

# West LIFE

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

## Less income forces district to cut budget

By Jeff Gallatin

### BAY VILLAGE

School officials are keeping their budget tight by trimming costs in equipment and personnel areas.

In approving a revised 2008-09 budget of \$27,917,381, Superintendent Clint Keener said the district was like many others around the state and had to revise its figures because it wasn't going to get as much money coming in as originally projected. To compensate, the district has cut and delayed purchases in equipment and left open or cut to part time some open positions in the budget. Bay officials cut \$393,157 from the initial proposed budget to arrive at the new, lower figure.

Keener cited familiar reasons in noting why the district has less funding than expected for the upcoming year.

"We've gotten hurt like a lot of districts and people by the foreclosures and problems in the housing industry," he said. "The money is just not coming to districts because of the foreclosures and other resulting financial problems in the housing industry. It's something that we're not only facing in our area and Ohio overall, but the entire nation."

Keener said many experts are saying the funds will start going up again when the foreclosure and other prob-

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**DOES WHATEVER A SPIDER CAN:** Two-and-a-half-year-old Chase Heasley of Elyria gives an intimidating "Spidey" glare while having his face painted as Spider-Man Friday by "Whipples" the clown during Crocker Park's American Liberty Fest '08 in Westlake. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

## Porter Web site expands features

By Kevin Kelley

### WESTLAKE

As new technology changes the ways people record and store information, libraries must adapt and add the new technology to their collections.

So it is at Westlake Porter Public Library, which in recent years has added DVDs, audio books, downloadable videos and downloadable audio books to its collection of books and magazines.

With the Web changing the way people look up information, the library has been putting more information on its

Web site.

When Porter held a poetry contest for students in kindergarten through grade five this spring, the entries were posted on the library Web site — in audio format as well as text.

Reading their poems out loud in addition to writing them down on paper was a thrill for the students, said Cathy McCann, youth services associate at Porter.

"They were so excited," McCann said. "Sometimes entire families came (to the recording sessions). Most of them had practiced before they got here and had their poems memorized."

The 25 students who entered the

contest were simply encouraged to be creative, McCann said.

The children had the opportunity to record more than one take and listen to their recordings. No one was too shy to make a recording, McCann said.

Many were very excited to tell their out-of-town grandparents and other family members about their recorded recitals, McCann said.

"I think it was very exciting for them to see their works published," McCann said.

The idea to make the recording of the students' poems came from Youth

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## New principal to seek community input

By Kevin Kelley

### FAIRVIEW PARK

Kevin Liptrap, who officially takes over as principal of Fairview High School this fall, plans to form a parent advisory board to get a better sense of the concerns of the community.

The advisory board is one of several actions Liptrap intends to take as principal, according to a memo he handed out to Board of Education members at a May 20 meeting.

Liptrap, who was named as the next principal May 6, indicated in the memo that he plans to hold a meeting with all parents in August.

Transportation and babysitting will be provided to those parents who need those services in order to attend the meeting, he said.

"We need to get all the parents

involved — not just the parents of the students with great grades and are never sent to the office — this is preaching to the choir," Liptrap wrote in the memo.

Liptrap also plans to meet with local business leaders. He plans to write a letter to each church and pastor to share his vision for the high school.

That vision states that all students will be given the tools to succeed and a safe environment in which to learn, according to the memo. High expectations will be made of both students and educators, the memo states.

Liptrap also listed his core beliefs. Among them are:

- We are student centered.
- I will treat everyone with respect, ten days out of ten.
- I will expect teachers to improve through exposing them to new strategies.
- I may not be able to change beliefs but I can change behavior.

• When making a decision I ask myself one central question: What will my best teachers think?

• I value high achieving teachers and will provide them with autonomy and recognition. The teachers that are not serving our students' needs will be addressed.

Liptrap succeeds Carey Willgren, who served as principal since August 2002. In March, the board voted not to renew Willgren's contract as principal.

Superintendent Brion Deitsch did not give any reason for the change in leadership at the high school, saying it was a personnel matter.

Liptrap has served as the high school's assistant principal and athletic director since 2006. Before coming to Fairview High School, Liptrap served as district activities and athletic coordinator for the Bay Village Schools since 1997.

