

Upper Grades Arithmetic In Our Winnetka Public Schools

By Mary A. Reese

The work in arithmetic in the first seven grades needs little or no explanation. The only difference we find is that the child progresses according to his individual ability and consequently when he reaches the upper grades must have his own work as a foundation on which to build and not the work of the class.

By the time he has finished the seventh grade, he has an understanding of the fundamentals of mathematics and is ready now to apply these to business topics.

But the topics themselves are more important than the examples usually presented in connection with them. How many of us ever learned very much about insurance, taxes, stocks and bonds from the numerous examples we worked?

It is our aim in the eighth grade so to vitalize these subjects that they become live subjects to the girls and boys not that they will have a comprehensive knowledge of business but they will get enough to lay a foundation for more as the needs arise and to have an understanding of business terms which they will hear and of which they will read.

Learn Simple Banking

The employees of banks often complain of the ignorance of many grown people about the simplest forms of banking. We hope the majority of the children at least will have their own bank accounts some day and in order that they may in a measure be prepared for that time, they are learning how to open an account, how to make out checks and deposits, the value of savings account and other functions of a bank. This they learn by actually filling out checks and stubs in their own check books which have been printed for us in the school printing shop. They make deposits in the school bank and balance their statements. The earnestness and the joy they put into this work makes us feel that it is worth while.

The subject of stocks and bonds was always a dead subject as presented in the old arithmetics and gave the pupil little or no idea of the real meaning of investing in stocks and bonds. To vitalize this, the classes form a stock company, electing their officers and holding meetings. Each one decides how many shares of stock he wishes to buy and whether he wishes common or preferred stock. Making out a check to the company for his shares he receives a certificate from the secretary of the corporation. Given net proceeds for both a successful year and a poor year the class finds the amount of dividends declared and each one reckons the amount of dividends he receives. The corporation issues bonds and these

are also bought and paid for by the girls and boys.

Arouse Interest

Some may think the subject is too large and corporations differ so greatly that it is a waste of time. But we are only attempting to teach the rudiments of the subject. The main aim is so to arouse their interest that they will want to know more. We believe this has been done as many have talked over these things with their fathers and have learned more than they did in class.

Much of the work in these business topics must be of an informational character and belong quite as much to a course in civics as to arithmetic. Therefore the work is largely developed in class discussion but these discussions are followed by tests on the most essential points and each one is held responsible for these tests.

In addition to the minimum essentials in both the seventh and eighth grades (that part which every one must have accomplished to finish the work of the grade) an advanced course is prepared. This is entirely individual and the child works as far in this as he individually is able. As the essential part is expected of the slowest, the majority will do some of the advanced work and many can finish all. As the eighth grade advanced work is designed as a help to high school mathematics, the children are urged to work as much as possible of this if their other work is up to standard. The attempt has been made to fit the work to the needs of the children and not fit the children to the course prepared.

COMMUNITY HOUSE CALENDAR

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14, 1921

Do you know of any foreign men or women who would like to have the opportunity to learn English? If so, send them to Community House next Tuesday evening, and enter them in the English classes for foreigners which are being conducted there. These groups meet each Tuesday evening. The fee is small—merely a membership in Community House—the returns are beyond measure.

Monday, November 14

Afternoon gymnasium classes for boys at 3:45 and 4:30; Camp Fire Girls, Miss Pease's group at 4 o'clock in room 4; Mrs. Lynne's group in room 2. Evening—Gymnasium classes for men, at 7:30 and 8:30; Modern Woodmen, Rooms 6 and 7 at 8 o'clock; North

Shore British-American society, Assembly room, 8 p. m.

Tuesday, November 15

All-day meeting of Community House Sewing circle in rooms 9, 10 and 11. Afternoon—Fancy dancing in the gymnasium for girls at 4 and 4:45; meeting of the Camp Fire Council in Neighborhood room at 3:30. Evening—Gymnasium class for young ladies at 7:30; gymnasium class for Friendship circle at 8:30; meeting of Friendship circle in the Neighborhood room at 8:30; classes in English for foreigners at 8 o'clock, men in rooms 2 and 6, women in rooms 4, 9, 10, 11.

Wednesday, November 16

Morning—Gymnasium class for women at 9 o'clock. All-day meeting of the Woman's Society Sewing committee, rooms 9, 10, 11 and the Neighborhood room.

Afternoon—Boxing and wrestling for boys in the gymnasium at 4:15 and 5; Camp Fire Girls, Mrs. Marshall's Group room 4, at 4 o'clock.

Evening—Social meeting of Winnetka teachers in the Neighborhood room at 6 o'clock, dinner; indoor baseball in the gymnasium.

Thursday, November 17

Afternoon—Gymnasium, classes in social dancing for boys and girls at 4 and 4:45.

Evening—Troop 1, Boy Scouts, in the Assembly room at 7:30 o'clock; men's club dinner in gymnasium.

Friday, November 18

Afternoon—Camp Fire Girls, Miss Matz' group at 4 o'clock.

Evening—Motion pictures in the gymnasium, at 7:15 and 8:45, "Serenade." Dinner, Scott Avenue circle, in Assembly room.

Saturday, November 19

Afternoon—Gymnasium, general activities for boys, 2 to 4; young men, 4 to 5; volley ball for men, 5 to 6.

Evening—Scandinavian Pleasure club in the Assembly room at 8:30; rehearsal

of the Community Drama club in the gymnasium at 8 o'clock.

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