, he noted. Children's magazines are also a worthy purchase, he said.

Spennato said the Delaware County writing project gets only a lackluster response from older students, who he thinks tend to hold down jobs or travel.

"We hope those kids will take a cue from their parents, who use the summer as a time to catch up on their reading."

When school's out, many children fall behind. They may need weeks to catch up in fall.

Area students willingly take to the classroom for writing workshops

By Kathleen Chestnut
Staff Writer

About 14 middle school students sat around a table at Upper Moreland Middle School and listened intently as their teacher explained some basics of writing.

Usually, a classroom is the last place many school-age children want to be in the summer time, but these students are here as part of a summer program where students can be exposed to a variety of reading and writing activities.

The program, Young Readers/Young Writers Program, is being offered for the third year in a row at Upper Moreland Middle School and, as the years progress, so does the number of students interested in the program.

Mary O'Gorman, who is the site coordinator for Upper Moreland, feels the writing workshop is a great learning experience for the children as well as a great example of a creative summer educa-

tional activity.

"One of the emphasis of the program is to give the kids exposure and practice to a variety of writing through group and individual activities," she said of the 55 students who are taking the class at Upper Moreland Middle School this year.

As excited as O'Gorman is about the writing workshop, her students are equally or maybe even a little more excited about the two-week program.

"It's not like school, but you get to write," said Meredith Mintzer, 13, who is in the program for the third year in a row.

"It's kind of like school, but there is no pressure," said her sister, Megan, also 13, and in the program for the third year.

The students, in grades two through nine, are separated into three groups, said O'Gorman. The middle school students are in the

See **Writing**, page 3



Spirit/Guide staff photo / GEOFF DUNN
Students in Upper Moreland's Young Readers/Young Writers Program use computers to write poetry, short stories and more.

Springfield students have

Instructional project is subject of video to be screened at Borders

By AUDREE PENNER
Times Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD — "W-DIWT-KWID."

That stands for: "What do I want to know when I'm done?"

And that's the motto of Carol Meinhardt's English students at Springfield High School, where she teaches with an innovative model of learning called the Reading and Writing Workshop.

The Reading and Writing Workshop encourages initiative and self-selection. Meinhardt said the concept began in 1973 in Berkeley, Calif., with the National Writing Project. The goal was to improve the teaching of writing skills before students attended college, where demands on those skills would be put to the test.

The Whole Language Reading and Writing Workshop is always affiliated with a university's Writing Project. Meinhardt is a member of the Lehigh Valley Writing Project in Allentown where she previously lived. Locally, West Chester University is a national Writing Project site. According to Meinhardt, there are 165 Writing Project sites around the world and 151 national Writing Projects in 45 U.S. states and Puerto Rico.

Meinhardt said the program can be tailored for all levels of education, beginning at the elementary level. It is not just a curriculum for honor students.

"I have conducted the program for a class of sixth graders in a low-tracked homogeneous group with a real diversity of ability levels and backgrounds with whom I saw very positive results," Meinhardt said.

Soon teachers and administrators across the country were asking Meinhardt how the program worked at the high school level. So she decided to make a documentary video with the coopera-

tion of approximately 40 students who were members of the Springfield sophomore class. Filmmakers observed the students over a one-year period in 1992-93.

The finished product, a 28-minute documentary, will be shown at 7:30 tonight at Borders Book Shop, 1001 Baltimore Pike, in Springfield. The showing is also a reunion for the students who were taped.

Meinhardt created the documentary in conjunction with the high school's media specialist, Dr. Jeffrey Benton. She estimates that she and Benton worked on the project for more than 300 hours.

The film shows an environment where students regularly select their own topics and forms for writing and their own reading texts. They often make their choices in response to numerous available materials, including published and student writing, an abundance of trade paperbacks, and updated annotated book lists, some of them student generated.

Working in various learning configurations (individual, partner, small group, whole class), students create products and give presentations and demonstrations. These activities allow them to reveal the extent of their involvement and the mastery of particular skills.

As the facilitator of such a classroom, Meinhardt said the teacher creates a schedule and structure but rarely stands before the class and lectures. There are, however, occasional mini-lessons where students are given instruction in grammar, punctuation and reading techniques.

She allows for flexibility and adaptability to essential curricular requirements and school-wide norms, such as a midterm and final examinations. She also introduces students to different forms of assessment including self-eval-

uations of individual and group projects and reflective appraisals of portfolio notebooks.

The video screening, set for 7:30 tonight at Borders Book Shop in Springfield, is free and open to the public.

Meinhardt said the film is a visual picture of a classroom in which students are actively involved in their learning experiences.

The program is open to parents as well as educators interested in this reading and writing project.

'write' stuff

IN THE COUNTY

City Editor Bonnie Healy - 622-8894

Making change count

Program teaches students importance
of involvement in government

By AUDREE PENNER*Times Correspondent*

Making a change. Making a community better, safer, cleaner. Whose responsibility is it? Is it only for those of legal voting age? Is it only for politicians?

Springfield resident and West Chester University Professor Sharon Kletzien doesn't think so.

Kletzien, in conjunction with the Citizen Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, created Kids Around Town, an action-oriented civics program that teaches students in third through seventh-grade how the government works and how to make changes in their own communities, even at their young ages.

Kids Around Town was pilot-programmed across the state in urban and suburban schools beginning in 1993. In those two years the civics program reached 10 school districts and approximately 2,000 students.

This year, with the pilot phase completed, six Delaware County schools have picked up the program, too. Those schools participating are Springfield's E.T. Richardson Middle School, Rose Tree Media's Glenwood Elementary; Radnor's Ithan Elementary, Media's Providence Friends School, Upper Darby's Aronomink and St. John Chrysostom in Wallingford.

Using the Kids Around Town approach, children select an actual local policy issue of interest to them, which then serves as a springboard for integrating research, analysis and decision-making.

Instead of memorizing facts about their local government, KAT students participate in authentic public processes. Past class-