

Computers a big hit for staff and students

Two years ago, in 1981, St. Robert offered its first computer science course; a course designed to familiarize students with computers through practical experience. This created quite a bit of excitement between both pupils and teachers of the science department.

Now, two years later, the excitement has not faded. The computer science classes are filled with enthusiastic young programmers and the school is finding more creative and efficient methods of use for our calculating comrades.

A perfect example of the innovative use of the computer would be our school bookstore. For years, students have suffered through long lines to get the books they need for their courses. This year, through the creative genius of the science department, the book store is run by computers.

David Moulds, a

student of St. Robert, designed a program at the request of his science teachers. The program is based on a list of codes, one for each type of book. When a code is punched into the terminal, the computer automatically calculates the price of the book and then totals the books bought. The student receives a receipt for his/her purchase and the bookstore gets a complete record of all sales. The teachers say it has made the job twice as efficient and much more reliable.

Our timetables, which require massive amounts of organization, are also done by computer. The private firm hired by the board for this job is called COGITO. The employees of this company work in association with Mr. Day (our vice-principal) to schedule classes, write course descriptions and so on.

If a student was to need further course

outlines, he could go to the library computer. This is a computer intended for student use. Its greatest advantage is its Teldion, a device which enables it to tap into other computer systems. Pupils will be able to get guidance in information, news, weather reports and more. Mrs. Darby (our school librarian) hopes that both she and Mrs. Churchill (our librarian aide) will get to utilize

St. Robert Report

John MacBride



ize the computer to help keep the library organized.

These lovely ladies weren't the only ones with that idea in mind. Our main office has introduced computers, or more specifically word proces-

sing, as a new tool to help with the workload. Notices and letters can now be typed and corrected before they are even printed. The computer may possibly be used to keep records in the future. While the effect of

the new system on the staff has been great, the effect on the students has

been fantastic! We have forty-five computers in our classes, which are used

in computer, science, math and science courses.

Dr. James N. Lott Dr. Wayne D. Harding

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