

R. Hill Public Schools

# Hold Classes For Speech Correction

BY MARY DAWSON

Many children in Richmond Hill who have speech problems are being assisted by a speech training programme that is now in its second year in the six public schools in the town.

Pupils in all grades from kindergarten to grade 8 are receiving the benefits of this programme. Children in need of such training are referred to Mrs. Donna Vanden Bergh, itinerant speech teacher, by the classroom teachers in June.

In addition last year Mrs. Vanden Bergh visited every classroom in the local public school system and outlined a course in speech improvement to be taught to every child. Such a course can be integrated in spelling and becomes an important part of every subject.

This year the speech teacher again visited all kindergarten and grade one classes where the majority of children with speech problems are found.

Seventy-five percent of the children referred to her are having difficulty in articulation, Mrs. Vanden Bergh told "The Liberal". Inability to pronounce words distinctly and liping are found in this group.

Stuttering is of two kinds the speech teacher explained. — primary which apparently does not bother the child, and secondary which is caused by anxiety and tension and really upsets the child. This is in reality a personality problem.

Children with cleft palates and those who are hard of hearing also have speech defects which can be greatly helped by this training.

Many speech problems are caused because parents are too anxious for the young child to talk. A child should develop his talking skills at his own rate, Mrs. Vanden Bergh maintains, and urges parents not to push the

youngster. "Give him plenty of opportunity to talk and a need to talk and he will talk," she said.

Young children may repeat sounds many times she continued, but these dysfluencies should not be labelled.

Pointing out that children learn to talk only through imitation the speech teacher cautioned parents against baby talk and slovenly speech habits.

The children who have been referred to the classes in June are tested in September and placed in speech correction classes according to age and type of defect. Those whose speech problems are less serious are given speech improvement instruction by their classroom teacher under the guidance of Mrs. Vanden Bergh.

For the first three months of the course pupils are given an intensive auditory programme. This is a major part of the speech programme in which the child hears and understands his speech problem and can discriminate between the correct sound he is supposed to make and that which he produces, she commented.

By December they are beginning to use the correct sound first in isolation then in syllables, then words, phrases, sentences and conversation. This sound is taught in the initial position in the word, then in the last position of the word, and then in the middle position.

To bring full co-operation between home and school the children in the special speech training classes are given booklets for use at home under the guidance of their parents who have been instructed in the proper methods of helping their child.

Speech correction classes stress learning through enjoyment as the children play games, use puppets, listen to

records and tape recorders all of which are aids to the desired end, the teacher explained.

Richmond Hill Public School Board has had special bulletin boards and mirrors made for these classes. The children are thus able to see in the mirror the teacher produce the correct sound by proper use of lips, tongue, teeth and jaws, and by imitation eventually achieve the correct sound.

At the end of June, after receiving 10 months instruction last year, many were dismissed from the classes as needing no further special speech training, but are being watched by the classroom teacher. If regression happens they will be re-admitted to the classes until correction is no longer needed.

Many new children were added to these classes this year with some holdovers from last year. They will be dismissed when the teacher knows that they can produce all sounds correctly and without hesitation and too much thought about the articulation.

Since stuttering can be or once was a personality defect, sufferers from this speech ailment are carrying out a study of themselves in order to develop an objective attitude towards themselves as speakers. This study will be completed before the children learn the techniques of overcoming their stuttering, the teacher explained.

Mrs. Vanden Bergh taught at Walter Scott School for five years in a grade one class before being appointed itinerant speech teacher by the school board. During these years she became interested in the children in her classes who had speech problems and as part of the curriculum did speech work in the phonics programme.

Two summer courses given

en by the Department of Education auxiliary education course in Toronto have provided her with the special skills which are making the local programme of special speech training effective. Instructors at these summer courses were Miss Norma Harrison, supervisor of speech correction for Scarborough Township schools, and Miss Rhea Stewart who is employed in the same capacity by the London Board of Education. Both are well-known authorities in this work.

## Free Text Books Grades 9 and 10

The policy of providing text books without direct cost to the student will be extended to grade 9 and 10 beginning in September of this year, announced The Honourable W. Earl Rowe, P.C., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario. The announcement was made January 15 in his speech from the throne on opening the second session of the twenty-seventh legislature of the Province of Ontario.

This policy represents a further step in the equalization of educational opportunity throughout the province.

Problems of distribution and supply will be eliminated, he said, for these grades since school boards will provide the text books and will receive additional grants to make this possible. At the same time, boards will be encouraged to exercise every economy possible and, through carefully planned replacement policies, to ensure the full and economical use of every book.

See page 2 for editorial on this proposed legislation.

## 91 At Bayview Secondary Qualify For Honour List

Ninety-one of the 996 students attending Bayview Secondary School qualified for honour roll status as a result of marks obtained in Christmas examinations.

According to W.J. Fischer, public relations officer for the school, 55 out of 448 grade 9 students achieved an average of 75% in their school work while three out of 36 grade 13 students achieved this level.

The following have their names listed on this term's honour roll:

**GRADE 9**  
Loretta Beatty, Jane Blackwell, Barbara Boulwood, Shar-

on Boynton, Sheila Brounstein, Susan Brown, Johanne Buckingham, John Chew, Norene Clubine, Dennis Coles.

James Crowther, Linda Derksen, Gordon Dyke, Barbara Empringham, William Everett.

Donna Fleming, James Fraser, Arlene Furry, Stephen Gentles, Beverley Gomme.

David Gooch, Ian Gray, Janet Hall, Kathryn Hammond, Patricia Jennings.

Douglas Johnson, Lynda Kenney, Heinz Lauer, Robert Lindsay, Beverley Markle.

James Mowles, Sandra Myers, Lindsay Poole, Dennis Pringle, Linda Rumble.

Freda Sale, Ian Schell, Norman Schell, Mark Sexsmith, William Snook.

Margaret Squires, Joyce Stitt, Linda Thomson, David Thoms, Mark Tilston.

Colleen Wagner, William Waldon, Vernon Walters, Lynne Wielgosh, Beverley Wilson.

Brenda Wilson, Catherine Wilson, James Wilson, Hans Worm, Ingrid Zlijp.

**GRADE 10**  
Judy Archer, Geraldine Bruce, Jennifer Burton, Rosemary Burton, Bruce Clarke.

Scott Cooper, Brenda Critchley, Diane Donnelly, Gail Elsie, Brenda Firman.

Ronald Kimball, Gail Meadows, David Needham, Johanne Nugent, Paul Ramer.

Dennis Richards, Gary Riseborough, Hille Schmier, Guy Snaith, Ursel Solich, Catherine Wilson, Ardys Winger, Johanne Zeeman.

**GRADE 11**  
Stuart Barnes, Valdi Inkens, Marilyn Lee, David M. Smith, Donald Smith.

**GRADE 12**  
Marilyn Doner, Wayne Everett, Barbara Lowens, Linda Robinson, Janet Royston.

**GRADE 13**  
Gary Draper, Michael Howard, Roxanne Louw.

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