

West LIFE

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

Students show off tech skills at Apple Store

By Kevin Kelley

WESTSHORE

Computer technology is fully integrated in the curriculum at Gilles-Sweet Elementary School in Fairview Park.

Not only do students use computers in their classrooms, but 32 sixth-graders belong to an after-school technology club where they learn and experiment with multimedia.

Earlier in the school year, the club demonstrated its expertise to administrators at a board of education meeting. Last Wednesday evening, the club demonstrated their skills to parents and the public during a field trip to the Apple Store at Crocker Park in Westlake.

Matt Dunlap, technology instructor at Gilles-Sweet and moderator of the technology club, said he had wanted to take his students to an Apple Store for some time, but the one at Legacy Village in Lyndhurst was too far. After the Crocker Park location opened in September, Dunlap filled out an online application and was soon contacted by Apple.

The purpose of the field trip, Dunlap said, was to showcase the skills the students have learned.

Incorporating technology into classes allows students to utilize critical thinking and problem-solving skills instead of just memorizing the subject matter, said Dunlap, who also teaches educational technology as an adjunct

“Using technology allows students to show their creativity and get interested in things they ordinarily wouldn't be interested in.”

— Matt Dunlap, technology instructor at Gilles-Sweet



Gilles-Sweet sixth-graders Sidney Schuller, Tricia Aerni, Meghan Graham and Christi Skelly work on a script for a podcast April 8 on a computer at the Apple Store at Crocker Park. Members of the school's technology club took a field trip to the store to demonstrate the use of modern technology in education. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

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Police investigating missing funds

By Jeff Gallatin

BAY VILLAGE

City police are investigating allegations that a former officer of the Bay Village Soccer Club had allegedly taken more than \$160,000 from the organization during the past year.

Other officers of the club went to the police station the evening of March 30 after they discovered the financial problems.

John Riess, registrar and spokesman for the club, said the organization only discovered the problem themselves in the last few weeks.

“It was a bounced check that alerted us to what was going on,” said Riess. “We had a check go bad that shouldn't have, so we began looking into it.”

David Campbell, the club's attorney, said the organization has recovered the money since the club and police began investigating.

Lt. Mark Spaetzel, commander of the

city police detective bureau, said it was a relatively large amount of money taken for a community organization.

“You're talking in excess of \$150,000,” he said. “That's a pretty big amount for any organization like that to not be able to account for.”

The Club sponsors the annual Bay Challenge Cup tournament, which brings in a wide range of soccer teams from around the country annually. It

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Ring to return to deceased man's family

By Allison Pritchard

ROCKY RIVER

A ring reunion is in the works.

Last week, West Life published an article about a man who found a 1977 class ring while fishing in Rocky River. The ring was thought to be deceased Clay Ward Johnson's, based on initials engraved on the ring. Since then, a former business partner of Johnsons'

father has contacted Clay's older brother, Mark Johnson, Jr. West Life then contacted Johnson, who said he is touched to get the ring back.

“It's bittersweet to say the least,” Johnson said. “It'd be nice to have something like that of my brother...It brings back memories,” he said.

“Life was much too short for him,” he said.

Johnson confirmed that his brother's class ring matched up with the descrip-

tion. Plans are in the works to have the ring shipped to him.

Dan Spencer Sr., who read the original story, had called Johnson Saturday.

Spencer had worked with Johnson's father at the Pearl Brookpark Carwash as business partners, Spencer said. Johnson's father, Spencer and a third owner and their wives had all enjoyed themselves at Westwood Country Club

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