

Bee Editorial

Are your children really ready to go back to school?

Pens — check. Notebooks — check. Stylish back-to-school clothing — check. If you're a parent or guardian who has already obtained the ever-growing list of supplies required by school districts and the hippest clothing and shoes required by your child — you may think your back-to-school regimen is complete. Think again.

With one week left of summer break, parents are undoubtedly ready to drop their children off at school for the day and enjoy their own "break" for the next nine to 10 months. But shopping for calculators and "cool" new shoes is not the only thing you should be doing with your soon-to-be student.

It's time to have the "talk." No, we're not referring to *that* talk but instead, the talk about peer pressure, the "need" to fit in, and what is appropriate and inappropriate school conduct.

School can be a place of tremendous pressure for children and teenagers. Students of all ages want to be with the "in" crowd, but many parents may ask themselves, "What exactly is the "in" crowd today?"

We encourage parents to discuss with their children certain situations that they may come across as they return to their academic stomping grounds or if they are entering an entirely new building, which can be filled with entirely new pressures. This is not the time for parents to back out of a conversation because of embarrassment or lack of knowledge of "what the kids are doing today."

Sit down and discuss alcohol and drug use with your child. Teach them about respect for each other as well as their teachers. Let them know they can face serious consequences for "pranks" in school that may seem funny at the time.

We at The Amherst Bee are in no means trying to tell you how to parent your child, but instead we are offering a few words of encouragement and perhaps a slight "nudge" to get the ball rolling.

The first day of school will be here before you know it, and with the busy schedules of students these days, you may not find a moment to sit down and properly discuss these issues.

If needed, members of the school district are always available to help parents tackle these tough issues, so don't be ashamed to call for some assistance.

No matter if your child is entering fourth grade or preparing for his or her senior year of high school, it's important to open the lines of communication between parent and child. Remember, peer pressure doesn't recognize age as a boundary.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **THINK SUNNY SKIES** — With Labor Day deemed the unofficial end of summer, some of you may be wondering where the season went. I know I am, in part at least — I know the other part was spent celebrating nuptials. But this weekend marks a

very special wedding. My best friend, Sara, will be marrying her fiance, Joe, in an outdoor ceremony in Baldwinsville. Visiting her this past weekend, we checked the seven-day forecast on Sunday and were relieved to see temperatures near the 80s, but more importantly

— sunny skies. If you have any luck to spare this week, please pass it on to them so that forecast stays unchanged — well maybe slightly cooler.

We were just glad this past Saturday wasn't the big day, as Syracuse was expected to break its all-time high. Sara and I marked our fifth consecutive trip to the State Fair and the hottest to date. We formed a traditional list of stuff to do and sweated our way through the entire thing. Ironically the coolest spot was the fire safety building.

• **A CHANCE TO DANCE** — It has been quite a few years since I slipped on my ballet shoes, but I was once an avid dancer. I danced for 12 years with Geraldine Hoffman School of Dance, taking part in many shows. Although ballet wasn't always my favorite form of dance I am grateful today for the discipline it taught me. I once had the opportunity to dance with Pick of the Crop at the University at Buffalo's Center for the Arts

in the ballet "Snow Queen." So when I read choreographer Bernadine DeMike's press release that she was seeking dancers for the same show I became a bit nostalgic, but I am far from ready to slip back into ballet shoes.

Anyone who is, must call 560-5381 for an appointment. Auditions will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturdays through September at 4168 N. Buffalo St., in Orchard Park. Dancers, singers and actors can apply. The show tour will begin at the Grand Palace in Branson, Mo.

• **ENTREPRENEURS** — From sour lemonade to a sweet donation, two young volunteers donated their lemonade sale profits to the Western New York Chapter of Alzheimer's Association. You may remember the days when you set up your lemonade stand at the end of your driveway in hopes of making a few extra dollars. Jersey Phillips, 5, and Zack Dommer, 4, of Cheektowaga had different plans for their lemonade sale profit. On

Aug. 13, they set up their lemonade stand in front of Jersey's father's pizza shop, Pesci's Pizza at Main Street and Transit Road in Clarence. They strategically set up their stand to run from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. to hit the lunchtime rush. In two hours, the youths raised \$86 for the Alzheimer's Association. Joni Williams, director of development at the Alzheimer's Association, said, "It is so nice to see such young kids trying to make a difference and becoming involved in the Alzheimer's Association."

• **OPEN HOUSE** — The Amherst Highway Department, 1042 N. Forest Road, will hold an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8. Highway Superintendent Robert Anderson said highway equipment will be on display, and there will be demonstrations on how they work. Employees volunteering their time will be on hand to guide and explain the workings of the different divisions at highway. Refreshments will be served.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Aug. 31, 1882

Last Saturday afternoon, the Williamsville base ball nine played the Gardenville club, which included several good amateur players from Buffalo, and defeated them 18-9 after a close and exciting contest of two and one-half hours. Fine running catches were made by Lefty Gotwalt and "Jumbo" Roberts. After the game, the visitors were entertained with a good supper.

School begins Monday, September 4th.

Miss Hattie N. Burch of Rochester is visiting her cousin, Miss Julia Oswald, and her sisters.

Mrs. J. Wayne Dodge reports the loss of a right hand side buggy curtain, made of leather and lined with dark blue broad cloth, on the Buffalo Road between Williamsville and the Harris Hill Post Office. The finder will be suitably rewarded.

Miss Minnie Thurston, the only female aeronaut in the United States, will make a balloon ascension at the first meeting of the Franklinville Agricultural and Driving Park Association in September.

If your horse is troubled with a sore of any kind, remember that Tuttlebee's Blue Eagle Ointment will heal it up rapidly and effectually.

"How to Travel" is the title of a little book just out. How to get the money to travel is the most serious question of the season."

"A little girl of two and a half years picked up a cane in the corner of a room and was playing with it. Her father asked, 'What are doing with the cane?' She replied, 'It isn't a cane; it's an umbrella without any clothes on.'"

100 Years Ago Aug. 29, 1907

The Williamsville High School will open on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Deaths include Mrs. August Fiegl of Williamsville and William Luchterhand of Eggertsville.

75 Years Ago Sept. 1, 1932

All over the land, the school bell figuratively peals forth next Tuesday morning, and thousands of children will be wending their way back for another nine months of study. All must obey the call of the bell.

In the passing of Mrs. Mary Diegelman, the northern section of Amherst lost one who had been a familiar and respected figure for many years. The end came on Thursday, Aug. 25, 1932, shortly before her 76th birthday.

Purely as an economy measure, the Town Board on Monday afternoon voted to dispense with the services of the night watchman at the sewer disposal plant, foreman of the sewer system, and his assistant.

50 Years Ago Aug. 29, 1957

A hearty welcome back to the community is extended to one of Swormville's most beloved

citizens, Mrs. Julia Muskopf. She suffered a fractured hip last October 18 and was confined to Sisters Hospital for more than four months. She was staying with family in Ebenezer during the interim.

Schools will reopen for the 1957-58 year in the week following Labor Day. There will be no time lost in the semester's work, for curriculums have been completely planned.

A request for a 10 percent increase in salary for patrolmen of the Amherst Police Department was received by the Town Board at last Monday's meeting. Patrolmen currently start at an annual salary of \$4,331.25. The matter was tabled.

About \$200 worth of tools were stolen from a shed at the rear of the R.W. Gorenflo home on Dodge Road. The act was discovered Monday.

25 Years Ago Aug. 25, 1982

The Jolly Boys organization has donated \$1,500 to help keep the Eggertsville-Snyder Library open on Friday nights, beginning Sept. 3 until the end of the year.

Duane (Rock) Rodke, former president of the North Amherst Fire Co., died Friday, Aug. 20, 1982 minutes after the conclusion of a softball game between his host company and Clarence Center.

Four Amherst Hockey Association players — Joe Federico, Rich Gicewicz, Neal Perlstein and Jeff Wells — have been chosen to attend the Amateur Hockey Association Midget Training Camp in Colorado Springs, Colo.