

STAFF PHOTO/ERIN RILEY

## ON THE BUS...FOR THE FIRST TIME

Jayden Gwyn (far left), 4, will be starting junior kindergarten when classes resume. He took part in a how-to-ride-the-school-bus session at Newmarket High School Thursday with his little brother Rylan, 3.

# Gap in funding concerns new VP

BY MITCHELL BROWN  
Staff Writer

A Newmarket teacher is the new vice-president of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario.

Dave Clegg, who is president of ETFO York Region, was elected during the federation's annual meeting in Toronto earlier this month.

He will resign his current position to serve as the federation's full-time vice-president in Toronto, where he will be mainly responsible for the federation's political action and public relations portfolios.

"It is hard to believe that ETFO is just four years old," he told 600 delegates during the meeting.

"We have seen so much change since 1998; the only constant factor has been our struggle to defend the integrity of public education and to advance the cause of our members in the face of unrelenting attacks from the government."

In a recent interview, Mr. Clegg referred to the provincial government's

handling of public school boards that have refused to pass balanced budgets to protest inadequate funding.

"Obviously, what's happening in Ottawa, Hamilton and Toronto concerns us," he said.

Another issue Mr. Clegg plans to address is the "glaring gap in funding" between elementary and secondary classrooms.

"We're talking \$751-per-student difference," he said.

"So, if you can imagine the typical class, we're talking about a significant amount of money. For elementary teachers, it means their classes are larger; they have more responsibilities in terms of teaching and supervision and, obviously, it has an impact on the level of service they can provide to students."

The federation represents 65,000 elementary public school teachers and staff across Ontario.

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## Driving 'formalized process'

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and road tests and knowledge test ranging between \$40 and \$100, driving has become an expensive privilege.

Driving has catapulted itself into a league of highly formalized processes that has definitely become a staple of the entire experience.

Marlon White, who is preparing to

take his G test, explains the most exciting part of the experience is "just getting out there". He says, however, driving examiners make the experience more stressful.

But, nowadays, that's what it takes to be on the road to freedom.

Adrian Corsin is a student at St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School in Maple.



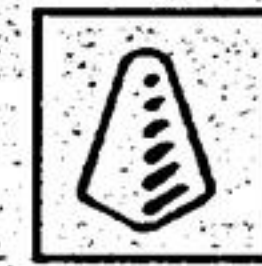
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Barry Cox



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