



Silver Creek Public School students (from left) Shoree Ding, Jessica Jones, Sam Gillon, Alicia Thompson and Brett Rothery check out the September issue of *Today's Parent*. Silver Creek was among the magazine's list of 40 great schools in Canada. The school, which opened last September, was singled out for its innovative programming.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Students and staff work together to make Silver Creek a success

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to work together as a team. They have to be able to engage the kids in their own learning and that certainly happens at Silver Creek."

In some ways, a new school is at a disadvantage, especially when trying to adopt a philosophy such as Tribes, which is new to most of the students. There is also an adjustment period as students try to adapt to new surroundings, routines, teachers and classmates.

"I think it was a disadvantage in some ways because for the kids, they all loved their previous schools— Park, (Joseph) Gibbons, (George) Kennedy, Harrison. It wasn't that they wanted to move," Harrison said. "That made us have to work together and we still have a ways to go."

In other ways, a new school has an advantage in that it is a fresh start with no preconceived ideas how things have run in the past. *Today's Parent* singled out Silver Creek for its innovative programs.

Among the things that make Silver Creek stand out are:

- The school was one several in Halton to adopt the balanced schedule— 100 minutes of learning, followed by another 100

minutes of learning, a 50-minute break and another 100 minutes of learning. It creates longer periods of instruction as well as more time for extra-curriculars during the extended breaks.

- Silver Creek earned a Quality Physical Education Award from the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. In addition to phys ed classes, students take 15 minutes to bend, stretch or dance.

- Classes start with a community circle to set goals and discuss what they have learned or will be learning.

"We came together as a collaborative group. We had a vision of having programs that were good for the school and good for the kids," Harrison said. "We have a motivated staff that wants to learn and when you have that you're going to be innovative and have quality programs."

Gardiner said she liked the magazine's selection process because she's never been a fan of judging a school solely by its testing results.

"When you have strong programs and superb instruction, when that's in place, academic achievement will follow."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



The Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) of Halton is now accepting applications for admission to

Post Inn Village

The Community Care Access Centre has received notification that Post Inn Village, a new long-term care facility operated by the Regional Municipality of Halton, is progressing in its plan to open in the fall of 2004. Post Inn Village is a 228-bed long-term care facility located in Oakville.

Anyone interested in applying for admission to Post Inn Village or any other long-term care facility, should contact the CCAC of Halton for information regarding the application process for placement.

For further information, contact:

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