

What I Want For My Child From Education

The Milton Education Week Committee conducted an interesting experiment in connection with their March 1-13 Education Week program. They pulled a switch from the usual student essays, and invited local parents to write an essay on "What I Want for My Child From Education."

Several entries were received, all of them thought-provoking. The two top entries were chosen, and they were written by Mrs. Joy Wooland of 328 Mountainview Drive, and Roy G. Stuart, 332 Mountainview Dr. Both have children in Grade 7 room at the W. L. Dick public school.

WHAT I WANT FOR MY CHILD FROM EDUCATION

"Do you know, Carter, that I can actually write my name in the dust on the table? Faith,

Mum, that's more than I can do. Sure there's nothing like education after all."

This 63 year old quotation from Punch in praise of education still stands today although I certainly want my child to learn more than just writing his name in the dust! What I want for my child from education is encouragement to acquire an insatiable curiosity and guidance as to how to learn.

A school teacher's pupils are as balls of clay, a large part of the eventual moulds being his product. How wonderful it is if that teacher encourages the child to have a craving mind! I do think, though, — like Richard Steele way back in the early 18th century — that "the truth of it is, the first rudiments of education are given very indiscreetly by most parents." I hope to make my child

realize that his education is never finished!

In the old days a boy could go to school to learn the three R's after which he could acquire a profession which would lead him into a secure line of business. Today we are facing a future in which there will be no need — or even opportunity — for men to work 40 hour weeks. More leisure will be available but to a curious person this will be a friend, not a foe — to me there seem very few — if any professions or trades which will remain unchanged. My child could benefit from a sound education both at school and at university. He could face society with the justifiable self-confidence in the career which he has chosen, but after ten or twenty years he could become dormant unless he has

continued to keep his knowledge up to date. He may find that his particular trade will have become non-existent and he will have to learn something new. He may need to travel and will have to learn new languages. The possibilities are many but unless he has been taught HOW to learn and think for himself, he will be part of the driftwood on the sea of life.

With insatiable curiosity and knowledge of how to learn a child of mine can look forward to a life of fulfillment. Sometimes I think children must fear the future if they listen to all the despairing remarks today's adults make when future employment is the topic. The future need not be feared by parents or children if the latter are imbued with the afore-mentioned attributes. There

are still millions of people on Earth in need of that which we, in this country, take for granted; and today it looks as if our children will have yet another planet with which to concern themselves by the time they are adults!

Written by Mrs. J. Wooland, 328 Mountain View Dr., Milton.

WHAT I WANT FOR MY CHILD FROM EDUCATION

I would want my child to absorb the fundamentals of basic subjects such as Reading, Writing, Spelling, Arithmetic, History and a general understanding of the rapid geographical changes on the various continents.

I would want the educators that impart their knowledge to her to leave such an impression that she recognizes her responsibilities to her parents, teachers, the community at large and herself.

I would want my child from education received to be able to distinguish clearly realism from fantasy but yet be in a position to perceive the possible in the

apparent impossible and to have the ability to transform constructive thoughts into reality.

Apart from the home, my child received her baptism of education in the kindergarten and through the years has progressed the various successive grades to the position where soon a decision must be made as to what curriculum she will follow, when she receives the key that will open the door of knowledge of her secondary school education.

All children have dreams and aspirations to become a nurse, school teacher, airline pilot etc. but the child knows little or nothing of the requirements necessary to fulfill the ambitions of their imagined careers.

The parents as a rule are prejudiced toward their children, many wish the child to follow their pattern of success, or suggest a field of endeavor that they for some reason were not able to pursue.

The correct and fairest approach to the child was of course,

for each teacher that has taught her should have formed conclusions as to her ability, intelligence and mannerisms; documented same, and when the child is at the crossroads of decision in grade 8 the principal or other education exponent armed with such information plus the accumulated evidence of report cards should hold a consultation with the parent and child.

This neutral opinion of the educator on the vocation the child would be apt to succeed, would be an asset to all, and could save the child from eventual frustrating experiences.

Whether my child chooses the field of Industry, Commerce, Sales or Services, she should appreciate the time and effort that the teachers have expended on her behalf.

Provided that educational material is interpreted and taught correctly and with understanding to the pupils, my child has the responsibility to retain and put into practice what she was privileged to attain.

I would want my child to be familiar with a non partisan political view of government, primarily Canadian and the framework of the United Nations.

I would want for my child from the education she has received that she faces the world with confidence, becomes an accredited citizen of her community, merit the respect of all who know her and earn the ultimate honor of a teacher who could point to her proudly saying she was one of my pupils back in the 1960's.

Roy G. Stuart, 332 Mountain View Drive, Milton, Ontario.



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