Reading Is A Thinking Process, Primary Consultant Tells Roman Catholic Trustees

ing to read and write, do not destroy everything for him by correcting every error, warns Primary Consultant Susan Prosser of the York County Roman Catholic

School Board. on February 16, Miss Prosser gave a lengthy and enlightening presentation, explaining the primary program in the

schools to the trustees. "For too long the experiences which we have given the children during these formative years have been fragmented and incohesive," said Miss Prosser.

"Each teacher juggled the program to suit her mood and moment. The main goal seemed to be simply to stuff the children with skills and

Teachers did not need the report on children with learning and emotional problems, "One Million Children," to tell them that there are too many children moving through the schools whose needs are not being met, said Miss Prosser.

"This problem is very complex. In the final analysis, however, it is the teachers in our classrooms today who have the power to bring about change."

The major concern of the newly emerging Primary Association in the schools of the region is to review goals, update methods and to undertake meaningful dialogue, Miss Prosser explained.

A language experience pro-

ment of listening skills as well as skills in reading and writing and speaking, she

told the trustees. Some of the specific aims at different levels in unof the program are: language development to take place At a meeting of the board through meaningful experiences and the use of a strong sequential reading program; creative thinking to be given encouragement through dramatic arts and problemsolving opportunities; as well as professional growth on the part of the teachers through meaningful dialogue attendance workshops, etc.

> 東京市市 "The small child retains facts and masters skills only through considerable repetition," continued Miss Prosser. "A good deal of imagination is required by the teacher to make these periods interesting and amusing."

It is a good thing for children to write their own stories, recounting their own experiences, than reading them back, she told the trustees, but it is also a good thing to take them outside of their ordinary spectrum. All subjects can be integrated into an imaginative program.

Miss Prosser cited the penguin as a starting point. A story about a penguin, she pointed out, could lead to geography and map work, weather, art, films, social studies of explorers and human relations, even mathematics and problem solving.

She told of one teacher who took her class to a dairy

gram around the story of milk from the cow to the kit-

Even good readers can be derstanding what they read, and with guidance can be led to see a lot more than they see at first reading. For this reason, said Miss Prosser, the quality of the text books in the classroom is important. Children should have books that offer opportunities to interpret.

"Reading is a thinking process," she continued. "Too many children fail to understand what they read orally or silently. It is increasingly clear that more emphasis must be placed upon discussion and meaningful followup activities. Dramatizing a sequence from a story is another excellent way to convey the true meaning of a story. The emotional response of the

characters must be shown. "When the work 'predicament' came up in a folk story, we dramatized predicaments which they had experienced. The word 'predicament' became a well-used world after that." * * * *

The primary association in York Region separate schools includes the teachers of all grades from kindergarten to grade 3. Miss Prosser explained. These teachers meet from time to time to discommon problems, to share personal worth. The suicide portant that a preventative ideas and to learn.

When a child is first learn- gram includes the develop- farm and built a full pro- development inservice ses- dication that many of them road to a successful language sions with the York County Board of Education has been an excellent idea, she said, and the Roman Catholic teachers are gaining a great deal from this type of train-

> Miss Prosser told the trustees she would like the teachers to have more time for workshops and training in the future. She expressed a hope that some arrangements might be made to have this during school hours, that it might be possible to arrange early closing in all the schools for perhaps two days a month so the teachers

could get together. An alternative, she said, might be to arrange for substitute teachers to take over classes part of a day at regular intervals.

The calibre of people in the primary division is very important, she told the trustees. There is a great need for continuing in-service sessions at both school and county level to give teachers an opportunity to look at the whole curriculum.

As a consultant, said Miss Prosser, a lot of her work is very intangible and difficult to evaluate, "Often I just sit with the teachers and

It is externely important for a teacher to have a sense of her own worth in order that she may, in turn, pass cuss goals and methods and on to the child a feeling of rate among young people, program be established to

program, Miss Prosser emphasized A written report on the

primary education program distributed to trustees by Miss Prosser recommended kindergarten equipment costing about \$565, for each of the board's 15 kindergartens, This included a sand table, housekeeping unit (including sink, refrigerator and stove). listening program and listening station, large building blocks, work bench and tool set and play screen.

Thirteen of the kindergar- ten experience." that a good language arts tens already have sand tables. five have the housekeeping units, four have large building blocks, one has the listening program and listening station and one has a workbench and tool set.

* * * *

Pointing out that the equipment recommended is quite expensive, Richmond

Hill Trustee Malcolm Peake observed, "I always thought kindergarten was a time of great creativity. Can't the children improvise with

boxes and cartons?" Equipment in kindergartens gets a lot of hard use. Miss Prosser pointed out, and would have to be sturdy to

"Primary children need time to play and express their feelings in a secure home-type setting," she added. "Such equipment gives the pupils a chance to create situations for oral and writ-

Mrs. Lee asked if there is too-much girl - oriented equipment in kindergartens and not enough for boys. Miss Prosser agreed that

there is this danger and that is why the large blocks, work bench and tools were so important. Some teachers had husbands who had come to

the rescue and built sand tables, blocks and work benches for the classrooms, she added.

* * * * Richmond Hill Trustee Father Fancis Robinson asked Miss Prosser if she thought field trips were a good thing, giving the rural child insight into urban life and the urban child an op-

portunity to visit a farm. Miss Prosser replied that they are very good, and added that most areas offer interesting excursions right in the vicinity of the home and the school. It was that many country children have never visited a dairy

Teachers are encouraged to consider the world as the classroom.

"Last year at St. Luke's School (in Thornhill) my children enjoyed several

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such trips," Miss Prosser reported.

"An accident with our Hamish Hamster led to a visit to Dr. Leibrecht's Animal Hospital for a most interesting talk on the care of animals. To enrich a project on growth we visited a nearby nursery and found out many facts about trees to add to our charts. The children spent a marvellous afternoon examining shells and discussing their former inhabitants with Veronica Mallon. This was a highlight of a project on the sea."

Nearly every neighborhood surprising, she said, to learn has something to offer, she

> "The little walk down a quiet street, or better still, into a field or woods, can yield rich experiences in awareness. Such a walk brings into play not only language experiences, but religious ones as well.

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Your Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion By Chris Ratchford - 884-5260

Busy Weeks Ahead For Legion Members

ound that spring was nearly dance. The Ulster Accordion lower hall. here. Wonder what spring every- Band is on for this one. Adone was talking about! Right mission price will be checked. now it would seem that we are March 22 to 28 - Minor Hocthe middle of a sudden blizzard, key Week. On the evening of So, on with the news that will the 26th the usual Friday evendispel the gloom. My courier ing social night will be held. just came in having jogged four Noted talent is being imported

miles before breakfast. The date book is rather 27 your terpsichorean efforts heavy, so grab a pencil in your if you will, trip the light fanhot wee fist and we're off:

March 6 - Rather heavy day, being held at the court. I'll let To start with is the district you know more about this later. euchre competition to be held This closes out the month of in Newmarket. Any branch mem- March. We will surprise you bers who want to play-dash with the choice of entertainers right in and sign up. Transport- for these dos. I can assure you ation leaving Legion Court no they are all A1. later than 12 noon. In the even- One other do is coming up ing there is a minor hockey before the Easter recess and dance. For only \$1.50, come on that is a MUST. Our ladies auout to have an evening of fun xiliary is having its annual and prizes; also support a worth- pub night, April 8. This is a

while project. March 13 - Competition day really put their hearts into any again. This time Branch 375 is endeavour they undertake. hosting the district darts tourney | Come one, come all, join us In the evening its time to put in getting rid of those winter on your dancing shoes.

BY JANET HNATCHUK

March 20-No other way to

Richmond Hill United Church Wednesday, February 24 we had our third annual Father and Daughter Night. We had a few

games to arouse enthusiasm for this special evening. We had a fudo demonstration presented ing it as a sport.

Refreshments were served. 1600 hours. One team, Kent-techniques. The fathers joined their daugh- ville N.S. is then being trans- He is quite active as a minor ters in singing "Taps" to close ported down to Maple Leaf hockey coach. joyed by all.

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WANT EXTRA INCOME? A temporary job may be the answer. Read the Help Wanted Columns in "The Liberal" every week for job opportunities

our assistance?

I hear via a stethescope that some of our friends have fin-

ally succumbed to the advances of that old friend "winter." Could be you all haven't been

taking your vitamins. Come on

one and all, throw off the dol-

drums, and be your usual cheery

Red Thorpe.It is really great to

lers, February 27. Brought home

five out of nine trophies. Con-

gratulations to one and all. May

you keep on your winning ways

Friday night social was our

usual swinging night, complete

with the chorus line. Ken Birch and George Cowie were at their scintillating best. Keep up

the good work fellas and come

Ladies and gentlemen, it is

with great regret that the Grand

Since not enough interest was shown in this venture it was

shelved until a possible later

next general meeting will be

more significance because it is

on you jokers - dues up

month "elections."

March 15 at 2030 hours. It is of

also "nominations night." Only paid-up members can do anything in this kind of do. So come

nominations night and then next

Yoieks! all you bright lads

date. Keep it in mind.

see you round about again.

Welcome back to our own

How about those Legion bow-

selves. We miss you.

The sharing of professional said Miss Prosser, is an in-

Church News

Recently the word went ar- celebrate St. Pat's but with a The event will be held in the per room.

John's Anglican Church will be The Women's World Day of contest was held at Jefferson a celebration of Holy Commun- Prayer will be observed at St. School February 23. There were ion at 8 am, the Litany at 10:30 John's this year this coming 10 contestants from grades 4, 5, am and fireside at 7:30 pm at Friday at 8 pm. Mrs. Marg Brit- and 6, who spoke on a wide which the choir of Alderwood ton of Stouffville will be the range of topics. Each received a United Church, West Toronto, of speaker. At the close, refresh-school crest and the winners some 50 voices, will be present. ments will be served in the up- were Alison Ashton, Richard Thompson, Robert Dennys. Each

> last Thursday to discuss plans munity club. for a wider membership in the There were five judges for ACW. A tentative executive was the contest: York County Trustformed and three representa- ee Mrs. Deena Simpson, Former tives from other churches gave Community Club President Mrs. their opinions derived from ex- Pat Burns, RHHS Teachers Mrs. perience in a similar situation. | Penelope Smith, Terry Boag About 50 young people from and Jim Emperingham.

> ded the snowmobile party at St. the school has been set at John's Saturday, sponsored by March 11, commencing at 8 pm. Koinonia. Several men of the Parents are reminded that parish supplied motor tobog-children should be registered gans to entertain the group for September kindergarten which also included St. John's classes immediately at the

Flight Line 877

Rifle And Drill Teams Organizing

New Hydro Appointee ets fire .22 calibre rifles on a as helpers.

ency, would you please call Region of York, it was announ- planning to win so only the best shots will be selected. or Mrs. Oakley at 884 - 5510. Mr. Bell is a native of Colling- The drill team is now under-Please accept our sincere thanks wood and attended Duntroon way. Cadets will be practising

two hockey teams flying into hydro in 1951. Since then he has 21 cadets. All ranks are included

mond Hill Judo Club. They dis- March 20. These boys and their struction and with line crews at the drill is basic but the manplayed fine techniques in show- coaches and equipment must be Richmond Hill and Newmarket. oeuvres are arranged into a ing us self-defense and also us- transported from Malton to He has taken courses in elec- spectacular demonstration. This Richmond Hill. They land at trical heating and instruction year the team will be organized

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FRED BELL

The invasion forces are mas-

rather a problem. If anyone can officer for Ontario Hydro's Cen- test between air cadets and help us in this time of emerg- tral Region, which includes the army cadets. The squadron is either Mrs. Brickles at 884-4688 ced last week.

Help! Help! Your assistance is for a time in the highway con-demonstration. desperately needed. There are struction field before joining A drill team is made up of

another pleasant evening en- Gardens to see the game bet- The Bells have two sons, Ron, ween the Leafs and Rangers. 13, and Robbie, 21/2, and a Won't someone please come to daughter Lynda, 7.

Elgin Mills - Jefferson News Correspondent Leonard Lomas - Phone 884-3000 The advisory board held its Neighborhood Notes Services on Sunday at St. monthly meeting March 2.

The women of the church met received a trophy from the com-

young people.

The annual public speaking

have lost a sense of worth.

A teacher who does not have

a positive sense of worth, she

warned, can destroy the faith

a child has in himself, "and

it is devastating to see an un-

Following the presentation

Vaughan Trustee Noreen

of the report, trustees quest-

Lee enquired into the suc-

cess of the language arts pro-

gram in an open area school.

Miss Prosser replied that an

open area gives a greater fac-

ility for team planning, but

program can be done in the

ordinary self contained class-

new, she pointed out, "There

are no pat answers to the

question now, and I have to

admit that personally I would

find it very difficult to teach

"Is there a co-ordinated

effort in diognosing pupils

with learning problems in

the kindergarten and early

years?" asked Markham

Miss Prosser explained

Trustee Dr. William LaCroix.

that the board's Special Edu-

cation Consultant David

with the board's Speech

Therapist Susan Peters has

conducted a study and some

testing in the field of aud-

"It is certainly most im-

itory discrimination.

Macdonald, in conjunction

in a large area,"

The concept is still quite

happy child in a classroom."

* * * *

ioned Miss Prosser.

various Toronto parishes atten- The date of the open house at

By Corporal Walter Schmidt

Once again, on Thursday, sev-|by Warrant Officer Frank Jederal cadets went to the rifle licek with Flight Sergeants range at Aurora. There the cad- Wayne Good and Gerry Topham

Many young men are already 25-yard indoor range.

sed and the troops are ready to Fred Bell of 28 Naughton 778 squadron will be choosing air cadets. Join them now and go over the top. Hockey week will Drive, Richmond Hill, is the new cadets who score in the high have something backing you up Doings go over the top. Hockey week will Drive, Richmond Hill, is the new cadets who score in the high have something backing your soon be upon us. Billetting is assistant accident prevention 80's and 90's to shoot in a confor the rest of your life!

> Public School and Collingwood Wednesday nights. The routine Collegiate Institute. He worked will completely outdo last year's

by some members of the Rich-Toronto International Airport been involved in line con- and all work as one. Most of

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