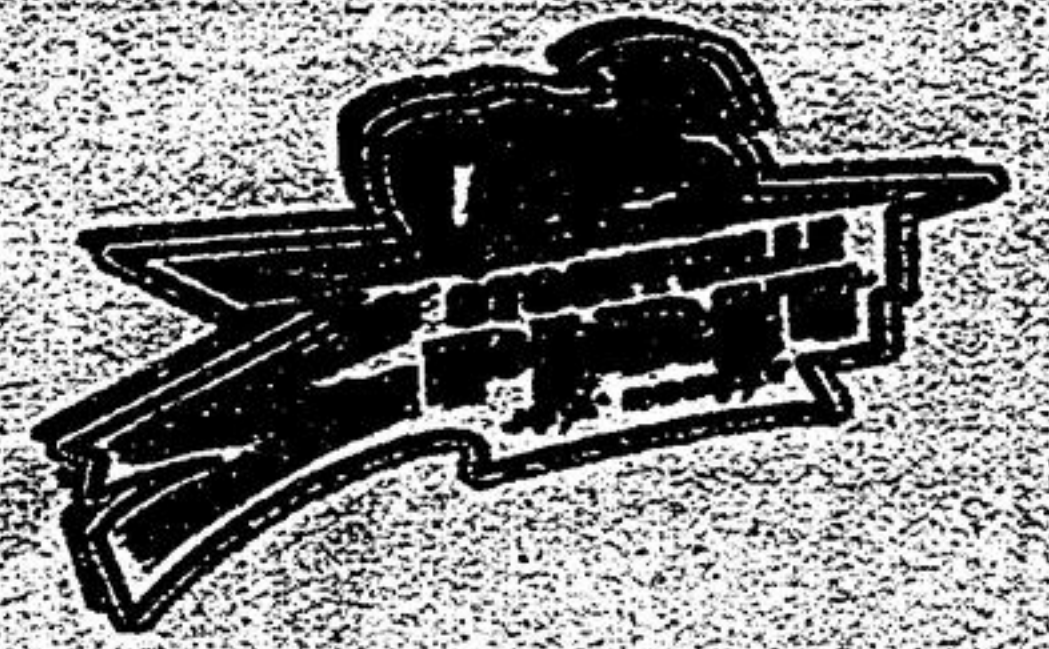


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 2007 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 32 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



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Mission to Mexico aids students, natives

Ex-teacher gives lessons on perspective on trips

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Retired high school teacher Colin Whitebread just can't stay away from Mexico.

The Stouffville-area resident has just returned from his sixth trip there to a city called Cuernavaca and each time has seen great wealth rubbing against abject poverty.

This time, the trip has resulted in Grade 6 Stouffville St. Mark Catholic School students twinning with students in San Juan del Rio, a village near Cuernavaca.

Each time, Mr. Whitebread has taken students from Pope John Paul Secondary School in Scarborough, where he used to teach and is still active, on a journey that turns out to be a life-altering experience for the teenagers.

"It puts (the students') lifestyles in perspective," Mr. Whitebread said.

They visit the Cuernavaca Centre for Intercultural Dialogue in Development in the wealthy city, about 50 miles south of Mexico City, which is surrounded by squatter settlements.

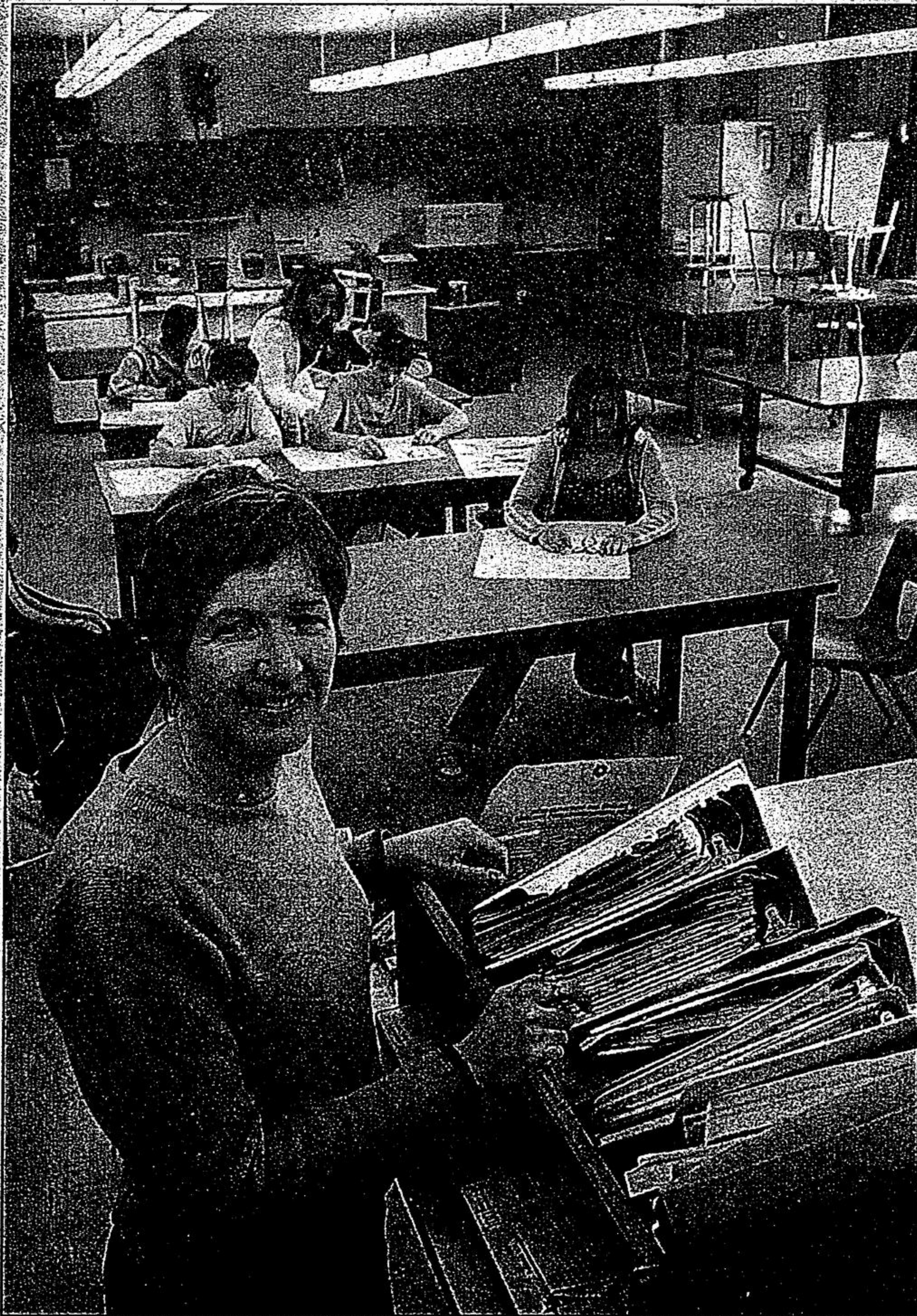
He has accompanied groups of eight to 20 young people.

This time, 11 young people, who are interested in international development and

See YOU, page 3.

SATURDAY FOCUS

High school opening in September big on trades, drama, science



STAFF PHOTO/SIOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville District Secondary School teacher Catherine Chartrand in the classroom with Jhonette Kendall, Ateq Wasim, Jesse Wittred, art teacher Onalee Creasor, Tyler Good, Ashcon Soughyan and Brittany Kendall. Students and teachers are keen on moving to the new SDSS in September. A farewell ceremony is being planned for the old school.

New SDSS nothing like old school

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Excitement is rising as the September opening date for the brand-new Stouffville District Secondary School draws nearer.

No longer will science lab equipment and supplies have to be lugged up and down stairs.

The drama students will have an actual theatre in which to rehearse and perform and a unique tech area will allow students to sample a dozen trades.

The school will serve as a model for future schools being built in the region and will give teachers better facilities to prepare students for the jobs and challenges of the future, principal Arlene Smith said.

The school aims to meet the needs of its students, present and future, who go on to a wide variety of post-secondary education and career paths. Out of the 191 students graduating from SDSS last June, 81 headed to university, 61 went to college, 15 chose apprenticeships and 25 went to other destinations.

The way the new school was planned is unique in itself. Department heads from across York were consulted on what works and what doesn't in their schools. That information was incorporated by the architects designing the new school.

The new building, on Weldon Road behind Sobeys, is well underway and will replace the current school in September. Construction is

See SCIENCE, page 4.

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