

Focus on Halton Schools

Halton Board of Education waging war on jargon

By Oksana Buhel

The Halton Board of Education has decided the time has come to inform the public, in plain language, of the key concepts and

Catholic Education Week

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The Halton Roman Catholic School Board has designated

May 2-8 as Catholic Education Week. The theme of this year's event is "Catholic Education: A Celebration of Life! L'education catholique: une celebration de la vie!

According to a statement issued by the board, Catholic Education Week is designed to discuss "all developmental stages of life, the sanctity and respect of life, and a vision of a peaceful co-existence with the Earth."

Events are planned during the week at all region schools. The four Catholic schools in Halton Hills; Ecole Sacre-Coeur, Holy Cross, St.

ideas which have become the basis of today's education.

"People are showing a vested interest in what we do," explained Brian Woodland, communications

Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph's School in Acton, will be featuring various Canadian authors and storytellers, performances by student choirs and dancers, and open houses. Classroom visits are also welcomed throughout the week during class hours.

The St. Francis of Assisi School choir will perform at Georgetown Marketplace May 6 at 2 p.m. A visual display will be set up at the Town of Halton Hills Civic Centre from Monday through next Friday, depicting various aspects of Catholic education.

For a complete listing of events, contact Chris Jewell at (416) 632-6300 ext. 157, or call participating schools.

officer for the board. "They want to know what's going on, but get frustrated when they can't understand it because of the jargon."

Education Explained! is the theme of this year's Education Focus, an event during which the board concentrates on interacting with the community. Education Focus began Monday and will continue until next Friday.

The Education Focus Steering Committee surveyed parents, teachers and the general public to learn which jargon terms were the most confusing. Workshops were orga-

nized on the basis of these surveys, and will take place throughout the region.

Some topics include; transition years, whole language as opposed to phonics, special education and the apparent cancellation of the "basics." A workshop entitled Toys or Tools? Technology in our Schools, will be held at Joseph Gibbons Public School in Georgetown on May 10.

The board will also be providing fact sheets which define key jargon terms and suggestions for schools on how to eliminate jargon.

Although Education Explained! is only scheduled for a limited time, Woodland insists the effects of the program are intended to be long-term. "I think some people are frightened by what they perceive to be a new method of educating. And when they get frightened, they become nostalgic. Before people criticize the new educational system, they should come in and see it."

For a complete listing of the workshops and their dates, call Brian Woodland at 878-8451.

Roman Catholic board approves budget

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board approved a 1993 operating budget of \$113.8 million at a meeting last week.

The mill rate increase will be exactly the same as the public board's 3.43 per cent.

This budget means that the average Catholic ratepayer in Halton will pay \$43 more than last year on the education portion of the property tax bill.

Although the process didn't result in staff layoffs, the board did approve reductions in the number of new staff hired for September 1993.

The hiring of more than 20 teachers and eight clerical workers has been deferred until June. The sup-

ply teaching budget was also reduced and a further \$500,000 was cut from administration and school operations budgets.

The separate board has more than 17,000 students in 35 Catholic schools in Halton.

"This year's budget is basically a flatline budget of 1992 carried over to 1993," said board chair, Irene McCauley.

The board's operating expenses are expected to increase by \$10.6 million because of student growth and other increased costs.

Director of education Cliff Byrnes said the 1994 budget will require even tougher decisions and will have more impact on the system

Technical Olympics a "community effort"

By Bryn Davies

Georgetown District High School Last Saturday, the staff and students in our Technical Department hosted the Halton Technical Skills Olympics.

Our cafeteria staff, with the assistance of Maple Lodge Farms, provided lunch. Our in-house band, Fully Clothed Men, provided entertainment during the noon hour. It was a total "community effort".

Special thanks to Dave Lawrence, our Tech Director, his department and Joe Bray, our VP for their many hours of hard work. Congratulations to our students: we earned a total of

six Bronze, four Silver and three Gold medals. Our Parent Advisory Group met Friday (yesterday). Our agenda included a review of our upcoming Adopt-A-School partnership with Varian, Canada. The public is invited to attend the ceremony in our Cafetorium Monday at 4:15 p.m.

We shall also be discussing evaluation and assessment practices, particularly at the Grade 9 level.

I'd like to thank our parents for their attendance at Parent Interview Night April 22. As well, you have until Monday to return your Parent Survey forms.



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