



p.s. notes

Building new schools in Halton

BY DONNA DANIELLI

After months of hard work, data collection and more than a few harsh words, the Halton District School Board finally has its road map for the next 20 years in place.

The Board of Directors formally approved the Capital Strategic Plan (CSP), its blueprint for school openings and closings, on February 8th, 2003.

In Halton, approximately 44 schools will be built in the next two decades. Milton and Georgetown both have new elementary schools opening in September 2003. Milton School Trustee, Erica Andrew, questions the size of these proposed schools, each of which will have an approximate capacity of 900 students through the use of portables and port-a-paks (portable units linked together by a common corridor and attached to a school).

Erica Andrew also asked Dr. Dusty Papke, Director of Education, to identify the problems inherent for Milton. "Growth in Milton is so rapid that we can't possibly build schools fast enough," Dr. Papke said. "We will yo-yo in Milton because of the rapid growth."

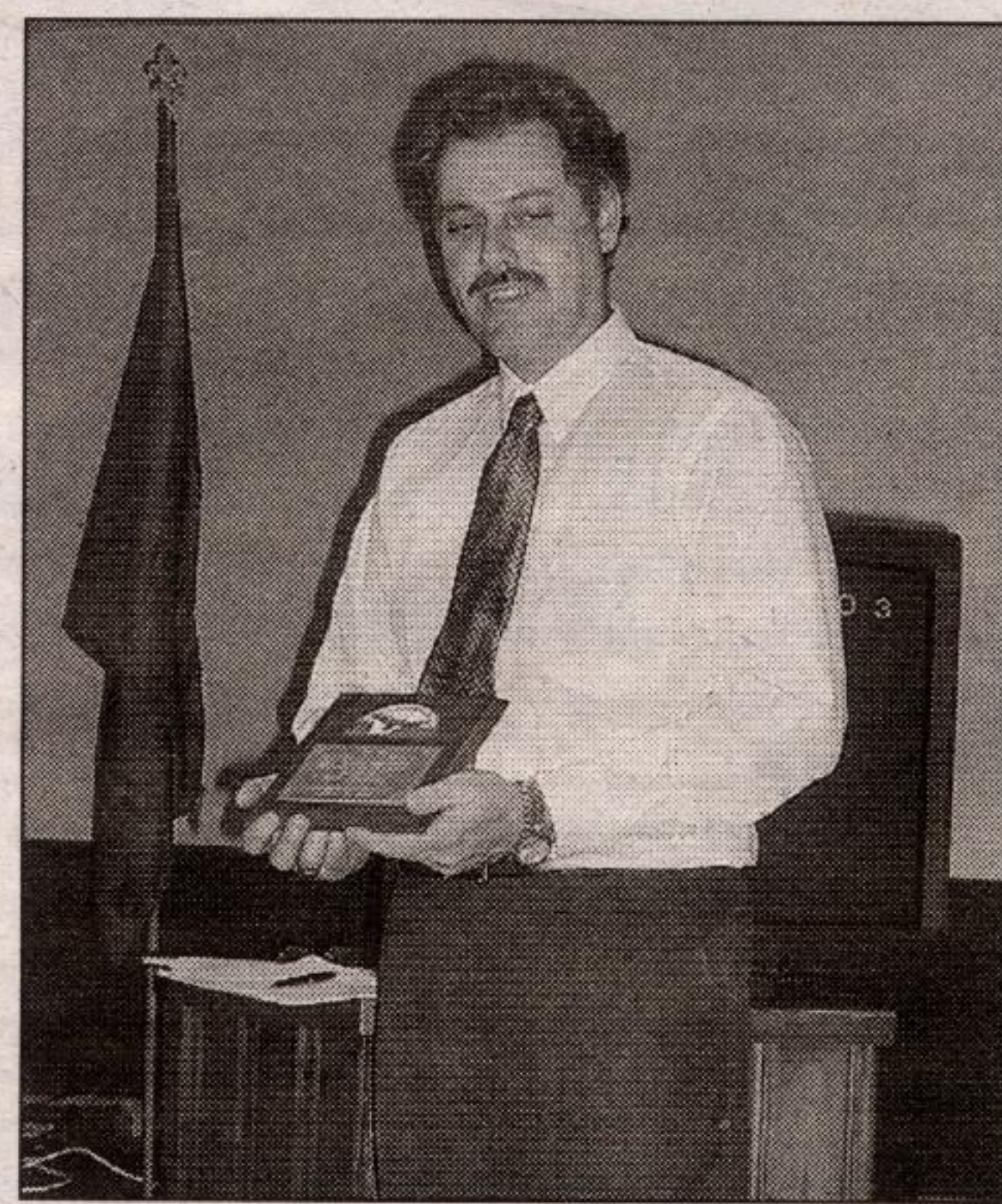
Gerry Cullen, Superintendent of Facilities and Services, added, "In rapidly growing communities like Milton...we may need to build a school, then build a second school, and move students there."

A public meeting held on February 11th attracted only nine parents, eight of whom represented Georgetown schools. While Milton will see a number of schools built over the next decade, Georgetown will only see new elementary schools built in 2003, 2008 and 2017. Also, Georgetown will have to wait until 2016 before seeing a new secondary school built. Building a new school costs approximately \$7-\$8-million. Chairwoman of the Board and Georgetown School Trustee, Ethel Gardiner, sympathized with frustrated parents and re-iterated the Board's commitment to build new schools as quickly as finances would allow. She also promised the best education possible to all students in Halton, saying, "It doesn't matter what building the kids are in. It's the quality of the programs we can offer to them that is important."

The Board of Education's CSP

had to be revised to accommodate statistics that showed growth in Halton is not as rapid as was initially expected. "The Plan that we had was too aggressive on the construction side," explained Gerry Cullen. "We're seeing demographic differences that we're not used to. We find ourselves having to come up with plans that are transitional." Statistics show that Halton is seeing an increase in multi-family homes and an increase in the number of families purchasing homes. However, Halton residents are putting off starting their families until later in life.

"This is a conservative plan," pointed out Superintendent of Business Carla Kisko. "We have hopes of grants becoming available, but you don't build hope into your Plan. This is a Plan based on today's information. It's a very conservative cash flow model." Superintendent Kisko also pointed out that the Plan would be reviewed on a yearly basis using actual enrolment figures in October of each year. "We will never lose touch with all the fluctuating community demographics."



Rick Nodwell

PHOTO BY BRENDA MATHIES

Brookville principal moves on

BY BRENDA MATHIES

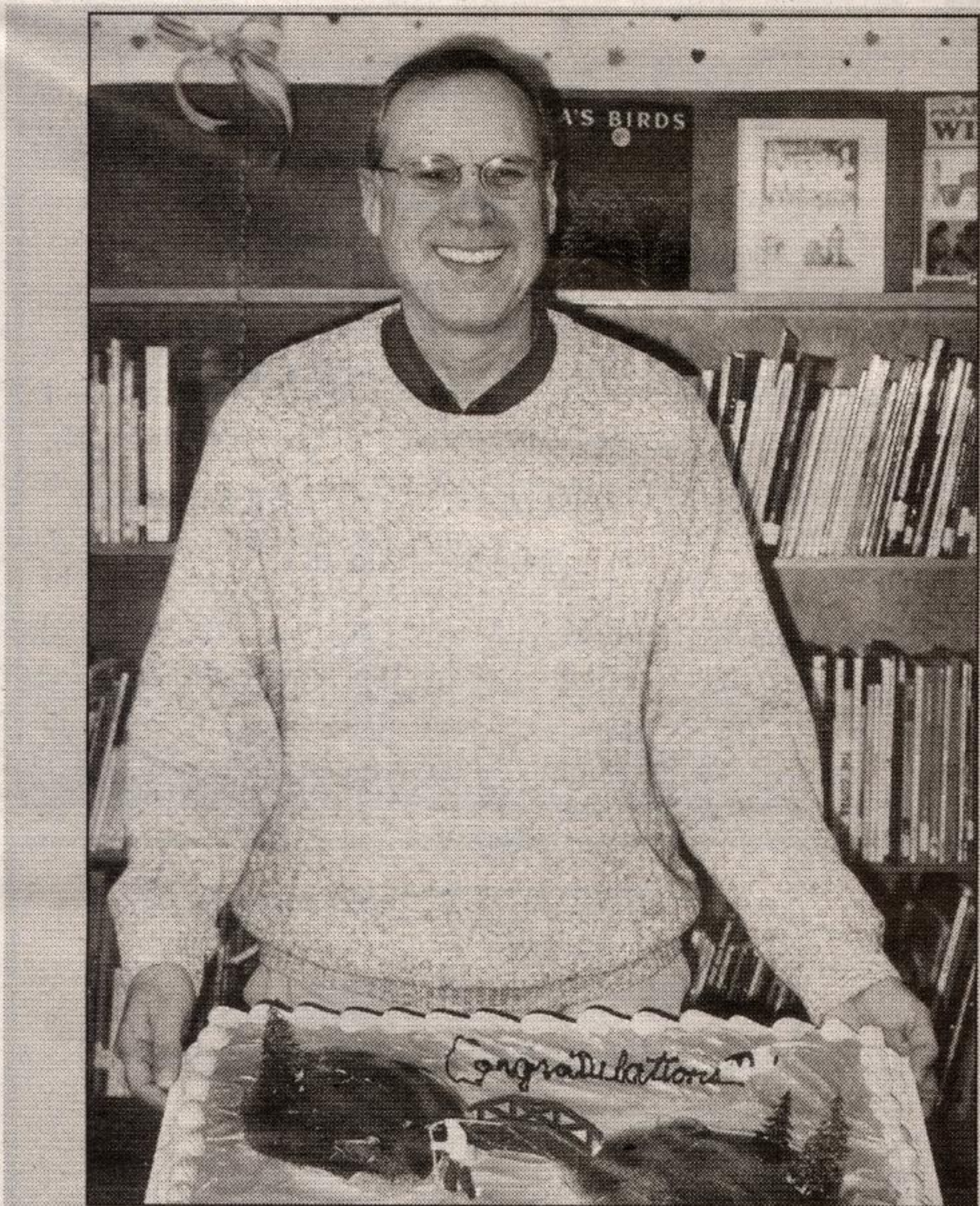
Principal Rick Nodwell will be leaving Brookville Public School on April 1st to become the principal of Milton's new elementary school.

Five years ago, Mr. Nodwell joined the family of Brookville P.S. and discovered Nassagaweya's hidden gem. Brookville is a community school, a second home for 680 students and a gathering place for the neighbours. The community spirit and involvement are what Mr. Nodwell remembers best of his time at Brookville. The community expectations are high for Brookville P.S., but the volunteers aid the staff by providing exceptional extras. Included in this collection of extras are the Healthy Snack and Friends Programs, both the Bengalos and the Primary Choir, the Spring Productions, fundraisers and many sports teams.

Mr. Nodwell's final words for the school community are, "Thank you for your solid support, encouragement and for the trust you have placed in me as your principal. I shall always hold Brookville in a special place in my heart." Mr. Nodwell would also like to be remembered fondly, and he hopes that others agree with him that the school is now different from what it was before he came.

Mr. Nodwell is looking forward to his new school. He feels challenged "to build a community school like what I have left." The feeling of community and the fact that these first students are a part of something special is very important. With the fast growth of Milton and the creation of this new school, students are going to need to feel that they are treated respectfully. This is a great opportunity for all involved.

Good luck, Principal Nodwell. Even though you will be missed, your legacy will continue.



Lee Bradshaw retires

BY DONNA DANIELLI

Mr. Leon Bradshaw celebrated his retirement from full-time teaching on January 30th. For the past 10 years of his 31-year career with the Halton District School Board, Mr. Bradshaw has been a popular teacher at Brookville Public School. Many students, former students and parents were on hand to wish him well as the Eden Mills resident closed up his classroom for the last time. Mr. Bradshaw will supply teach in the future but looks forward to spending time with his family, enjoying a well-deserved cruise and kicking back with some Shania Twain music. Congratulations, Lee, Brookville will certainly miss you.

Halton/Peel School Music Festival produces a CD

BY BRENDA MATHIES

Last year, Halton and Peel schools were invited to participate in the By the Kids, For the Kids Choir Festival. The event took place at the Hopedale Shopping Centre in Oakville with three officials judging the choirs. The winners received the honour of participating in the making of a CD. Among the winning schools was Brookville Public School.

Under the direction of Tracey Wheatley, Heather McLean and Kelly MacIntyre, approximately 20 students have formed the Brookville Bengalos. These talented young people are a joy to hear. On the CD, the Brookville students sing two pieces: *If You Could Read My Mind* and *Leavin' On A Jet Plane*. Both are enjoyable, easy pieces to listen to.

The mix of Christmas carols, folk songs and popular favourites creates the type of collection that you can listen to over and over again. The students are all extremely talented and deserve this recognition for their accomplishments.

In total, nine school choirs are represented on the CD, all of which should be proud of their accomplishments. This CD will become one of those childhood heirlooms that is forever treasured by the creators. It is an invaluable piece of their personal history.

Congratulations to all the participants for creating this wonderful keepsake.



Brookville Bengalos Beat

By PAULA GOMES

After five years as the principal of Brookville Public School, Mr. Rick Nodwell will be transferring to the new Milton elementary school, effective April 1st. Mr. Nodwell commented, "Although I am very excited about the opportunity to open a new school, I leave behind many wonderful memories of a great school and community. Leaving Brookville Public School will not be easy, but with excellent

teachers, wonderful leadership from Bev Balch, the vice-principal, and great kids, wonderful things will continue. Although the new principal has not been announced, they will be impressed by the true community spirit that is Brookville. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the children, parents and staff for making my five years at Brookville so enjoyable and rewarding. Be very proud of your school

because I consider it to be a gem." Mr. Nodwell worked with the N.C.S.C. to introduce Respect for Self/Others, Respect for Learning, and Respect for School and Community. He also helped to bring the Second Step workshops for parents to the school last year. Although students, staff and parents will miss him, we wish Mr. Nodwell all the best in this new position.

Testing results from last year's Grades Three and Six E.Q.A.O. tests in Mathematics, Reading and Writing are now in. The teaching staff is pleased with the results and will be examining them. This information will be used to create the School Action Plan and to make recommendations for next year. If you have any questions regarding the testing, please contact the school office at 905-854-2205.

Brookville School will be hosting a Basketball Camp this summer

for students aged 8 to 12. It will be held from July 21st to 25th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost for the camp will be \$140. Please contact Mr. Nodwell at 905-854-2205 if you would like to register. We need at least 20 children to run the camp.

Be sure to mark Wednesday, April 2nd and Thursday, April 3rd on your calendars as Brookville School is presenting The Wizard of Oz. Watch the sign in front of the school for details.