



While Monday's icy road conditions deterred many drivers, it provided an impromptu skating rink for these Fagan Dr. youths. Stephanie Perkins leads Amanda and Laurie Tutt on a skate down the street. Despite the miserable road conditions, Halton Regional Police reported only one major accident. *SCOTT KLINE Halton Hills Weekend*

Separate board could close enrichment centres

By ANGELA BLACKBURN

The Halton Separate School Board is hoping to trim its spending for 1991 by streamlining its enrichment programs for gifted students.

The board is considering closing its four enrichment centres and eliminating three of four staff members who man the centres in favor of a decentralized enrichment program where students who are either gifted, or in need of motivation, would receive special attention within their home schools.

Under the existing program gifted students are currently bused to enrichment centres located at Ecole Ste. Marie in Oakville, Holy Cross in Georgetown, St. Timothy's and St. Gabriel, both in Burlington.

Special services superintendent Angelo Dilanni said senior board staff were looking closely at the enrichment centres as a means of saving money. Last year the separate school board, like many others across the province, ran in a deficit situation, a situation that is illegal under the Education Act.

But the proposed staff cuts and reorganization don't necessarily mean the enrichment program will suffer, Dilanni pointed out.

"Under stress sometimes good things develop. This is one of those situations in which we have to be a little bit sharp in what we do in view of the budget but in the long run I think our students will be to a better advantage," he said.

Under the new system - which Dilanni is gearing to implement this coming September - gifted students would receive special instruction in their home classroom, with other students in clusters in their home school and in some cases on overnight trips, conferences or excursions with other gifted students.

Another component of the new system would be a mentoring program in which gifted students are linked with other high school students and professionals.

Dilanni said the new system would mean the elimination of three enrichment centre teachers but he said he is recommending the approval of one special education resource teacher who would help to arrange enrichment program formats with teachers at individual schools.

Dilanni said it will be up to trustees in their budget deliberations this spring to close existing enrichment centres.

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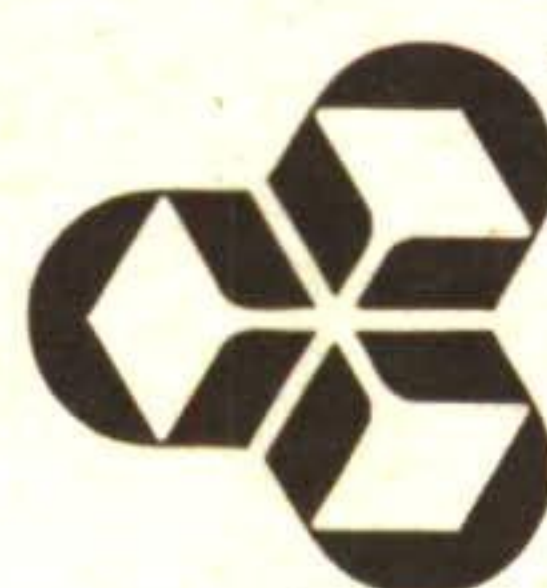


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