

Teachers report good experience with laptops

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

Teachers played show-and-tell last Monday, explaining to Goodland School Board members what they learned from an initiative to get teachers to use laptop computers.

The teachers came to the meeting carrying backpacks, cords and props and set up a projector to explain the Teacher Laptop Initiative Focus Group.

The group said they committed their in-service training time, along with an extra 24 hours this year, in exchange for an Apple laptop computer and training on the machine for school.

The new laptop iBook computers with 14 inch screens are for school use, but teachers can take them home. The cost for the new machines came out of the technology department and the 24 new machines cost \$1,132 each.

The project encourages teachers to switch to laptops because the portable machines can be taken home or to meetings.

Mary Frazier, a fifth-grade teacher at North Elementary, said the group met one Sunday a month for three hours to learn how to use new software.

Frazier, who emceed the presentation, said 26 teachers participated in the initiative and the group handed out 24 laptops in September.

“We could hardly wait to get into them, to tear into them,” she said.

The group started, she said, by deciding what they were going to do with the machines for the entire year.

They focused on the software, including the new Macintosh operating system, streaming video, iMovie, iPhotos, Keynote (a presentation program similar to Microsoft PowerPoint), Garage Band and others.

“Our whole goal was to work

Computer upgrade board’s ultimate goal

LAPTOP, from Page 1

solete computers replaced with laptop computers instead of newer desktops, he said. Swager said the committee also would like teachers to have more help learning how to use the computers.

“They were all disappointed that this initiative was tabled,” he said, “but they understand why.”

The survey, answered by 75 percent of high school students, shows that 91.8 percent have a computer at home and 85.45 percent have Internet access.

The students reported spending an average of five hours per week on the Internet, almost two with e-mail, nearly 1 1/2 word processing, two on games, half an hour on spreadsheets, half on presentations and three hours for other programs including video editing, Photoshop, music, shopping, etc. That’s nearly 14 1/2 hours per week.

The students were 59 percent in favor of the laptop initiative, with 130 saying yes and 90 saying no.

The survey asked high school teachers how they use the computer, Swager said, and 88 percent have a computer and Internet at home. All the teachers surveyed use the Internet, 93 percent use e-mail, 100 percent use word processing, 73 percent use spreadsheets, 47 percent use presentation software, 33 percent use games at home and 7 percent use the computer for business.

The teachers were against the initiative 53 percent, 9-4, with one undecided and eight leaving the question blank.

Elementary teachers surveyed — whose students wouldn’t be included — overwhelmingly said no to the idea, with 62 percent voting no, 21-10, with one undecided and two left blank.

Ninety-seven percent of the

high school students surveyed have a computer at home and have Internet access.

Eighty-eight percent use their computers for e-mail, 94 percent for word processing, 52 percent for spreadsheets, 27 percent for software, 55 percent for games and 15 percent for digital pictures and movie clips, business, multimedia or web-page design.

Board member Fritz Doke said before they make changes or add any computers, he wants to make sure they will be used.

“If we’re gonna move in those directions,” he said, “We don’t want a laptop sitting there any more than desktops.”

Member Mike Campbell said buying one laptop computer for each student just isn’t feasible.

“You’re back to afford ability,” he said. “Are there other ways to do something similar? I think there are.”

Murray said she will only buy laptops from now on.

“I think we’re all more comfortable with piecemeal,” said board President Jane Philbrick.

“I think what they’re talking about fits right into the budget,” said member Ron Schilling.

“It’s an expensive program,” Murray said, adding when the technology committees comes together, they consider the best possibilities without thinking about cost.

“My recommendation,” said Campbell, “is as you incrementally go into this, that you put to the best use that technology you have.”

He added that the computers that will remain as classroom machines for teachers participating in the laptop initiative could be better used by combining them into a computer lab for students.

“What a powerful lab that would make,” he said.

Using Garage Band, she recorded the song and students even got to look at their voice print and glean a better understanding of sound waves.

Janet Davis, a first grades teacher at West, used the computer keyboard in Garage Band and made a web site through the training.

“She just has done an outstanding job,” said Principal Shelly Angelos.

Frazier said that although they didn’t require teachers to learn how to develop web sites, they offered separate six-week tutorial that 12 people signed up for.

Sharon Hall, junior and senior English teacher, said she has tried to focus on better communication. For student projects, she said, she asks them to use images with their writing to introduce their family in a project or demonstrate a certain themes in an essay.

Frazier said the teachers like the iChat feature of the laptops, too, since they can talk to each other from room to room without interrupting either class.

“It has really been a valuable tool for us,” said Frazier, adding that they can talk to anyone, including Karla Murray, district technology coordinator, for troubleshooting.

“It’s not just fun,” added Tanya Gray, a seventh grade math teacher at the junior high. “We really use it as a tool.”

Five of the 26 included in the initiative got wireless Internet at home, Murray said.

“Throughout the year, we were encouraged to do things for the classroom as well as personal things,” said Hardy, who said she created a personal graduation announcement and senior recital invitation for her daughter Erin.

“We call it a success,” said Frazier. “We feel like it has been very successful.”

with teachers on new-century skills,” Frazier said, listing “digital-age literacy, incentive thinking, effective communications and high productivity.”

Greg Craig, a physical education teacher at Grant Junior High, used his computer to make a video of his Red Cross First Aid class. Frazier said Craig took the recording and had Maggie Hernandez, a bilingual student coordinator for the district, translate the course into Spanish. She said the video can now be shown in either language for future classes or if a student is absent.

Frazier showed a video Craig made that showed students racing toy cars.

Jona Neufeld, a sixth grade teacher at North, pulled up her web site up on the Internet and demonstrated how her project, mapped out on the outline of a castle, included links to homework for students.

“It was very successful,” she said.

Neufeld said she did an iPhoto project with the laptop that showed students how to create photo scrapbooks and use a slide show to display the pictures.

Marianne Gray, a first grade teacher at West Elementary, said her students helped her make a Keynote presentation using three facts about a dinosaur the students modeled out of paper and a photo of the student holding the creation.

Nona Mason, an early childhood teacher at West, showed the board an audio project she created using Garage Band.

Mason said she used the program to make a tape of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff* story. She found three different piano pieces to represent the billy goats and one to represent the troll from the story. Then Mason recorded her voice on top of the music to put the story together.

“It’s really kind of neat because I didn’t have any recording of that story,” she said, adding that students can now sit and listen to the story on headphones in her classroom.

Linda McKee, a sixth grade teacher at North, did her project on

the erosion of Mount St. Helens in Washington.

She said she put a Keynote presentation together that included video and the students worked on a before-and-after three-dimensional diagram of the volcano using colored rings to indicate altitude.

Pam Hardy, a sixth grade teacher at North, told the board she used the technology to make a yearbook as a keepsake for their Christmas play.

She took the photos, she said, and put them together adding music created by the students to make a slide show.

“They loved it because they got to do their own music for their own slide show,” she said.

West kids celebrate bear’s first birthday

BOXTOP, from Page 1

Nona Mason’s preschool class over 750; Pat Pickett’s second grade class and Kara Smith’s second grade classes over 650; and Stindt’s a.m. kindergarten, Susan McCall’s

second grade class, Mason’s p.m. preschool and Pat Thompson’s first grade over 500.

She also thanked the students for donating the food for Genesis, and a few food bank board members were on hand to say “thanks,” too.

When the party started, the lights were turned out and Principal Shelly Angelos lighted a candle. All of the students joined her to sing “Happy Birthday” and blow out the candle from their seats.

Teachers led their classes to cafeteria tables, where they handed out cupcakes and cups of ice cream.

Because students started out the year by collecting a record 6,200 tops in the first few weeks, Floyd said, they upped their goal from 12,400 collected last year to the 15,000 this year.

Roberta Pianalto, secretary at West, said last year’s money, almost \$1,500, was spent on soccer goals and playground balls.

Floyd told students they are planning to buy some permanent soccer goals with the money this year.

Throughout the year, the children at West have been rewarded for reaching collection landmarks. At 5,000 box tops, the kids had a popcorn party with Clifford the Big Red Dog and his “owner,” Emily Elizabeth, who read Clifford books to the students. At 10,000, the school held a “wacky week,” where students celebrated backwards day, hat day, silly sock day, Cowboys colors day and western cowboy day.

The students get excited about the box top program, Pianalto said, because they enjoy the rewards. She said they get candy when they turn box tops in and like to have Grizzly in their room.

“They are motivated to get box tops,” she said, adding the kids enlist the help of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to build their totals.

Old heater needs help

COUNTY, from Page 1

Commissioners have been thinking about a bond issue to pay for the next bridge project, and they are considering other things that might be added, such as the brick work that needs to be done on the courthouse, the heating system at the Bastille and possibly doing some work on the old Southwest Bell building to make it more usable.

Discussion about the bond issue was put off until Tuesday, when the commissioners are to discuss priorities for projects to go with the bridge being built on west Eighth

Street north of the Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Curt Way, public works manager, said the bridge will cost the county about \$38,000 as part of the construction cost. He said the total bridge cost is estimated at \$221,107, and the construction portion is \$176,457.

The county has paid for the design costs, and will pay a portion of the engineering inspection costs as part of their 20 percent of the project.

The \$38,000 is what the county is considering putting into the bond issue they are discussing.

student of the week



Name: Wade Taylor
Parents: Dennis and LeAnn Taylor
Grade: Senior
Age: 18
We’ve nominated this student because: Wade is an excellent student who gives his all and is dedicated to seeing that things get done right.
Student Comment: My favorite aspect of school life is the sports. My favorite subject is either production or P.E. I will

also remember all of my goofy friends, especially Jordan and Melissa

Activities involved in at school: Football, basketball, golf and track.

My choice of movies, books, and games: I like action, horror and mystery movies; country and oldies music; my hunting magazines and pitch, spades and poker for games.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: attend the vo-tech and go into carpentry, electrical and air conditioning and heating.

And 10 years from now, I think I’ll be: I have no clue but hopefully I’ll be happy and successful in whatever I’m doing.

Favorite Quote: “You can only be young once, but you can always be immature.” Dave Barry

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
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58						59	60							
61						62					63			
64						65					66			

CLUES ACROSS

- City 3000 B.C.
- Displacement unit
- Brews
- A group of countries in special alliance
- A woody climbing plant
- One way to fly
- Diamond
- Fortified wines
- Lip
- A collection of anecdotes
- Herb __, San Francisco columnist
- Three times
- Traveling or commercial
- Do without
- Nimble
- In the past
- S. American Indians
- Provencal verses
- Compass pt.
- Horn
- A way to rinse
- Brotherhood
- Named
- The back side of the neck
- Rock rabbit, for one
- Separated
- Apartment building
- Evasive answer
- Type of tree
- The third hour, about 9 a.m.
- Skin disease
- The seed of an Asiatic legume
- Erectile organs
- Type of hepatic infarction

CLUES DOWN

- Declines
- Nonsense (slang)
- Fail to retain
- Magnoliopsid genus
- __ May, actress
- Type of perennials
- Belongs to famous computer
- Tropical American cuckoo
- Ethnic group of China
- Persons
- Jacques __, German physiologist
- Norse goddess of old age
- Pop
- Arouses
- Take to one’s heels
- Karel __, Czech writer
- Substitutes, abbr.
- Counterparts
- Carthaginian statesman
- Made grainy
- Marsh elder
- Saucy
- Small wildcat
- Chalcedony
- Having a nose (either literal or metaphoric) esp. of a specified kind
- Make a fuzzy surface
- Having a slight but often persistent bodily disorder or disease
- The top point of a mountain or hill
- Shoshonean language
- Deficiency of red blood cells
- Burden
- Hosts film festival
- Defrost
- Small lake
- Bird genus
- Every seven days, abbr.
- Spanish baby
- A figure that branches from a single root
- Occurs in muscle tissue
- Command right

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR APRIL 20 - APRIL 26

Friday - No school; QPA Inservice; high school track meet in Oakley, 3 p.m.; junior high track meet in Weskan, 2 p.m.

Saturday - PROM

Tuesday - High school track meet at St. Francis, 3 p.m.

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