

EDUCATION



Running for Terry

George Kennedy School kids braved the damp weather recently as they took part in their annual Terry Fox Run. Parent volunteer Diane Templeman marked off runners Cory Highfield (right) and Mitchell Catoen (left) as they took part.

Photo by Ted Brown



Learning Garden opens

Park School officially opened their new Learning Garden recently with a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the garden, located at the entrance to the school. On hand taking part were (from left) Brian Robinson of landscape Creations (donor to the project) and his son Brayden, 4, Andrew Mayerhofer, 5, and his dad Anton of Mayerhofer Landscaping, who also donated to the project, Park School principal Cathy Clarke, Rachel Gorup, 10 and Tessa Cieplucha, 8.

Photo by Ted Brown



Supporting the troops

Georgetown District Christian School students and staff showed their support for Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan by wearing red on Fridays. In front (from left), Carl Vandersluis, James Keenleyside, Mrs. Marianne Vangoor, principal and Mark Dekker and in back, Mrs. Cheryl DeKleer, Grade 2 teacher, Jacob Douglas, Daniel Molczanski, Jessica VanRavens, Mrs. Joan Collier, Grade 3 teacher and Laura Seeley.

Photo submitted

Centennial Public School introduces new program and plans to visit 'Rome'

September at Centennial Public School had a great start. In conjunction with the Halton Board's "Tribes" initiative, Centennial introduced the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens". This program stresses seven characteristics which have been proven to make teens more successful in their lifelong endeavors.

Centennial's sports teams are fully under way. Recently our cross-country team participated at the North Halton Meet held at Sherwood Forest in Burlington. Lisa Laidlaw captured first overall in the Junior Girls' run. Centennial's Junior Girls' Team finished first overall. The rest of our teams placed second and third.

Centennial will be presenting *The Last Gladiator* by Martin Follose, a

hysterical comedy set in Ancient Rome! It will be fun for the whole family. Casting is completed and a performance date will be announced soon.

Submissions

The Independent & Free Press runs the Education page on the third week of each month. Schools are welcome to submit news articles or photos (identification required) on their school's programs and upcoming events, parent council meetings and concerts. Please do not submit any essays, creative writing or poems.

E-mail to cgambale@independentfreepress.com at least one week in advance of the publication date.

Most parents are surprised when they read the literature on the remarkable effects that arts education has on a child's academic training and overall life achievements. The message is simple: Making Music Makes Kids Smart! Why and to what degree? Here is what the research suggests:

1. When a child listens to classical music the right hemisphere of the brain is activated, but when a child studies a musical instrument both left and right hemispheres of the brain light up.

2. There is a very high correlation between positive self-perception, high cognitive competence scores, healthy self-esteem, total interest and school involvement, and the study of music."

J. Lillemyr, Achievement Motivation as a Factor in Self-Perception, Norwegian Research Council for Science and the Humanities.

3. "Studying music strengthens student's academic performance. Studies have indicated that sequential, skill-building instruction in art and music integrated with the rest of the curriculum can greatly improve children's performance in reading and math." Martin Gardiner, Alan Fox, Faith Knowles, and Donna Jeffrey, Learning Improved by Arts Training, *Nature*, May 23, 1996.

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Written By: Connie Ward. Hon BA. MS Ed.

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