

Teachers, parents talk about sex ed.

By KATE GILDERDALE
Orchard Park Home and School information night was held to update parents and staff on the board's policy on family life and sex education in the public school system. Board of Education consultant Jean McClafferty was guest speaker at the event last Wednesday.

Outlining the program, Ms. McClafferty noted that the focus is on integration and showed how the topic is covered in the curriculum, from kindergarten up. "We try to talk about more than just facts," she explained. "To achieve balance, emphasis is placed on the importance of loving feelings, caring, and special relationships, as part of sexuality."

Angie Cumbers, mother of a child at the school, asked whether parents were involved in development of the information booklets supplied by the board and Ms. McClafferty confirmed that they were.

On the subject of AIDS, Ms. McClafferty advised that a speci-

fic program was being set up for grades 7 and 9, with the emphasis on changing behaviour and prevention. "The focus is on abstinence and monogamous relationships, as it is when we discuss pregnancy," she explained.

"We, as parents, don't have to be an encyclopedia of facts or have all the right words," said Grade 8 teacher John Sandham, "as long as we start with warm family relationships. Children know where they are in a loving, secure environment."

Grade 1 teacher Elaine Baxter suggested that parents could deal with the subject of sexuality naturally, from an early age. "Often we wait too long; then our children don't turn to us, but get all the wrong ideas from other people," she said. Ms. McClafferty agreed. "Always keep the lines of communication open."

Following the presentation, Principal Jan de Laat opened the floor to general questions from parents. Ms. Betty Scuse voiced concern about lunchtime supervi-

sion by monitors. Mr. de Laat noted that the program seemed to work quite well and said no better alternative had been found. Several parents felt strongly that the supervision was inadequate, despite patrolling by teachers and lay attendants during the lunch break.

Teacher Mrs. Brown pointed out that it was a very difficult job for the monitors, who are in grades 6 and 7. "A lot of kids don't even need to stay for lunch," she said. "We did a survey in one class and 11 kids who stayed had mothers who were at home."

"I think we are asking far too much from 11- and 12-year-olds," parent Sue Kea commented. She expressed concern about safety and noted that she would hesitate to let a 12-year-old babysit for her children. "And we are talking about 28 kids in one classroom," she added.

Mr. de Laat acknowledged her concerns and said he would consider other solutions from parents or staff. Parent Gary Fisher felt

that teachers should not have to get involved in supervision. "They are entitled to their lunch break," he pointed out. Home and School president Jean Edwards suggested the problem be referred for discussion at the next meeting.

In conclusion, Mr. de Laat advised parents that the growth explosion originally forecast for the school now seemed unlikely to take place. On current figures, he estimated an increase of about 40 students for September 1988, up from 500 at present.

Although seven portables would be in place for September, they would now consist of a 'six-pack' (six classrooms forming a single unit) and a single. "If money can be found in the budget, the six-pack will be attached to the main building, effectively forming another wing," he said. Parents were cautioned that grants for next year were lower than the board had anticipated.

Looking at current enrollment, it was hoped that classes would be

at a level of about 25 students, and at this stage, no split grades are planned. Mr. de Laat thanked parents and those teachers who had given up their evening to be present at the meeting.

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UCW holds seminar

By LAURIE TOWATA-ROY (649-2296)
By SANDY HILL (649-2653)

The Oshawa Presbyterian U.C.W. is sponsoring the 8th Annual Young Women's Seminar. The guest speaker, Mrs. Evangeline 'Vange' Warren, will discuss coping with bitterness and resentment. The conference starts at 6:30 p.m. on May 9 at Hampton United Church.

A book sale is to be held at the Book Room in Toronto. A registration fee of \$3 must be sent before April 29. All those interested in attending should contact Maureen Ward at 649-2133.

Registration forms are available for both the Men's Slo-Pitch and Ladies' Fun Leagues. Every Sunday night, John Marks and the

men in town get together for a little recreational 'lob' ball. The season starts May 29 and continues through the summer. Application forms must be returned by April 30 to John Marks on William Street, Box 223 Claremont.

The Ladies' Fun League is looking for more players for the Thursday night games. The season begins after the Victoria Day weekend. The only requirement is that players must be 18-years-old or over. Please contact Mariene Norton at 649-5400.

Claremont Co-op Nursery School is having its annual bake sale and open house at the Claremont Community Hall April 30, from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Well wishes go out to Lloyd McGregor and Charlie Redshaw, who are both in hospital.

Elva Symes home

By MAJORIE WOODLAND

Elva Symes is now at home and slowly, but steadily, recovering from an Easter Sunday car accident that also involved her daughter, Barbara Puckrin. It will be a while before they will be able to resume their former activities.

Alf and Doreen Woodland of Delta, British Columbia, recently visited the Woodland home here. Alf has had his own business for some time, which involves a good deal of travelling to Petro-Canada service stations throughout the province.

He and his brother-in-law were involved in what could have been a very serious accident when they struck a pair of

deer. Fortunately for them, they were not badly injured.

To mark Baptist Women's Day, the pastor's wife, Dawnna Manzo, conducted the service, with several ladies assisting. Ken and Beatrice Hockley brought a set of excellent slides showing interesting historical attractions from their vacation to the Holy Land. Mrs. Blaine Hockley was the guest soloist.

Mrs. Irene Alderson of Parkview Home is in better health of late. She enjoyed a visit with her daughter and son-in-law, Earla and Dudley Wilson of Whitby.

Mrs. Verna Bunker has undergone additional knee surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital in Peterborough.

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