



Ron Jaremko, right, who teaches auto mechanics at Opeongo, chats with Ruby and Keith Bennett and

son Calvin at orientation night last Thursday.

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Opeongo holds orientation night

By Ron Tracey

Opeongo High School held a grade eight orientation night last Thursday for students and parents. The evening provided an opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with courses offered in both the academic and technical departments.

Principal Wilmer Matthews told those present the staff will not accept anything but the highest expectations in academic standards and general behaviour.

"It's the sort of thing that carries over following school," he said.

The principal wants the students to feel a sense of belonging. "That is the essence of school spirit," he said. "Real school spirit is a sense of belonging."

Mr. Matthews spoke of developing the social conscience of the student, to develop the caring and respect for another human being. "It's that kind of feeling that you nurture in school to make that student a better person in the community."

He told the young students to take pride in their school.

"If you don't have pride in the school," he said, "you don't have very much to work with."

An area of concern the principal commented on was attendance.

"Attendance is a very high priority in terms of receiving a credit," he remarked.

He urged students to get away from the lackadaisical attendance.

"The staff believes every student has to achieve a measure of success. If they're not here, we can't work with them."

He recommended the student take the five-year course. "Students are too young to leave home at 17," he remarked.

Len Kirby, head of the Guidance department, ex-

plained the credit system.

He reminded students that a mark of 50 per cent or higher will give that student a credit in a subject. However, he urged them to set their sights a little higher.

"A student who only gets 50 per cent in the first couple of years is not building for a university entrance," he said.

Other department heads who addressed the students were Preston O'Grady, English; Tom May, Mathematics, and Joe Schwartz, Science.

Rhona McNab and Lisa

Wren, Student Council president and vice-president, respectively, also spoke of the extra-curricular activities at Opeongo. Michelle Kenny, president of the

Students in the music program entertained the crowd briefly with several selections. athletic association, spoke briefly.

Following the meeting, students and parents had an opportunity to visit the classrooms and technical wing as well as ask questions and meet with teachers on a one-to-one basis.