

Events will focus attack on educational jargon

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Special to The Champion

Most of us know what trustees, accountability and co-op education mean.

But what about whole language, benchmarks, IPRC, SEAC, outcomes, transition years, destreaming, and even metacognition or psychometrician?

As education increasingly comes under criticism, the Halton Board of Education is using this year's focus (previously education week) to attack educational jargon.

It's being done in the hopes of reaching out to the 60 per cent of Halton taxpayers who don't have children in the public school system.

"We've decided to take aim against jargon and deal with it head on," said the board communications officer Brian Woodland in explaining this year's theme Education: Explained! which runs April 26 to May 7.

A "hit list" of the top 10 jargon terms was compiled in a survey of community business and parent/teacher organizations.

"The unanimous response was that there is a tremendous amount of jargon in the school system. As the board communications officer... I can attest to the fact that the school system has an unbelievable amount of jargon," said Mr. Williams.

The "hit list" terms show up as: whole language (69 per cent); benchmarks (44 per cent); IPRC (Individualized Placement and Review Committee) (44 per cent); SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) (44 per cent); outcomes (42 per cent); equity (36 per cent); transition years (36 per cent); cooperative learning (33 per cent); active learning (27 per cent) and The Basics (27 per cent).

Mr. Woodland said one business representative's response hit the mark: Start from "A" and go on to "Z".

Over half of board staff donate a day

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Special to The Champion

A request for Halton Board of Education full-time employees to donate one day's pay to offset education costs has fallen far short of its goal of \$1.2 million.

At Thursday night's board meeting, Halton Board of Education director Bob Williams said about \$430,000 has been raised from the voluntary donations.

The deadline for contributions was March 31. Mr. Williams said about 2,300 of the board's 4,000 full-time employees contributed.

When the request was originally
• see SCHOOL on page 15

Acronyms like SEAC and IPRC are what Woodland calls "jargon double-whammies" which take complex terms and abbreviate them, compounding the problem for parents, business and the public.

Mr. Woodland admitted there were even terms that showed up in the survey which he had to get explained — like psychometrician — ironically explained as a psycho-educational consultant.

"Over the last three years, even six months, we've seen a tremendous amount of attack on education," he said.

Every industry has jargon however the school system holds a stake for many people. "No Jargon Zones" in schools will try to get the message



home to schools.

Many parents with children in schools are familiar with local public schools, but those without children in the system and people in the business are "the people with the

lowest level of understanding of what's going on and the least supportive," said Mr. Woodland.

In Halton that covers 60 per cent of the population.

"Across the region, we will be launching a long-term program or publications and events to try and clear away the 'jargon jungle' that sometimes builds walls between education and the community," said Mr. Woodland.

The "hit list" was used to develop nine Education: Explained community events running over the next two weeks with titles like "Whatever Happened to the Basics?", "What's Wrong With Rows?", "Cooperative Learning and Other Controversies" "Whole Lan-

guage or Phonics? What's Best For Kids?"

Special events — all featuring 45 minute-presentations and an equal session for questions — are slated throughout Halton.

More than 200 activities will be occurring within local schools, including traditional shopping mall displays, celebration of Student Excellence tomorrow (Thursday), at Nelson High School and a regional kick-off event Monday, April 26 at Allendale (former Halton Centennial Manor) in Milton.

A showcase of student performances of music and drama will be held at the Sir John Colbourne Centre in Oakville April 27 at 1:30 p.m.

11—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, April 21, 1993

Your Pontiac Performance Dealers are crushing the prime with this

\$1999

36-MONTH LEASE RATE*

36-MONTH LEASE RATE* INCLUDING NO-CHARGE AIR CONDITIONING

Pontiac Sunbird 1E Sedan

Sunbird's crushing the competition with these features.

- ✓ 2.0 Litre Multiport
- ✓ Power Assisted 4-wheel Anti-lock Brakes
- ✓ Automatic
- ✓ Power Door Locks
- ✓ Stainless Steel Exhaust
- ✓ Automatic Transmission
- ✓ Air Conditioning
- ✓ Tinted Glass
- ✓ Remote/Trunk Release
- ✓ AM/FM Stereo Cassette
- ✓ 24 Hour Roadside Assistance**
- ✓ 3 Year 60,000 km No Deductible GM Total Warranty

Your Pontiac Performance Dealers.

*This offer may not be combined or used in combination with any other offer except the College Graduate Program. Offer applies to 1993 new and unused, or demonstrator Sunbird models purchased from dealer inventory. Offer valid for a limited time starting February 15, 1993 while quantities last and applies to retail deliveries only. Lease rate of 1.9% available only on approved credit to qualified persons. Example: Based on a 36 month lease and capital cost of \$12,887 includes administration fee on Sunbird LE 2.0C89-155. Monthly lease payments are \$199. A minimum down payment of \$1,077.00 must be paid at time of lease. Total lease obligation \$7,184.36 including financing charges of \$473.00. Some mileage conditions apply. 24 month contracts also available. Freight (\$525), licence, insurance, GST and other applicable taxes not included. See dealer for details. **Some charges may apply. See dealer for details.

A VICTORIAN CRAFT FAIR

May 1st & 2nd from 10:00~4:00

at The Burlington Central Lions Club Hall
471 Pearl Street
Burlington

Just in Time for Mother's Day!

Donations Gratefully Accepted
For The Children's Assessment
Treatment Centre (C.A.T.C.)