

Ballantrae P.S. loses its vice principal

By KATE GILDERDALE

When vice principal Denny Boyne leaves Ballantrae Public School to become principal at Aurora Heights the beginning of January, it will be with decidedly mixed emotions.

"Ballantrae is a really terrific school," he stated. "The staff is outstanding, the community has been supportive and the students have responded really well to the staff and to their own families. I would be very proud to have my own children come to

Ballantrae."

In addition to his duties as vice principal at the school, Mr. Boyne is guidance counsellor and teaches physical education to the primary grades.

"It's becoming more common for principals and vice principals

to be transferred after the school year is under way," observed Mr. Boyne.

"The school is now in operation and joining part way through the year gives you an opportunity to sit back and analyze problems and staff," he said. "You can often make better decisions for the next fall that way."

Mr. Boyne has been with the York Region Board of Education for 15 years; before that he taught with the Essex County Board where some of his experience was in open concept classrooms.

"I was full-time guidance counsellor for a number of years in Newmarket and I've been here for two and a half years as vice principal," he said.

At present, Aurora Heights is a dual tract school, which Mr. Boyne says will enable him to learn more about the French immersion program as well as allowing him to improve his French. Next year, it will revert to a single track English program when Lester B. Pearson Public School opens to accommodate immersion students.

"I'm not sure how the change will affect Aurora Heights," he stated. "I haven't had contact with them yet. I'm going there for the first time next week, than I'll have a better idea of what's happening."

Although he's looking forward to the new challenge, his loyalties will stay with Ballantrae "until the end of the term."

"That's why I haven't given a whole lot of thought to Aurora Heights yet. I'll be spending time there over the Christmas holidays, finding out more about it."



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