

Teachers, students prepare for new curriculum

By DENNIS SMITH

Special to The Champion

Teacher advisors will help public school students trailblazing through secondary school reforms anticipated next fall.

A new Grade 9 curriculum, literacy tests, unpaid community service and four-year school terms, a new course-streaming system and provincial report cards will be among the reforms.

Changes will be implemented with Grade 9 students starting in September, with an extra grade working under the reformed system in each successive year.

Halton District School Board staff provided a progress report on their implementation strategies at a recent committee of the whole meeting.

Policy documents on reforms are expected next month from the Ministry of Education, which mandated the changes.

"We're communicating what we know as a result of draft documents," said superintendent Kit Rankin. "We've tried to be flexible where uncertainties exist."

Next fall's teacher advisor program will be

aimed at students who'll be affected by the reforms, those in Grades 7-9.

"This will provide each student with their personal advocate and promote self-directed learning," said Susan Orchard, the board's instructional leader. "Students will be developing annual education plans with goal setting."

Ms Rankin said teachers serving as advisors will be prepared for the role and have time built into their teaching schedules for the mentoring.

Major goals of secondary school reform are greater emphasis on math, science and language, establishing high standards and accountability, preparing students for the global economy, improving their achievement and preparing them for a variety of post secondary destinations, such as university, college, apprenticeship or work.

Discussion topics included needs of vocational schools, use of transcript records, literacy tests, difficulty of obtaining diplomas in four years and handling an anticipated bulge of graduates (from the new four-year and old five-year diplomas).

Here are the details of the reform highlights:

- Students will have four-year diploma pro-

grams, requiring 30 credits for a diploma, consisting of 18 compulsory subjects and 12 electives. Requirements will include four English courses, three in math, two in science and at least one in French, Canadian history, Canadian geography, arts, health and physical education, plus civics and career studies.

• Grade 9 and 10 will have three types of courses. Academic courses will emphasize theory and abstract thinking, while applied courses will focus on essential concepts and practical applications.

Open courses will be appropriate for all students, providing a broad education base to prepare for senior grades and roles in society.

• Grades 11 and 12 will have four streams of courses.

Workplace courses are designed for direct entry into training and apprenticeship programs or the workplace.

College preparation courses include knowledge and skills for entering college programs. University/college courses will provide knowledge and skills for both situations.

University courses will provide knowledge

and skills to meet university entrance requirements, with expectations that Grade 12 exit standards will be similar to current OAC exit standards.

There will also be credit-based transfer courses to bridge the gap between courses in two streams.

• Students must also pass a Grade 10 literacy test, based on language and communications expectations of curriculum including Grade 9. The test can be retaken.

• Students must perform 40 hours of unpaid community service any time prior to graduation.

• The Grade 9 report card will be the same across Ontario and consistent with the Grade 8 report card. Percentage grades will be based on four achievement levels, attendance and learning skills will be reported separately for each course.

• Starting in the school year 2001, students in Grades 10-12 may earn up to four credits without taking a course by demonstrating they have required skills and knowledge from prior learning.

• There'll be expanded opportunities for cooperative work placements.

Religious Service Directory

Lengthening Our Love

Submitted by: Reverend Mark McDermott of Grace Anglican Church

Often, by late February, I begin to dream of an early spring! There are probably five more weeks, or so, of winter left — but I have noticed a difference! The days are getting longer, and the snow is beating a retreat. There may be more snow ahead and more winter lurking out there somewhere, but the hope of spring is strong within me. Some winter birds have already migrated north and the sap is moving in the trees. The stirring of new life is a visible reality.

Parallel to these events in the natural world, many Christian churches are observing the season of Lent. The word "Lent" is from the English word, "lengthen", referring to the longer days we are now enjoying. Lent is a six week time of preparation for Easter, the central day of the Christian year when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and His gift of new life.

In the early Christian Church, Lent was a time when the candidates for Baptism at Easter were instructed and prepared for their initiation into the Christian community. In later centuries, Lent became a time when Christians reflected upon the great sacrifice Christ made by His death on the cross and the faithful sought to deepen their Christian life by various observances.

Today, it carries a similar expression. Some believers may commit to a time of extra prayer and Bible reading, others may give up some pleasure or pastime so that the human will may be strengthened, others may involve themselves in some special community service project, and yet

others may dig a little deeper into the wallet to help the needy.

Lent is often caricatured as a time of misery, but in reality it is a wonderful time to get closer to the Christ who is always close to us. It is a joyful season to lengthen and enlarge our love for the Christ, who never ceases to love us.

Whether it be the natural world or the world of the soul, all things yearn for spring and this deep seated desire is fulfilled in the Christian gospel by the risen Christ and His gift of eternal life.

Take the opportunity to visit us over Lent, or check out another church near you!

Grace Anglican Church

317 Main St. E., Milton
the Church on the Hill 878-2411
Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 a.m. - Holy Communion
9:10 a.m. - Informal Eucharist
10:30 a.m. - Sung Eucharist
Nursery Program,
Church School & Coffee Hour

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS THROUGH PARKING LOT DOORS

HOLY ROSARY PARISH

http://www.golden.net/~wts/hamilton/p-holyrosary-m.html
878-6535 (T.T.Y. 878-9044)

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

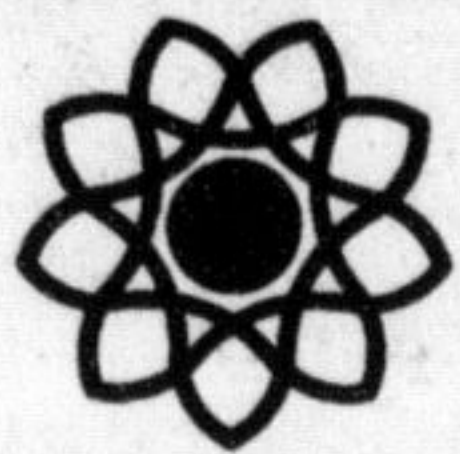
139 Martin Street
Mass at 5:30 pm Saturday
9:00 am, 10:30 am & noon Sunday

OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSION

Milton Heights
Mass at 10:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

9th Line & Britannia
Mass at 9:00 a.m. Sunday
Rev. Earl Talbot, P.P.



BAHA'I

CANADIAN BAHAI COMMUNITY - HISTORICAL RETROSPECTIVE

Vision TV presents Part 1 of a 2 part documentary about the 100th anniversary of the Baha'i community in Canada. Wed., March 3 at 7:30 pm and again Thurs. morning, March 4

LOCAL:878-0011
REGIONAL:1-800-433-3284
GLOBAL:www.bahai.org

NEW LIFE

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Phone: (905) 878-3358
Church Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Senior Pastor - Rev. Daniel Rogge
Children - Mrs. Natalie Rogge
Worship/Jr. High - Mrs. Esther Keesler

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28
9:45 A.M.

Sunday School for Every Age Group

10:45 AM/6:30 PM
PART ONE/PART TWO
"LOVING GOD
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Here's an All Day Program for Kids K - 6
Only \$75/child! Call 878-3358 to register!

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CAPTIONING PROVIDED FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:45 AM

CAPTIONING PROVIDED FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING - SUNDAYS AT 10:45 AM

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"ENLARGE YOUR CIRCLE OF LOVE"



The Salvation Army Church
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Pastors:
Captains Dan and Wendy Broome

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30 AM

MORNING WORSHIP
11:00 AM

Weekly Programming for all ages
For more information please
Call 876-2420

MILTON GOSPEL HALL

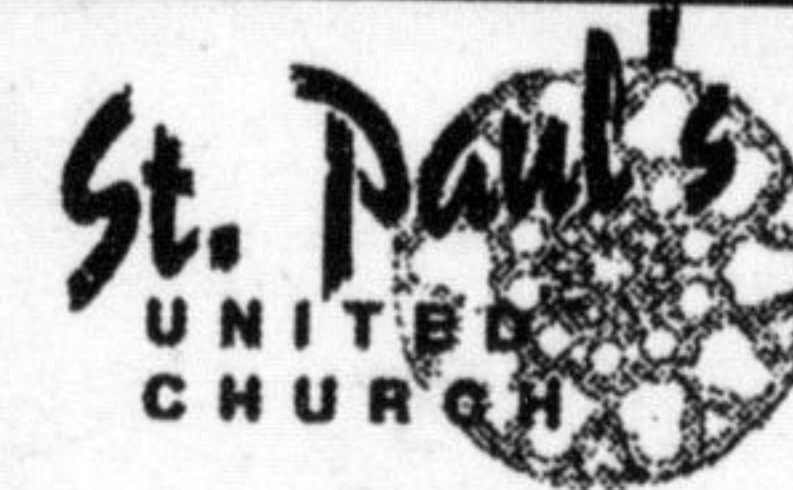
306 Ontario St. N. • 878-2022

10:00 a.m. - The Lord's Supper
11:45 a.m. - Sunday School
6:30 p.m. - Gospel Service

Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Study



All we like sheep have gone astray; the Lord hath laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all.
Isiah 53:6



123 MAIN ST., MILTON, ONT.

Ministers: Rev. Bob Hyde
Rev. John Benham
Director of Music
Judy Hunter

Come to worship
LENT II - SUN. FEB. 28, 1999
10:30 a.m. Worship
and Church School Classes

Sermon title:
"WILL OUR CHILDREN HAVE FAITH?"
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Visit our NEW Website:
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To book a spot in the Religious Service Directory

Call Kathy
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VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH

Have you ever wondered why you are here on earth?

Have you ever wanted to make a difference in the lives of others?

Do you wonder what the keys are to being successful in all areas of your life?

If so, then I would encourage you to join us at Victory Bible Church where you can be equipped through its ministries to have a life that is fulfilling. VBC is a church where Christianity is not a religion, but an opportunity to have a relationship with God and His word that will change lives for eternity.

10:00 A.M. — MORNING WORSHIP
MILTON LEISURE CENTRE
(BOARD ROOM)

(separate services for children 9 years and under)

"Living A Victorious Life By The Word Of God"

Pastor Charles Boyce
(905) 875-2162

Email: cboyce@interhop.net