

AT THE SCHOOLS

MAY TEACHER OF THE MONTH



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Jane MacLachlan of Newmarket and District Christian Academy offers students a well-rounded education that includes spiritual lessons — and she makes it fun. She was chosen York Region Newspaper Group's teacher of the month.

Teaching body, mind, spirit

Christian private school has been home for 19 years for Jane MacLachlan

BY MITCHELL BROWN
Staff Writer

On that thin stretch of wall above the chalkboard, the spot where many teachers string up a banner displaying the letters of the alphabet, Jane MacLachlan has hung a sign that says: "Our God is an AWESOME God."

If Evan Kosmidis' letter is any indication, the Grade 6 students at Newmarket and District Christian Academy would use the same word to describe their not-quite-as-omnipotent-but-still-pretty-terrific teacher.

"She makes learning fun by doing many projects with us instead of just blabbering," Evan wrote.

"My mom really likes her, too. My mom says she balances just the right amount of fun with discipline. I hope you pick her for Teacher of the Month, as that would be a great way to reward

her for her hard work and for putting up with my class."

The York Region Newspaper Group's Teacher of the Month for May can only chuckle when asked if her students are as hard to take as Evan makes them out to be.

'She makes learning fun by doing many projects with us instead of just blabbering.'

"Kids are kids," she says philosophically.

"I've got a class of 12 boys and six girls, and the boys tend to take over sometimes."

One sure way to keep that sort of thing in check is to make sure students stay busy and this is where the 23-year teaching veteran shines.

Volleyball coach, basketball coach, track and field organizer, yearbook creator and manager of the school's library and computer lab are just some of the

hats she wears on any given day.

"I've just found a good fit," she says of the school, where she has worked 19 years.

"It's a community, you know all the students' names and all the parents. It just makes it a much more balanced education for everyone."

Originally from the London area, Ms MacLachlan, a born-again Christian, taught in Toronto before moving to Newmarket, where she found the small-town atmosphere more to her liking.

The school she chose opened its doors in 1979 as part of Grace Church Ministries. Today, the parent-run school hires 15 teachers and staff to serve the needs of about 130 students, who come from as far away as Stouffville and Richmond Hill.

The subjects taught compare with the provincial curriculum, the only real difference being three periods a week of Bible study, as well as the integration of the Bible into classroom instruction.

Take electricity, for instance. In sci-

See SHE, page 16.



Courtney Yip

At the Schools Writer

Provincial platforms will affect your life

Tories, NDPs and Liberals, oh my! Yes Dorothy, the election campaigning has started and all these lions, tigers and bears are at it again. Click your red shoes, and think back to civics class.

Can you remember learning about all the mud-slinging, promise-breaking, power-hungry people looking for your vote?

Actually, those of you who are under 18 don't even get to vote. So who really cares, right?

Well, just because you can't vote, doesn't mean you shouldn't know what's going on in politics today.

Stephanie Lau, a student at Brother Andre High School agreed. "Personally, I have not paid much attention to politics in general, but recently I realized politicians have an immense impact on myself and others my age."

All that political jargon can be quite confusing, but once narrowed down, the facts become quite interesting. Basically, you need to know the three most influential parties.

Not that kind of party, these are the groups that get together and share common interests which then they bring to the public.

There are the Tories, the Liberals, and the NDP (New Democratic Party).

These parties have very different promises and most do affect you in some way or another.

For example, the Tories, led by Premier Ernie Eves, vow to ban all strikes in schools (this could be good or bad for all those who would enjoy a few weeks off). They also pledge to organize an emergency task force to contain and fight any disease outbreaks such as SARS and West Nile virus.

On the other side, the NDP has a plan for our humble little home, earth. The party, led by Howard Hampton, promises to shut down all coal-fired factories by 2007. Giving \$2 billion in education funds is also in their plans, not to mention creating a Charter of Rights for Education.

Then there are the Liberals, led by Dalton McGuinty. This party may be a threat to all you junk-food fanatics. Mr. McGuinty would ban the sale of unhealthy snacks in schools and will make it compulsory for all students to engage in physical activity on a daily basis.

See EVEN, page 16.

ARTISTS & ANTIQUE DEALERS WANTED

for the 8th Annual...



May 24-25, 2003
at the York Region Museum

BOOK YOUR BOOTH TODAY!

Contact Susan O'Brien
905-642-1908, x. 229 • 1-888-211-7288, x. 229
sobrien@yrng.com

