

Brennan, Cathy

## A fond farewell for Belleville teacher

Intel June 13/89 Bel - Belleville  
By JACK EVANS  
Staff Reporter

"She loved the children and they loved her," was part of one testimonial read at the retirement tea

Sunday for city native Cathy Brennan, who retired from Georges Vanier School after 37 years as a professional teacher.

About 70 persons attended the afternoon event, including teaching

associates, friends, family and parents of her many pupils, as well as many who were pupils themselves.

One such "special" pupil was her son, Dan, now a teacher himself and on the receiving end still of graduates from his mother's classes. "My students tell me how much they loved Mrs. Brennan," he said. As for himself, brothers and sister, he said: "Our home was always full of love."

Another speaker was Vanier School Principal Joe Darmanin, who said she saw each child as an individual. He also quoted a "favorite saying" Brennan was overheard to use many times, especially to help settle disputes among her young charges: "Is that how we make love grow?"

"She runs a happy class," he said.

While retiring as a kindergarten teacher for many years, both at Vanier and at other city and area schools, her experience covers a wide range of teaching duties.

From her native Belleville she graduated from St. Michael's and attended the former Peterborough Normal School, teaching a few years in Peterborough before returning to the Quinte area.

For about two-and-a-half years she taught at St. Barbara's Military School at the former Camp Picton, moving to Belleville for the rest of her teaching career in 1956 to St. Michael's Junior School, until going to Georges Vanier in 1969. And there, for the past 20 years, she has been teaching kindergarten.

She recalled hectic days for the first few weeks of classes at the then-new school, with the classroom for kindergarten often used to store construction crew wheelbarrows for completion of the school, or books from other classes.

"I always felt at home here," she said. The children and the parents have been terrific. I'm overwhelmed at the number here today."

And hanging on the gymnasium wall where the reception was held was a poem created by two of her former pupils, one line of which read: "We were so sad that kindergarten had to end."



Cathy Brennan, retiring after 20 years as a kindergarten teacher at Georges Vanier School and a total teaching career of 37 years, receives a farewell gift on behalf of her staff

associates from Principal Joe Darmanin. Brennan received many accolades for her approach to children and teaching during a retirement tea in the school gymnasium Sunday.

(Staff Photo)

Intel June 13, 1989