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E for enthusiasm, education



CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL students are encouraged to form their own groups, devise their own sounds and compose their own music. It is not uncommon to see a scene such as this in the long hallways, and to hear music wafting through the school. In front is Eldon Eckroth; second row, Rod Norton, Pete Milne, Lee Nightingale, and Mike Milton; back row, Alfred Micallef, Barry Gragg, John Warlock and Don Finnie.

Work and play go hand in hand. A child learns by doing and having fun is a learning experience. Work can be exciting, as the pupils at Centennial school in Georgetown are finding out.

Bridging the gap between childhood and adolescence, these Grade Six, Seven and Eight pupils are experiencing a period of human growth and development that will turn them into responsible citizens. Learning is no longer a matter of regurgitating the infallible words of the teacher, like in "the good old days." The modern educational concept is teaching our children to dig and delve and find out for themselves. They learn to think, compare and make decisions.

"We have to consider that we are working with children, and they don't all have the same academic and artistic ability," emphasized Don Grigg, who teaches History and Geography to the three grade levels. "So we work in platforms. Every child must complete the seven platforms, or levels, to gain a possible 70 percent."

He said they work as a team or individually, but they must complete the first seven levels at their own speed. The more aggressive and artistic students can go on to the enrichment program, working on special projects to bring their mark up to 100 percent.

"The teacher's personality and enthusiasm rubs off onto the children. Take History, for instance. I'm really keen on nostalgia, and I find that showing films or taking field trips leads beautifully into discussions with the class. They are all anxious to get through their seven levels so they can work on the projects."

And who wouldn't want to make old-fashioned dresses, or build log cabins, and replicas of tools and utensils used by our forefathers, to be displayed in the showcase in the front lobby? Not only are they enjoying the subject, but it will stick in their memory for a long time.

The principal of Centennial, Ron Chatten stressed, "The key at the middle school level is to develop a trust relationship between student and staff; to have them work closely together and develop responsible attitudes. It is imperative that home and school work closely together if the child is to receive the best from any educational experience."

He added that parents are encouraged to visit the school and see for themselves just what their children are learning.

Naturally, the basic language and math skills take top priority in any educational system. For this reason students spend 50 percent of their day in the home room, learning "the three Rs". The program is based on the Halton region core system. That is, four classes and four teachers in one pod. If two heads are better than one, then four heads are better than two.

Specialization plays an important part in our education system, and the children benefit from the knowledge and experience of all four teachers by working on a rotation



CONDUCTING the mini orchestra is Scott Haines. Music instructor Howard Weedmark encourages the pupils to compose and conduct as well as evaluate musical pieces.

system within the classroom. Skills in maths and languages that were introduced in the earlier grades are reviewed and extended. Communication skills include listening, viewing and reading. The child is then encouraged to develop his thinking skills by questioning, remembering, comparing, contrasting, inferring and predicting. They learn to read and follow instructions and use the dictionary and reference books for locating information. They learn to outline, summarize and interpret graphic material.

"Naturally in any new concept, there is a transition period to iron out the wrinkles. Unfortunately there were a few children who suffered," Mrs. Pat Ball, a Grade Eight teacher pointed out. "But the system has been perfected and both teachers and students are benefiting from the core programs."

The students themselves say they can work much better with environmental sounds around them, since modern "open concept" homes don't provide too much quiet and privacy. Mrs. Ball added that in most jobs there is a certain amount of noise pollution and we might as well prepare the kids to work in that environment. "Learning in complete silence would be unreal."

In her opinion, discipline is imperative when working with so many children. "We have to expect good behaviour, or we get chaos."

The other half day is spent in pursuing a number of interesting subjects to round out their education on the way to becoming a whole person.

Family studies are stressed, such as home economics and industrial arts, where the student can create some object of worth. An extensive music program is taught by Howard Weedmark, where the students learn to play an instrument, as well as compose, conduct, perform, evaluate and devise their own sounds. Records, xylophones, hand drums and symbols are provided.

Again, the students are encouraged to work in groups, and it's not uncommon to find harmonious tones emanating from the hallways, as miniature orchestras practice up and down the corridors.

Eighty minutes every four days are devoted to physical education and health programs, working on the theory that sound bodies build sound minds.

Playing with fire and water can be a real delight and at the same time the youngster is learning the value and dangers of fire and water. So the science room is equipped with alcohol burners and microscopes and other equipment to aid in learning about the scientific side of living.

A wide variety of extra-curricular activities is stressed to provide for the range of interests at this age level. A library club, geography club, camping club, gymnastics club, drama club, first aid, choir, Bel Canto groups, operettas, wrestling, pottery, art, newspaper, cross country programs, folk dancing, and naturalist clubs are just a few of the many choices.

"The students are definitely getting the 'R's'" emphasized principal, Ron Chatten, "but not to the exclusion of other things. We must give the young adolescent many opportunities for movement, realizing their need for frequent change in physical activity."

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Bianca, Bertha earn honors

The Nurse family of RR2 Georgetown continues to claim records and awards with their prize winning Holstein herd.

Two of the latest honors to come to the Nurse farm were released last week by the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada.

A purebred Holstein cow, Thames Crest Romeo Bertha, owned by Jeffrey Nurse, has received the Blue Seal Lifetime Production Award. As a seven-year-old in 365 days, Bertha yielded 31,790 lbs. milk testing an average 3.77 percent for butterfat thereby winning her third Superior Production Award. Her lifetime total in five lactations is now 133,394 lbs. milk testing 3.71 percent in 4,945 lbs. butterfat.

Bertha, classified Excellent for type, has been an impressive producer and was also an honor list leader in 1970, 1972.

She comes from good stock. She was sired by Huntings End Heptad Romeo, classified Excellent, and Thames Crest Duke Bertha, a Very Good dam.

Nurseland Starlite Bianca, bred and owned by Fred Nurse, has completed an outstanding two-year-old record in 305 days which yielded 17,851 lbs. milk testing an average 3.91 percent for 691 lbs. fat or BCA indices of 196 percent for milk and 213 percent for fat.

Bianca went on to complete her lactation in 631 days with 31,770 lbs. milk in 1,216 lbs. of butterfat.

The high producer, who was classified Good plus, was sired by Roybrook Starlite, classified Excellent for type and a Superior Production Sire.

Bianca's dam, Nurseland Texal Belinda, was an outstanding producer with a five-year-old record of 22,742 lbs. milk in 738 lbs. butterfat in 305 days. Belinda has a three lactation average of 186 percent BCA for milk and 166 percent BCA for fat.

Vets annual

Dr. B. L. Peart of 101 at annual convention of the Ontario Veterinary Association held in Hamilton, February 1 to 4.

Dr. Peart and Dr. Alan W. Young of Terra Cotta were among 750 veterinarians and their spouses who attended the

Leslie Knight, and press reporter, Scott Harris. Also discussed was what the club will be doing during the year. A film that described the harm parasites do to sheep was also shown.

At the club's next meeting, March 4, a panel discussion will be held on feeding sheep and a debate entitled "Sheep Are Doomed in Canada."

Sheep club meets

The first meeting of the Halton 4-H Sheep Club was held at the agricultural office, Milton on February 4. Leaders for this year's Sheep Club are Doug Gardhouse and Don Harris.