

Features



Glen Williams Grade 3 students Sara Robertson (front) and Michelle Nicholl were busy designing Christmas trees on the computer last Wednesday

morning. On the last day of the six-week lab, students were creating art, printing the pictures and saving their work on disk. (Herald photo)

Glen Williams students introduced to computers

By ELIZABETH GALVIN
The Herald

If Glen Williams Public School students have learned anything in the last six weeks, it's that they would like more computers.

The third, fourth and fifth graders have been involved in an intensive, six week computer lab that Principal Doug Magwood and Computer teacher Nancy Street applied for last spring. Both students and teachers have enjoyed it immensely, said grade three teacher Dave Toderick.

The program, run by Computer Resource Teacher Don Thorpe of the Halton Board of Education, is designed to demonstrate to teachers how to integrate computer applications into the classroom, while at the same time teaching students a wide range of subjects.

Seventeen Apple 2E computers and an Image Writer Printer that can print in color are set up in the school. In the first few weeks of the program, Mr. Thorpe leads the class in computer activities involving language, math, art, science, French or social science and their regular teacher stays in the classroom. As times goes by, the teacher will be able to assume greater control.

The program has been in operation for five years, explains

Mr. Thorpe, and this year, six schools in Halton will benefit from it. The students who participate are "like fish in water," he said, adding a computer is a great motivator.

For example, in one program the children play the role of a delivery company driving across Canada, picking up commodities and delivering others. Throughout the exercise, they use their map skills, their data base skills and many others, he explained.

Mr. Thorpe also spends time with the staff of a school before the lab is set up there. He finds out where the students are in their studies, what sorts of things they want to cover in the session and just how much experience they have with computers.

Mr. Toderick's grade three class spent their last day in the lab on Image Writer, designing pictures of Christmas trees for decorations in the upcoming Christmas concert. They sent the diagrams to the printer, and then saved the masterpieces on data disks with all their other creations, both written and drawn. After spending 80 minutes a day, with one extra session each week, for six weeks, there is a lot to be stored on those data disks.

The lab has been great, said

Mr. Toderick, "I can't believe it's going already. We're just getting into it." The students, he added, adapted really well and enjoyed it a lot.

Principal Doug Magwood was also excited about the lab. He was impressed by a grade four class the other day who were writing stories and drawing corresponding pictures for a newspaper-type project.

The kids loved it, he said. "You could tell by the way they were working."

Last year Glen Williams got two new computers but Principal Magwood feels that the 11 computers they have "isn't enough." By fall '91, he would like to see the numbers increase to 15. Of course it all depends on how much money the board will allocate to such projects, explained the 31-year veteran of the Halton school system.

If the Board grants Mr. Magwood's request for two more terminals, the P.T.A. might be approached for one computer and the school might use non-board funds to buy one more.

Until then, Glen Williams students will continue to wait their turn for the computers they do have and use them to practice all the skills they learned in Don Thorpe's six-week computer lab.

Good Neighbours abound

Joyce Gosling and Madeline Collier are Good Neighbours and they are gearing up for this year's food drive of the same name, that will all come together Dec. 20.

The ladies, Lionesses and co-ordinators of the drive, have contacted all the schools in the area and will send volunteers out on Dec. 20 to pick up all the food that is collected by Halton Hills schools.

The service club members will then work diligently at St. Andrew's Church in Georgetown sorting the mountains of food into gift baskets.

On Dec. 31, the fresh produce that has been ordered will arrive at the church, and volunteers will add these items to the gift baskets. More volunteers will deliver the goodies on Saturday morning between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and any leftovers will be donated to organizations in the area who could use the food.

Nothing will go to waste, Mrs. Gosling insisted.

"We expect we'll have a bumper crop of names" this year, said Mrs. Gosling, referring

to the number of needy families in the area.

This list is made up of submissions from Health and Welfare, the Salvation Army, various churches, and people who have signed up to become recipients.

The local Kinsmen Club also contribute to the cause by providing toys for the gift baskets from their annual new and used toy drive. St. Andrew's Church will certainly be a busy place when these two local clubs set up shop.

Last year, about 120 families were recipients of the Good Neighbours Baskets, which include turkey, potatoes, carrots, turnips, canned vegetables, soup and fruit and toys, says Mrs. Collier.

Both Mrs. Gosling and Mrs. Collier have worked on the Good Neighbours Christmas drive for several years before the Lionesses took it over in 1988, so they have become quite proficient at organizing, sorting and distributing. "There are always ample numbers of volunteers," said Mrs. Collier.

Principals, teachers and

students in the area start things rolling and the police help by picking up the food and bringing it to the church. Lionesses and friends spend several hours sorting and packing the baskets and then the Lions, the firemen and other volunteers from the community deliver the baskets.

Local businesses also help the cause by making monetary donations that help to purchase the fresh food and cover expenses, Mrs. Gosling said.

A drop-off point for the Good Neighbours Food Drive has been set up at Home Hardware in Georgetown, for anything donated before Dec. 20.

As well, toys for the Good Neighbours Toy Drive can be dropped off at the Herald office or Johnson and Associates Realty.

If you are interested in making a monetary donation, give treasurer Mary Tenant a call at 877-3995.

If you would like to be a recipient of the Good Neighbours Gift Basket, applications forms are available at the Salvation Army office.

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