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page 13



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page 17

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 please

page 4



JK return planned for September

MIKE ADLER
 Staff Reporter

A Junior Kindergarten should be opening this September in all area public schools, says the man picked to plan JK's return to York Region's district board.

Dean Bodkin, principal on special assignment, will present his plan to bring back the program — cut in 1996 before it could be fully introduced — to a board committee Monday. Children born in 1994 would be eligible.

The board approved the return of JK last month. It was thought some schools might not be ready to offer it in September, but yester-

day Bodkin said his goal was a Sept. 8 start in all schools.

A recent board report said new residents of the region are disappointed to find no JK is available, especially when they discover it is offered by the area separate board. "Families with pre-school age children residing in York Region comment regularly on the inequity of opportunity," the report said.

Some local schools need minor renovations to accommodate the program.

At Whitechurch Highlands Public School in Stouffville, a washroom addition is considered and the Junior Kindergarten class will displace one other class to a portable, the board has said.



LOST IN OZ: Claremont Public School presented *Alice in Oz*, a musical comedy, Tuesday and Wednesday. Here are, from left, Ben Voss as the Mad Hatter, Julie McKeiver as Alice, Tara Landon as Kitty, Lindsay Wood as the Marching Hare, Brent Marks as the Wizard of Oz. In this scene, the characters in the background are sobbing as Alice sings about wanting to go home.
 Photo by LORI EMMERSON

@random

Police auction
 today

You don't have to be a thief to benefit from the proceeds of crime. It's time for the annual police auction.

York Regional Police will be displaying thousands of dollars worth of seized and

unclaimed items, including bicycles, furs, jewelry, office furniture and computers.

The auction will be held Saturday, May 9, at the Markham Fairgrounds on McCowan Rd. The auction itself begins at 9:30 a.m. The doors will open at 8 a.m. for early registration and viewing.

Proceeds from the auction will go toward the police budget.

NEWSLINE
 640-2100

Parents' views sought

MIKE ADLER
 Staff Reporter

How much power should parents have in their local schools? The provincial government wants your opinion.

This week, Ontario's Education Improvement Commission launched a discussion on the future role of school councils.

Some parents look forward to a time when the still-fledgling councils can shape schools to reflect their communities. Others fear added powers for councils

will lead to inequalities across the public education system.

"I believe that parents' active involvement in schools is the best way for them to help their children achieve," Ann Vanstone, co-chair of the powerful commission, stated in a release.

Spokesperson Beatrice Schriever said the commission wants to hear the views of teachers, principals and school trustees as well as parents. You don't have to be a member of a school council to offer comments, she said.

These six key questions are part of a discussion

■ Please see page 3 ■

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