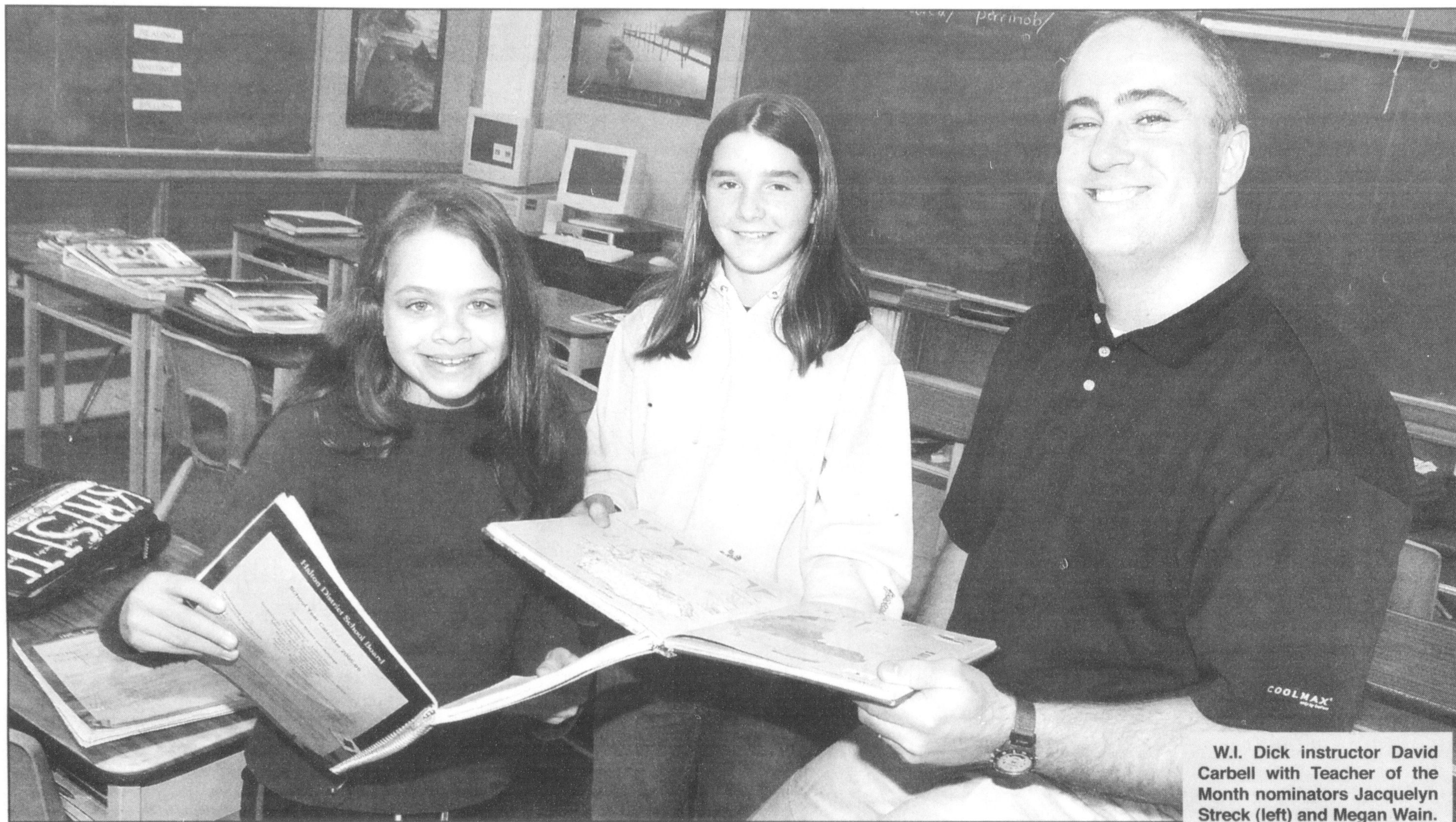


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Community Page



W.I. Dick instructor David Carbell with Teacher of the Month nominators Jacquelyn Streck (left) and Megan Wain.
 Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Teacher of the Month

Mr. Carbell has knack for making school fun

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

David Carbell, who was always a bit of a class clown, knows what it's like to have boring, straight-laced teachers with no tolerance for humour in the classroom.

So he decided never to be one of them. When he started teaching four years ago, Mr. Carbell brought a sense of fun into the classroom that students instantly took to.

"I always like teachers like myself who were comfortable," Mr. Carbell said. "I patterned myself after the teachers I liked."

Mr. Carbell, a teacher at W.I. Dick Middle School, is The Champion's Teacher of the Month for December. It wasn't a difficult pick after The Champion received a couple of glowing nomination letters.

"I'd like to vote for my teacher, Mr. Carbell, because he makes learning fun and is very funny when he is teaching us things," Megan Wain wrote in her nomination letter.

Jacquelyn Streck, who's also in Mr. Carbell's grade 6 class, wrote similar sentiments.

"He always tries to make school fun," she wrote, adding, "I think my teacher deserves a round of applause."

When he first found out he was December's Teacher of the Month, Mr. Carbell said he thought it was a joke. When he realized it wasn't, he said he was thrilled.

Though he's only taught at the school since December, it seems Mr. Carbell has had quite an impact on his students.

Making school fun comes easily to him, Mr. Carbell said. He approaches life with a definite sense of optimism, and that spills over into his teaching.

With kids of his own, he also understands the

nature of kids and doesn't try to fight it.

"I'm not a very stressed out person," Mr. Carbell said. "That transfers well to the classroom. The minor inconsistencies like kids being chatty on a Monday morning — that's not going to bother me much."

He tries to create a light atmosphere where his students are free to make mistakes, he said.

"I tell them if we can't make mistakes in this class, we're in a whole heap of trouble."

Mr. Carbell said he isn't someone who always sticks to a regimented teaching plan. Sometimes, he said, there are more important things to do — like play in the snow.

"I'll say, 'I have nothing planned for this period. Let's build snow forts.'"

Part of creating a relaxed atmosphere in the class is talking with students, not talking at them or down to them, he said. And he makes sure they know he makes mistakes, too.

He's been known to stop mid-lesson and admit

he's going about the lesson all wrong.

"Sometimes I'll say what I'm (teaching) is horrible. It's shocking for them to have a teacher say he isn't perfect."

Mr. Carbell took up teaching as a second career after owning a restaurant. The long hours in the business weren't conducive to having kids, he said, and he knew he'd be a good teacher.

As he expected, he said he loves teaching. "I like the fact that 400 different things can happen on any one day," he said.

And he enjoys teaching 10 and 11-year-olds.

"They're an awesome age. In high school they start to dislike a lot of stuff, but at age 11, they're still relatively happy. They're getting their own ideas and they're really quirky. All of a sudden they get it that life is fun. It's a cool opening phase to the rest of their lives."

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Cogeco Cable Channel 14 Programming Schedule – Tuesday, December 6 - Monday, December 12, 2005

Tuesday, December 6	Wednesday, December 7	Thursday, December 8	Friday, December 9	Saturday, December 10	Sunday, December 11	Monday, December 12
12:00pm Coming Home For Christmas	12:30pm Roundtable: Halton 211	12:00pm Swap Talk (Replay)	1:00pm Salvation Army Christmas Programs	3:00pm Rockwood Farmers Parade of Lights	10:30am TVC Sports: Jr.A Hockey - Georgetown vs Burlington	1:00pm Milton Council Nov 28 2005
12:30pm Plugged In! EXTRA	1:00pm Halton Hills Council Nov 28 2005	1:00pm Milton Council	5:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	4:00pm TVC Sports: Jr.A Hockey - Georgetown vs Burlington	6:00pm Milton Council Nov 28 2005	6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA
1:00pm SportsZONE Live	4:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	9:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	7:00pm Living Healthy
6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm The Bottom Line	7:00pm The Bottom Line	6:30pm Rockwood Farmers Parade of Lights			8:00pm SportsZONE Live
6:30pm Georgetown Santa Claus Parade	6:30pm Taking Care of Your Future	7:30pm Taking Care of Your Future	7:30pm TVCogeco Sports: AHL Hockey - Syracuse vs Hamilton (Live)			9:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA
7:30pm Roundtable: Halton 211	7:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00pm Coming Home For Christmas			
8:00pm Auto Experts (Live)	8:00pm Swap Talk (Live)	8:30pm Coming Home For Christmas	10:30pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA			
9:00pm Halton Hills Council Nov 28 2005	9:00pm Milton Council Nov 28 2005	9:00pm Salvation Army Christmas Programs				