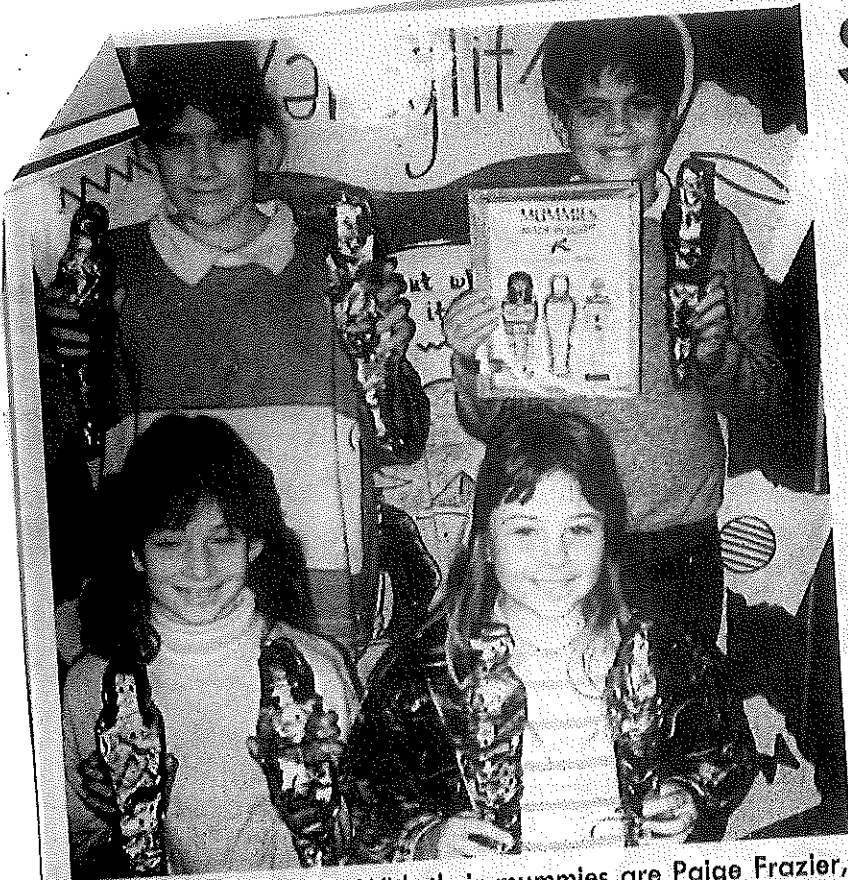




Students See Their Own History

A time capsule filled four years ago with "artifacts" from Austin Elementary School in Dunwoody was recently opened at the school. Then third graders had loaded the capsule with information about fashion trends, lists of popular music, career predictions, and student photos. Pictured are surprised seventh graders John Jolin, left, and Amy Samson.

News/ERA 5/10/85



Students Barbie for

By S.D. Rosenberg
Neighbor Staff Writer

The all-American doll that has been a trend-setter to generations of children has taken on a new role — to teach students at the Austin Elementary School about archaeology. Barbie has been mummified.

As part of a lesson about ancient civilizations, fourth-grade students were asked to bring in Barbie dolls and embalm the toys using actual methods learned from watching videos and reading books on Egypt, said teacher Robyn Reichenbach.

"These kids learned a lesson about the Egyptians that they will remember a long time," said Ms. Reichenbach, who has taught the class for three years. "There were a few giggles from some of the boys in the class but no one got grossed out."

After separating into groups, 28 students from two classes salted the dolls to simulate drying all bodily fluids and anointed them with oil and spices, such as cinnamon and nutmeg.

BARBIE MUMMIES: With their mummies are Paige Frazier, back row left, daughter of Gregory and Emily Frazier; Michael Griffin, son of Scott and Althea Griffin; Maria Cella, front row, daughter of Christopher and Colleen Cella and Kerry McLaughlin, daughter of Thomas and Kathryn McLaughlin.

March 15, 1989 DeKalb Neighbor

File: A or TW. Elementary School

embalm science

The Barbies were wrapped in gauze, and petroleum jelly instead of resin was used to coat the dolls. To make mummy cases, the "bodies" were wrapped in papier-mache and dried.

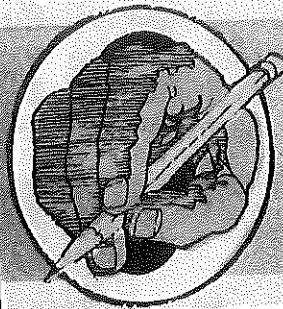
Ms. Reichenbach said the idea to let the students try their hands at embalming came when she was watching a public television special that described exactly how mummies were prepared.

"We talked about why everything was done as we prepared the Barbies, and the students were very enthusiastic about the project," Ms. Reichenbach said. "Everything in this class is done to interest the student and challenge them through creative and cognitive lessons."

When the students removed the mummies, the mummy cases were sprayed with gold paint and adorned with iridescent markers and sequins. The finished works were displayed in the school's media center for several weeks.

See MUMMY, Page 2A

*See back of this page
for continuation "mummy"*



Tax help

The American Association of Retired People has set up tax centers, staffed by Internal Revenue Service trained volunteers, throughout DeKalb County to help elderly residents fill out income tax returns.

Avie Williams Library, 1282 McDonnell Drive, Decatur
Mondays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Maud M. Burrus Library, 215 Sycamore St., Decatur
Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Decatur Federal Savings and Loan, 250 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur
Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Christian Tower, 1438 Church St., Decatur
Wednesdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

Clairmont Oaks, 441 Clairmont Road, Decatur
Tuesdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

Decatur Federal Savings and Loan, 2942 N. Druid Hills Road, Decatur
Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Wesley Woods Tower, 184 Clifton Road, Atlanta
Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tucker Recreation Center, 4389 LaVista Road, Tucker
Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Reld H. Cofer Library, 4316 Church St., Tucker
Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Decatur Federal Savings and Loan (Northlake), 2300 Henderson Mill Road
Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Compiled by S.D. Rosenberg

DeKalb News Sun 3/28/90 Austin Teams Make Mental Odyssey

Feeling a little like a group of young Davids in a sea of Goliaths, four teams from Austin Elementary School marked DeKalb County's first appearance at the Georgia regional Odyssey of the Mind tournament.

The competition that gives kudos for creativity and matches minds instead of muscle was held last Saturday at Duluth high and middle schools in Gwinnett County.

Of the four Austin teams, two took top honors in their categories and will advance to the state finals.

Attracting 130 teams from 45 schools in nine counties, the event has grown 500 percent since its first Georgia competition in 1983, according to state coordinator Regina O'Brien. Students show their ability to find the most creative solutions to unusual problems in both prepared and spontaneous presentations.

Students compete in three divisions: Grades kindergarten-five; grades 6-8 and grades 9-12, with the top three teams from each division advancing to the state finals.

"This competition gave the creative kids a spotlight in which to shine," says Robin Reichenback, gifted program teacher for Austin. "A lot of these kids don't shine in athletics, so Odyssey of the Mind provides a different outlet for their creative talents."

Even though only two of the Austin teams will be advancing to the state level, Reichenback says all of the students left the competition happy. "The kids that heard they weren't going on to state cheered just as loud for their winning classmates. All of the students showed a lot of growth and maturity."

Austin's Omitronic Humor team took first place among 22 teams.

Its members included fifth-graders Amy Blount, Maria Cella, Paige Fraizer, Meghan Orsagh, Meredith Robinson, Kirsten Tuhus and coaches Colleen Cella and Barbara Williams.

Their task was to create an original animated character that could smile, shed tears, look surprised, look bored and show two other emotions of the team's choosing and work this character into an eight-minute comedy skit.

Working after school and on weekends, the team produced a humorous skit based on a zany German scientist and a large computer the team made from a refrigerator box. The computer communicates with the scientist by displaying a range of emotions on its massive screen.

The Austin recycling team won second place among 17 teams competing in that problem area. This problem challenged a team member to guide his blindfolded team-

mates, without the use of verbal communication, through a maze of obstacles while picking up trash and depositing it in a collection bin.

The Austin team, comprised of fifth-graders Laura Brown, Corrie Buchanan, Michael Griffin, Jina Lee, Brandon Ramo, Kristen Taylor, Kirsten Wenge and coaches Jim Buchanan and Kent Taylor, devised a series of signals using the musical notes on an electric keyboard and home-made instruments to guide its members around the obstacles.

The IBM Corporation, which supports the national competition, also donated \$2,500 to this year's Georgia Odyssey of the Mind competition. According to O'Brien, the donation helped defray operational costs of the tournament and will go into scholarships to send Georgia teams to the World Finals to be held at Iowa State University May 31-June 2.



Recycling Project Bring Award

Austin Elementary School students Michael Griffin (left, front) Kristen Taylor and Corrie Buchanan represent waste recyclers while teammates Jiha Lee (left, back), Laura Brown, Kirsten Wenge and Brandon Ramo hold their garbage

truck. The team's presentation on recycling won second place in its division at the Georgia Odyssey of the Mind Tournament held at Duluth high and middle schools.



Austin Helps Make Season Brighter

12/20/89 DeKalb News/Sun
Students of Austin School donated 50 cartons of food for the needy. Ms. Howard's kindergarten class donated the most, 215 cans. Local area churches and the Red Cross helped in the distribution of the food. Pictured are Austin students (first row, left to right) LeChristian Steptoe, Ken Murta, Chris Stevens, Jeff Stewart, Scott Dubin, Allison Pollard, Megan Key, Katie Hindman, Dara Bentley, (back row, left to right) Marcia Alembik, Grant Metzger, Jeff Cook, Rebecca Winder, Michele McDowell, Emily Zimney, Liane White and Zac Shuster.