

# Champion Country

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## Lots of new arrivals at Brookville Public School



The pregnant Brookville School teachers, from left to right (in the order of their due dates), are Rae Crossfield, Patricia Brox, Nancy Bradley, Michelle Dempsey, Jen Treble, Leanne Munro and Melanie Goncalves.

By **ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER**

*Special to The Champion*

Could it be something in the water or perhaps the NHL lock-out of last year? Whatever the reason, seven teachers at Brookville Public School are expecting babies before the end of February, said vice-principal Bev Balch, and everyone at the school is very excited.

"We have a young and vital staff here at Brookville, and because of that, the teachers have growing families," she said. "Everyone, including the students, is really excited. We've even started a pool on who is having a girl or boy, when they will have them, and the babies' sizes. It's really wonderful."

Ms Balch said even when one or two teachers require maternity leave and the school must find replacements it can be hectic, let alone seven teachers simultaneously.

She said she doesn't believe there has ever been a Halton school with so many teachers pregnant at one time.

"There may have been a bigger school in Oakville or Burlington with several teachers pregnant at the same time but I don't believe they've had quite this many," said Ms Balch.

As of February, all seven teachers will be on maternity leave. Ms Balch said they were very fortunate to have so many wonderful teachers apply for the openings. All the positions have been filled and now they're just waiting for the babies to arrive.

"Although these are fabulous teachers and have left big shoes to fill, we've been fortunate to have many wonderful candidates apply and I feel we've done an excellent job of filling the positions," she said.

Most of the replacement teachers have already been involved with the classes that they will cover in order to give the expectant teachers time for doctor appointments as well as give the students a chance to get acquainted, she said.

"All the teachers are very dedicated and have helped make this transition easy on everyone, staff and students included."

Ms Balch said the teachers will be missed.

"It is a very exciting time for everyone and we wish them all the best and expect to see the new faces very soon."

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