

H.S. parents' night attended by over 100

By Margot Matheson
Opening parents' night at Acton High School last week was very successful. Over 100 people attended the program which included messages from principal Dave Katz and vice-principal Joseph Bray as well as short presentations by several of the High School's department heads. This was followed by an informal coffee hour in which parents and teachers could get together. Girls from Mrs. Linda Skoropad's Home Economics classes served the refreshments. Following are excerpts from several of the speeches.

Didn't work out
Brian Downes received quite a reaction with his speech: "One of the basic ideas behind the new mathematics was that students would learn mathematics better if they knew WHY something worked the way it did before they were shown HOW to do it. Although it sounds good in theory, this idea has not worked out very well. A typical example is long division. Teachers spend endless amounts of time instructing students on why long division works to the point where there is little time left for the students to actually practice how it is done." As head of mathematics, he plans to encourage as many mathematics teachers as possible to show students HOW to do something first, give them lots of time to practice, and leave the question of WHY it works until later.

THINK OBJECTIVELY
Allan Eastwood, head of science remarked: "One of the major areas of scientific training is to teach the students to look at evidence obtained by observation

and to use this in thinking objectively." In fact, he indicated that the solving of scientific problems is considered to be more important than the problem itself: "The advance of scientific progress is so rapid that in the future there will be new ideas and problems of which we have no knowledge now, but sound scientific thinking will still be useful in approaching them."

Meaning of guidance
Brian Skerret, who is head of the Guidance Department, commented on the meaning of the word "Guidance". He said: "Guidance is the hope given by one person to another in making choices and adjustments in solving problems."

He also talked about the inter-relationships in the school. Teachers taking part in sports are accepted as team members rather than teachers, and this in Mr. Skerret's opinion is good.

Resource centre
Mrs. Joan Misener, who is Acton High's librarian, spoke on the library. "The school library is no longer a library but is now referred to as a Resource Centre."

In the resource centre you may find approximately 4,000 books, cassettes, tapes, records, slides, film strips, film loops, and microfilm. Mrs. Misener complimented Carl Cayer on making up tapes for the students to listen to a French lesson, whether last day's lesson or tomorrow's.

Mrs. Misener states that the main purpose of the Resource Centre is "to provide materials to support the courses offered in the school. When students are asked to research a topic, she hopes the Resource Centre will give

students as much information on that topic as they could want." Mrs. Misener also mentioned that volunteers to work in the resource centre would be welcome. Any one interested is asked to contact the school.

Communications
Ken Ellis head of English, stressed the "communications" approach to the teaching of English at Acton. "The main objective is the encouragement of clear and concise forms of communications. Further he hoped the English program will leave the student constantly aware of the question "Why?"

"We also try to use multi-media as much as possible—films, records, television, books, etc. Our literature courses are thematic, ranging from Oliver Twist by Dickens to Catch 22 by Heller and from Shakespeare to Brecht and The Theatre of the Absurd."

Two categories
Ian McGillivray, head of Business Education, stated "business affects our lives each and every day." All people are involved with business, either as employees and employers or as customers and consumers.

Naturally the more a person knows about business the better he or she is equipped to deal with day to day problems. Mr. McGillivray explained that at the high school his department tries to give a well-rounded Business Education Program which can be divided into two categories: - personal use and interest subjects, designed to provide the student with basic knowledge to help him understand and operate in today's society and skilled subjects, designed to give the student a more marketable skill.

ACTON HIGH

By Corie Maxwell

The parents' open house at the high school on Monday, September 27 was attended by a crowd of about 160 parents and teachers. Joseph Bray, who was host for the evening, welcomed the visitors. Questions which were submitted on questionnaires were answered by David Katz, principal.

Over 10 per cent of the school's parents attended and it was said that this figure was a fairly good turn-out for a school of this size. Mr. Katz mentioned that he would have liked to see more parents attend, though.

Other speakers were, Mrs. J. Misener—librarian, B. Skerret—Head of Guidance, K. Ellis—Head of English, I. McGillivray—Head of Business and Commerce, B. Downes—Head of Mathematics and A. Eastwood—Head of Science.

Refreshments in the cafeteria were supplied by Mrs. Skoropad and the Home Economics girls. On the whole, it seemed like a very informative evening.

Jungle challenge
Last Friday afternoon at 3.30, the boy's team of the feared "Jungle Bunnies" and the A.H.S.'s male teachers had a

game of baseball on one of the diamonds behind the school. In the meantime the girls' team and the female staff of the school fought it out in the gym with a game of pushball. These games were the result of a challenge from the "Jungle Bunnies" to the staff, early last week.

The rest of the school participated in this event by either wearing something purple or something red. If a student wore purple it meant that he was cheering for the "Jungle Bunnies", but if he wore red, it meant the teachers were his favorite.

The teachers had all last week to practice and it seems that the female members of the staff put their time to good use with a 2 to 1 win in pushball over the girls' team. The male section of the staff felt that they did not need to practice, which only resulted in losing the baseball game 9 to 8, after the second overtime inning.

Second dance
Last Friday evening the high school held its second dance of the school year with a group called "Catalyst" playing. The group itself consisted of four people—an organist, two guitarists and a drummer. They played songs written by a variety of groups and were fairly well received.

Fitness awards at M. Z. B.

Award of excellence for outstanding achievement in the Department of National Health and Welfare's Canada Fitness competition was presented to Grade 8 student Tim Crisp at a special M.Z. Bennett school assembly Monday morning. Tim scored 95 per cent or more in all six events of the test, including one minute speed sit-ups, standing broad jump, shuttle run, flexed arm hang, 50 yard run and 300 yard run. Tim's award carried the signatures of Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of National Health and Welfare John Munro.

Gold awards
Gold awards for scoring 95 per cent or more in four of the six events went to Michelle Field, Jack DeWilde, John Griese, Lance Alton and Mary Vinski. Four other students, who are now attending Acton District High School, earned gold awards in the

tests conducted last spring. They were Janice Drinkwater, John Hansen, Sheena Johnstone and Allan Simioni.

M.Z. Bennett teachers Ed Leatherland and David Boycott also handed out over 90 silver awards and over 100 bronze awards to students at Monday's assembly.

Pastle winners
The winning team in the school's recent postathon was also honored. Team members were Carol Jordan, Wade Vickery, Jack Evans, David Dunn, Joni Leader, Gordon Scott, Scott Kowal, Ray Humenik, Mike Luty and Gordie Bruce. Over 300 students completed a total of 2174 miles in the one day postathon. The winning team travelled 118 miles. All activity took place before and after school hours and at recesses.



M.Z. Bennett student Tim Crisp received the award of excellence in the Canada Fitness tests. Winning gold awards were top to bottom, Michelle Field, Jack DeWilde, John Griese, Lance Alton and Mary Vinski.—(Staff Photo)

Compost piles help

By D. Burke McNeill
Fall is the time to feed your lawn phosphorus and potassium. They supply the plant food necessary for autumn growth. Avoid fertilizers high in nitrogen. Nitrogen promotes lush green growth which may not mature before the arrival of the killing Ontario winter.

In the autumn, a "winter care" fertilizer formulation is recommended which is sold by most garden supply stores. This contains enough nitrogen to sustain the lawn through fall, and sufficient phosphorus and potassium for a good start in spring. Apply this fertilizer any time now at the rate of 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Pulverize the lumps and distribute the material uniformly.

Office in fire hall?

Erasmus Councillor Ken Fair has suggested council contact the board of health and ask them to investigate alleged occupancy of office space in the fire hall in Rockwood by a commercial enterprise.

Councillor Dick Strong also said Monday night he can't understand a commercial enterprise occupying part of the fire hall.

"Why should it worry us?" asked Reeve Warren Parkinson. "Well it's a business," Strong replied.

Earlier in the meeting, village trustee Don Hills appeared before council to ask for an occupancy permit for the tenants. Hills said the tenants are not in the office eight hours a day.

Asked why village trustees had allowed the tenants into the building in the first place Hills replied.

"Everybody isn't perfect. I guess we saw a revenue of \$45 a month coming in and rented it out."

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Environment Minister George Kerr signs the Canada-Ontario agreement pledging \$250 million to clean up water pollution in the great lakes basin. Waiting to sign are Federal Environment Minister Jack Davis (left) and The Honourable Robert Andras, secretary of state for Urban affairs. Mr. Kerr, Progressive Conservative candidate in Hutton West, has been working with Ottawa and neighbouring American States to ensure that the clean-up of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the International Section of the St. Lawrence proceeds on schedule.

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