

Halton Board of Education Approves Volunteers, Day Care

Halton County Board of Education last Thursday night approved a report by its Early Childhood Education Program Council that has been three years in the making.

The report, whose approval was moved by trustee Judy Alexander, makes recommendations in three areas — the use of volunteers in primary grades, detection of learning disabilities in young children and establishment of day care centres in the county.

"A child's early school experience is critical to his development," said J. K. Graham, superintendent of academic operations. "The fact that the report took three years to put together tells us about the complexity of that experience."

AS NEEDED

The report recommends volunteers be brought in only when need arises and that they be responsible to individual teachers, not to the principal.

More in-service work should be undertaken with volunteers, the report suggests.

Trustee Bill Lawson from Esquimes asked if in-service training programs soon to be set up by the board's task force on primary education would meet these needs.

"While it remains to be seen, the initial outline of these programs does not appear sufficient," Eric Balkind of Georgetown, chairman of the early childhood education council, told him. "We suggest an intensive, on-going program, not just sessions after school and on Saturdays."

EVALUATION

Some type of evaluation of volunteers should be built into the program by teachers and principals, the report says.

The use of para-professionals has not had an effect on the number of volunteers, says Bowra, another council member, said in answering a question from trustee Noel Cooper.

In consideration of detection of learning disabilities in small children, the report recommends that the board offer a course in Human Development, ranging from a child's birth, to young adulthood.

REALLY LEARNING

Mrs. Alexander noted that a child care program is given at General Wolfe High School.

"It involves a small nursery school and is anything but a babysitting course," she said. "The girls in the course are really learning to care for small children."

Mrs. Alexander asked how such courses can be made meaningful and attractive to boys.

Balkind replied that no concrete plans have been made in his area but agreed that "courses ought to be developed to prepare people before they become parents."

HELPFUL

The report also recommends that questionnaires be sent to parents of children entering kindergarten to ascertain the children's emotional maturity.

Three or four schools used a questionnaire this fall, said council member Stan Shepherd, and teachers have found the feedback helpful.

Entry into kindergarten should be staggered during the first three days of school in

September, the report suggests, to enable children to adjust more comfortably to their new environment.

This, too, has already been tried, Shepherd said, and has been helpful to teachers and parents.

NOT LIKELY

J. W. Singleton, director of education, was skeptical about the reliability of information obtained from the questionnaires as they are set out now.

"I suspect a degree of detachment would be required from parents that we're not likely to get," Singleton said. "Many parents would be loath to answer truthfully such questions as 'Is your child a bully?'"

The questions should be more subtle he added.

The report also recommends that the board investigate the possibility of locating a day care centre on a convenient school site.

The Fellowship Club of Norval Presbyterian Church held a Halloween party in the church on Thursday evening October 26 with about 22 present and Rev. H. Smith as chairman.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were in charge of a program of games and a sing song and Mrs. Craig Reid gave a reading.

The evening ended with a social time with Mrs. H. Smith, Mrs. Hugh Clark and Mrs. Andrew McClure the lunch committee.

Mr. Tom McGee won first prize for his costume, dressed in a Japanese kimono sent home by John from Japan.

The next meeting will be held on November 29 and will be a tour of the Dominion Glass Company of Bramataca.

Norval & Union Presbyterian

Y.P.S. met at the manse for their regular meeting on Sunday evening October 29 with Alexandra Reed in the chair. David Dolson was in charge of the discussion group.

—Mrs. Ed. McLean

Boadicea was a British queen in the time of Emperor Nero. She led a gallant but unsuccessful revolt against the Roman rulers in Britain.



Aidan McAuley of the Georgetown Public Library staff decorates the library's junior department with all kinds of "terrible trappings" to create a Halloween look. The owls, black cats, witches and other traditional spook night creatures were made and donated by the special education class at Chapel Street School.

Three Companies Formed for Sheridan's Charlie Brown

Cast members for Sheridan College's three companies of You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, have been named. They include students from Charlottetown, Hamilton, Orangeville, Belleville, Ottawa, Toronto and Mississauga.

The title role of Charlie Brown in all three companies will be played by Dave Stoddart, Media Arts theatre student from Orangeville. He'll be understudied by Danny Pawlik, a retail fashion arts student, who comes from Hamilton.

Charlie's playmate Lucy will be played by three young women: Cynthia Hodgson of Toronto, a Media Arts student; Mary Trainor of Charlottetown, a fashion student; and Diane Hawkins of Hamilton, who studies pre-early childhood education.

Linus parts will be taken by Kevin Kingston of Islington, animation; Ed Taylor of Mississauga, business; and Danny Pawlik, Schroeder, will be played by animation student Gary Ostrom of Toronto and School of Design student Jim Saar of Pembroke, Ont.

(Other students cast for parts include Gary McLeod of Belleville, a Media Arts theatre student; Mary Pigot of Media Arts theatre course, from Mississauga; Judith Smits of Ottawa, Media Arts; and Sulyn Campbell of Mississauga, Media Arts.

There are 26 more students in the chorus, and many more from all Sheridan campuses participating in staging, properties, etc. The producer, Sheridan professional staff member Rod Maxwell, will have help from two more pros: George Sanford, dance instructor and choreographer, and Don Graves, musical director.

The first company for Charlie Brown will perform the musical at Oakville campus Feb. 21-24; the second company will do the show at Brampton Feb. 28 through March 3, and the third company will give performances at Mississauga campus and at any school in Halton and Peel which requests it, and can house it. Schools which wish to book performances should try for the week of March 7-10, and/or the week following that. Bookings may be made through Information Services, Oakville campus.

Church Worker, Compiled Ballinafad Historical Data

An active member of Ballinafad United Church, and compiler of historical data of that community, Miss Beatrice Hills died in Georgetown hospital October 23. She was 91.

Only recently, The Herald had published a series of historical articles authored by Miss Hills, detailing incidents from Ballinafad's past. She was planning a further series at the time of her death.

She had been an active member of Ballinafad United Church Women's Missionary Society and later, the United Church Women. For many years, she taught Sunday School in Ballinafad and was leader of the Mission Band and Baby Band in her earlier years.

Daughter of Ira and Martha Ann Beswick Hills, she was born on the 8th Line family homestead, Lot 32, Conc. 2, Esquimes, first settled by her great-grandfather Joseph Hills, and lived there until May, 1969. She attended Blue Mountain School. She lived at 36 Mill Street, and later 11 Caroline Street when she moved to Georgetown.

She leaves one sister, Mrs. Robert Warne (Phebe) of Acton. Sisters Mrs. Etta Kentner, Boissevaine, Manitoba and Mrs. Sarah Allan, Erin, and brothers George, Henry and William, predeceased her.

Funeral service last Wednesday at the Humley-Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton was conducted by Rev. Kelvin Johnston. Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown. Pallbearers were Ballinafad neighbours, F. J. Shortill, Floyd Shortill, Garnet Sinclair, Lloyd Marshall, Ernie McEnery and Willard Sanderson.

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