

The 'mascot-man' returns in style to Centennial

By Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot
The Herald

He's back. Don Warren, the man who taught at Centennial Middle School in the 1970's is back.

But unlike a sequel to a bad movie, Mr. Warren's return as principal of the 500-student, 30-teacher school on Delrex Boulevard in Georgetown is being heralded.

"I feel so welcome coming back here, there's a tremendous feeling of congeniality," says Mr. Warren, sitting in the bright, airy school-office which is decorated with mementos of his days at other schools.

"People have been calling to express their congratulations," he admits, citing this as one of the reasons he's excited about being back in Georgetown and specifically, Centennial school.

It was at Centennial that Mr. Warren embarked on a teaching career after graduating from teachers college at York University in 1972. He had previously been at Centennial as a practice teacher while still in teacher's college to be closer to his parents, Marty and Joyce Warren who had moved to Georgetown while he was in school.

When the opportunity to teach Grade 6 became available, he jumped at the chance and ended up spending seven years teaching Grade 6 and Grade 6, 7 and 8 science.

One incident from those years

that still gives him a chuckle was the time he spent all day on the roof of the school, announcing results of a cross-country meet over a loud-speaker. Later, his dad told him how annoyed he was because someone had been yelling on a loud-speaker all afternoon-not realizing his son was the culprit.

After Centennial, Mr. Warren taught Grade 5 at Robert Baldwin school in Milton for a year before being promoted to the position of vice-principal of Brookville Public School in Nassagaweya. He stayed there for four years before going to Burlington to be vice-principal of the city's W.E. Breckon school. From there, he was transferred to Robert Little in Acton.

In 1988, he was promoted to principal and started working at the final school he would be at before Centennial, Ryerson Public in Burlington.

Probably the fondest remembrances his former students will have of him will be connected with the Ryerson Rover (a sheepdog) and the monkey, Little Robert, school mascots he created for Ryerson and Robert Little public school.

"Having a school mascot gives kids a theme and can improve school spirit," he said.

He's also found a mascot can be an excellent communication tool-a tool he used himself after breaking his leg skiing during his tenure at Ryerson. To explain to his students why he'd be absent for such a

lengthy time, he cartooned a tale involving Rover having an accident on the ski slopes and time spent recuperating which was distributed to the school population.

Not surprisingly, one of Mr. Warren's goals for Centennial is to create a school mascot.

He has other plans for the school as well.

"I'd like to provide an environment that allows students the opportunity to be kids," he said. "Often, we put pressure on them and expect them to be adults, but they're not. We should give them the opportunity to enjoy life."

He's also in the process of making plans for the school's 25th Anniversary in May of next year.

Along with other teachers at the school, he's planning special activities but he's eager to incorporate the ideas and memorabilia of former students and teachers of the school into the festivities.

He has no doubt it will be a great celebration, given the level of energy and enthusiasm at the school.

"I found in coming back here, the spirit and energy that was at the school in the 1970's never died here. The energy of students and teachers to give beyond the classroom is what makes this a strong school," he said.

Mr. Warren also has energy outside of school hours to coach novice hockey.



Don Warren, the man who's left a trail of mascots behind him, including the Ryerson Rover from Ryerson Public School in Burlington and Little Robert, Robert Little Public School in Actons monkey, is now principal at Centennial Middle School in Georgetown. One of his goals for Centennial is, you guessed it, establish a school mascot. Mr. Warren's name and face may seem familiar to you from the 70's when he was a teacher at Centennial Middle School for six years. (Herald Photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

GDHS Parents' Council meets this Friday

By BRYN DAVIES
Principal, GDHS
GDHS Parents' Council:

First Meeting This Friday
The GDHS Parents' Council meets the last Friday of every month in our Library from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Our first session will be Friday, September 27.

The meetings are an opportunity for parents to talk about high school matters with GDHS administration and staff. They are

also a chance for us to solicit parent feedback about school issues and policies.

Last year our parents played a key role in providing the Board with feedback on the Ministry's Transition Years Consultation Paper. Several parents were also involved with our "alcohol-free" in-house school Prom.

Please feel free to attend any or all meetings. There is no "membership" per se and the format is informal. This Friday

you'll have a chance to talk with Mr. Jack Sturm, our Head of Mathematics and to meet our



Bryn Davies
new Vice-Principal, Mrs. Karen Gill.
Grade 9 Parents: Some Questions and Answers.

tions and Answers.

Our thanks to the 150 parents who attended our annual Grade 9 Parents' Night last Thursday. I'd like to respond to some of the questions you raised in our Parent Survey:

With respect to "free time" at noon hour, within the next week we will be opening our games area in the upper balcony during period three lunch. Students with student cards may also play basketball or volleyball in Gym 3 when it is available, or sign out other equipment for use outdoors when the weather is good. Of course, students may also visit with friends in our cafeteria or use the Resource Centre for reading, homework or quiet study.

Regarding homework in grade 9, students should do an average of half an hour per subject per night. Homework may take the form of assignments or review. It is also important that students keep their notebooks up-to-date. It is essential that students seek

the assistance of their teachers if they are unclear about anything discussed or assigned in class.

Our Learning Centre is available to help students with notetaking, organization and study skills. Our Guidance Department will help students with strategies to manage time and reduce stress. Our Math Department runs a Math Clinic.

As for smoking in front of the school, the School Board has forbidden smoking anywhere on school property, including the parking lot and playing fields in the back of the school. The front sidewalk is that "public" property which is most accessible to the school. We have no jurisdiction over students who congregate there. It is our hope that parents will join with us in discouraging smoking altogether.

Activities abound in school agenda

By FLAVIA TESTA
Herald Special

School is in full swing now and the Rebels have an agenda full of great activities to participate in.

This week the focus will be on the grade 13's. Special programs involving various Universities and Colleges have been set up in order to inform students about what to expect when they graduate high school and will hopefully be continuing their education in post secondary school. It is a new chapter in life and it is important for students to feel comfortable and self-confident.

As everyone can understand being in grade 13 is one of the hardest years in your high school career; decision making, work loads, deadlines and just the fact all the younger grades look up to you is a great responsibility.

Now more than ever, schools understand the load that is involved being a grade 13 student and the schools are helping us out.

This week at Georgetown High School grade 13 students have been able to attend several workshops held at the school to inform them how to go about choosing the right university and they have been showing students what information is required, what forms they must fill out and they are basically being shown the basics of "how to enter university."

A University Seminar has taken place at Bishop Reding High School. Spokesmen from various universities will be

presented their speeches in hopes to educate the grade 13 students a little more about continuing education, and enlightening them with information that will be helpful when they attend these schools.

This is very encouraging to grade 13 students. It gives them a sense of belonging and it makes them feel more comfortable entering these great temples of education they have been hearing about for years and will be attending in the near future.

It is important the students feel comfortable and not threatened by the universities.

Yes, they are big, in fact huge! It is definitely harder than high school and it would be like being a grade nine in high school, again... but these people will help students to get over this initial fear that every freshman has and prepare him/her for a great journey!

There are many good post secondary schools in Canada as well as abroad. The choices are endless and hopefully these programs will help students make the proper decision about their future. In a society where it is imperative to have a good education it is important we all have a chance to get one.

The provincial government is cutting down their budget and university funding will be cut, it will cost more to get in to these fine schools and the competition is tough, but if we are informed and educated, grade 13's as well as future students will be able to have a fair shot in entering and graduating with great success.

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