

## St. Joseph's

by Tatjana Jansen and Joanne McArthur  
By Monday January 30th, the grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 classes will have to have speeches prepared. They will say them in front of their class to determine who will go into the finals.

We will be having a Professional Development Day on January 27th. The students will not be present as this is a teacher meeting.

The grade 7 and 8 class has been very successful with their hot dog days. The grand total right now is \$161.49. This money will be used to buy school uniforms.

The floor hockey games for the grade 4, 5 and 6 classes from St. Joseph's and Robert Little school have been going on successfully for the past two weeks. This will keep going for a couple more weeks.

This Wednesday we will be

having championship volleyball games between two teams from the grade 6, 7 and 8 classes.

The kindergartens are working on the religion theme called "How We Discover God's World." It is based on using the five senses of seeing, hearing, smelling, touching and tasting to experience the world around us.

The grade 1 and 2 class is continuing a program called "Snow Theme." They are conducting experiments about the properties of snow and ice by the use of thermometers.

The grade 3 and 4 class are studying Australia and are discovering many interesting facts about "the land down under."

The grade 5 and 6 class made \$31.76 on the bake sale last week and are planning to buy aquarium equipment.



BA-NA-NA PERFORMED Monday in part of the banana day festivities at the High School. Before reaching the stage they were mobbed by screaming groupie fans and were saved only by their bodyguard contingent.

## Two teachers leave school

Two Acton High School teachers will be leaving at the end of this month.

Thursday Halton Board of Education accepted the resignation of Aileen Spencer and Brian Skerrett.

It was reported at the meeting that Miss Spencer will be getting married, moving to Edmonton and there resuming her teaching career.

Acton Trustee Bert Hinton commended her work and the board offered its best wishes to her for the future.

## Remedial education need likely forever in Halton

There isn't much chance of ever eliminating the need for remedial education in Halton's schools, a special committee told trustees Thursday.

The special committee set up last year by Halton Board of Education filed a report stating 13 per cent of the children in elementary schools in Halton need remedial help.

"Although improved techniques and strategies in remedial and regular programs may reduce this percentage, there will continue to be a significant number of children who lag behind their peers for various reasons," the committee report declared.

Because of heredity and past experience, over which the school has little control, some children will need long term remedial help and won't progress as quickly as others do despite the extra help.

"There are other children who, if identified early and given carefully planned remedial support as they require it, may succeed within the regular program," the committee predicted. It is in this group of students the board hopes the number of students needing remedial help can be reduced.

The committee brought in a number of recommendations which will be reviewed by senior board administration and costs reviewed before coming back to trustees for consideration.

Common criteria for deciding who needs remedial help in math and reading for all Halton schools has been urged by the committee, along with further implementation of the Halton Early Identification program, used to spot children needing special help.

Readability statements for textbooks, in-service training for teachers so they spot learning difficulties better and for some students a later school starting age was suggested in the report.

Other recommendations included moving children who are having problems out of open concept schools into regular classrooms, time set aside for personal reading by students, tracking students with problems throughout their time in schools, and improved communication between parents and teachers regarding remedial problems.

Trustee Bill Herd said delaying the age children who are going to have problems start school, was only shifting problems from one year to another.

Trustees were told by the Superintendent of Special Services Ron Chapman that there is a waiting list for the remedial help for the first time ever, not because more pupils need help but teachers are spotting children who need help better than in the past. He said the board uses a ratio of one teacher for every 100 remedial pupils. After

## Halton spends \$12,140 to join trustee clubs

Despite strong objections from some members, Halton Board of Education voted Thursday to spend \$12,140 for membership in two trustee organizations.

Once again Halton will join the Ontario Public School Trustees' Association (OPSTA) and Ontario Trustees' Council (OTC). A call by Trustee Bill Prestner that the board also join the splinter rebel organization Association Large School Boards of Ontario (ALSBO) was rejected. ALSBO membership would have cost another \$5,000.

Several trustees, including Ivan Armstrong of Milton, were against the board joining any trustee organization saying benefits didn't come close to equalling the cost of membership.

Trustee Bert Hinton Acton-Esqueving, was a staunch supporter of joining OPSTA and OTC.

He said he thought the rivalry between OPSTA and ALSBO would strengthen both groups but couldn't support joining ALSBO. He said OPSTA is on the road to improvement but still needs to become more "progressive."

Hinton said teachers shouldn't just be observing problems and sending children to another teacher.

He said the money is worth it just to make him less of a "nuisance" to the board. Herd replied that Hinton's comment was proof of his claim that membership is a waste of money.

Former board chairman Judy Alexander was appointed as Halton's representative on OPSTA. The veteran Oakville trustee was last year's delegate to OPSTA.

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**Pat McLaughlin,**  
Chairman, Planning Committee.

Halton Region, 3027 Harvester Road, Burlington L7N 3G8

## No policy allowing pupils in school

It will be left up to principals to decide if students should be in the school building during lunch hour.

Thursday, Halton Board of Education rejected a motion from Dr. Helen Howard-Lock which would have permitted every student access to schools during lunch break for eating lunch, keeping warm and comfortable in bad weather or using washroom facilities.

Last month Dr. Howard-Lock lost a bid to revamp Halton's elementary school lunch program and set down a policy to be followed by principals. It was felt the best program would be a flexible one set up by each principal to meet the individual school's needs. Her concerns were also referred to the school-health services committee for consideration.

Trustee Edna Robinson said accommodation of students during lunch was a school administration concern and the board shouldn't legislate how to deal with the situation.

The motion would have made the board responsible for any child who goes into the school during lunch even if the child lives just a block away, Trustee Judy Alexander warned.

"We are getting to sensitive about wind and snow and it's not in keeping with being good Canadian pioneer stock," Director of Education Em Lavender observed.

Trustee Bert Hinton said he was sure nobody was opposed to the sentiments in Howard-Lock's motion "but we can't do all the thinking for our principals and staff. Passing this is like saying our principals have no common sense."

Burlington member Cam Jackson said he and others have been hearing concerns about provisions for lunch time at schools yet the board is still doing nothing.

Howard-Lock said the purpose of the motion is simply to advise parents and students that children are allowed to come into the school during lunch. She said children are staying outside in storms and she only wants them to know they can follow common sense and go inside. Lunch services improvements is another matter she added.

## Support for French growing

Support for French immersion programs starting for grade one and seven pupils in Halton is slowly growing, Halton Board of Education was told by parents Thursday.

A group of parents from throughout the region, calling themselves Halton Parents for French Immersion, presented figures showing there are about 200 children whose parents want them in immersion programs next September.

Spokesman for the group Alex Brooks, Burlington, said study of another language is "vital."

He said by having more French, students would be learning not just Canada's other language but also the nation's history and culture.

To properly learn another language, more than 20 minutes a day of instruction is needed. Immersion programs can be very effective in doing this job, Brooks said, adding immersion programs have been successful across Canada.

Brooks said he didn't think the cost of setting up French immersion programs, about \$15,000 in the first year, was really that much considering the board's \$80 million budget.

He noted the province says 5,000 hours of French instruction are needed to function freely in the language and even if immersion began in grade one, Halton students would only accumulate 4,110 hours by grade 13. Those starting immersion in grade seven would have only 2,170 hours of French under their belts at the end of their school days. To function adequately in French a student needs at least 2,100 hours of instruction, the Ministry of Education calculates.

They complained the board made no effort to sell parents on the value of immersion as has been done in the past with other educationally worthwhile programs.

Trustees were urged to find some way to have immersion at every school instead of just one school in Burlington, one in Oakville and one in North Halton.

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## Region eases burden

Halton Regional Council will ease the increase taxpayers will face for regional taxes this year by taking funds earmarked for a new landfill site and using the money to offset the cost of the \$508,000 over-run for the new regional headquarters. Total budget estimate are set at \$34,777,400.

The action came after a request to that effect from Regional Chairman Ric Morrow. Morrow said there would be a net increase of about 10 per cent if those were not used this year. By using the funds the net increase would drop to about seven per cent if the budget is passed as it stands.

Morrow argued that by taking the \$508,000 for the building out of current taxes the region should not set aside revenue from the landfill sites.

Councillors had earlier agreed to set aside revenue raised from dumping fees at the sites and that money was to go against the cost of a new landfill site. Morrow said because the region faced a special \$500,000 cost for police communications last year and a similar cost for headquarters this year it would be better to defer the reserve fund until next year.

Morrow received some criticism from Burlington Mayor Mary Munro and Burlington Councillor Ben Ciprietti for what they felt was a poor budgeting practice.

Council will examine the budget at future meetings but many councillors feel the majority of the cuts have already been made.

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