

BARTON BUGLE

CLARA BARTON OPEN SCHOOL

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Our Trip to Disciples Ministry

by Ben Brandt, 5th grader in Room 208

Early in the morning on Feb. 1, right after everyone got to school at 9:30 a.m., M.J., Jeff and the class put on name tags, packed food and variety show materials and instruments and picked up props we needed for our production at the Disciples Ministry.

The Disciples Ministry is a mission for the poor in north Minneapolis. The ministry's building has several onion domes and a cross with the Star of David to show that people of all religions are welcome.

The people at the ministry expected about 170 people, M.J. told us. We went to help them out by preparing and serving breakfast, cleaning up after breakfast, packing and shelving groceries, preparing lunch, etc.

We, also, performed our play "Things Could Always Be Worse." Before lunch, we put on a talent show, too. Two alumni of Room 208, Ben Peck and Max Weinstein, joined the band. Paul Yerich played a bass drum. Peter and Wyatt played trombones. Eric Harp played the trumpet and M.J. played the tenor saxophone. They played "Royal Tournament" and "Blue Rock."

I was in a humiliating play about when a baby meets another kid in the park and another one joins them. They talk about their parents' jobs and decide to meet in the park for the rest of their lives. Our play and variety show lasted an hour. When we were finished with everything, then we tore down the cardboard set and put it to be disposed of in their gigantic kitchen.

Then we served lunch- spaghetti and squares of green jello. We got several compliments about the talent show. "I liked the talent show," said one woman, who was sort of short and had white hair. Then we went around and collected plates. Not many people were that thrilled about the jello.

Next we got our own lunch. I sat down with some other guys from my class. I found out we could go and get sodas. I got strawberry. One of my friends didn't think it looked very good until he tried it. Then he wanted one, too. When he finished his orange pop, he got a strawberry the second time. Someone brought ice cream around, and we got the idea of putting soda in it. Our floats were fine.

One old man come around ringing bells and he had a little horn he was playing. He collected our soda cans to be recycled. It was neat to hear him play.

There was a \$100 drawing right after the talent show. After that everyone of the seniors got two bags of groceries. We had to help them carry them out. Lots of people said, "Thanks" and some even offered us money. We said, "No, thanks," because we were doing it to help them.

After we finished carrying out groceries, we got in our cars and left. When we got back to Barton, we talked about it. M.J. said the person in charge gave us a big bag of dinosaur treats. Everyone was very pleased. I was glad because we had helped people.

Join the PAL Phone Tree

Would you like to help Barton and all the Minneapolis public schools? You can by joining the PAL (Parents Advocating at the Legislature) phone tree. As part of the phone tree you would call three to five other parents who had agreed to be part of the tree and your own legislators about bills and issues pertaining to Minneapolis public schools whenever the phone tree was activated. Calling a legislator usually involves leaving a short message and name and address with a secretary-not difficult or time consuming.

During its first year the phone tree was only partially activated once, but this year it will probably be used to defend our desegregation funding from cuts during this non-budget session. If you can call six or eight people two or three times in the next three months, please fill out the form in this issue of *The Bugle* and return it to school. Your kids will thank you!

Do you have questions about Minneapolis school policies or rules? The Superintendent's hot line is the place to call. An answering machine will take your query and a person who works in the area you've asked about will return your call. The number is 627-2047.

Do you need to find out who your legislators are? Call 296-2146, the Minnesota House Public Information Office.

Want more information about PAL? Call Mary Theresa Downing at 824-1556, Sally Pundt at 377-3529 or Kathy Ringham at 823-3410.