

School To E-x-p-a-n-d; Changes Will be Great

By Emma Buzbee and Mica House

The renovation of Janney will bring more students to the school -- and lots of changes.

There will be SMART Boards in every classroom and an extension that will allow the school to stop using the temporary classrooms.

Janney now has about 460 students in a school built for only 300. Once the addition is completed, there may be as many as 500 students, according to Principal Norah Lycknell.

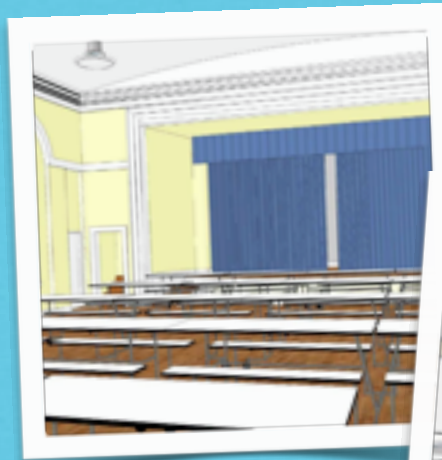
Ms. Lycknell thinks that there will be more educational opportunities for the students in the enlarged Janney. The extension will contain a bigger and better library, a science laboratory, and a science teacher.

New SMART Boards will allow the teachers to work on computers with a screen in full view of the class. There also will be pens for students to use to make comments or work on scratch pads.

The new school also will be more environmentally friendly. For example, it will have rain buckets to conserve water. The water will be used for trees and plants.

Ms. Lycknell says she is "excited" about the renovation but acknowledges that there will be a "slight inconvenience" for the students while the school is being renovated. There will be more activities

The new Janney will have updated learning tools, more emphasis on science, and new games during recess.



The enlarged school will be more environmentally friendly



indoors and fewer students outdoors while construction is going on, she said.

There will be less outdoor play space, so students are learning to play cooperative, rather than competitive, games there. Ms. Lycknell says that the new recess games will not only take less space but will include all students.

Some trees now on the playground will be cut down, but new ones will be planted elsewhere. The old oak that

now holds a tree house platform will go, but its wood will be used to make benches.

"The renovation will help the school a lot," says Nicole Davies, the Student Council president. She hopes that the work will "not interfere too much" with day-to-day learning.

The first phase of the renovation, which includes the extension and renovation of the current school building, is scheduled for completion in December.

Music Review

They Might Be Giants: Here Comes Science

by Mickey Cervino

This 2-disk set consists of 19 songs on the CD and on the DVD, plus 19 music videos to go with them. Also on the DVD, two members of the band, John and John, talk about their songs in an extra video. It was nice but not really necessary.

The songs are educational, Each song teaches a science topic, such as the elements and the solar system. They help you remember better because it's easier to remember songs than stuff someone tells you. They all have repetitions. And most them rhyme and have tempo and rhythm changes that make them more interesting.

The songs are also interesting because the band uses lots of voices for them. The music is excellent and the lyrics are good, too. In one great lyric, the sun is called 'a miasma of incandescent plasma.' So you see, this is definitely not for pre-k kids.

There are two things that I would change: First, on the music video, the words to the songs should appear on the bottom so the viewer can understand them. Second, some of the songs could use a little less repetition.

The music videos help you understand the songs better because they use funny animations, which change for every video. This is an excellent album that is both educational and fun. I recommend it to teachers, and to fourth and fifth graders who'd like to teach themselves a few things.