

A Quarterly Newsletter of



**Southeastern
Indiana
Solid Waste
District**

Serving: Franklin, Jefferson,
Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott &
Switzerland Counties
1-800-99-SISWD
www.siswd.com
Winter 2012



SISWD receives environmental stewardship award



Aaron Bell (left), executive director, and Christy Duvall (right), assistant director and comptroller, of the Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste District accept the 2011 Environmental Stewardship Outstanding District Award from Ann DeVore, president of the Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts' board of directors.

The Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste District (SISWD) was awarded a 2011 Environmental Stewardship Outstanding District Award during the 19th annual Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts (AISWMD) Conference. SISWD was recognized for the services they provide to the residents within the seven-county district of Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland.

Presented by Ann DeVore, president of the AISWMD board of directors, SISWD Executive Director Aaron Bell and Assistant Director/Comptroller Christy Duvall accepted the award during a ceremony held on Oct. 18 in Indianapolis.

"Obviously, the efforts of the SISWD staff and employees have contributed greatly to this accomplishment," said Bell. "We are fortunate to have such dedicated workers on our team."

Bell also stated that equally important to this award is the role of the SISWD board members and how they have openly accepted and supported new direction over the last few years.

"Those changes and efforts have seen an outstanding response from the good people of our district," Bell added.

SISWD provides drop-off services at six recycling centers and weekly pickups of recyclables at over 50 schools. They also staff and maintain seven re-use stores throughout the district. Between 2009 and

2010, the organization experienced a dramatic 50% increase in the volume of traditional recyclable materials collected through the district. The 2010 collected total was 2,827,600 pounds, although this amount excludes totals of household hazardous waste and related items, as well as the recyclable materials collected at curbside by nine cities and towns within the district.

SISWD's Environmental Discovery Center and the educational efforts by the newly-retired Betsy Vonderheide, former Education Director, and new Public Outreach Coordinator Kendal Miller were also emphasized. The Discovery Center offers fun, unique, hands-on environmental activities to stimulate the minds of youth while educating them about the modern world.

In addition to adult and classroom presentations, an annual school challenge recycling program is promoted in all seven counties. Students, teachers, and staff are challenged to properly collect and sort all recyclable materials within their schools. Classes can earn environmental prizes by adhering to SISWD recycling guidelines.

The district continues to support graduating seniors through an annual scholarship program. A minimum of three scholarships, totaling \$3,500, are awarded annually by SISWD.

You can learn more about SISWD's programs at www.siswd.com, as well as on our Facebook wall.

Franklin County Sheriff's office now accepting pharmaceutical waste

The SISWD and the Franklin County Sheriff's Department have joined forces to provide a free pharmaceutical waste drop-off location.

Situated in the main lobby of the Sheriff's office at 371 Main Street in Brookville, residents of Franklin County can drop off expired and excess controlled medications in a box accessible seven days a week and 24 hours a day. No questions will be asked.

Non-controlled medications, including over-the-counter medications and some prescription drugs, are accepted at the Franklin County Health Department during normal business hours, which are Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The department is closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. each day.

If you have questions, please call 812-574-4080 or visit our website at www.siswd.com.

Crafter incorporates repurposed items into award-winning designs

Retired elementary school teacher and now businesswoman and craftsperson Martha Bladen of Switzerland County literally puts a stamp on her work. When not working as the director of the Switzerland County Historical Society and Museums, or as one of a trio of business owners at Bizarre Ladies Uppity Gifts in Vevay, Bladen is busy crafting and creating.

"Art has always been a part of my life, from loving to draw and paint as a child to dabbling in a variety of media in high school and college," said Bladen from her Switzerland County home.

Bladen's recent endeavors involve what she describes as a "trio of treasures," turning cancelled postage stamps, recycled wool clothing, and vintage buttons into unique creations.

No stranger to recycling, reusing, and repurposing, Bladen organized the effort to secure a recycling center for Vevay over 30 years ago. Run by volunteers, the facility accepted glass, tin, and aluminum. Her concern for the environment and about waste and pollution led her to open the center, which was housed in an old barn once located on Ferry Street. In operation for nearly a year and a half, the center closed in the early 1980s, lacking a feasible system for getting recyclables to market.

While the SISWD now maintains a recycling center, a re-use store, and a building materials reuse store in Switzer-



Antique button bracelets made by Martha Bladen are just one of the items that can be found at Bizarre Ladies Uppity Gifts in Vevay.

land County, Martha has continued with her "green" ways and dedication to help preserve the environment.

"I like to take objects that were created for one purpose—have served their need—and then utilize them in a new way," said Bladen.

Her love of quilts and their design inspires Bladen to incorporate them into various works made out of repurposed items. Quilt motifs from cancelled postage stamps are her current passion and are reproduced into prints and note cards. Along those lines, Bladen uses photographs of architectural details from buildings in downtown Vevay to create unique quilts with an unanticipated material.

Distinctive and creative designs integrating unlikely resources has made Bladen an award-winning crafter, having won first prize three out of the last four years in the "Inspired by Quilts" category at Quiltfest in Ohio County. All winning handiworks were crafted with either cancelled postage stamps or photographs.

"This used the same mind-set as recycling—seeing the design in something utilized in a new way," said Bladen.

With a love of nature and art classes beyond her formal education, there is no limit to what may come out of the mind and studio of Martha Bladen. Fun-to-wear, "big and bulky" bracelets from vintage buttons, hooked rugs from scrap wool, and artworks made out of pressed flowers are also included in her line of work incorporating reused and repurposed materials.

Bladen's creations have been featured on the Midwest Stories website at www.midwest-stories.com (under the "Things" category). Her work is available for purchase at Bizarre Ladies, located at 316 Ferry Street in downtown Vevay.

For more information, contact her at 812-599-6934 or seasonsong@embarqmail.com.

◀ **Martha Bladen holds her picture, "Switzerland County Courthouse – Homage to August Mead," which was made out of repurposed wool clothing.**



Using postage stamps in quilt motifs, Bladen creates art such as this piece, which is titled, "Liberty."



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Fleece season

This time of year, fleece is everywhere—sweatpants, pullovers, jackets, vests, gloves, scarves, blankets, and more. We are so used to seeing fleece during the cool weather that you might be surprised to know that the first fleece product wasn't sold until the early 1980s. By 1993, some of that fleece was being made with post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. Today, many plastic bottles become fleece and other polyester products.

To turn bottles into fleece, used bottles are sorted by color, cleaned, chopped, and ground. The flake plastic is then melted, reformulated, and turned into chips. The chips are heated and sent through a machine called a spinneret (much like a showerhead) to become yarn. A knitting machine turns the yarn into cloth that can be dyed, textured, and finished. A process called napping gives fleece its famously soft, fuzzy feel.

"How It's Made" on Discovery Science Channel has a feature on how fleece is made. Watch it on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/YHHqFwDhGTM>.

FAST FACTS

From holiday to home

The 74-foot Norway Spruce decorating New York's Rockefeller Center will come down on January 7. When it does, it will be turned into lumber which will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. Since 2007, the lumber from the Rockefeller Center tree has been donated each year to Habitat's home-building efforts. Read more and watch a video at "From Shade to Shelter" in *Habitat World* online: <http://magazine.habitat.org/stories/shade-shelter>.



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As simple as soap

Derreck Kayongo, a humanitarian relief expert and former refugee, knows firsthand about the challenges faced by displaced

persons—the daily struggle for food and fresh water, and the diseases that result from lack of soap and clean water. When he learned that American hotels discard about 2.6 million bars of soap a day, Derreck and his wife and father began the Global Soap Project. The project accepts donated bars of soap from hotels, reprocesses and remolds it, and then donates the soap to existing relief organizations that serve refugees, orphans, and disaster victims. Learn more about the Global Soap Project at www.globalsoap.org.



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Constant connection

If it seems like you are always online, it may be true. CTIA—The Wireless Association conducts a semi-annual survey of wireless subscriber connections, which is the total number of devices, such as cell phones, smartphones, tablets, and laptops, that people have connected on cellular networks. In 2011, for the first time, the number of connections at 322.9 million exceeded the population of the U.S., which is about 312.7 million.

WellHome has created an infographic about electronic waste — where it comes from and what happens to it. Check it out at www.wellhome.com/blog/2011/05/electronic-waste-where-does-it-all-end-up.



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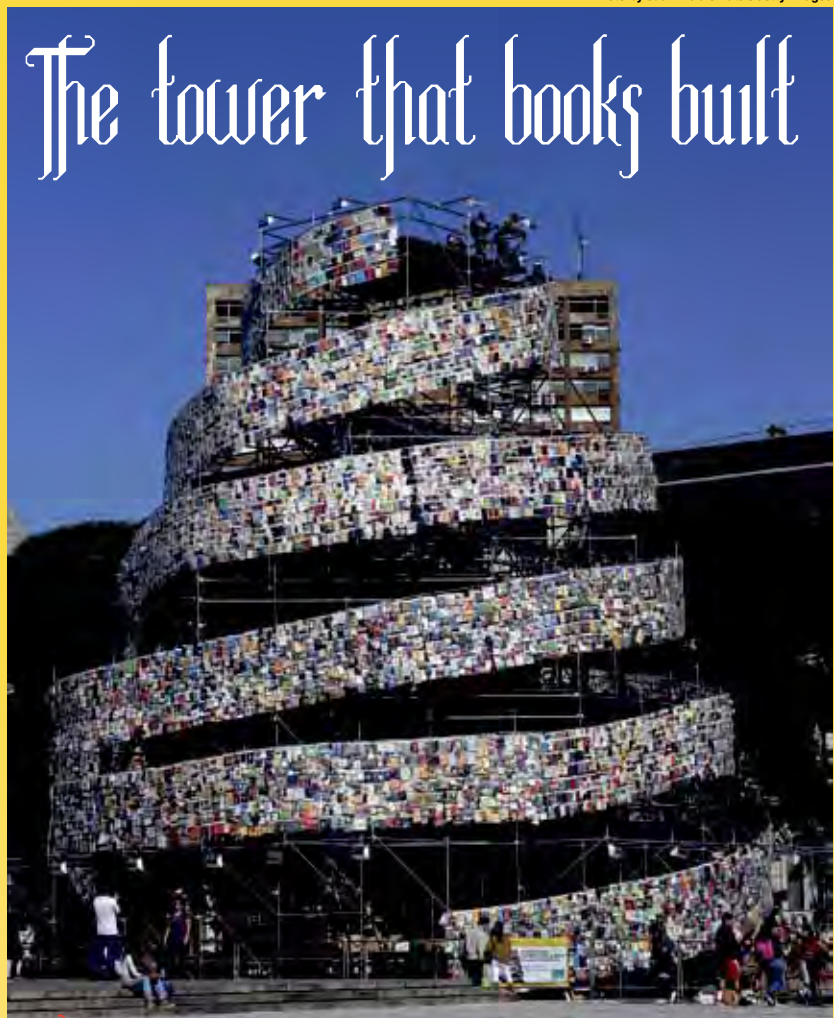


Photo by Juan Mabromata | Getty Images

The tower that books built

During May 2011, Argentinean artist Marta Minujín created a seven-story tower of books in Buenos Aires. Entitled "The Tower of Babel," the display included 30,000 books in hundreds of languages. The books were donated by embassies, libraries, and others around the world and ranged from children's books to comics to poetry to philosophy. A metal ramp allowed visitors to climb the tower, examining the books and enjoying the city's skyline. A soundtrack featured Minujín repeating the word, "book," over and over in many different languages. At the end of the installation, some books were given to visitors, but the majority were donated to create the city's first multilingual library.



Renew your commitment to the 3R's

It's the time of year when we're thinking about making things better—ourselves, our families, our homes, and our budgets. As you're making your resolutions, give some thought to the 3R's:

Reduce

- Before you buy, ask yourself these questions: Do I need this? Do I already have something like this? Do I need something new right now? Does it have too much packaging? What will I do with this when I no longer need it?
- Stop making "wish lists." Oftentimes, the items on a wish list are things you want but don't necessarily need. Whether you make them online, write them on a scrap of paper, or keep them in your head, wish lists keep you thinking about what you don't have—often creating dissatisfaction with the things you do have.

Reuse

- Start your exercise, weight-loss, or other self-improvement program on borrowed or shared equipment. If you stick with the program or hobby, you can purchase your own supplies and equipment later, if you need them. If and when that time comes, remember to look for secondhand equipment.
- "Shop" at home. You probably have books you haven't read, movies you haven't watched, games you haven't played, kitchen gadgets you haven't tried, and supplies for hobbies you haven't started. Put them to use now.
- Find your library card. The library is a great resource for no-cost entertainment. Look for books, magazines, music, movies, and more. Ask your library about downloads for e-readers and MP3 players, too.
- Scan your pantry shelves. We all have canned and boxed goods that we purchased but never got around to using. Find recipes for the supplies you already have on hand. Also, pull out food that your family won't eat. Check the "use by" or "best by" dates and donate unexpired items to a local food pantry or other non-profit organization.

Recycle

- Recycle. You do this by shopping for groceries and other products with recycling in mind. Know what you can recycle and choose products packaged in those materials.
- Collect recyclables and recycle them!
- Commit to recycled-content products.

Successful recycling programs depend on having manufacturers use your recyclables. If you need a new fleece vest or jacket, look for fleece made from recycled soft drink bottles. If you need printer paper, select post-consumer recycled-content paper.



Recycling means jobs

In 2008, with the nation recycling and composting about one-third of its discards, nearly 732,000 Americans worked in jobs directly related to recycling and composting of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris. A recent study by the Tellus Institute and Sound Resource Management concludes that increasing the nationwide recycling rate to 75% by 2030 could add as many as 1.5 million more recycling and composting jobs to the U.S. economy. In other words, every percentage point of improvement in our national recycling rate could lead to 30,000-35,000 new jobs.

In addition to job creation, the report also explores potential reductions in harmful emissions, such as carbon dioxide. Increasing the national recycling rate to 75% would be equivalent to removing 50 million cars from our roadways.

The final report, "More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.," is available online at www.recyclingworkscampaign.org.



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Gift cards GALORE



Gift cards are big business. In fact, by most estimates, gift card sales for 2011 will top out at around \$91 billion in the U.S. At \$25 per card, which is the most common gift card value sold, that is a whopping 3.64 billion cards.

While 95% of American adults have given or received a gift card, only about 20% choose to refill cards after the value has been expended. This leaves a lot of depleted cards headed to the trash. How often have you had a clerk ask, "Since this is empty, do you want me to throw it away?"

Gift cards are just one type of wallet-sized plastic card. About 17 billion total cards are produced to be used by American consumers each year, including gift, loyalty, discount, membership, debit, store charge, and credit cards. As a result, as much as 75 million pounds of plastic cards, most of it PVC, are discarded each year.

At least one company, Earthworks in Ohio, has begun to accept used plastic cards for recycling. The cards are recycled in a closed-loop process, with old cards melted and turned into the plastic sheets used to make new cards. Individuals can mail in empty or expired cards. However, Earthworks hopes to work with stores, hotels, and other businesses that would collect customer cards and send in larger quantities for recycling. To learn more about Earthworks, visit www.earthworkssystem.com.

Ask retailers whether they will accept your depleted cards for recycling. Other waste-reducing ideas include refilling existing gift cards and giving virtual or electronic gift certificates instead. Also, be sure to use up the funds on your gift cards. The average amount left on cards is \$2.30, which adds up to about \$5 billion in unspent value each year!

QUOTES REQUOTED

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

Marian Wright Edelman, 1939-



1ST AND GREEN AT SUPER BOWL XLVI

When you think of the Super Bowl, you probably think of football, commercials, and "tailgating" food. However, look behind the scenes at any Super Bowl since 1994 and you'd see a growing list of environmental initiatives. The 2012 Super Bowl to be held in February is no different. Working with the NFL, the local host committee has planned recycling, food recovery, donating supplies and equipment after the event, planting trees, and a sports equipment/book donation project involving local kids. Learn more at www.1standgreen.com.



Getting HHW out of the kitchen

By Kendal R. Miller, Public Outreach Coordinator

For those who know me personally, reflecting on household hazardous waste (HHW) around the holiday season wouldn't come as a surprise—with an atypical twist, of course.

This past Thanksgiving was a prime example. Celebrating with family, my three siblings and I good-humoredly reminisced with my mother about her cooking.

Mom's culinary skills – or lack thereof – became the post dinnertime topic. As long as the meal hadn't exploded or had stayed remotely edible once the melted plastic was detached, it was usually consumed. (In all fairness, I'll put my mom's expertise with a sewing machine, power tool, or shotgun up there with anyone's!)

Seriously, household hazardous waste (HHW) is more toxic than my mother's, or her daughter's, cooking. It's found in every home and business—whether it be in the kitchen, bathroom, basement, or garage.

Items used to clean and shine or to keep our gardens beautiful and pest-free are the same culprits that if improperly disposed of become hazards to our environment. Waste from products that keep houses in repair and cars running properly can stop the beautification of Mother Earth dead in her tracks.

Before disposing of any household cleaners or chemicals by dumping them in the trash can or by pouring them down the drain, read the label. Automotive products, lawn and garden chemicals, and everyday household cleaners display important information as to what harmful toxins they contain. Look for words such as *Caution*, *Poison*, *Warning*, or *Danger* that will be followed by helpful information for the product's use and disposal.

Not only can HHW be deadly to the environment, but it can be deadly to humans as well. Toxic chemicals and cleaners can cause serious injury, including long-term illness and even death, if inhaled, swallowed, or absorbed through the skin. Many products are fire hazards or can emit poisonous vapors. Improperly mixing cleaners together can cause even further toxic harm.

When finished with any type of these products, options are readily available for their proper disposal to help avoid damage to the earth's water, air, and soil.



Information on substituting natural ingredients for hazardous commercial chemicals can be found on the Internet.

SISWD offers no-cost, quarterly HHW drop-off days for individuals and businesses to dispose of chemicals, cleaners, automotive fluids, and home improvement products in each county that we serve. These drop-offs are offered one Saturday per quarter for one hour per site. Lists of

accepted items are included on the SISWD website at www.siswd.com.

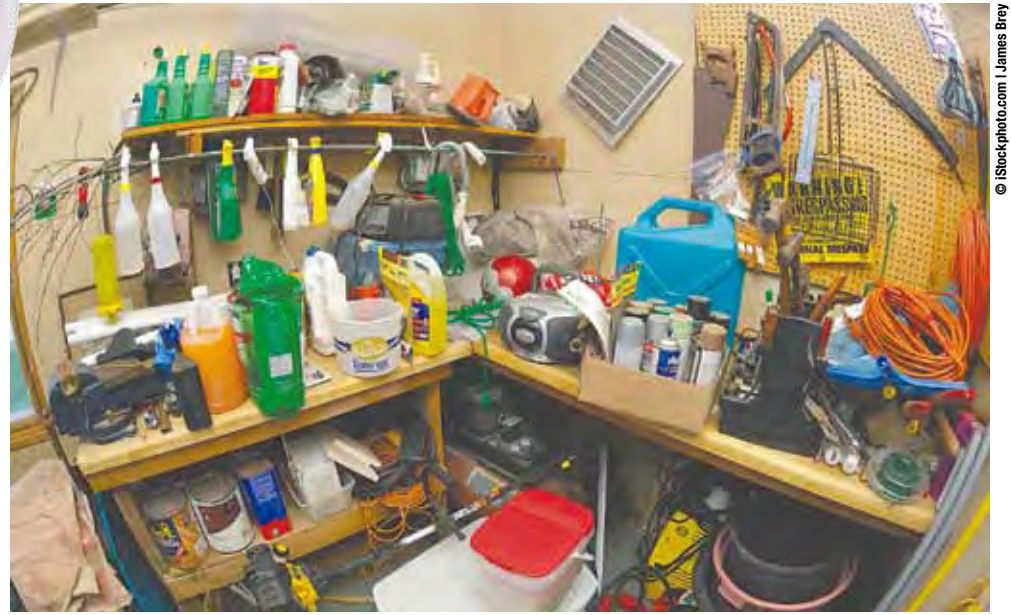
In 2012, residents of **Franklin, Ripley, and Switzerland/Ohio counties** can drop off HHW at their local SISWD recycling center on Saturday, January 14, Saturday, April 14, Saturday, July 14, and Saturday, October 13. Franklin County drop-off times are 8 to 9 a.m.; Ripley County drop-off will be from 10 to 11 a.m.; and Switzerland/Ohio County will accept HHW from noon to 1 p.m.

HHW collection is offered to residents of **Jennings and Scott counties**

on Saturday, January 21, Saturday, April 21, Saturday, July 21, and Saturday, October 20 at their local SISWD recycling center. Jennings County drop-off times are 8 to 9 a.m., and Scott County collections are scheduled from 10 to 11 a.m.

Jefferson County residents can utilize the SISWD Recycling Center located inside the former Jefferson Proving Ground. HHW is accepted daily during normal business hours. Residents of all seven counties in the district can use this site.

I'm doing my part—eliminating the use of an oven cleaner by not cooking in the first place. Not only has this abolished HHW in one facet of my household, but I've received the utmost appreciation from my family and friends in the process!



Same Letter, Different Words

By Kendal R. Miller, SISWD Public Outreach Coordinator

Sometime between graduating from high school and approaching the time when I can apply for an AARP card, the three R's have taken on a new meaning.

While "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic" are still a major part of today's curriculum, perhaps the popular catchphrase was long overdue for its "new school" overhaul.

Long after the days when many of us used cumbersome Texas Instrument calculators or laid hands on our first high-tech DOS computer, the three R's shifted to signify "reduce, reuse, and recycle."

Just as I once considered my parents

old, "uncool" people who were clueless about me or what was going on in my world, it shouldn't come as a surprise that the tides have turned. I still, however, remember feeling pretty important when I shared something with them that they didn't know.

Part of the SISWD mission is to promote recycling education to adults and youth within the communities and schools of our seven-county district. With the help of determined teachers and staff within Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties, youth are learning about recycling long before many adults have heard the term "chasing arrows."

Along with weekly pickups of recyclables in over 50 schools, teachers and personnel are encouraged to utilize SISWD speakers and staff in forming recycling clubs. SISWD's annual recycling challenge for grades K-6 helps students understand the recycling process—from what items can be recycled to how to prepare and sort trash.

SISWD's "Get Green! Challenge" for 2011-2012 reinforces the recycling process by getting students involved in a hands-on environmental project. It also promotes teamwork and camaraderie with fellow students and adults. Just as important, it helps create a sense of school pride, a cleaner environment, and the satisfaction of doing the right thing. SISWD will award participating schools that achieve specific goals with a prize of their choosing.

To make the challenge even more interesting, participating schools can select a student as a "Recycling Champion." A pupil will be honored for demonstrating exceptional leadership and teamwork skills, and for going above and beyond his or her school's recycling efforts.

High school seniors within SISWD's



Franklin County Girl Scout Troops 1661 and 1673 and their leaders visited the Environmental Discovery Center where members made crafts out of recyclable materials and learned what happens to recycled items after they are collected throughout our seven-county district.

district are encouraged to apply for one of three "2012 Students Making an Environmental Difference" scholarships, with awards totaling \$3,500. Applications will be available soon through school guidance counselors and on the SISWD website.

If you notice that your children are talking a new language these days—PETE plastics and post-consumer products, as examples—do not become alarmed. It's a different world out there, with new subjects that have adjusted with the times.

While many of us are settling into our unhip status these days, we have wisdom on our side. For we know it is our kids who will eventually learn from *their* children and reminisce about MP3 players and iPads as the cutting-edge technology in their day.

Just as in recycling, life eventually comes full circle.



Clarissa Zigan, a fifth grader at South Ripley Elementary School was a winner in last year's recycled art contest. She is pictured here with Mrs. Linkel, the assistant principal at the school.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

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