



Eighth grader Ariel Leeper (from left), 11th grader Miranda McMahon, and 8th grader Piper Ryan display the tickets earned last semester.

Island Students Earn Prizes for Good Work, Behavior

By Leslie Rott

Signing yearbooks, cleaning out lockers, watching the yearbook video, and having an auction are all part of the last day of school for students in grades eight through 12 at Mackinac Island Public School.

For all of their hard work during the past semester, the high school students were awarded tickets for good behavior, good work, or for just being good people. Tickets could be used at an auction on the last day of school, June 3, where they were able to bid on items ranging from candy and games to tickets to a water park.

Students had a good time as teachers tried to make the simplest of items sound interesting. Teacher Susan Bennett said a package of highlighting pens is ideal "for the educationally motivated students."

"They're guaranteed to be the highlight of your life," added teacher Jessica Clark.

A package of candy was "for early morning, when you need that pep."

"Hopefully, you'll never be

late for class," Mrs. Bennett said of a magnetic locker clock.

The biggest ticket item was a digital camera, which went for a bid of 38.5 tickets, followed by a package of miniature candy bars, which went for a bid of 20 tickets, and a bouncy ball, worth 14 tickets.

This is the first year for the auction, said Mrs. Bennett, which was adopted from an event that teacher Karen Allen has been hosting in grades 6 and 7.

Mrs. Bennett said she thinks the auction is a good idea because it is a nice way to reward students for the positive things that they do. Students earn tickets for good deeds, and they get a ticket for every three consecutive homework assignments that they complete, encouraging them not just to be good people, but to be good students.

Teacher Nicole Helsel said the auction is a good idea because students are receptive to motivation.

Prizes for the auction are donated by the school staff.

Mackinac Associates To Fund New Historic Interpreters at Park Sites

For drawing student attention, science has dissections, language arts has fiction, and history has Mackinac State Historic Parks, specifically, the Living History program, where costumed interpreters at park sites give rifle demonstrations, cook historic meals, and play old tunes on drums and bugles.

For many visitors to Mackinac State Historic Parks, said Diane Dombroski, the living history is what makes the parks so memorable. An interactive experience, she said, stays in the mind longer than just looking at an exhibit.

Ms. Dombroski helps direct Mackinac Associates, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting a number of park activities, including the education outreach program and, this year, three new historic interpreters for the Living History program. One would be stationed at Fort Mackinac on the Island and two would take up residence at Colonial Michilimackinac on the mainland.

It will cost about \$12,000 to pay the new interpreters and supply their uniforms, which the friends group hopes to raise during its spring appeal.

Mackinac Associates receives most of its money through membership dues and two appeals, one in the fall and one in the spring. Last fall's appeal was unrestricted, and the money could go toward different programs in the park. The spring appeal will be restricted to paying for new interpreters.

Meanwhile, cry not for Granholm, whose fund-raising machine was successful in 2002 and is at full-speed for 2006. It produced a record \$5.7 million for her 2002 primary, when she declined public funding and its limitations. The latest officially report-

Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Will Next Governor Have Deep Pockets?

Much of the political world these days is fixated on Deep Throat of Watergate fame. My focus this week is on deep pockets.

Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., spent \$63 million of his own money to win his seat in 2000 and vows to spend "whatever it takes" to be elected this year as New Jersey's governor. Noting this last week, Wall Street Journal columnist John H. Fund called the former chairman of Goldman Sachs "a human ATM."

Will a like humanoid, businessman Dick DeVos, son of Amway co-founder Rich DeVos (cited by Forbes magazine as one of the richest people in the world), tap the family billions to spend whatever it takes to be elected next year as Michigan's governor?

The watchdog Center for Public Integrity recently ranked Dick DeVos and wife Betsy, former chairwoman of Michigan GOP, as the nation's third biggest political contributors to either party, giving \$1.48 million in the 2004 cycle.

In his first interview on his declared intention to seek the Republican nomination to oppose Gov. Jennifer Granholm, I asked the former president of Alticor (now parent of Amway) if he would self-finance his campaign. He said that's among questions to be dealt with this summer before formally announcing as a candidate.

Fair enough. As he noted, most Michiganians "think campaigns are too long already." He said he is gearing for a campaign to get the state "back to business" and return it to "a nation-leading status."

The two declared candidates for the GOP gubernatorial nomination, Sen. Nancy Cassis of Novi and Rep. John Hoogendyke of Kalamazoo, have much smaller pockets but say they're determined to stay in the primary race.

Meanwhile, cry not for Granholm, whose fund-raising machine was successful in 2002 and is at full-speed for 2006. It produced a record \$5.7 million for her 2002 primary, when she declined public funding and its limitations.

The latest officially report-

ed total for her fund-raising for 2006 was \$1.8 million, but "lots of money" has been raised since then and "lots more" will be raised, says Granholm political spokesman Chris DeWitt.

As for the deep pockets of DeVos, DeWitt opines: "If he spends 'all that it takes', he (still) doesn't have enough. She'll win."

There's also likely to be record high spending in the 2006 Senate race. U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who spent \$7.8 million in 2000 to defeat Republican Spencer Abraham (who spent \$13 million), appears on track for her goal to raise at least \$15 million.

One of her declared challengers, the Rev. Keith Butler, a former Detroit councilman, talks of raising \$12 million. Whatever the current spin, any credible GOP nominee can expect to get substantial party and interest group funding for what Republicans see as a targeted race.

Beyond what candidates and identifiable interest groups spend these days, there's the troublesome deep pockets for stealth organizations who pay for TV ads without disclosing the source of the money.

If deep pockets are going to tip the scales or otherwise influence elections, better that

they belong to an identifiable candidate than the phantom sponsors of TV ads who operate so freely these days outside the bright light of public scrutiny.

Dueling Chairs

As is their calling and combative instincts, Democratic State Chairman Mark Brewer and Republican State Chairman Saul Anuzis are engaging in trench warfare along the gubernatorial campaign trail on jobs issues.

About the time DeVos arrived on Mackinac Island to spread word of his intentions at the Detroit Regional Chamber's gathering at the Grand Hotel, Brewer issued a press release contending DeVos is "wrong on jobs" and "supports free trade, despite how it has hurt Michigan."

Anuzis, from the Island, proclaimed, "Granholm does nothing while jobs, job providers continue to flee" Michigan. He said "it is too bad Mackinac Island doesn't allow moving trucks. We could get a start on moving" Granholm out of the governor's summer residence on the island's East Bluff.

George Weeks is the political columnist for The Detroit News and is syndicated by Superior Features.



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34 Market St., P.O. Box 532, Mackinac Island, MI 49757
Telephone: (906) 847-3788

www.MackinacIslandTownCrier.com

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