

Examinations start for school's students

St. Robert's will once again engage itself in the annual ritual of Christmas examinations starting Dec. 16 through to Dec. 22. Approximately 1,300 students will begin their travels through their exam schedule—striving to be the best of their abilities as they set pen to paper ready to meet themselves in light of an academic challenge.

Although the preceding weeks of this mandatory exercise are very hectic and filled with nervous anticipation, 28 Grade 12 art students concurrently reached their own individual apex.

The artists culminated their first term two-dimensional arduous anatomy studies by creating a three-dimensional nativity scene. When in the final phases of construction not only did the project raise a few eyebrows, but it for a moment tore the staff and students out of

St. Robert's

Jackie Simke



their educational ozone layer.

Of life-size proportions (approximately 4 ft.), the figures of Mary, Joseph, Jesus, three wise men, three shepherds, a donkey and a camel were constructed with a chicken wire skeleton and papier mache "flesh". The project commenced only 3 1/2 weeks ago, and the students have been working feverishly so that the creche would be ready for display during the exam schedule in the front foyer.

Mrs. Josie Schwarzli (Dean of Arts) instituted the idea and directed the project keeping an eye on her "Michelangelos" as they worked in groups of 2 or 3 on each seper-

ate component. She felt that with each day every pupil became more attached to his/her work and developed the sense of pride necessary for such an undertaking to be successful.

It would be a falsehood to state that no one ran into circumstantial or technical difficulties along the way, and Mrs. Schwarzli said there was, at first, a reluctance of the students to acquaint themselves with their messy medium.

However, once they were up to their elbows in glue there was no restraining their enthusiasm. Even Massimo Batini, chuckled Mrs. Schwarzli, who was extremely enthused about the whole ordeal found himself tangling with the devils papier mache.

In the end, Massimo not only helped create the creche, but could be credited with a new design for the school uniform, using a generous amount of glue to develop the variation.

Technical difficulties were admirably overcome with the celebrated camel that Mrs. Schwarzli "hon-



Teacher Josie Schwarzli makes some final adjustments on the nativity scene at St. Robert's High School.

estly didn't think was going to make it," when minor surgery was performed on a portion of the stomach which had so cooperatively caved in.

Nor can it be stated this masterpiece came to pass with a lack of artistic affection... especially when the kneeling Shepherd named David received an apology every time the students had to papier mache his derriere!

Even the student teacher, Mr. Wenzl, got into the act, and stayed until 5 p.m. on Thursday to help the procrastinate camel along. Mr. Wenzl felt the project made the pupils "self reflective and helped them realize again what Christmas really is."

Comfortingly, Mrs. Schwarzli "hon-

Schwarzli stated, "They haven't lost the meaning."

Co-operation and an all too rare sense of giving were the prevalent characteristics of the project, and evidence of this is that the nativity scene will be donated to St. Mark's Parish in Stouffville. The church building is still under construction, but will be able to soon boast the beautiful creche.

Father J. Adams came to the school last Friday to bless and accept the work on behalf of his parishiners, and commented on how lively it was to see students with a God-given talent creating something that would inspire the infant to the elderly.

Considering the Grade 12 art class is

one of the three inconvenienced groups that had to migrate to a regular classroom for the academic year due to fact the art department is splitting at the seams.

They, after having to rearrange the furniture twice in a 45 minute period and leave no trace of arctic activities (a task to which Mrs. Schwarzli attributes any grey hairs), truly did create their own small miracle!

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Saturday, December 18: Puppet Show (Food Court) 10:30 a.m./11:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m./1:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 19: Carolers (Charles Dickens Singers) 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 21: Barber Shoppers - Sing-a-Long Carols with Hugh Martin at Noon - Lewis McLeod at the organ for three days.
Tuesday, December 21: Stouffville Carolers (Evenings)
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