

11 per cent of pupils need remedial reading

If your son or daughter goes to school in Halton Hills but can't read, he or she is part of a situation prevalent across North America, but with John seven times more so than his sister.

That figure came to the Halton board of education Thursday during a discussion to hire 38 teachers for remedial reading beginning September, 1977. An estimated 11 per cent of elementary school pupils in Halton need remedial work but the actual number of boys would require "a hand count," the board heard. The figures are from a sample of six schools in the region.

"Many of these children need additional help, more input and one teacher with more understanding of reading skills," John Graham, superintendent of special services, said. The sample showed that many boys "don't learn the way we do," he added. "They need someone to help them see it, learn it and say it. They have trouble learning. It's a widespread phenomenon."

He warned that a "significant population" of the schools will fall further and further behind their peers in reading skills "without input early in school life."

Em Lavender, director of education, said why boys outnumber girls with reading

problems depends on differences dating back to birth and resulting from their environment. "The actual learning processes between mother and child are not completely understood," he said. With various theories of how the brain works and many conflicting reports, "it's a very complex matter," he concluded.

Surplus over

All except one of 28 surplus teachers at the beginning of the 1976-77 school year has been placed, Halton board of education learned Thursday.

"The prediction came true that all surplus teachers in September would be placed by the end of the year," instruction director John Boich said. He presented a list of elementary and secondary school appointments, resignations, transfers, maternity leaves and leaves of absence for the board's approval.

For the first time this year, an elementary teacher has been hired, Mr. Boich said. She is Pauline Harley who teaches now at Centennial school, Georgetown.

Among resignations accepted by the board were those of Lois Gluck of Centennial school, Stan Baturensky of Pineview school, Orsay Weedmark and Linda Cairns both of Harrison school and Josephine Ng of Limehouse school. The latter three resignations take effect Dec. 31, 1976. Also resigning Dec. 31 is Helen Holyk from Georgetown and district high school.



FLYING UP

Susan Black, 10, and Elizabeth Beecker, 10, come through the arches formed by the Fifth Girl Guide Company. The ceremony was held last week at Harrison public school.

No fires reported, holidays quiet

Both fire chiefs in Halton Hills were able to report it had been a good week for firefighters.

Area 2 Fire Chief Ken Bulkema said Tuesday that the people had been very good to the firefighters. "They let us

eat our dinners," he added. The only fire the men fought was a burning door on a barn in Glen Williams Tuesday morning, Chief Bulkema said.

Area 1 Fire Chief Mick Homes said Acton firefighters had been out only once and that

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NOTICE

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LAST WEEK'S WINNER
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\$275,000 PD fund

Elementary and secondary school teachers in Halton will have \$275,000 for professional development funds and educational development and leave plan in 1977.

The board approved the expenditure at its meeting. In the professional development fund, elementary teachers will have \$75,000 while the secondary teachers will get \$61,000.

In the educational development and leave plan, both categories will receive \$14,000 for program councils. The elementary teachers will also have a further \$61,000 while secondary teachers will get \$50,000.

Board policy is that funding the two programs be equal to a quarter of a per cent of instructional salaries budget which this year could have totalled \$483,000, committee chairman Tom Watson told the board. He said he did not want to saddle the new board in January with expenses as budgetary restraints would likely continue.

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1977
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HAPPY NEW YEAR
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