Elementary separate schools prepare for the future

By Oksana Buhel

Halton Roman Catholic elementary schools in Halton Hills are preparing for the new computer age.

In the Sept. 15 edition of HHTW, it was reported not one of the four separate elementary schools in Halton Hills had computer workstations. In fact, it was computer labs which a number of the schools did not have. Since the Sept. 15 report, the situation has changed.

Holy Cross school in Georgetown completed construction of its lab Monday. Although construction has not been completed at Ecole Sacre-Coeur in Georgetown South, a computer lab is incorporated in the design. St. Francis of Assisi school in Georgetown has a minilab and computers in individual classrooms. St. Joseph's, in Acton, does not have a lab yet, but the school's 17 computer are located in the classrooms.

Each of the four schools

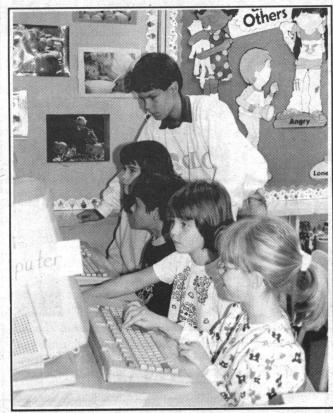
have at least one computer allotted per classroom. Alison McCarney, computer consultant for the board, explained the only difference is that a lab setting allows an entire class of students to visit on a weekly basis, whereas in a classroom, only a few students can work on the computers at one time.

The computers each schools have are ICONs, which McCarney said she hopes to integrate with more modern IBM computers. "The IBM workstations will introduce students to multimedia application and peripherals, such as CD ROM, data/fax modem and a video capture devise," explained McCarney. She added the IBM computer workstations have internal peripheral, making them easier to transport form classroom to classroom.

"We're really trying to integrate the computer," McCarney said. "We don't want students and parents to see it as a separate subject, but as a tool to help with learning." options of computers. Each student has a "computer buddy" who works with

The IBMs have not arrived at the schools yet, which McCarney insists is "only because of delivery."

In the meantime, students are helping each other understand the operation and options of computers. Each student has a "computer buddy" who works with them, and they also have a "computer coach" (older student) who can answer questions. If that doesn't work, each school has a computer resource consultant who deals with any problems.



St.Francis of Assisi Grade 6 student, Brian Cole (standing), helps Grade 2 students (from left) Rachel Boyd, Jonathan Boulanger, Sasha Bartolac and Christine Albert, master the computer. The Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board encourages students to work with their "computer buddies," to benefit from each other's understanding.

photo by Oksana Buhel/HHTW



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Bridge results

George Sargent and Jack Kaarsemaker were the Number One winners in Duplicate Bridge competition held last Monday at Georgetown Branch 120 Royal Canadian Legion.

Elsie Whitham and Karol Tobiasz took the Number Two spot, while Cora Fairbridge and Norma Maynard finished in Third Spot.

New players are welcome to attend and partners are guaranteed. However, anyone wishing to play should be at the Georgetown Legion before 1 p.m.

For further information on the Duplicate Bridge sessions, contact Norma Maynard at 877-8918.

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