

**POWERPLAY**

(Parents Empowered for Responsible Action) is a parent support and resource group that meets Tuesday evenings at 72-74 Mill St. in Georgetown. For information call 905-702-7304. This group is for parents and guardians who have teenagers or young adults who are involved in crime and substance abuse.

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**New Minister for Norval and Union Presbyterian**

Marion Lookman, Clerk of Session at Union Presbyterian Church (left), and Marion Viant, Clerk of Session at Norval Presbyterian Church (right) welcome Rev. Bruce Clendening, BA, MDiv, as their new minister following his induction service on Sunday, January 12, 2003.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

**A HomeQuarters for life's necessities**

BY DEBORAH QUAILLE

Three sisters who were reputed to have little time lamented their woes of disorganization long enough before deciding to create the final family cure-all.

After searching bookstores and the Internet for organization and clutter techniques, Helen Noble, Margaret Srebrnjak and Elizabeth Krapez came to the conclusion that although most had great organizing ideas, the cumbersome methods couldn't actually assist them in their daily living. As the women grasped the concept of their own organization manual, it became more than a personal planner - it grew to organize school schedules, equipment manuals, and business cards. Phone numbers, hockey schedules, parties and open houses were recorded; gift

receipts and coupons were stored; fast food take-out menus and medical/drug claim stubs were sorted in plastic sleeves. The symphony tickets were kept along with the church raffle tickets. Had they discovered the key to household organization?

The most important factor, however, is that the family organizer belongs to everyone. When family members need answers, they find them in HomeQuarters.

"This is a home organizer designed for today's hectic lifestyles," says Helen Noble. "It's a system designed to centralize vital information to help manage the home and the people in it. We keep ours on our counter by the phone and when one of my kids needs to find something they know where to look. We don't

constantly have to pick up things off the floor after they fall off the fridge magnets, and we've been able to clean things out of the junk drawer."

A HomeQuarters manual retails for \$39.95 plus tax. The system features step-by-step instructions for use, exclusive tags for bookmarking, organizing tools such as a 3-hole punch, pen, holder for stamps and address labels and paper clips, a variety of fill-in sheets, and hints for success. There are special birthday and anniversary sheets, yearly calendars, phone pages, and customizable spots for sports, school, finances or community info. HomeQuarters is available online at [www.homequarters.ca](http://www.homequarters.ca) or at Shoppers Drug Mart (in south Georgetown), and A Novel Escape, or you can call 1-800-305-7771.

**Students learning about disabilities**

BY DONNA DANIELLI

When Brandon Salzsauler started kindergarten at Brookville Public School, his mom knew that his school experience would be very different from that of the other students: Brandon is autistic. To ease his transition, mom (Karen) made booklets for each of his classmates explaining what autism is and how it affects her son. Brandon was welcomed by the other students and is now fully incorporated into his classroom.

"It is my hope that by promoting awareness and understanding of autism," explains Karen, "it will fos-

ter acceptance amongst the students. I am constantly looking for ways to accomplish this goal." She was very excited to find out about *The Kids on the Block*. This is a troupe of child-sized puppets, some disabled and some not, which performs to school-aged children. The program demonstrates that people with disabilities have real feelings, strengths and abilities. Presentations last about 45 minutes and they include two topics, and a question and answer period. Topics include autism, blindness, cerebral palsy, deafness, Down's syndrome,

emotional impairments, epilepsy, learning disabilities, leukemia and spina bifida.


On January 15th, *The Kids on the Block* performed at Brookville School. "It was an absolutely wonderful experience for the children," declares Brookville Vice Principal Bev Balch. "You could see how they responded to the life-sized puppets and the questions they asked showed such a desire to learn more about disabilities. They learned that everyone comes with tremendous strengths and we celebrate those strengths while finding a way to work with the disabilities. You want every student to feel that they are included and respected, and that's what Brookville is all about."

"I am very grateful to Brookville School for hosting *The Kids on the Block*," says Karen. The presentation was funded by a donation from the Salzsauler family and the Nassagaweya Community School Council. Anyone interested in finding out more about *The Kids On The Block* is encouraged to phone the Independent Living Centre at 519-894-8350, or visit them at [www.ilcwr.org](http://www.ilcwr.org).



Brandon Salzsauler and puppet friend.

PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI



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