

Treat bullying reports seriously: student

From page 23.

"Sometimes, someone might tell on someone just because they don't like them," said Sakina, a Grade 5 pupil.

"It depends what's going on," said Andrew from Grade 6. "If someone is bugging you I understand, but you should try to stop it yourself."

Candace, a Grade 8 student, highlighted Dr. DiPasquale's admonition that adults have to listen.

"If you tell and it's not a big deal, what's the point?" she asked.

All six either had been bullied at some time or knew of bullies.

Grade 8 student Helen said she was bullied verbally when she first came to the school and Andrew said he had been taunted and made fun of.

Joanna, a tiny Grade 4 student, said other children teased her about the food she ate.

"It makes me feel bad," she said.

Matt, in Grade 7, said he knew a bully but "he didn't do anything to me. I didn't tell but if it got worse I would have."

Candace told of a boy in her class who was bullied by isolation.

"He's not liked very much," she said. "He doesn't get included. All he does is read. He's sensitive and people tease him. Will it change? I don't know."

After Dr. DiPasquale's opening, students were allowed to select which two workshops they wanted to attend.

In some ways it's a sad commentary on the community at large that we need to have this conference.

Jay Solomon told the students in his workshop he remembered what it was like to be bullied, but admitted he didn't have the answers to bullying.

He asked the children if they had heard about the Abbotsford, B.C., schoolgirl who committed suicide recently because she could no longer bear to be bullied. All the students knew the story.

"If that isn't the saddest case I've heard about, I don't know what is," said Mr. Solomon.

For principal Ruth Lambert, sadness also entered the picture.

"In some ways it's a sad commentary on the community at large that we need to have this conference," she said.

Planning for the day-long workshop started two years ago and cost \$10,000, said Ms Lambert, the money derived from school fundraising projects.

"I strongly believe the best way to deal with bullying is to educate the children from Kindergarten to Grade 8," she said.

Although Ms Lambert insisted Doncrest does not have a lot of bullying, she said planning for the conference began when staff noticed an increase in detentions and suspensions.

Since then, the school has reduced negative behaviour by monitoring halls, introducing character education and tabling guidance periods into every grade to focus on anti-bullying.

"Most children feel confident now talking about bullying," she said. "We'll judge the success of the program by the number of children willing to talk."

Kids battle to see who can read most

BY PATRICK MCALPINE
Special

It's a literary showdown as Markham children are preparing for the ninth annual Battle of the Books competition.

Grades 4, 5 and 6 students from 14 participating schools are reading novels from the selected list of 45 classic and modern titles. The contest challenges the students' comprehension of the stories through a series of questions.

Battle of the Books is organized by the Markham/Unionville branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women.

It was started to increase literacy and interest in reading among youths.

The competition is Wednesday, May 8 at 7 p.m.

at Coppard Glen Public School, 131 Coppard Ave.

Unionville man opts for cash in lottery win

Unionville resident Jordan Dalakoudis is \$60,000 richer after winning the Big Ticket Lottery.

Mr. Dalakoudis, 52, purchased the ticket at Markville Shopping Centre before the April 18 draw. His ticket won a Jaguar S-Type 3.0, but he opted the cash option instead.

"This is such a nice prize. I have never won a thing before in my life," he says.

Mr. Dalakoudis says he plans to use the money for a trip to Hawaii with wife Anastasia and share some of the remaining cash with his three grown children.

Registration

ART CLASSES IN UNIONVILLE NEW SESSION BEGINNING MAY 14 / 02



DAYTIME & EVENINGS
Beginner Drawing and Painting
Intermediate Drawing
Watercolour and Acrylic Painting

call 905 887 4996

INSTRUCTOR:
J. MAYER-GRIEVE A.O.C.A. (HON.)
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
AS A WORKING ARTIST AND TEACHER

YOGA

Firm, Strengthen, Relax
Six Classes in this Ancient Discipline
Starts Tues., May 14th or Thurs., May 16th
9:30 to 10:40 a.m. or 7:30 to 8:40 p.m.
Please register by Monday, May 13th
Call Anne Taylor (905) 475-3742 today.

Private Swimming Classes

- June & July
- RC Instructor/Lifeguard
- Backyard Unionville Pool
- Kristen Maunder (905) 477-1973

Brighter futures start with Kumon!

Kumon Math and Reading Centres help students build the confidence they need to succeed in school - and in an increasingly competitive world. Your local Kumon Centre offers convenient and affordable learning programs. Better math and reading skills, stronger concentration and improved self-confidence are just some of the benefits of the Kumon program.

Kennedy & Steeles	905-415-1674
Hwy 7 E. & Kennedy	905-946-1969
16th & Woodbine	905-477-2937
Hwy 7 E. & Markham Rd.	905-415-8666
16th & McCowan	905-946-0929
McCowan & Denison	416-431-3815

KUMON
MATH & READING CENTRES
1-800-ABC-MATH



Markham Softball Association

2002 Player Registration

Our House Leagues **DO NOT** Interfere with Family Vacations
Season Starts ~ May 13, 2002
(We have evaluations Starting May 6, 2002)

Games : Girls 9 and up - Monday and Wednesday
: Boys - 9 and up - Tuesday and Thursday
: Mixed - up to 8 - Tuesday and Thursday

Season : Twice a week for May and June ~ we cut off for July and August + twice a week for September

Cost : \$70 per child - for 22 times on the field

We still have openings so please call:
Fred Crawford
Tel. (905) 471-2121

Serving Markham for over 50 years

Better Grades Happier Kids



Grade 1 - 12
It can start happening today! With Oxford's personalized programs and low teacher-student ratio, your child will see results almost immediately.

- Improved Confidence
- Higher Self-Esteem

OXFORD
Beyond Tutoring

www.oxfordlearning.com

Steeles & McCowan 416-321-1646 Highway 7 & Kennedy 905-513-8186

Half Day Preschool

Oxford's Little Readers half day programs offer an enriched, individualized curriculum introducing three to six year olds to reading, writing, math, music and French.



LITTLE READERS
ACADEMY

READING | WRITING | MATH | SPELLING | STUDY SKILLS

MARKHAM READING & LANGUAGE CENTRE

Specializing in reading, writing, spelling & grammar.

- One-on-one Instruction
 - Individualized Programs
 - Highly Successful Multisensory Teaching Method
 - Expertise With Learning Difficulties
 - Regular Progress Reports
 - Positive & Encouraging Learning Environment
 - Grades SK-OAC
- Additional Courses Available:
- Study Skills
 - Note Taking
 - Proofreading
 - Test Taking
 - Webbing

For Summer Registration, call:
Kim Underwood, Director & Certified Reading Specialist

CALL 905-513-0414