

**St. Joseph's**

by Susan Liddbury and Helen Synnott  
February is coming and with it so is Valentine's day. The kindergartens are starting their Valentine theme off by decorating their room with men of "hearts".  
Mrs. Munkacs's class will be duplicating the grade one and two's bodies on to mural paper. They are also starting a new subject on "temperature" and reading a thermometer.  
Language has two groups in Mrs. Graham's class. One group has been working on a play concerning Knights and Dragons and the other group worked on decorating eggs.  
Winter ideas are decorating the four and five classroom. Two of these are some winter scenes, painted and snowflakes in art.  
The grade five and sixes are completing their unit on Japan and starting a new unit on "Electricity". Speeches are also being prepared and written out.  
The grade seven and eight class is looking forward to some cross-country skiing on February 12. This trip is for physical education.  
With Valentine's Day, February also brings report cards. These will be handed out on February 23.  
We now have our new cable T.V. hooked up. The T.V. is hooked up in Mrs. Graham's, Miss Crins' and Mrs. Munkacs's classrooms. We now



Seven Brownies flew up to Guides in a special ceremony at Robert Little School Monday evening. From l to r. Marnel Leddeux, Debbie Obrigavitch, Lauree Sears, Kathy Lawrence, Elizabeth Hoerig, and Julie Charlebois from the third Acton Brownie pack and Kim Allain from the fourth pack flew up.

can enjoy all T.V. channels.  
This Friday, the first week of February, we will be holding a mass for Mr. Allan principal of Robert Little School and for Father Morgan who used to be our parish priest in Acton for 25 years.  
Thursday's snowfall gave the country students an extra day off but the town people could still catch the bus and come to school.  
For those people who catch the bus in town, the bus will always run in bad weather.

**McKenzie-Smith**

by Terry-Lynn McStravick and Shirley Van Rijk  
In boys' inter-house floor hockey, Red was first with 56 points. Congratulations to all boys red team.  
McKenzie Smith students took part in a Multiple Sclerosis Read-a-thon. All students from our school took part in this, and had their names put in for a draw. Ten per cent of the 50 students in out school won a prize. The students and prizes are as follows:  
Glenn Archer—album, Dianne Little—stuffed dog, Brenda Parry—album, Jason Stanbridge—frisbee, Terry-Lynn

McStravick—a multiple sclerosis T-shirt. Congratulations to those winners.  
Mrs. Sanford has started a checker and chess club and Mrs. Gibson is working with a curling and cribbage club. They have had great turnouts but are still hoping for more players.  
Our school is participating in a Seed Campaign. So far class 6A is ahead then tailing close behind is B-3. At the end of the selling date the top class will have a pizza party.  
Auditions for the Operetta Rana's Pond are going to be this week.

**Speyside**

by Tim Pollen and Ronny Teggart  
We are very lucky to have a skating rink this year. The students are really enjoying it. The students go skating at the noon recess and spend some of their gym periods out there as well. A few responsible boys from grade four, five and six shovel it off in the morning and flood it in the afternoon everyday.  
The students of the month of December are as follows: grade one Beth Cameron, grade 2 Billy Champ, grade four and five Geoff Pollen and grade six Ronny Teggart.  
I am pleased to introduce my new partner Ronny Teggart who will be helping me write these articles for the rest of the year.  
Our school was deeply saddened by the death of

Mr. Allen our principal. Unfortunately we did not get to know Mr. Allen very well during the fall and the first part of winter.  
Last Tuesday the kindergartens and grade ones enjoyed half a day at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre.  
They saw a puppet show and went on a sleigh ride. Later in the afternoon they made pictures of birds and animal tracks they had seen in the snow.  
The Sabres won the handball league by winning five games and tying one. Mr. Coe who organized the handball decided to have a little tournament between the Sabres and the Challengers, a team made up of the two losing teams in league play. It was very close but the Challengers won the best 3 out of 5.

**Town ups summer help pay**

Students working for the town for the summer will be working for higher pay than last year.  
The four students in the engineering office are receiving a five per cent wage hike. Their wages will range from \$4.35 to \$4.65 depending on their study level.  
Mayor Pomeroy questioned the raise, contending there are many students looking for summer jobs.  
Deputy Engineer Ted Ballinger said there are four students in the engineering office and 15 in the works department, and put the increase at 20 cents an hour.  
Councillor Walter Biehn estimated the raise meant an extra \$2,800.  
In the recreation department student wages are up between 10 and 12 per cent.  
Councillor Russ Miller contended it was too much.  
Recreation Director Glen Gray said part of the raise was due to the increase in the minimum wage which is now three dollars an hour.  
Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson questioned a proposed decrease for program instructors. The 1978 rate was between \$6 and \$15 while the proposed 1979 rate is \$10.  
She wondered if the town would be able to hire a good instructor for that money and pointed out some of the programs have 30 children in them and make money.  
Councillor Roy Booth said he was surprised to hear the town paid instructors \$15 an hour and estimated the salary at \$31,500 a year.

**M.Z. Bennett**

by Trevlynn Mason  
On Tuesday, Grade 3s went to Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton to see the play Alice in Wonderland. They travelled by bus and ate their lunch at Hamilton, returning to the school in early afternoon.  
Today, a Theatre Arts class from Acton High School visited our school to put on a play for Grades 3 and 4.  
All of us at M.Z. Bennett School extend sympathy to the staff and students of Robert Little and Speyside Schools in the loss of their principal, Mr. Hazen Allen.  
blowing kit. Holly Couper won a T-Shirt for second prize, and Carolyn Sewell won a small stuffed dog. Twenty-nine M.Z. Bennett students took part in the read-a-thon. Grade two students, in Mrs. Pentilla's and Miss Richardson's class did several snow experiments for Science outside on the schoolyard. Grade 5 students helped them with their work.

**Local student at youth conference**

by Nancy Patterson  
I recently had a wonderful experience at a conference for young people of high school age by representing Acton High School at the Prince Hotel in Toronto for four days.  
This conference is put on by a group of young people concerned about other young people. This organization is called Toc Alpha, where over 500 delegates from all across Ontario, all members of Toc Alpha attended. At the beginning of the sessions, no one really knew anyone else very well. However, over the next four days, we got to know one another very well, sharing thoughts and feelings on topics ranging from drugs, alcohol, sex, peer pressures, and other problems of maturing teenagers in high school today. We had four seminars every day which we were compelled to attend, but we were allowed to pick the seminars of our choice.  
Experts on all topics came in to hold discussion groups on their specialty. People like Dr. Marion Powell who writes for the Toronto Star's Youth Clinic and runs a clinic in Toronto for birth control information, and Ms. Ann Dranitsaris who teaches at the Ontario Massage and Hydrotherapy College in Toronto came to teach us the basics of massage, and how to relax when under stress.  
Rev. Robert Rumball came to tell us about helping out the deaf people and about communication barriers between not only ages, but sexes and abilities. Inspector William Steufreak came to tell us about drugs and the law in Canada, from the RCMP, and many other celebrities of Ontario came to talk to us.  
There seemed to be one thing in common with all the various topics, and that is that peer pressures can control your

life without you really knowing it. Because of the fact that no one really likes to be "out of the crowd", most people will do what everybody else is doing to be "part of the crowd."  
You have to make a hard decision some time in your life about whether you are going to go with or against the crowd. After all, it is your life you have to live, not someone else's.  
I really enjoyed the conference. I met a lot of new friends and hope someone else will enjoy it next year. The seminar that I presented for the students at Acton High School just touched on the many interesting experiences that we had at the conference, and I'm sure they found it interesting as did the staff when the seminar was repeated for them after school.

**Youth pipe band is formed by Legion**

A youth pipe band is being formed for boys and girls 10 to 15 by Acton Legion.  
Anyone interested in playing bagpipes or drums is welcome to attend the first meeting February 12 in the Legion. Experience is not necessary. Alex Richards or Scott Malcolm can be contacted for further information.

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