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*Brighton School NEWS for the entire community*

**December 1999**

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# Michael Richter Named Assistant Principal

Michael Richter is the new Assistant Principal of Twelve Corners Middle School. Richter comes to Brighton from the Greece School District, where he was Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Greece Olympia High School for four years. Prior to his administrative appointment in Greece, Richter taught 7th and 8th grade language arts at Greece Arcadia and Apollo Middle Schools. He served as team leader, coordinator of the annual 8th grade Washington trip and coach of modified boys' and girls' basketball and track teams.

Richter began his teaching career at Nazareth Hall. During 10 years at Nazareth Hall, Richter served as the junior high department chairperson as well as teacher and coach. For five years between teaching at Nazareth Hall and Greece schools, Richter was a youth referral counselor with the Greece Police Department.

Richter earned a B.A. in English and history at St. John Fisher College and an M.S. in educational administration at the University of Rochester.

Brighton Superintendent Henry Peris said, "I was pleased to recommend Michael Richter to the

Board of Education following his selection as a finalist by the Twelve Corners Middle School Selection Committee. I have every confidence that the depth and diversity of Mr. Richter's work with young people make him uniquely qualified for this position."



## Family Center Offers Programs

The Brighton Parent/Family Resource Center is offering three free programs in January. All will be held at the Center, 2035 Monroe Avenue. Please call 242-7531 to register.

- The popular series, "Talking about Sexuality," takes place on January 6, 13, 20, 27 (Thursdays) from 7-9 p.m. This program tells parents what they *need* to know (the facts), what they *want* their children to know (their values and beliefs) and how to communicate them. Presenter Mary Jo Brach always receives the highest praise.
- Meet Janet Gibbons, the new principal of Council Rock Primary School, on Tuesday, January 11, from 12-1 p.m. Those attending are welcome to bring lunch and join in an interesting discussion.
- The Council Rock Book Discussion Group's first meeting will be Monday, January 24 from 7:30-9 p.m. to discuss the highly acclaimed book, *The Shelter of Each Other: Rebuilding Our Families*, by Mary Pipher, the author of *Reviving Ophelia*.

## District Considers New Pool

The Brighton School District is considering a new swimming pool at Brighton High School. The proposal is the result of many years of recognition that the high school pool, built in the mid-50s, is inadequate for how it's used and could be used.

A committee of school and town representatives met with architects to develop a preliminary plan, which proposes that the school district build a new pool and the town contribute to its capital cost and annual maintenance through use fees associated with the community aquatics program.

The new pool could be used in many ways, including interscholastic and intramural competitions, swim clubs, Red Cross certifications, expanded student swim lessons, expanded recreational programs, therapeutic swimming, and more.

The pool facility would be a combination of new and renovated spaces at the back of Brighton High School and accessible from inside and outside the building. It would meet all regulations for competition and be fully accessible to people with disabilities. A six-classroom addition would replace classrooms lost to renovation. The construction would require the relocation of one tennis court. A new back entrance, walkway and landscaping are also part of the plan.

The estimated cost of the project is \$6,281,068. Sixty-two percent of this cost would be covered by State Aid if the project is approved by voters by June 30, 2000. After that date, the State Aid formula is scheduled to be reduced by 6.6%.

More detailed cost estimates will be developed over the next two months and presented to the Board of Education in January.

### Cover Photo

*Residents of St. John's Meadows Senior Living Community on Elmwood Avenue, Brighton, helped kick-off the Homecoming football at Brighton High School by singing the National Anthem with students. The new lights on the playing fields have made it possible for more parents and community members to attend evening competitions.*

# Asset Development

## Building Our Youths' Assets: Natural Helpers

*This is the second in a series of articles on "Asset-Building" in Brighton Central Schools. The District is part of a community-wide effort to foster the development of "assets," which are internal and external factors that protect youth from high-risk behavior and help enhance healthy development and school success. This article focuses on the Natural Helpers program at Brighton High School.*

Natural Helpers is based on a simple premise: Within every school, an informal helping network exists. Students with problems seek out other students – and occasionally adults – whom they trust. They seek them out for advice, for assistance or just for a sympathetic ear. The Natural Helpers program uses this existing helping network by providing training to students and adults who are already identified as "natural" helpers. The program gives them the skills they need to more effectively help young people who seek them out.

At Brighton High School, students and staff members are identified for Natural Helpers training through an anonymous school survey. "We look at how kids define their social groups and select about 25-30 students who represent a cross-section of the school community," said Patrice Ristuccia, the Brighton High School counselor who has coordinated the program for the past seven years. This fall 28 students and four staff identified through this process agreed to attend an initial 2½ day training retreat and ongoing training during the school year.

This year's retreat took place in mid-November. Everyone boarded a school bus at the close of school on November 15 for the 30 minute ride to the Rotary Sunshine Camp in

Rush. The camp is an ideal setting for a retreat.

After getting settled in their dormitories, the students and staff reported back to the main room at the conference center to begin a highly structured intensive program that occupied them for most of the next 48 hours. The retreat training is given by Ristuccia assisted by other staff and students trained in previous years. Each activity is designed to help everyone get to know one another, improve their helping skills and take good care of themselves. Role playing is one of the effective training techniques that allow people to put their skills into practice. When to seek adult help is the most critical lesson the Natural Helpers learn, and the lesson is reinforced throughout their training.

The students chosen as Natural Helpers tend to be good listeners, observant, intuitive and caring, according to Jessica Kaufman, who has been a student assistant in Natural Helpers training for the past two years. She was trained as a Natural Helper as a freshman. The program has been a great experience for her in many ways. "It gives you better ways to understand your friends and help

them reach better decisions rather than going around in circles with them. It also gives you resources you can turn to." Another benefit, Jessica says, is "I've gotten to be friends with many more people than I normally would have met in my own grade and activities."

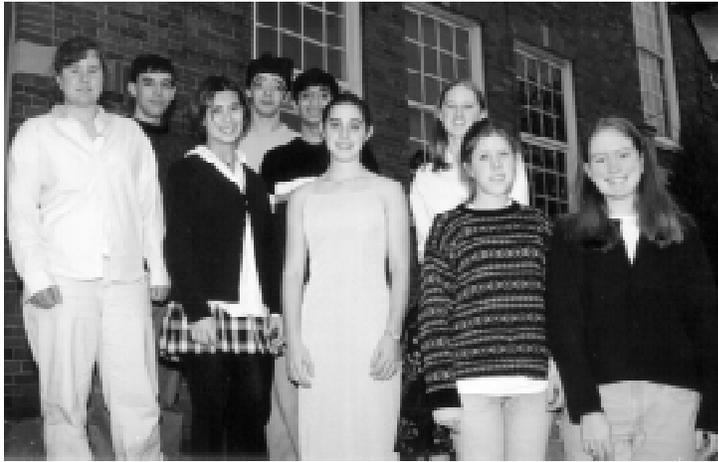
Ann Crerand, an art teacher trained as a Natural Helper this year, said the training was great. "I have 30 new friends," she said. She learned how she can help students more effectively. "With two teenagers at home, I'm able to use what I learned with my own family; these skills really do make a difference," she says.

Natural Helpers training is on-going during the school year. Additional training will focus on specific problems such as chemical dependency, eating disorders, abuse, stress, academic pressure and relationships with friends and family. The program has been so successful that both the District and Twelve Corners Middle School have decided to start it in the middle school later this winter.



*Students and staff members took part in many activities as part of their Natural Helpers training.*

# Newsmakers



*Nine Brighton High School students were named Semifinalists in the 2000 National Merit Scholarship Competition. These students are eligible to continue on to the next level of competition for scholarships offered by universities, businesses and foundations.*

**Stephen Kleene** has been recognized as a Semifinalist in the 2000 National Achievement Scholarship Program for minority students. Stephen is eligible to continue on to the next level of competition for scholarships offered by universities, businesses and foundations.

Twenty Brighton High School students have been named Commended Students in the 2000 National Merit Scholarship Program. They placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the Merit Program by taking the 1998 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They are **Inbal Braunstein, Sarah Burger, Dina Ghoneim, John Holt, Jyoti Kandlikar, Daniel Kaplan, Stephen Kleene, Edward Klorman, Suchi Mithani, Lutao Ning, Ankur Pansari, Eleanor Powell, Irina Privorotskaya, Julian Russo, Qiuyan Shi, Cheryl Skillman, Christopher Stearns, Emily Stimson, Aleksey Tentler** and **Kaveri Vaid**.

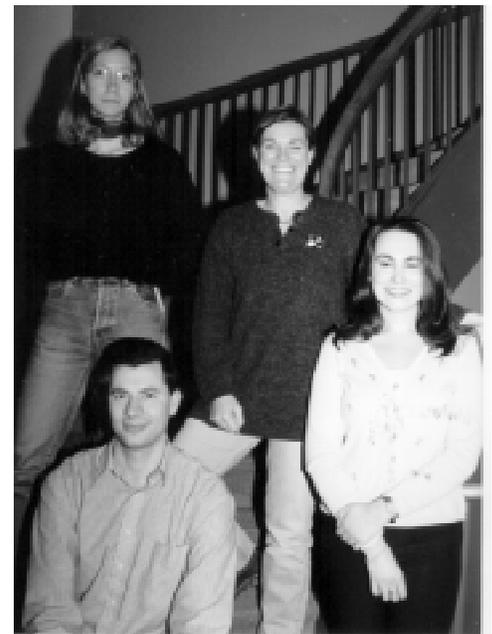
**Denise Anthony**, director of the Brighton Teacher Center, was a presenter at the annual Assessment Conference at the University of Rochester on October 2. Anthony, a math teacher, and a colleague discussed instructional and program changes in math classrooms as a result of the new state standards and assessments.

Fifteen Brighton students in grades 7-9 were chosen to participate in the Area Junior High All-State Festival on November 5 and 6 in Rush Henrietta: Choir -

*Brighton High School and Twelve Corners Middle School recently welcomed four new foreign language teaching assistants to the Brighton School District. Clockwise from bottom left, are the teaching assistants from Argentina, Germany, France and Spain. The teaching assistants do presentations to whole classes, work in smaller student conversation groups, help individual students and in many ways enrich Brighton students' language and cultural learning.*

**Eva Burger, Concetta Ficicchi, Leslie Kwiatkowski, Rachel Turner, Lucas O'Connor**; Orchestra - **Aaron Berg** - bass clarinet, **Stephanie Berger** - clarinet, **Micah Gertzog** - 1<sup>st</sup> violin, **Katherine Mann** - 2<sup>nd</sup> violin, **Emily Grissing** - cello, **Isaac Holub** - cello, **Katie Hart** - string bass, **Max Kotlarchyk** - cello; Band - **Seb Henshaw** - percussion, **Milan Ninkov** - baritone saxophone.

Eleven Brighton High School students in grades 10-12 were selected for the Senior High Area All-State Music Festival on November 19-20 at the Canandaigua Academy: Chorus - **Sarah Burger, Jessica Kaufman**; Orchestra - **Abby Holub** - 2<sup>nd</sup> violin, **Susanna Supalla** - 2<sup>nd</sup> violin, **Tracey Sussman** - 2<sup>nd</sup> violin, **Heidi Lissack** - viola, **Leslie Grissing** - cello, **Elaine Hill** - bassoon, **Kara Lord** - clarinet; Band - **Alec Swinburne** - alto saxophone, **Daniel Saat** - baritone saxophone.



# Newsmakers



Twelve Corners Middle School students performed the musical, *The Boy Friend*, to appreciative crowds in November. This was the first full-scale musical staged at the middle school in at least 20 years. New lighting helped make this possible. There were 60 students in the cast.

**Norma Press**, District Communications Coordinator, earned an Award of Merit for photography in the 1999 Communications Contest of the New York School Public Relations Association.

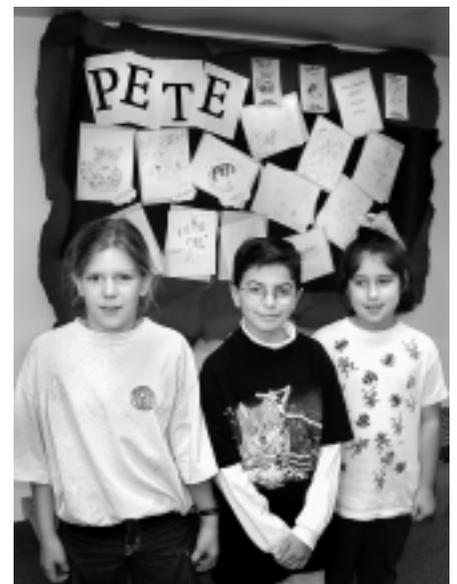
Brighton High School's literary magazine, *Galaxy*, won more first place awards from the Empire State Press Association than any other magazine in New York State. Awards were made at the annual conference in October. *Galaxy* was awarded a Gold/All New York State Rating for Best Literary Magazine. Individual awards included gold to **Elizabeth Svoboda** for best fiction; gold to **Inbal Braunstein** for best non-fiction; gold to **Sarah Levit-Shore** for best non-fiction; gold to **Birgit Larrson** for best poetry; silver to **Ellen Rubenstein** for best poetry; and two honorable

mentions to **Sarah Berger** for best poetry and best non-fiction. **Dr. Gary Wiener** is the *Galaxy* advisor.

Three members of the Brighton secretarial staff were honored on October 21 at the annual congratulatory Professional Standards Program (PSP) Banquet for the 47<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the New York State Association of Educational Office Professionals, an affiliate chapter of the National Association of Educational Office Professionals (NAEOP). They are **Peggy Reigelsperger**, Brighton High School audio-visual department; **Jackie Wakefield**, Twelve Corners Middle School main office; and **Judy Schulman**, Twelve Corners Middle School counseling office. The congratulatory dinner honored them as recipients of certificates for participation in the program.

Five exceptional Brighton High School students were selected for the New York State Music Association Annual Winter Conference, which drew music teachers and talented young people from across the state to

explore excellence in music education and showcase their talents. Brighton was represented by four high school students and an alternate in three performing groups. **Edward M. Klorman** was in the String Orchestra Concert playing the viola, and **Susanne Ristow** was an alternate playing the cello. **Sarah Burger** performed with the Mixed Chorus, and **Renee Keller** and **Aaron Rose** performed in the Symphonic Band on mallet percussion and clarinet respectively. These students were chosen from a pool of thousands of students who received high ratings at the NYSSMA solo festivals during the 1998-99 school year.



This yellow python was one of the special guests at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PETE Day at French Road Elementary School in October. PETE stands for Preserving the Earth Through Education. To help celebrate this event, 35 speakers presented programs on the environment and respect for wildlife. PETE Day never fails to generate tremendous enthusiasm, not only among the children and staff of French Road, but also in a wider audience. These three students' designs were selected for the PETE Day programs for their respective grades: from the left, grade five winner, grade four winner and grade three winner.



# Teachers Are Trained in Differentiated Instruction

The Brighton School District has a commitment to continued professional development of its staff members, and as part of that commitment, teachers are learning how to use **differentiated instruction** to accommodate the varying rates and degrees of student learning.

Differentiated instruction at its simplest is teaching appropriately for all children in the classroom. Teachers learn how to effectively reach out to students who span the spectrum of readiness, interests and learning styles.

Using differentiated instruction, teachers begin teaching where the students are, and they accept and build upon the premise that learners differ in important ways. They engage learners in instruction through different learning modalities, by appealing to differing interests, and by varying the rate and complexity of instruction. Differentiated instruction is not individualized instruction, although it does provide more opportunities to children with widely different levels of readiness.

Much of the training is being provided over three years by Carol Ann Tomlinson, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Virginia. Dr. Tomlinson's services are provided through a partnership between Brighton and Hilton Central Schools.

French Road Elementary School teachers Vicki Martin and Barbara Williams de Leeuw were trained in differentiation two summers ago as part of the State Education Department's Goals 2000 program. During the school year, a mentor assisted them in implementing differentiated lessons.

Martin said, "Differentiation isn't throwing out traditional ways of teaching but rather adding some new ways, using many subjects and senses.

Traditional teaching tends to favor visual and auditory teaching. You need to use more learning styles such as kinesthetic learning. You need to take into consideration each student's interests and abilities." Martin prepares a check list for every student and shares it so each is aware of his or her learning style.

In a typical differentiated lesson, Martin plans three different activities which she describes on color-coded cards. One might be a reading-based activity, another a math-based activity, and still another an arts-based activity. Children choose whichever activity they want to participate in, although they may at times be assigned one. For example, in their study of Canada, students learned about weather and population patterns by interpreting maps or doing math activities that led them to the same conclusions.

"Preparing differentiated instruction takes more time but the execution in class is easier than traditional instruction, where the teacher tends to be 'on-stage.' You can't differentiate everything you teach because some topics don't lend themselves to teaching several ways," Martin said.

Last summer French Road social studies teachers began planning differentiated lessons on South America. As they developed the lessons, they looked at each concept in the curriculum and determined the best method to teach it. The District is also supporting these efforts by budgeting for new social studies materials, such as books and CD Roms.

Two opportunities to learn about differentiation are being offered this winter. There will be an overview for teachers on January 18 and 25, and there will be an overview for parents at Brighton's Parent University on March 4.

## Differentiation Training Timeline

**Phase I: 1998-99:** Awareness Level Workshops were offered on a continuous basis during the school year to acquaint staff with the basic concepts of differentiation. Topics included the research base, an overview of differentiated instruction practices, rationale for these practices, and the effect of these practices on student achievement. Local trainers conducted these sessions as the need arose. Dr. Tomlinson worked with teachers, administrators and parents.

**Phase II: 1999-2000:** Teachers who had the initial training will attend a two-day workshop in fall or spring with Dr. Tomlinson. Next summer these teachers will again work with Dr. Tomlinson to learn how mini-lessons, lesson plans and unit plans can be restructured using the principles of differentiation. Continuing support will be provided through regularly scheduled guided practice sessions.

**Phase III: 2000-2001:** Advanced/Follow-up includes one day sessions for staff to work with a colleague from the same subject/grade level to develop appropriate strategies that reflect differentiated instruction. Additional structures such as coaching, study groups, collegial circles, action research and peer observation will continue to be offered. During this phase, a plan will be developed for the 2001-2002 school year to have a cadre of teachers who will teach differentiated instruction to peers.

## Paul Hundredmark, Webmaster of the Brighton High School Alumni Website

Paul Hundredmark, 1964, was a Brighton student only during his high school years, but he is one of Brighton's most energetic promoters. After serving in the Air Force, he attended Florida International University. Now a resident of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Hundredmark is a computer programmer and businessman. He developed an automated computer program used by law enforcement agencies for daily contact of elderly and shut-in persons. He develops multi-media websites for commercial applications on the Internet and creates Internet advertising for businesses.

Another fascinating service he provides is "positioning" websites with search engines to produce a "Hit" (find) in the top pages of a "Search." As the creator of the Brighton High School Alumni Website, he has positioned the website very favorably. If you type "Rochester NY" in the AltaVista.com search engine, you will find that the Brighton High School Alumni Website is *fourth* out of 107,227 websites!

The original purpose of the Alumni Website was to publish a roster for the Class of 1964 following their 30<sup>th</sup> reunion in 1994. It did not take long for other BHS alumni to find the site and request their class rosters be published. On October 2, 1995 the Alumni Website was expanded to include all classes. Hundredmark said, "Being webmaster has given me great enjoyment by making contact with old friends and people I have not seen or talked with in over 30 years. People who have found one another through the Alumni site are very appreciative."

Hundredmark returned to Brighton again this past April for the induction of Robert J. Briggs,

BHS '63, former professional football player, to the Section V Football Hall of Fame. "I returned to pick up Bob's trophy for display at the induction ceremonies. I was impressed with the improvements done to the old building."

As a student, his favorite staff members included Lorraine Withers (English), David Clausen (history) and Leonard Smith (Principal). His fondest memory is a gathering of students in the auditorium for a history narration by the Social Studies Department about the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand that led to World War I. "Their narration was riveting and intense as they relayed the event with slides of the city, the Archduke and the assassin. The climax came as the Archduke and the assassin met face to face. We were unaware that Robert Hynes, the narrator, had pulled a sports starter pistol from his pocket. The shot rang out loud and clear. All of us must have raised two feet off our seats, and it took us a couple of minutes to catch our breaths. I don't think any of us who had the pleasure to hear that story has ever forgotten it."

The Alumni Website gets over 300 hits a day. The most popular pages are author Shirley Jackson, the Class Roster page, the Current Reunion page and the Famous Alumni page. "The alumni of other Brighton High Schools across the globe in such places as Brighton, Mass.; Brighton, England and Brighton, Australia frequently register with us, thinking it's their school."

Hundredmark will be putting the Brighton School District Newsletter on line, and he will be creating a Brighton Education Fund page. (Note: About 70% of the books listed by Brighton alumni are avail-



able on line through Amazon.com. Any books ordered from Amazon through the BHS Alumni Website will result in a contribution to the Brighton Education Fund.)

"I would like to thank everyone who has assisted with the website," Hundredmark said. "The class of 1965 has set the standard for maintenance and currency of their alumni. Other classes, follow their lead. I encourage all classes to e-mail a roster for publication. Send pictures from your reunions. We need scanned pictures of yearbook covers for 1930, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 39, 42, 96 and 97. We need more teachers to register; their former students are requesting it."

The Alumni Website is located at [www.bhsalumni.net](http://www.bhsalumni.net) and can also be reached through [bcsd.org](http://bcsd.org) (the Brighton Central School District website). For optimum viewing of the Alumni Website, use MS Explorer 4.2x or greater, a monitor display screen setup of 800 X 600 and a current operating system that is capable of handling JAVA and Shockwave.

Paul Hundredmark can be reached at Cmark & Associates, 2501 E. Commercial Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308, [Paul@ccmark.com](mailto:Paul@ccmark.com) and TEL 954-491-3284, FAX 954-491-5645.

# Community Invited to "Lunch & Learn" Programs

The community is invited to Lunch & Learn programs throughout the school year. These programs feature Brighton staff members sharing their interests and expertise on a wide variety of subjects. All programs are from 12-1 p.m. Those attending are welcome to bring brown bag lunches. Coffee and tea will be provided. Reservations are suggested but not required. For information, call Laura Kaufman, 242-5191.

Upcoming programs include:

- **Wednesday, December 15:** *The Western Film and American Valves*, library classroom at Brighton High School, 1150 Winton Road South. Popular presenter Mary Ann Satter will show video clips from almost 100 years of American films while discussing how America's view of itself and its values have changed through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Wednesday, January 12:** *Brain Development and the Arts*, Brighton Teacher Center (Room 103), Brighton High School, 1150 Winton Road South. Janice Wills,



A Rochester Rhinos player took part in Brighton's community-wide Celebration of Student Assets in October. He spoke about Achievement Motivation and Personal Power, which are among the 40 "assets" or factors which have been shown to protect youth from high risk behavior and help enhance healthy development and school success.

Director of Visual and Performing Arts, will present research on how the arts can improve brain function, including the role of the arts in child development and in brain injury rehabilitation.

- **Thursday, February 10:** *Whale Watching "Tails,"* Brighton Teacher Center (Room 103), Brighton High School. Biology teachers Kathy Giglio and Steve Nicandri look back at several Brighton High School whale watches. Learn about the great whales and other marine life that

inhabit the waters off the coast of Cape Cod and the wonderful experiences Brighton students have had over the years.

- **Thursday, March 9:** *Understanding Theatre*, District Administration Building, 2035 Monroe Avenue. Steven Engel, artistic director of dramas at Brighton High School, discusses the process of pulling together a theater production including the choices the director makes in costumes, lighting, sound and set design.
- **April:** TBA
- **Monday, May 8:** *Hand Coloring Black and White Photos* by Debra Burger, at Brighton High School.

## For Your Information

### Sixth Grade Parent Alert

There is a new requirement that all children entering seventh grade after September 1, 2000, be immunized with the hepatitis B vaccine. This is a series of three shots over a six month period, so it's essential that the series be completed before the school starts next fall. Proof of immunization should be sent to the school nurse as soon as the series is completed. *Proof of immunization on or before the first day of seventh grade will be required to attend school.*

### Instrument Donations Welcome

Do you have an unused instrument in the closet or attic? You can receive a tax deduction and help a student by donating the instrument to the music program. The instrument could be used by a student who might not otherwise afford one, is having an instrument repaired, or wants to try a second instrument without incurring an extra expense. For more information or to donate an instrument, call the Performing Arts Department, 242-5047.

### Parent University

Save the date! Saturday, March 4, 2000 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. is the Parent University in Brighton Schools, with a selection of excellent presentations of interest to parents, grandparents and other community members. Katy Allen, the keynote speaker, will discuss how you can make a difference in children's lives.

### Senior Citizens Invited

A senior citizen preview of the musical *Crazy for You* will take place Wednesday, February 9 at 5:00 p.m. in the Brighton High School auditorium, 1150 Winton Road South. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. This preview is free to anyone 60 or older. Tickets are *not* required for this performance only, and senior citizens do *not* have to reside in the school district.

Regular performances of *Crazy for You* will be held on Thursday, February 10; Friday, February 11; and Saturday, February 12, all at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, February 13 at 2:00 p.m.