



QUEBEC HOME & SCHOOL

NEWS

"The Voice of the Parent in Education"

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Education in the 21st Century

by Ann Cumyn

The Minister of Education, M. Jacques Chagnon, recently mandated a working group, headed by M. Claude Corbo, Rector of UQAM, to prepare a report on exit profiles for elementary and secondary school. This report "Preparing our Youth for the 21st Century", which was made public in June, examines the education required to live and work in the coming decades.

The report concentrates on the education acquired in school, while acknowledging that parents and other partners must be involved. In particular it recognizes that the family must receive the assistance necessary to carry out its role of co-educator and providing support for learning.

Several specific comments serve to underline the content of the report:

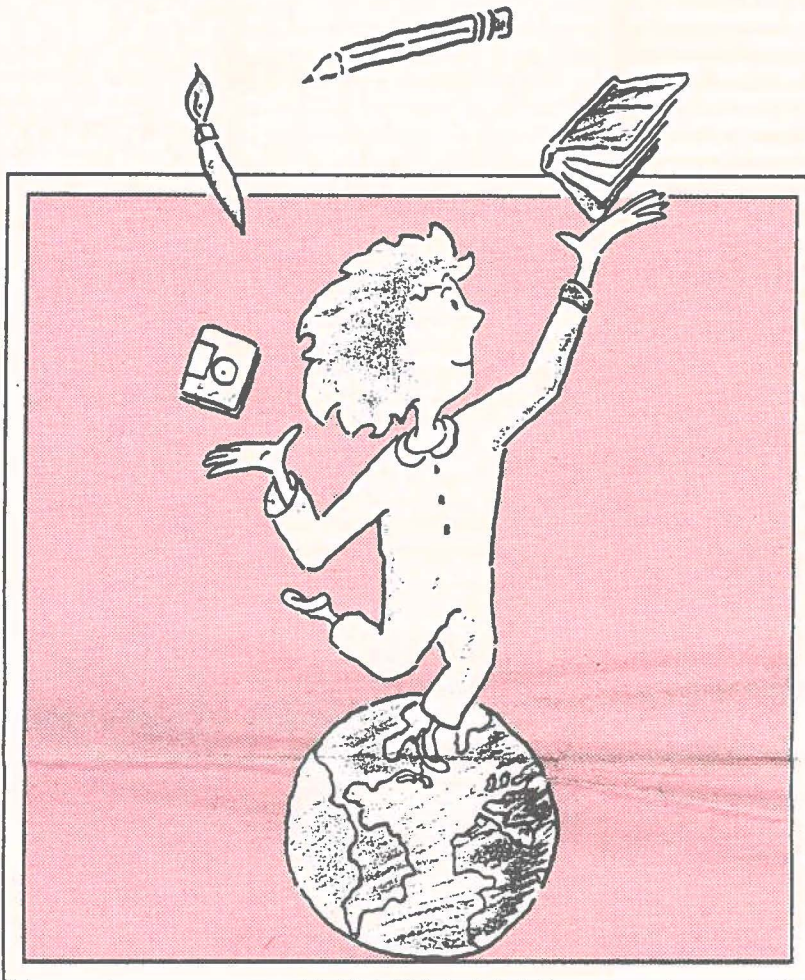
The students in our schools today will live most of their lives in the 21st century.

We can no longer remain unaffected by events in countries once deemed to be "remote."

The increasing interdependence of nations and growing technologies are resulting in the creation of new jobs. While the nature of many of these new jobs remains undetermined, it is known that to date 50% of these new jobs, and soon 60%, require 17 years of schooling.

Functional literacy was defined in the 1950's as having a grade 3 education, in the 1980's as having a grade 6 education and today as having a grade 9 education. What will it be in the next century?

The Corbo Report is divided into three major areas: a look at society in the 21st century with its shrinking world and evolving



technology, the role of the school in preparing students for the future and the particular skills that students will need to possess by the time they leave both primary and secondary school.

In the first section of the report the authors examine the international scene and the growing interdependence of nations, suggesting the respective skills that will be needed in the areas of language, history, geography and culture. They recognize the knowledge explosion and the fast growing technologies and the consequent scientific and technological background requirements, with particular emphasis on the ability to use information technologies. They consider the new complexity of social life and the skills and attitudes needed to live responsibly in the new economic, social, political and cultural reality.

The second section deals with the role of the school. According to the authors of the report the school must:

- Ensure the intellectual development of the students.
- Enable the students to learn and to develop a taste for learning.
- Introduce students to the world of culture.
- Foster the students' social interaction and prepare them for social roles in adult life.
- Educate the students, enabling them to grow to their maximum potential and to succeed.

To aid the school in its carrying out of this role the report makes the following suggestions.

- There should be a greater focus on the intellectual development of the student.
- The essential learning to be provided by the school should be specified and that its acquisition should be assured through methodical exercises and repetition.
- The student should be given a basis from which to understand the growing knowledge and technology, and to place these developments in the continuum of human achievement.
- The school has a contribution to make in preparing students for the new social roles required by a world undergoing vast changes in its institutions, in its economy and the nature of its work force, and in the relations between different cultures.
- Since achievement in school is such an important factor in successful employment, the school must cater to the different tastes, aptitudes and talents of its students.

The final section deals with the specific skills the students need to acquire by the time they finish elementary and secondary school. The authors place these skills under six general headings. Methodology, Language, Mathematics, The Social World, Science and Technology, and Physical Education and the Arts. (There is not enough space to print these details here. They will be available at the Fall Conference.)

The Minister of Education has asked the Superior Council of Education to undertake a province-wide consultation on the report's recommendations. QFHSA wishes to begin its own discussion of the Corbo Report at a workshop session at the Fall Conference.

Ann Cumyn is the chairman of the Education Committee of QFHSA and a commissioner with the Lakeshore School Board.



QFHSA FALL CONFERENCE — open to all THE FAMILY: THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

PLENARY: "Challenges for Families in the 21st Century"

Not only is the world getting smaller, it's right here on our doorsteps. Take a look at the diversity of people who make up today's Montreal. We want to work and to play well together but, at the same time, to retain our individuality and our unique culture.

Self-image and self-esteem are key issues. How do we define ourselves? What hierarchies are we dealing with? How can we make change happen? Tena Montague will explore these themes with us.

Tena Montague — educator and parent — acts as a consultant for parents, school boards and universities in Canada and the U.S. A member of the Faculty of Education, Trinity College, Burlington, Vermont, Tena lives in Lennoxville, Quebec.

Following a nutrition break mid-morning, delegates will be treated to highlights from the play "Our Heritage" performed by students of John Rennie High School. Gordon Blackman will introduce this segment and will also share his experience of developing and teaching a new and innovative Black History course. Mr. Blackman first offered this course as an after-school program and it has grown to a full, open-to-all-students, history course.

LUNCH (included in registration) and **GUEST SPEAKER. DISPLAYS** will give you a chance to find out what is new in education, safety, etc., plus fund raising ideas.

WHEN: Saturday, October 22, 1994

WHERE: John Rennie High School (Pointe Claire)

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - afternoon session

Step 120: One small step for a school, one giant leap towards preventing school failure

This inclusive resource centre at Westmount High School is home base for adults who offer their services — 2 supervisors, 10 support staff, 30 mentors, 100 tutors — and students who are in need of counselling, tutoring, mentoring, tracking, nurturing. The lines of communication are open and response is rapid.

Workshop leaders — Joyce Morrison and Gary Leschuck, teachers and co-ordinators of this program at WHS, will highlight and explain their successes and triumphs.

Learning for the 21st Century

QFHSA will begin its study of the Corbo Report in preparation for a provincial debate on school exit profiles. This will be an opportunity for an initial exchange of ideas.

Workshop leaders — Ann Cumyn, QFHSA Education Committee Chairman and school board Commissioner, will chair this workshop. Judith Newman, Vice-Chairman of the Superior Council of Education and Past President of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers, will be on hand as a resource.

Math Matters: Making Math Meaningful

Vicki Zack, a Grade 5 teacher at St. George's School, will speak about putting into practice the goals envisioned by the NCTM Standards (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics). She will share the ways in which her students are becoming confident problem solvers who are increasingly able to reason mathematically, and to communicate their understanding to their peers and teacher.

Workshop leader — Dr. Zack recently received a 3-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant to continue her research into children's work in complex problem solving.



Opinion

Quebec Recognizes Deficiencies In Education System: Again

by Joseph Mugridge

Education Minister Jacques Chagnon, showing concern for the inferiority of our province's education system, commissioned professor Claude Corbo, of UQAM, to propose what students should know on completion of both elementary and secondary education. Corbo and his task force presented a subject by subject breakdown which is very impressive and filled a full page of the Montreal Gazette on June 19th of this year.

Three days later, Joan Fraser, in her Gazette column, fielded a few questions, mainly in the area of literature, about Corbo's spread. Her main concern, however, was the debating of this new proposal by the Superior Council on Education. Fraser did not mention the council, but stresses the need for parents to get involved and not leave the debate to the 'professionals' or 'educators'.

Fraser pointed out something that we teachers have noticed as ever increasing over the past twenty-five years, the lack of literacy and numeracy by graduating students. As teachers, we hear, "You

teachers are not teaching anything to the students". We teach what is handed to us by those professionals which Fraser mentioned. Couple this with a system in which schools compete to show a high number of graduates and what do we have? Statistics, I believe, for this year state that 28% of the high school graduates in Quebec will be functionally illiterate.

Thirty years ago the Parent Commission Report drew attention to Quebec's inability to provide technically trained personnel for the needs of industry. Millions were spent on new schools with technical programmes, but the two-fold purpose of those programmes did not materialize. The programmes were intended to supplement the academic curriculum so as to produce either capable apprentices for industry or more knowledgeable professionals. The 'educators' quickly segregated students as being academic or technical, the latter being considered as incapable of dealing with academic material. What was not recognized at that time was the deterioration of the academic system. Had the bull been taken by the

horns and both academic and technical curriculums set firm with solid objectives which students were compelled to meet, there would not be the problem of today. Only the CEGEP of the Parent Commission has contributed to needs of industry for technical personnel. Quebec has something over one hundred thousand jobs requiring technical personnel and no one to fill these jobs.

Now, three decades later, there is another proposal for upgrading an inferior education system. On whom will the parents place the trust for the great debate? There is a vast difference recognizing what students should know and ensuring that the required material is properly learned. Students resemble electricity flowing in a circuit or fluids under pressure, they always seek the path of least resistance. Someone is required to block those paths of least resistance and direct the students on the paths requiring more work and serious learning.

Joseph Mugridge is a teacher with the South Shore School Board and has taught MRE for 14 years.

What is a Principal?

A Tribute to Mr. Lo

Is it enough to say that a principal runs a school?

The person who runs the school WELL must have more than administrative skills in order to maintain efficiency and harmony.

So many points of view...so many opinions to consider...so many needs to meet...so many people to keep happy. All this to achieve within so many limits and guidelines. It seems like an impossible job and for some people it might be.

We at McCAIG SCHOOL have "LUCKED OUT", as our children say. Our Mr. Lo manages to do all of the above and more. Furthermore, he does it with finesse and humility. Through his leadership and presence he has created a McCAIG FAMILY.

He not only knows the name of each of the 587 students but he is aware of each one's character and situation. His staff have been treated to his open and supportive approach. The parents are secure in knowing that someone is looking after the best interests of their children.

Mr. Lo has the ability to recognize needs and the virtue of wisdom to see to the solution of all the challenges of his job. He has succeeded in establishing a direction of standards and discipline to realize harmony and success in our school.

Mr. Robert Lo is leaving McCAIG to retire. We are grateful to have had the privilege of his contribution to our school. Mr. Lo is truly a special man. We will miss him a lot. We wish him health, happiness and the success he deserves in his new ventures.

Susan Mosher



Mr. Lo with some McCaig students standing beside a red oak tree planted in his honour.

Abbot Fundraiser

On February 15, students and teachers of the Documentation and Library Systems Department at John Abbott College held a successful Bake Sale, organized by Barbara Glasman's Public Relations class.

They donated a portion of the profits to Marion Daigle, who is in charge of the Literacy Project. The class divided the rest of the money to buy items needed by the department and to contribute to a field trip to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Marion Thorpe, the class rep of the second year students, spent three weeks organizing the sale, which had Valentine's Day as its theme. Everyone contributed homemade baked goods. The class worked on beautiful posters which were displayed throughout the school.

Marion Daigle spoke to the Public Relations students about her efforts on behalf of literacy and accepted the donation. Literacy includes such skills as speaking, listening, and numeracy, in addition to reading and writing, she explained.

Daigle's goal is to bring together all the resources in small communities in Quebec in order to help the children grow up literate.

These communities have no bookstores or libraries outside the schools. The funds donated by the students go to mail books to these areas.

by Goldie Srebro-Adler



Marion Daigle accepts cheque from student Lidia Gumieła.

LETTERS



Minister of Justice Replies to Beacon Hill Students

Mr. Colin, Babin, President Kids for Peace Beacon Hill School Beaconsfield, Quebec Dear Mr. Babin:

Thank you for your letter concerning the subject of firearms.

As the Prime Minister indicated in his remarks during the election campaign, this government is very concerned about violent crime. As Minister of Justice, I share this concern, and I believe that Canadians have a right to expect their government to take appropriate action in this area. Some of the actions will include legislation dealing with firearms and other weapons, and difficult decisions will have to be made.

While I recognize that many Canadians own and use firearms prudently and responsibly, the presence of firearms under any circumstances carries with it a risk for the safety of all of us, and I am convinced that more can and must be done. Over the coming months, my colleagues and I will be reviewing options in this area, and I assure you that no option will be excluded from our review if it offers a reasonable prospect of addressing concerns about violence in any area of our society.

One possible initiative is the placing of prohibitions or greater restrictions on handguns and other restricted weapons. Other areas

which will be examined include access to ammunition, sentencing, a registration system for all firearms, and the use of prohibition orders to ensure that those who have demonstrated that they should not be given access to firearms are in fact denied such access.

My colleagues and I have also begun to examine the difficult problems of firearm smuggling and theft from legal owners. Strict legislation must be enforced, and part of that enforcement must be dedicated to ensuring that access and the registration controls which apply to law-abiding and responsible firearm owners are not simply evaded by others.

I believe in strong and effective gun control measures, and I am committed to taking effective steps to reduce violent crime and improve public safety in Canada, but I appreciate that the interests of all Canadians must be taken into account in developing and implementing criminal justice policies.

Our commitment is to strict legislation, but I assure you that we will also be fair in developing and implementing firearms control policies. The legitimate concerns of farmers, hunters, and subsistence hunters will be respected and we shall make every attempt to minimize any inconvenience to

these users.

I appreciate your views regarding this important issue.

Yours very truly,

Allan Rock
Minister of Justice

Dear Home and School Association:

Thank you for the book. The class really likes it. So did the teacher. We will show it to the principal. I know that she will like it. Winning made us feel very proud and happy.

Yours truly,
Keith School
Room 125

Editor's note: These students very kindly made us a table centrepiece for our 50th birthday celebrations in April.

CHARITY

BEGINS AT HOME

So give to the Quebec HOME and SCHOOL and watch your children BLOOM!

(Tax Deductible)



The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations is an independent volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education, health and general well-being of children and youth by encouraging public interest in education, promoting cooperative efforts among parents and educators and fostering public opinion favourable to the advancement of education.

Quebec Home & School NEWS

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Homework

A necessary pain

OK, kids. Here's the bad news. You really have to do your homework.

It will help you to be a better student, says a psychology professor at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Not only that, Michael Pratt adds, it's even better when your parents help you with your long division, book reviews and science projects.

"Kids are not going to like this," Pratt admits. "But the evidence shows that homework is important."

Parents should help

In a four-year study on how children learn, Pratt discovered that the more homework children do, the better their grades. He also discovered that the more support parents give children in doing their homework, the higher their school achievement.

"The important factors are doing homework and spending time with a parent," Pratt says. "The better quality of help a parent can give, the more useful it will be."

He suggests that parents and teachers work together to make sure that the homework students receive is relevant and shows the parents what their children are learning.

Homework is a quite important part of school," Pratt says. "Because it provides a direct link between parents and the school. That homework link needs to be strengthened and used."

Parents who allow their children to take all responsibility for their homework are not doing them any favors, he says.

Youngsters appreciate structures and guidelines while learning, or they are likely to ignore their work.

Parents who take over their children's homework and do it all, are also not helping their children learn. Students who aren't chal-

lenged or not allowed to do the work themselves, get bored.

Mistakes necessary

But parents who guide their children by showing them the correct method of completing a task, and then stepping back to allow the youngsters to do it alone, are giving the students knowledge that will stay with them.

In one study, Pratt had graduate students teach youngsters to do long division, using a "scaffolding" technique. That means the instructors initially do the work, then take the students through the task step-by-step, then step back and let the children do it themselves. He found that the youngsters' ability to do long division rose by 30 per cent.

Pratt says the secret is to let the children make mistakes so they can see where they went wrong, but not so many that they get discouraged.

It's in that grey area where learning takes place, where you're partly right and partly wrong," he says.

Pratt then decided to expand the study to examine how parents could better help their children with homework. He found that because youngsters are imitators, and copy adults, they learn best when they are shown what to do then allowed to do it.

"It's a process by which the skill is handed over from the adult to the child," he says.

That "scaffolding" technique works well with all types of knowledge, from schoolwork to behaviour, he says.

"Kids who learned with scaffolding were maintaining the skill and were way ahead of other kids," he says.

"Once they learned it, they learned it."

This article appeared in The Gazette on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 1992, and appeared in the Beechwood Banner, Feb. 92 newsletter.

Co-President's Message

Exciting Times Ahead

The school year of 1994-1995 promises to be an interesting, exciting time. The school board reforms alone provide for a need to stay on top of the ever changing news. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations has taken up the challenge of keeping its members as informed as possible. As was the case last year we will again provide the opportunity for information meetings for our members as the needs arise and concrete information is available. The Education Committee is a well informed, knowledgeable group of people who will continue to share their expertise with all concerned and interested parties. Q.F.H.S.A. would like to be a constant factor in the schools of the future in Quebec. In the past we have shown ourselves to be a stable, ever present entity on the educational scene. We would like to continue to be here for the students of the future and hope to expand into as yet uncharted waters. It's hard to believe that there are schools and school boards who do not have the pleasure of having Home & School Associations in their schools! We hope to rectify this — working together we can.

The "kick-off" of our year is the Think Tank, an informal get together of the local executives, where we try to set the tone for the coming year. This year, this evening will be a showcase for our Federation office where a

wine and cheese reception will be held. All the services available for our members will be on display. The dinner will be highlighted by a motivational speaker who will explain group dynamics and how we can all work together to achieve our goals.

Another tradition to be carried on this coming year is that of the sharing of ideas and feelings with all our members, with the Fall Conference. John Rennie High School will once again be the place to be on Saturday, October 22nd. The Fall Leadership Conference will continue with "The Family" as the theme and will highlight learning styles and techniques of our society. There will be guest speakers, a theatrical production, and workshops. Please try to attend and bring a friend. I promise that you won't be disappointed.

As I write this I am contemplating a peaceful, restful summer holiday. I wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy summer and hope we all come together in the fall ready for a challenging year which promises to be an exciting time. Remember that together we can make a difference because — Kids Are Worth It.

Wendy Buchanan



Calvin C. Potter named Professor Emeritus

Calvin Potter, Past President of Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations, was recently named Professor Emeritus of Concordia University in the Faculty of Commerce and Administration.

Born in Montreal, Cal obtained his BSc in Commerce from Sir George Williams University (now incorporated into Concordia University), then his Master's and PhD in Business Administration from McGill University. Dr. Potter began his long and distinguished teaching career at McMaster University in 1954. In 1960 he organized and chaired their Department of Finance and Accounting, a post he held until 1967. Then in 1968 he returned to Sir George Williams to organize and chair the Department of Finance. In 1978 he went back to teaching students, his first love, and to research.

To be named Professor Emeritus is a most seemly tribute to Calvin Potter's contributions to teaching and to the University. At Home & School, over the years we have become aware of the depth of Cal's knowledge of the history of schooling in Quebec and, in particular, the source of the English Protestant school system as it currently exists. The author of count-



less briefs on equality, education, the Canadian Constitution, rights, etc., on our behalf, Cal is an inspiration to us all.

In 1993 Cal was honoured with the Eugene Forsey Award, given by the Chateaugay Valley English-speaking Peoples Association, to honour a senior citizen for their devotion to Canada and for extraordinary service to their fellow Canadians and their community. In 1992 the Canadian Home & School and Parent-Teacher Federation, hosting their annual meeting in Montreal, honoured Cal with the Samuel Laycock Award, which is presented to an outstanding educator in the host province.



From left to right, Nicole Pierre, Danièle Landry, Amal Fahmy, 1994 Reader's Digest Leadership in Education Awards winners, École Barclay, Montreal.

Teachers at École Barclay

Win 1994 Leadership in Education Award given by the Reader's Digest

A team of three teachers, Amal Fahmy, Nicole Pierre and Danièle Landry, at École Landry, has been selected as one of eight national winners in the 1994 Reader's Digest Leadership in Education Awards. For their success in instilling a love of school and learning among their students in this multi-ethnic elementary school, they will share \$5,000, and their school will also receive \$5,000 from the Reader's Digest Foundation of Canada.

The team was selected from among 200 nationwide nominations submitted by parents, school-board officials, school administrators and fellow educators. Seven other national winners have also been named by judges representing the Canadian Association of Principals, Canadian Education Association, Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation, Canadian School Boards Association and the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

École Barclay is an elementary school located in one of the most socio-economically depressed areas in Montreal and serves a multi-ethnic population. To develop a partnership between the parents and foster greater interest and awareness of their children's education, teachers visited the homes of each of their students. As a result of these visits, and other

activities such as school open-houses, students and their families have developed a greater sense of pride in their cultural heritage. Parents have become much more active in school activities, the students have gained self-esteem and because their parents are more involved, have developed a love of school and learning.

In announcing the winners, Ralph Hancox, president of the Foundation, said: "Fellow educators immediately acknowledge these individuals as outstanding and gifted professionals. These awards recognize the high levels of benefit that their students, their community and the teaching profession all have received as a result of their efforts."

Since 1989 \$380,000 has been awarded by the Reader's Digest Foundation of Canada through the Leadership in Education Awards to educators who have made significant contributions in their communities. To date more than 2,000 principals and teachers, individuals and teams, have been nominated by their peers for these awards.

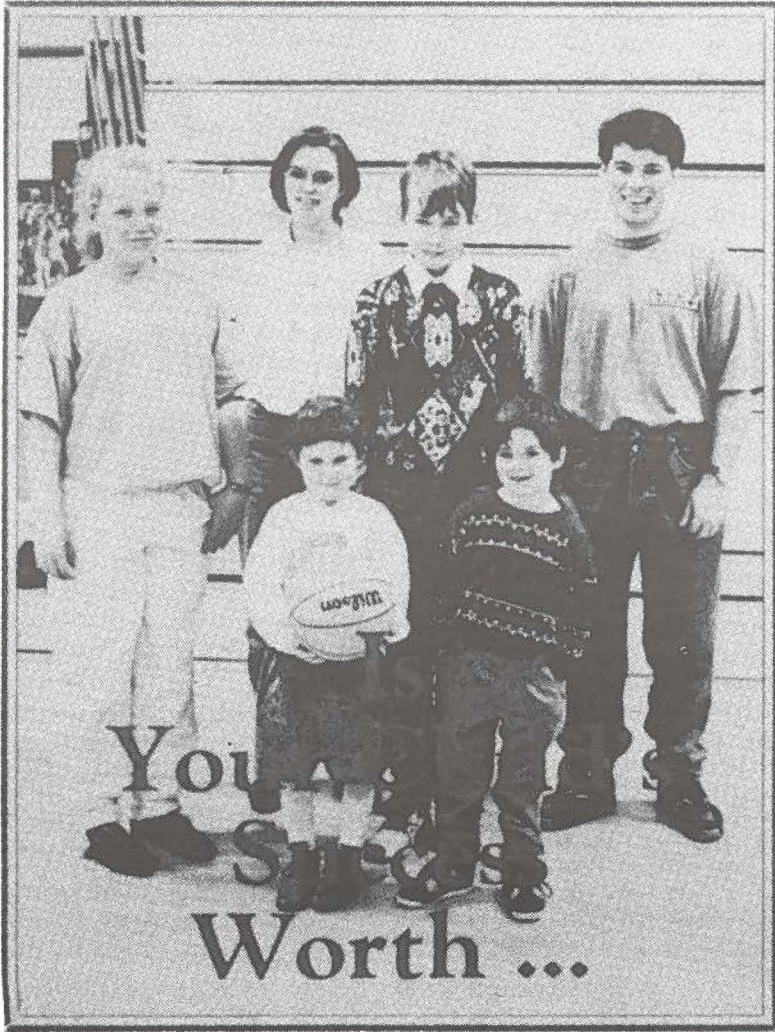
Editor's note: Recognizing budget restrictions in today's school library, this year Reader's Digest also donated books (value \$500) to the winning schools. What a wonderful idea and they have great books!



FOCUS on MEMBERSHIP



Is Your Child's Success Worth...



...a few hours of your time? Twenty years of research indicates beyond a shadow of a doubt that when parents are involved in their child's education, the child does better in school and parental involvement has a direct effect on the achievement of the school.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

Join your local Home & School Association. Learn about the issues affecting your child. Be an informed member and work with other parents and teachers to improve the quality of education. If you can spare some time, be a volunteer in the school. There are many ways you can be of help.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

This is one way to be involved in your child's education. Being involved in the education of your child at home is not enough to improve schools — a school's overall level of achievement increases when parents are actually involved in the school. By showing an interest you are telling your child that education is important. When parents are involved with their child's education at an early age the beneficial effects persist throughout the child's academic career.

WHAT IS HOME AND SCHOOL?

Home & School is an organization of parents and teachers working together. It is a volunteer, non-profit, non-partisan association made up of individuals like you and me.

Home & School Associations work on behalf of children and youth both locally, provincially and nationally. Curriculum content, school bus safety, literacy, violence on

television, social affairs and child welfare, creating non-violent schools, parental involvement — are a few of the current issues being discussed with government(s).

DO I HAVE TO ATTEND ALL THE MEETINGS?

No. The meetings are arranged to give you additional information on issues, new curriculum, new programs and other services related to the education and well-being of your child. You are always welcome and any concerns, suggestions or ideas are important to your local association. Attend as often as you can.

WILL I BE PUT ON COMMITTEES IF I JOIN?

No, only if you volunteer.

Our children's future as well as the economic and democratic future of this country depends on our involvement in the education of our children.

YOU CAN INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT AND YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

In 1645, ONE vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.

In 1649, ONE vote caused Charles I to be executed.

In 1776, ONE vote gave American the English language instead of German.

In 1868, ONE vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.

In 1923, ONE vote gave Adolf Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

Editor's note: "Stolen" from New Brunswick Federation of Home & School Associations pamphlet.



Membership/Publicity/Newsletters and President's workshop held at QFHSA office in June. Attending from Seignory School were Anne Griffiths, Incoming Home & School President; Vikki Kourl, 93-94 President; and Pam Godfrey, Membership Chairman.

Home & School Associations Celebrating Anniversaries this year



We would like to congratulate those Home & School Associations who are celebrating "milestone" anniversaries this year. We thank you, and all your family members over the years, for your hard work on behalf of all the children in your school.

50+ YEARS AS A H&S (prior to 1945)

Willingdon Elementary

located in:

N.D.G. in Montreal

45 YEARS AS A H&S (1949)

Hudson High School (originally included the elementary level)

Hudson

30 YEARS AS A H&S (1964)

Edgewater Elementary
Lindsay Place High

Pincourt
Pointe Claire

25 YEARS AS A H&S (1969)

Alymer Elementary
Dorset Elementary

Alymer [Western Que]
Baie d'Urfé

APPLICATION — QFHSA

Supporting (Family Membership) . . . \$12.00

Affiliate (Group) Membership . . . \$50.00 eg. School Board, School Committee, Parents Committee, School Council

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

(Please do not forget to include post office box number or apartment number if applicable)
Your membership card will be forwarded to you, immediately, upon receipt of your application by:

Quebec Federation of Home & School Association
3285 Cavendish Blvd. #562, Montreal, Quebec H4B 2L9 (514) 481-5619
Membership includes the bi-monthly newspaper and affiliation with the Canadian Home & School and Parent-Teacher Federation.



Pat Waters, QFHSA Vice-President, spoke about publicity.

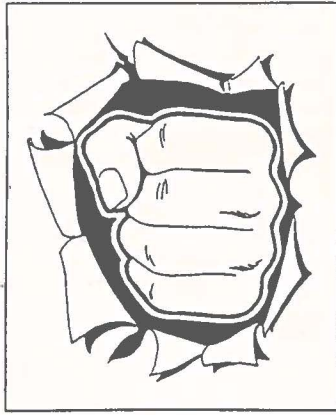
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Workshop (held Fall of 1993)

Two men stand, facing each other in a hallway. Although they are at arm's length from each other, the tension in the air tells us that they are uncomfortably close. There is strong eye contact and a restlessness in their stance that warns us to stay back. Suddenly, one man surges forward. The other, caught off guard, does not raise his arms to defend himself. A quick, firm hand on the shoulder as the first man strides by assures the second that there is nothing to fear.

Who are these men and what are they doing? It's October 25th, election day for the general public and a professional day for the teachers at Westmount High. The workshop being taught is entitled *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention*. We are exploring the meaning of personal space. How close do we allow

others to get to us? When do we feel uncomfortable? The ideal distance varies widely between individuals — anywhere from halfway across the room to almost touching. Why is it important to know this? It's part of the age old message: it's not what you say but how you say it. Aggressive body language can make an uncomfortable situation worse. And this is going to be true no matter where a situation arises — in the home or at the school.

Although the workshop was geared towards teachers and the school setting, there were a lot of valuable lessons to be learned for life at home between teens and parents as well. Stages in the escalation and de-escalation of a crisis were explored. We discussed "losing it" and overreacting. Your toddler runs towards you in the park.



Suddenly she falls. She gets up and looks towards you. You leap up from the park bench and run over to her. The panic in your voice as

you shout, "Are you all right? Did you hurt yourself?" are all your child needs to hear. She wails and tears begin to pour from her eyes.

Let's back up. Let's return to "suddenly she falls." This time you smile at her from the bench. You call out, "Look. You got grass on your knees. Brush it off, come on over here and I'll give you a hug." No tears. No wailing. Simple? Not really. It takes an adult to react like this, to ignore that feeling of panic that the child within us instantly evokes.

What else did we learn? We talked about empathetic listening and dealt with issues of personal safety. Just as we learned in the CPR course last year, the first concern should always be for personal safety. You cannot make something better if you get hurt, too. Then we discussed kicking,

biting, grabbing, choking, and hair pulling. We limited the more practical applications to kicking, grabbing and choking. My recommendation? Don't try this at home, or at school, either!

The day ended with an open book test and the feeling that there are a lot more things to think about than the right answer, printed in black on a cold, white page.

Anna Marrett
Westmount High Home and School

**NOVEMBER
is
FAMILY VIOLENCE
PREVENTION
MONTH**

News from Kids for Peace



M.P. Clifford Lincoln with some members of Kids for Peace during visit of Mr. Lincoln to Beacon Hill School.

Our mothers really liked the cards we made for Mother's Day, and the dads liked the greetings and poems we wrote for Father's Day.

Many of us made drawings and wrote slogans for SCHOOL SCOOPS, which is Beacon Hill's "newsletter."

MP Lincoln visits

We had written to Hon. Clifford Lincoln, our Member of Parliament, and asked him to visit us some time. Well, he did — on the 16th of May! He talked to Grade 6 students in our library, and they had a chance to ask him questions. Mr. Lincoln told about his ideas for a better environment, such as cleaning up the Great Lakes. He explained the difference between the government of Canada and of Quebec, as he has worked for both.

He even told us a story about a man in India who has helped thousands of people there to have electricity and clean water. Mr. Lincoln delighted all of us by having his picture taken with our club and giving us his autograph. He said he would come again, and sent us a beautiful picture.

The club talked about what D-Day means and read clippings about World War II. In this way we learned more about the horrors of war, and how the veterans hope it never happens again. We also celebrated Environment Week in June; we made posters; we talked about what we can do to help our Earth.

Picnic for Parents

We were afraid it might rain for our PEACE PICNIC, but we were lucky this year. It was just cloudy.

There were a lot of parents, brothers and sisters and friends who came, as well as the Mayor of Beaconsfield, Roy Kemp. Everyone shared veggies, fruit juices and desserts. Mayor Kemp thanked us for inviting him, said he enjoys coming to see us, told us how important he thinks our work is and even wished that all the other schools had a Peace Club, too. He's another person who wants to come again.

We have begun to think about September and the annual Peal for Peace Day at the Lakeshore School Board. Since it is still the International Year of the Family, we will be having a project about this, too. We hope everyone had a peaceful and happy summer!

Colin Babin, President

News from The Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation

Parents and Learning

The annual meeting of the provincial federations was held in St. John's, Newfoundland, in May. The plenary session and workshops held May 19 focussed on the parents role in learning.

When the Quebec Parent Commission proposed the introduction of School Committees, in their landmark report on education in the 1960s, they had concluded that the excellence of the Protestant system, which they described as "the finest in North America", was directly attributable to the strength of the Home & School movement there.

The School Committee became the prototype for sporadic experiments in school governance in succeeding decades. Not until 1989, however, did another provincial government provide the means to enable the active participation of parents in schooling. Other provincial governments have followed.

During this same period there have been extensive studies on the factor of parent involvement in education. Over the past five years wide-ranging research on this involvement has been funded by the *Stay in School Initiative* of the federal government.

The program, *Parents and*



Anne White, newly elected President of the CHSPTF. Anne is from Nova Scotia.

Learning, highlighted the research and its findings and its implications for parents today.



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NEW Environmental Education Program

Jane Goodall, world renowned naturalist, founded an organization called The Jane Goodall Institute's Young Naturalists, in 1991. An environmental education program entitled "Roots and Shoots" aims to interest students in the preservation and care of their environment. The program in-

cludes both curricular and extra-curricular components and would lend itself to an after-school program or lunch-time activity. Dues are \$10 for each ten members, or fraction thereof. i.e. Fourteen members would cost you \$20. The "club" relies on dedicated adult leaders to empower the youngsters

and each club defines its own local objectives and activities.

For further information you can contact Gail Grolimond, Executive Co-ordinator, Jane Goodall Inter-Canada Association, 5165 Sherbrooke Street West, Suite 408, Montreal, H4A 1T6, or telephone (514) 369-3384; fax 489-8748.

Social Affairs Support Services Committee

by Pat Lewis

CANADA & ENVIRONMENT: Our country is among the world's leading producers of garbage, and we also rank high in greenhouse gas emissions. Statistics Canada noted that "Canada is among the top five producers per capita in the world of industrial and household garbage, and among the highest in the production of hazardous waste. Solutions? In October, Ontario will have a province-wide Waste Reduction Week, with special days such as Reduction Day, Composting Day, Zero Garbage Day, Conservation Day, Exchange or Re-use Day and Community Clean-up Day. Perhaps we may suggest that Quebec organize such a project? See *Resources* for contacts (*Green Teacher*), then perhaps Canada will truly be the best place to live, as was declared by the UN in May.

AIDS: Faced with dire warnings AIDS could reach epidemic proportions in native communities, provincial aboriginal groups have formed a national network to fight the spread of the disease. This network should act as a clearing house for aboriginal AIDS material, as the educational system does not seem to be doing a very good job. Albert McLeod of Manitoba said that the issue should be dealt with now, and not wait until statistics are even higher. Being very conservative and polite about the issue is not going to help people, McLeod pointed out.

GUN CONTROL: In June there was a report that guns are coming into Canada at a disturbing pace. Last year, 55,300 restricted weapons were registered for the first time in Canada, according to the RCMP. These are the most dangerous of the legal guns and are the tip of the iceberg. Restricted weapons include handguns and semi-automatic assault rifles — designed to kill people — unlike

hunting rifles. Handguns outnumber assault rifles nine to one. The only effective reform would be to ban outright all guns that are not intended for hunting, with the exceptions of weapons for police and soldiers.

Violent crime as a whole is *not* spinning out of control, *but* accord-

most about not having time for their families.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE: In both Montreal and West Island schools the level of violence is increasing, and both parents and teachers are very concerned. Lakeshore School Board officials have been looking

fact, the principals' associations of the four francophone school boards recently organized a conference on how to take concrete action against the rising tide of violence. All agreed that changing family structures is one of the key problems contributing to discipline problems today. Watch for an update on meetings on this issue.

SMOKING: A federal bill was passed in June that would stamp out so-called "kiddie packs" containing 15 cigarettes. The tobacco manufacturers are very angry about this, as they say they would lose about \$15 to \$20 million because of packages that are already manufactured. The gov-

ernment says the industry was given adequate notice, but the companies vow to continue the fight.

"We are prisoners of a tobacco cartel," says the author of a study that calls for a regulatory agency with the power to fix prices to discourage smoking. The three big tobacco companies are poor corporate citizens and should be held accountable for polluting the nation's lungs, says Léo-Paul Lauzon of the Université du Québec. The study also recommended that Canada pressure the U.S. and state governments to increase their tobacco taxes, too, to discourage cross-border smuggling.



75% of Canadians describe their families as happy!

ing to Statistics Canada gun deaths soared in 1991 and 1992. In 1991-92 the per cent of all gun deaths by handguns rose to 51 per cent. Imagine how much safer Canada would be without handguns.

FAMILY LIFE: According to a very comprehensive survey in June, many Canadians have a falsely pessimistic view of the state of the modern family. Two-thirds of respondents believed that Canada's families are in trouble because of divorce, financial problems, lack of values in society, violence and unemployment. Yet, 75 per cent described their own families as happy and full of love! The survey found that marriage and religion are among the keys to happiness, that watching TV is the most common way that families spend time together and that upper income people complain

for ways of bringing the problem under control. Some 30 workshops have been given this year in the LSB on how to handle disruptive behavior. LSB consultant Margaret Mitchell said, "We are trying to find techniques and strategies to address disruptive behavior. There's no question it's more challenging today than it's been in the past." Jim Wilson, president of the Lakeshore Teachers Association, said that teachers want to meet with parents and come up with recommendations that can be implemented in the new school year. Parent commissioner Elair Lobaton said that violent outbursts are an everyday occurrence in schools.

Baldwin-Cartier, Ste. Croix, Sault Ste. Louis and Verdun school commissions are concerned also with increasing violence. In

RESOURCES

Waste Reduction Week: *Green Teacher*, p. 5, June-Sept., 1994. Contact: Waste Reduction Week Coordinator, Recycling Council of Ontario, 489 College St., S-504, Toronto, ON, M6G 1A5, (416) 960-1025. Free Handbook for teachers; other materials such as posters and T-Shirts. Many other resources in this issue.

Today's Parent: Twice weekly television program; 8:30 p.m. Tues. and Sunday on YTV, Channel 28. The past week dealt with helping children handle pain; the effects of video games on children — by author Penelope Leach.

Tree House: Family magazine that comes out quarterly (free) with *Owl* magazine. May/June 1994 issue: Help Wanted — opportunities for boys and girls to become volunteer helpers during summer vacation. Also: Recommendations (p. 19) for family reading, viewing and listening, plus family-friendly software. Books and organizations are prevalent throughout this small magazine. To contact OWL: 179 John St., Suite 500, Toronto, ON M5J 3G5. (416) 971-5275.

Chatelaine magazine: July, 1994. p. 16b: Article on School Violence; What Do We Do About It?

Canadian Living magazine: July, 1994. p. 21 — Sega spearheads video-game rating system, but Canadians Concerned about Violence in Entertainment group say the system is faulty because there is no way of enforcement. Read about it. P. 75, Good Reading for Summer: Great Books for Long Car Rides.

Today's Parent magazine: April, 1994. p. 31 — Resources for parents with children having Attention Deficit Disorder. P. 34 — Read All About It, best magazines for kids. P. 42. The Balancing Act (Can We Find Time for Work and Family?) Resources on p. 46. P. 60, Article on how to Find best Daycare (p. 62 has sample questions to ask.)



Parenting — Sexuality Groups



For the past several years I have believed that parenting workshops, with an accent on sexuality, lead to a plethora of positive results for parents and their children. In more than one meeting parents have said they are reluctant, hesitant, even shy, in discussing sexuality with their children. Adults in this predicament require a positive non-judgmental setting and opportunities to practice talking about human sexuality. What better place than a parenting group where the conditions are favorable for the raising of concerns, gaining confidence and legitimizing sexuality education? When done with the right recipe parents are then able to initiate conversations about sexuality with their children and everyone benefits.

There is a common belief among many adults that if sexuality is talked about with our children we are, in fact, encouraging them to behave in sexual ways. This opinion is incorrect, but adequate time must be given at meetings, to allow this worrisome thought to be put to rest. Talking our mythologies out and reading extracts from sexuality literature are two avenues used to accomplish this. Teenagers who are in strong positions to incorporate abstinence in their lives have, in fact, received extensive, comprehensive sexuality education.

In the past year, Nancy Stewart, to whom I am married, and I led three parenting sexuality groups. Our achingly simple prescription for parenting-sexuality groups includes the following:

1. At the initial meeting ask parents to make up the agenda and be clear that all subjects are acceptable.

2. The leader(s) must exhibit comfort and knowledge with human sexuality.
3. Create a warm, open, non-judgmental atmosphere which, as time goes by, pays rich dividends.
4. The leader(s) must be seen as a vulnerable caring individual(s).
5. And possibly most important: If as a parent or parents of teenagers you come close to tearing your hair out and running away from home to preserve your sanity — admit to it.

One of the major miracles of our groups was that several fathers appeared and stayed! If both parents attend it is cause for celebration because those families will probably profit to a greater degree than those where only one parent attends. Unfortunately, attendance by both parents is not always possible.

We gave out numerous articles, created a lending library for books and videos and, in effect, extended our once-a-week meetings into the parents' homes. Anyone who borrowed materials gave a brief review the following week and this accelerated the circulation of materials.

Although we had agreed to a one and a half hour Wednesday evening workshop, invariably we ran late. The groups became closely knit and we looked for extended time together because we saw the value of sharing and discussing our common situations. At times there was magic in the air.

Our materials included the following:

1. Anthony E. Wolf's "GET OUT OF MY LIFE but first could you drive me and

Cheryl to the mall?", is a must-read primer for all parents. This is a clear insightful book about many of the scenarios we live through with our children. You can also look for his other book "I'll Be Home Before Midnight and I Won't Get Pregnant." It contains approximately twelve stories which I am certain you will recognize as having been part of your lives and also those of your children.

2. Joanna Cole's book, "Asking About Sex and Growing Up" is an ideal book for parents and their pre-teen children. Its question and answer style covers many situations our children ask about. Other books by Joanna Cole are also worth more than a passing glance.

3. "What Do You Mean" is a 25 minute National Film Board video produced in a Halifax high school. Excellent for parenting groups, parents, high school teachers and other leaders involved with teenagers.

Communication, how we use words, body language, double messages are all part of this video. Well worth viewing. Rental for 24 hours (call 283-4826) is three dollars or purchase is approximately 35 dollars (call 283-9403). If you live outside Montreal the number is 1-800-262-7710.

Should anyone be interested in receiving a complete list of the materials we used please do not hesitate in contacting me through the Home & School office.

What did the parents think of the groups? Many individuals appreciated the support they received and this helped reduce the stress they feel as parents. Others said that

the group came up with ideas leading to solutions which they would not otherwise have thought of on their own. It was often expressed that sharing concerns put family situations in a healthier perspective. They gave each other a sense of validation which we greatly appreciated.

Parents who had felt hesitant before started talking to their children about sexuality. They began showing them some of the available materials which their children might want to read or view. Others, who had covered the subject in a brief and superficial fashion before with their children, reviewed it again in greater depth with them.

When parents said they thought our reading/viewing library was very good and informative, for both them and their children, I felt relief. I needed to hear that as I carried, on a weekly basis, a heavy bag to and from our meetings.

Many saw the groups as a positive experience that parents need on a periodic basis. One set of parents saw it as such a worthwhile event that they continue to meet on a once-a-month basis.

I realize there are different types and structures to parenting groups. The one Nancy and I have evolved allows us to have the elements we believe will give the desired positive outcome. Parents have many subjects on their minds which we discussed at great length and, as their comfort level grew, sexuality became a prime topic. Our recent experiences with parenting groups convince Nancy and me that we are on the right course.

John DeNora

More from our 1994 Annual General Meeting

Resolutions are a very important part of the QFHSA annual business meeting. Those resolutions that are passed by the voting delegates form the basis of Quebec Federation policy.

Again this year, prior to the vote on resolutions, the delegates broke up into smaller groups to "caucus": to discuss the resolutions in depth, ask questions of the person or school sponsoring the resolution and, in some cases, to make a change to the wording. The caucusing was fun, very informative, and a learning experience for all.

The resolutions are presented below with their BE IT RESOLVEDs.



Resolution 94/1 COLLABORATION FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS AND QUALITY LEARNING

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations urge the Minister of Education to make it a priority to open discussion on the concept of the exit profile for appropriate levels of academic and vocational learning in the public and private sectors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations inform the Minister of Education of its willingness to participate in the discussion.

Resolution 94/2 POVERTY AND LEARNING

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations urge the Ministers of Education and Health & Social Services to work together to ensure that all the partners in the student's community come together to provide adequate resources for learning in the home, the school and the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations commend the school boards and other organizations for their collaboration in providing nourishment to students and urge them to continue this service.

Resolution 94/3 COMPULSORY PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge the Minister of Education to maintain at least the current time requirement for physical education for all grade levels and to ensure that fully qualified Physical Education specialists are retained to teach physical education courses.



Resolution 94/4 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge the Minister of Education to give the same accreditation to secondary school leavers whether they have chosen an academic or a vocational pathway; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge the Minister of Education to make vocational education programs available to all secondary school students and to ensure that the course requirements within the vocational educational pathway include quality literacy and numeracy skills.



Shirley Straughton QFHSA Health Issues Chairman on Resolution 94/8.

Resolution 94/5 PARENTS COMMITTEES FOR PROVISIONAL COUNCILS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge the Minister of Education to establish, at the same time as the establishment of the Provisional Councils, a Parents Committee for each new linguistic school board. Membership would be com-



Serious deliberations at Beaconsfield Golf Club.

prised of a representative from the school committee of each school in the territory of the new linguistic school board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge that this Parents Committee should be entitled to direct representation on the Provisional Council.

Resolution 94/6 FAIR AND EQUITABLE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations request the Minister of Education to amend Bill 106 to define an electoral

process consistent with established democratic practices, including:

- criteria for electoral divisions such as physical barriers, population distribution, municipal boundaries, and size, and
- an acceptable variance rate in the average size of electoral divisions within the School Board territory, and
- an appeal process to a neutral third party in the event that disagreements arise regarding electoral divisions proposed by a School Board.

Resolution 94/7 INTEGRATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations request the Minister of Education and the School Boards, to negotiate clauses in the next teacher contract whereby when groupings are formed at the beginning of a school year, teachers and the teachers' unions are aware of the special needs students and their weighting in order to ensure that in fact their classes are not oversized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations request the Minister of Education, the school boards and the teachers' unions to negotiate clauses in the next teacher contract whereby support services from the school board and upgrading of training in dealing with special needs students be made available to teachers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations request the Minister of Education to make more funding available for additional trained help to work with special needs students in the classroom.



Resolution 94/8 GROUP B STREPTOCOCCUS TESTING

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge the Minister of Health and Social Services to implement legislation to provide for routine testing of all pregnant women for Group B Streptococcus bacteria; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations request both federal and provincial governments to give financial support to researchers involved in the preparation of a vaccine for Group B Streptococcus bacteria.

Resolution 94/9 MANDATORY BICYCLE HELMETS

See page 16 of previous issue for complete resolution.

Resolution 94/10 PEER MEDIATION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge the Quebec School Boards Association and their member school boards to implement peer mediation programs, or equivalent programs which have as their aim reduction of violence, in their schools and that appropriate funding be made available.

Resolution 94/11 WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE FOR PARENTS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations request that the Quebec School Boards Association urge member boards to encourage individual schools, administrators and principals, to provide a designated room in each school for parent use.

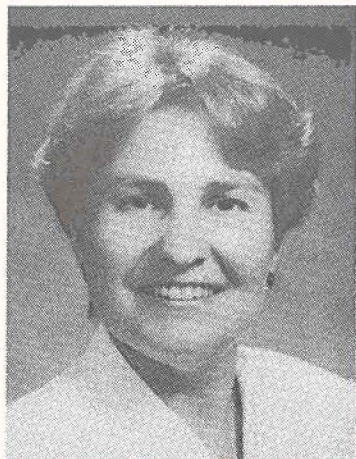
Resolution 94/12 SCHOOL HYGIENE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge their local associations and local Student Councils to inquire of their school administration, local commissioner, and school board, about the allocation and dispersal of funds per student for building maintenance (i.e. provision of soap and towels).



Quebec Home and School 50th Birthday

1994 represents fifty years of Home & School's provincial involvement in education in the province of Quebec. Although local Home & School Associations began here in 1919 it was only in 1944 that they came together to advance their common causes and aims through a provincial organization. The following are messages from some of our partners in education on the occasion of our 50th anniversary.



Jan Langeller, President, PAPT.

As President of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers, it is my honour and pleasure to wish the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations the very best on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary in 1994.

It gives me particular, personal pleasure to do so, as it is within this Association that I began my active involvement as a parent in 1976 when my children began school. It has always been my firm belief that parents and teachers working together in the best interest of the children they share can only result in excellent education.

The PAPT and the QFHSA have maintained contacts over the years and I am sure that this has resulted in closer, more supportive relationships through some very difficult times.

PAPT wishes all Home and Schoolers continued success and we encourage all the good work in which you are involved.

*Jan Langeller, President
Provincial Association
of Protestant Teachers*



Grant Hawley, Associate Deputy Minister, MEQ.

1994 marks the 50th anniversary of the Québec Federation of Home and School Associations and an appropriate and long overdue opportunity to congratulate the Federation for their leadership, their innovations, their encouragement and their commitment to the educational community.

In return, the respect accorded the QFHSA by its partners is reflected in the fact that the Feder-

Some people dread approaching the Golden Years. They don't like the feeling — "You are over the hill — it's all over now". For others the Big Five-0 marks a period where a lifetime of education and training have been tempered by extensive living and working experience. Now one can hope for the development of good judgement and wisdom.

I THINK IT'S NIFTY TO BE 50

Today we are experiencing the most profound and, I'm afraid, potentially cataclysmic period of change in the social history of the earth — population explosion and global pollution pose a threat on one hand, on the other, as the industrial age changes to the technology/information age, jobs are disappearing and lifestyles in the developed nations are being completely rebuilt. Perhaps people will have more leisure time!

The impact of these changes on our schools is profound: parents are sending us students from single parent, extended and dysfunctional families; in addition children who, 15 years ago would have been in institutions, are today side by side in our classrooms with regular students; teachers are increasingly being asked to play many different non-academic roles as the family, church and even health and social services become less and less able to deal with the demands made upon them by a changing society.

To adjust to these changes we need to put together all of the talents and intelligence in our community in an effort to completely re-think the role of education. We must help people cope with the chaos that may very well accompany the pressures we are experiencing. This includes preparing our children to deal with change, to be lifelong learners and, of course, to be comfortable with the new technology. More importantly, we must provide the with the social, work and life skills to help them find their place and live productive and enriched lives in the new age. The workplace will change dramatically. Cooperation and collaboration will be valued more than competition, and teamwork will be rewarded rather than individual effort.

Nevertheless, I believe there will probably always be a place for the creative individualism which has been a critical part of our history. Trying to balance these two apparently opposite views

ation's opinion is requested on any and all changes being proposed to the Québec education system. A proud moment for the Federation was the unusually warm reception given their representatives during the consultation process on the education reform document "Moving Ahead". As per custom, their presentation was well researched, to the point, and delivered in the manner of a caring and involved colleague.

The only way by which today's schools can respond to the multitude and magnitude of expectations being placed on them, is with the open and total support of parents. It is the untiring efforts, the hard-earned credibility and the years of experience in the kid business that makes the QFHSA the driving force behind this vital involvement.

Congratulations to all present and past members and best wishes in future ventures.

*Grant Hawley
Sous-ministre associé
Ministère de l'éducation*



Hugh Macdonald, D.G., Western Quebec School Board.

brings into question some central aspects of our educational philosophy — that the individual is paramount, that competition and independence are traits to be encouraged in our schools.

In the second half of the first century of Home and School and as we speed towards the 21st century, we will need all of the wisdom we have acquired, all of the humanity available, all of the support for our schools we can muster as we search for a restructured education system.

Home and School is uniquely placed in this regard. It draws its strength from its history of cooperative, supportive, partnership between parents and the professional staff in the schools. It transcends the private agenda of different pressure groups seeking "parent power", "personal power" or "political power". It owes no political allegiance except to the teachers, principals and, above all, children who are the heart of the system.

As we do our bit to build the future together for our children and grandchildren, I wish Home and School many happy returns and "a fair wind to your sails".

*Hugh Macdonald
Director General
Western Quebec School Board*

A Great Partnership for School Success

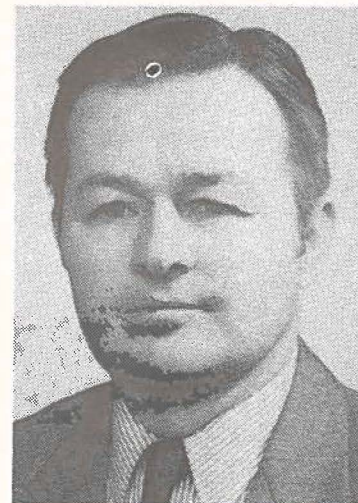
Someone once said, "Where there is an effective school there is meaningful involvement of parents". And how true it is!

Throughout this province schools under the jurisdiction of member boards with the Quebec School Boards Association can count on the continual commitment of parents not just for moral support and fundraising but also for effective participation in school governance via school committees, orientation councils and various other important planning groups.

Without discounting the value of parental participation in helping to steer the direction that the school will take, there is an important message that is conveyed to our students when they see their parents so actively involved in their schools. They realize quickly that school is important and a great investment.

Our schools are very fortunate to have the active participation of our parents. There is little doubt that they play an important role in promoting school improvement and the effective delivery of educational and support services to our students.

The QSBA openly supports



Peter Riordon, President, Quebec School Boards Association, 1991-94.

parental participation in our schools and wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all parents for becoming involved and for being such a visible partner in education.

"Our kids are worth it". Thanks parents for the commitment.

*Peter Riordon
President,
Quebec School Boards Association*



Joan Dougherty, former Chairman, PSBGM.

For 50 years we have lived through profound changes as Quebec surged into the 20th Century. Too often our schools have been in

the eye of the storm.

Debates have raged about which language we should teach, the place of religion in the schools, now education should be financed, how the system should be structured or restructured and who should be in charge of what?

None of these issues has been satisfactorily resolved. Throughout, Home and School has always cared about the things that really mattered, such as, parents who value education and believe in the possibilities of their children and the importance of building strong parent-school partnerships. These were, and still are, essential ingredients of good education.

May your efforts continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

*Joan Dougherty
former Area Representative for QFHSA
former Chairman, PSBGM
former MNA, Jacques Cartier riding*

On Being a Home & School Volunteer

Happy 50th anniversary "Home & School" and thank you for giving me some of the happiest memories! This organization can be proud of its history and I wish it many, many more years of success.

For me personally, "Home & School" was a wonderful introduction to Canadian school life and the educational system in this country. Having arrived from Jersey [Channel Islands] in 1950 my knowledge of the Canadian educational system was scant. How fortunate was I in 1957 when my eldest daughter entered Grade 1 at the New Carlisle High School, to find not only a Principal who believed that the School and the Church (as he once told me) should be the centre of any community, but that he believed that parents should be welcome and encouraged to participate in the life of the school!

I immediately joined the New Carlisle Home & School Association

and felt completely at home. I made many new friends through the organization and learned to enjoy being part of that "family" of parents. No, we were not paid to travel to meetings as are today's school committees, we considered it a privilege to be welcome in the school life of our children.

We had a drive for dishes for the school kitchen and filled the cupboards to overflowing; we raised funds to begin the first commercial course in the school by buying rebuilt equipment, and finding teachers willing to teach additional classes (without extra salary) so that another teacher could be released to teach the course on a half-time basis, all this before the M.E.Q. approved funding for such a course in our school. We were a proud, happy group of parents who always felt free to express our concerns about the school and its operation.

My years as an Area Represent-

ative for the Gaspé Coast were memorable. Again I made many new friends, all of who were as involved at their local level as I was. No task or problem was too heavy or too large for "Home and Schoolers" to tackle, even the trip to St. Andrew's, N.B., to stand outside for hours in order to meet the then Premier of Quebec, René Lévesque, because we could not get to see him in Quebec!

And today, although still a member but not a very active one, I have the same warm, welcome when I join the New Carlisle group for an activity or a meeting — and believe that to VOLUNTEER to work with a group such as Home & School is one of the best ways to keep up communication between our children and their school.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND GOOD LUCK IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS!

*Diane Sawyer, member since 1957
New Carlisle High H&S Association*

FOCUS on the LOCALS

ROYAL VALE



Royal Vale students pulling their weight at our annual Family Funday event in June.

BEACON HILL

Jump Rope For Heart Big Success

The Jump Rope For Heart campaign was a tremendous success this year, due to the organizational work done by parent volunteers, student volunteers and by Physical Education teacher, Janie Ladd Carr. Over \$6000 was raised for the Quebec Heart and Stroke Foundation through all the skipping and hopping of the boys and girls.

The last issue, for the year, of *School Scoops* contained H&S committee news, as well as drawings and other work from students. Thanks to Maggie Tietjen and husband Olaf. Four executive members were acclaimed for office for next year: President, Maggie Tietjen; Vice-President, Norma Chang; Treasurer, Bev Plourde; Secretary, Gloria Meyer. Albert Thorne will be Past-President, and a Vice-President of QFHSA as well.

The Lunch Program run by H&S held a registration for Fall '94, and 178 students are already registered. More supervisors will be needed.

With one exception all the equipment on the playground has been replaced. Many thanks to the City of Beaconsfield.

Lynn Birrell reported on Fund Raising and the various committees involved. The Clothing Store reported a good profit, as did the committee responsible for the first ever Flower and Plant Sale.

Kathy Lange's work with the Helping Hand project made possible two successful collections of needed items for our H&S charities. We have also heard once more from our Foster Child and her family.

This year's Enrichment Program, both at lunchtime and after school, was invaluable. H&S helped to purchase more computer equipment this year. The

various classes and clubs involved in the program added much to the education of the children. The Daycare program, with Cindy Patino in charge, has been quite a success this year and may be expanded next year. It fills a real need at the school.

Volunteers Thanked By Staff

As an expression of their gratitude to the many parent volunteers, the staff, under the direction of Alexandra Shtychno and Claudette Farrera, set up the French Café Bistro for June 8th and invited all volunteers. Soft music played in the background and candles lit up the murals (made by grade 6 French Immersion class), the numerous tables of goodies and flower arrangements. The murals were of Quebec City scenes. The staff dressed in formal black and white to suit the occasion. Everyone had a great time.

The climax of the season was the

DORSET



Dorset Grade 5 and 6 Play, May 1994.

Another Successful Year!

It's hard to believe that the school year is over already. Dorset had an excellent year. Since our last report, we have been very busy. Open House and Kindergarten Registration resulted in 39 new pupils for September '94.

The teachers were "appreciated" the week of February 14-18th. Goodies, cards and a lunch were well received. Students also added their bit by writing on apple-shaped paper, what they appreciated and liked about their teachers. This provided much reading for everyone as they were displayed all over the school!

Winter activities wound down with last ski trips and Winter Fun

Day. Thanks to late snow falls, all the winter additions to our class equipment boxes were put to good use. Two sets of goalie pads were also added to be used for indoor and outdoor hockey. H&S started a Canadian Tire Money Fund, which will be used to help keep the equipment boxes well stocked with appropriate supplies. A box was placed in the office to collect any donated coupons. We have already received over \$100 to put towards purchases.

Clowns

May was a colourful month at Dorset. Grades 5 and 6 presented their play "Clowns". With the help of music teacher Libby McCullough and the Dorset staff, it was a great success. The halls and gym were adorned with posters and decorations which made the whole school very bright and cheerful! The play was presented to visiting schools, as well as parents and fellow students.

At the same time, the grades 5 and 6 presented a display of Chinese Art which they had done. Pandas, eagles, landscapes and other subjects were on display in the Betty Teasdale Library. Everyone was very impressed with the works. May saw the return of the Annual Scholastic Book Fair. It did its usual booming business as everyone stocked up for summer reading and birthday gifts.

New! The Dorset Year Book

Something new — our first year book! It was produced by several ambitious, hardworking parents. Along with the usual student and staff pictures, various group activities and many candid shots from the school year were added, resulting in a very interesting book.

As school wound down, the usual activities took place: various field trips; the Annual Dorset Bike Rodeo on June 8th; grade 6 graduation on June 22nd. Best of luck to all the departing students.

We at Dorset hope everyone had a safe and happy vacation time. Next time we will have news of our Annual Dorset Family BBQ.

Pat Lewis

Wendy Fitzgerald



Sylvie Boisvert, Alexandra Shtychno and Norm Horner of the staff at Beacon Hill School at the entrance to "French Café Bistro", the "tea" organized to honour volunteers.



Teachers Lise O'Brien and Linda Yule at the annual Volunteer Tea at Beacon Hill School, organized by the staff to honour volunteers.

annual H&S BBQ. In addition to delicious food and free cupcakes, there were great prizes in the raffle. Kersti Lestmas and Katrin Kopvillem, and their committees, were responsible for this event and entertainment was provided by the Tweedledees singers and by Mad Science members. Fun for all!

MORE FOCUS

MERTON

We had a busy year!

Parents were lining up before dawn in January deep freeze to register their children for Merton's pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs. Our projected enrolment for September is 287 — our capacity is 306, so we're nearly full. In our first year, only four years ago, we had 85 students registered. Now we'll have almost that number in kindergarten!

First place winners

Congratulations to members of the PSBGM Chamber Chorale who won First Place in the Chorale de Jeunes category of the Montreal Chorale Festival in February. Grade 6 students Ilana Butler, Kirsten Ivany, Eleanore Milkman, and Miranda Oprisan participated.

The Plan D'Action-Dance program funded by the government started in February. Each month a different type of dance was highlighted: Greek with Angelikis Eftaxias, social dancing with Martie Coruchesne, as well as Indian and Afro-Caribbean. The activities are chosen by the teachers with the aim of encouraging a positive feeling about school, thereby preventing future drop-outs.

A "Nutrition Breakfast" was held on March 16th. The students enjoyed muffins, fresh fruit, cheese, milk, yogurt and other healthy and delicious foods. It was great fun for all... especially the younger children (and their teachers) who spent the morning in their pyjamas.

In March the students in Jewish studies went to visit the matzo factory at the Beth Ora Synagogue in St. Laurent. There they saw a short film about Passover and baked (and ate) their own matzo. They even got a special Seder Matzo to take home.

Merton students enjoy lunch!



LUKE METTAWESKUM

Wednesday, June 22nd, marked a special day for Ecole Luke Mettaweskum School in Nemaska. We celebrated our first Secondary V graduation. Prior to this year, all our Secondary V students were obliged to complete high school in other communities. This was the first time that the Secondary V level was offered in Nemaska. These first graduates came from the English sector. Next year, as the program expands, there will be French graduates as well.

The festivities began in the afternoon with the official graduation ceremony. This was open to the public so the entire community was present to offer their congratulations and to express their pride in the educational successes of these, our first graduates.

The five graduates were given a standing ovation as the procession moved through the gym to center stage. Guest speakers included Guy Houle, the present principal of E.L.M.S., Bjorn Olson, the first principal of E.L.M.S. and Anderson Jolly, an elder.

The graduates were presented with gifts from the Cree School Board, with framed certificates, and with jackets, designed especially for the occasion by Lillian Diamond. The valedictorian, Gilbert Wapachee, gave thanks to the parents, teachers and community for providing continual support and encouragement. He advised students that success isn't always easy or fun. It involves a great deal of hard work!



The five graduates: (from left to right) Hattie Wapachee, Phillip Swallow, Jane Jolly, Gilbert Wapachee, Deborah Wapachee.

A special banquet was held in the evening for the graduates and their escorts. Again, the entire community was present. Everyone

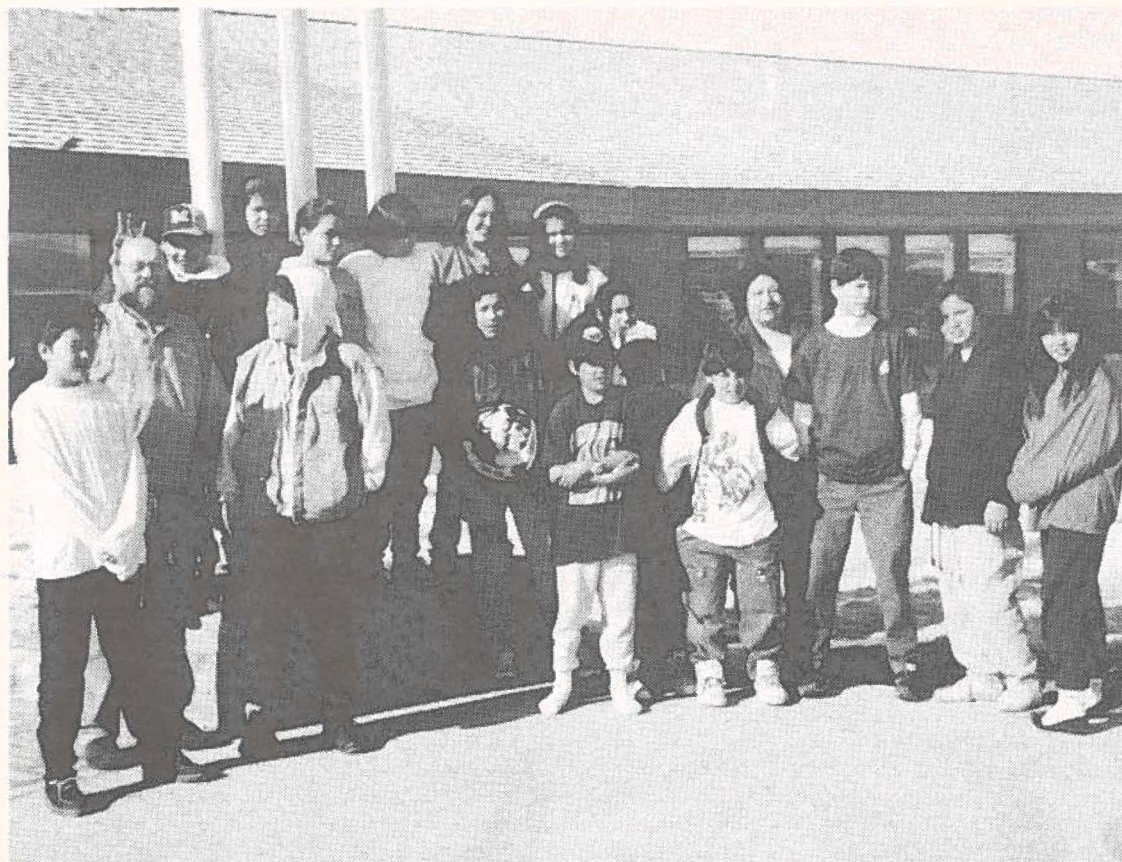
enjoyed seeing our students in formal evening gowns and tuxedos. Well, almost everyone. A number of very young guests mistook the meaning of the formal dress. They thought this was a five-couple marriage and were quite distressed!

But they will remember this moment. For these graduates are an inspiration for the rest of the student body. All five showed com-

mitment, dedication and endurance. They are all planning to continue with their studies and have been accepted to post secondary school programs. Here too we hope that others will follow in their footsteps. But for now there's only one thing left to say as we break for the summer. Congratulations!

Metha Bos

OUGE-BOUGOUMOU



Murray Cornell (left) teaches grades 5 and 6 in English; fourth from right is Margaret Paddy, the Cree language teacher for the school.

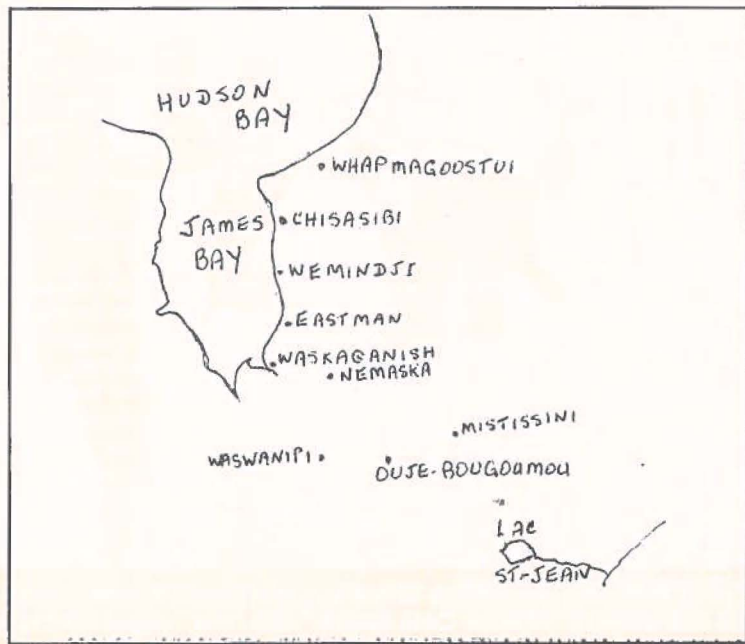
A New Cree Village in Northern Quebec

These two pictures are of Cree children in a new school (opened September, 1993) in the newly built Cree village of Oujé-Bougoumou. The name of the village means "place where people gather" and the name of their school, Waapiitiiwewan, means "vision".

The children choose whether to have their education in English or in French and they all study the Cree language and culture. In addition to classes in the school three times a week, they all spend one day a month in the bush learning aspects of traditional culture, making bannock, finding and producing traditional herbal medicines, working with hides and sewing traditional clothes, and how to net fish in the water.

The English stream and the French stream often share classes such as art and physical education. Students from Letandem School in Victoriaville visited Waapiitiiwewan for three days in April and, when these photos were taken, the senior students were getting ready to make a three day return visit to the Letandem School in May. In September Waapiitiiwewan School will also include grades 7 and 8.

Barbara Milne-Smith



WESTMOUNT HIGH

I ignored the obvious signs of warfare as I passed through the lobby of the building. There was no time to deal with that now. I was on a very important mission. The precious documents that I held had to be delivered. Time was of the essence. I passed a youth. I caught the unmistakable glint of the muzzle of a handgun as he hid it under his shirt. I avoided eye contact. Why risk it? My mission had to come first.

Once the papers had been delivered, I boarded the safety of a bus. As it passed the school, I saw another youth. He held his shotgun out in the open with that casual stance which press photos around the world capture when photographing children handling weapons. The youth worked his way cautiously around the corner of the building. Was he stalking someone or merely defending his turf?

I thought about the inside of the building. The telltale marks on the posters in the hallways where the wet spray from a recent confrontation had dried. The shrugs of the shoulders of the administrators as the fighting became increasingly difficult to control. Some areas of the school were so bad that the floor was positively slippery.

I took a last glance back at the youth as the bus carried me away. I smiled.

For this was not a war torn country. This was Canada! This was not an inner city battleground. This was Westmount High! These were not real weapons. They were neon coloured supersoakers and lime green water pistols. I thought how lucky we are to live in Canada where the graduating class can say goodbye to each other in such a friendly manner and look forward to a relaxing summer and new challenges in the fall. And my mission? To deliver the 535 newsletters we had photocopied, folded, stuffed, addressed and stamped to the post office for immediate delivery home. **Parents need to stay informed!**

Student Promotes Parental Involvement

Never have I seen such commitment to parental involvement as that shown at the **Multicultural Variety and Talent Show** held on March 29th. *Jay Howell's* stand up comedy routine is one no parent in the audience will ever forget — mostly because we were practically hiding under our seats when he called for parent volunteers to assist him on stage! Fortunately, other students helped Jay locate

some... shall we say reluctant... candidates! Thanks to Jay's charm and stage presence, things went really well from there on. I expect to see Jay Howell hosting Saturday Night Live in the future and all those parents who got on stage back next year with their own act!

Congratulations go out to everyone who participated in this extraordinary show. From Chinese art to Shakespeare, tap dance to stepping, a single voice to a group of Calypso singers, piano to WHS band, back stage to centre stage, this was a magical evening. But finally, perhaps a bit reluctantly, we had to go home.

Setting the Stage

There were, however, lots of opportunities to retrace because the stage was a very busy place this spring. Philip Corcos, the drama teacher, directed *Whodunit*, *Driver's Test* and *Treasure Island*. He also hosted a competition by the National Improvisation League where parents judged the student teams impromptu performances. Genevieve Smith, one of our grade nine students, directed Neil Simon's *I Ought to be in Pictures*. There's a lot of talent at this school. The plays were great, audiences warm and friendly and admission prices very reasonable — I had such a good time, I can hardly wait until next year!

Spring also brought us a very muddy Halo Road Race, success at the public speaking competition, the Student Voice page in the Gazette, the hands-on science of the solar eclipse, GMAA athletic awards, and a chance for all parents to experience first hand the Peer Mediation program. Our parents filled Westmount City Hall when the results of the McEntyre Essay Competition were announced. Open to all children who live or go to school in Westmount, the competition had a record breaking 638 entries this year. Of the 23 high school awards, 21 went to WHS students!

Welcoming the New

The New Parents Reception doubles as our final Home and School party for the year. Well attended by staff, new parents and — old — parents, this reception was a great success. Thank you so much to everyone who baked and helped with setup and clean up. There was only one problem — we have to think of a better name to describe those of us who were welcoming the incoming parents. The term "old parent" lacks a certain appeal and suggests that



McEntyre Essay competition Grade 7 winners from WHS receiving their prizes at Westmount City Hall from Mayor Peter Trent.

perhaps parents of adolescents age rapidly — they frequently do, but we don't want to discourage new parents, do we? I tried switching from "old" to "experienced" but the raised eyebrows and pointed questions had me rapidly switching back to "old"!

Well this is it. Time to tidy up, finish those last chores and brace ourselves for the summer. The lobby is full of students signing each other's yearbooks and hugging each other goodbye. The lobby is also full of adults — staff, Mr. Jeffers and Mr. Meades. They are

also busy signing yearbooks and hugging students goodbye. There's even a line-up!

Many thanks to everyone who helped during the year. See you in September!

Anna Marrett
Westmount High Home and School

SUNNYDALE PARK

The school was a very busy place this year. We seem to have our hands in everything. As we always do, we participated in the Jump Rope for Heart and, again, raised a terrific amount of money!

Our Student Council initiated a used toy sale to generate funds for an AIDS Hospice. We are very proud of their efforts.

The grade 5 students spent a memorable two day and one night stay at Les Forestiers. This out-

door experience was a part of their ongoing science project "Returning the Land Back to Nature". Everyone had a good time.

The grade 2 students also went on an overnight trip. Camp Pioneer allowed these youngsters to experience candle making and bread baking. At the same time, it gave them a chance to meet their penpals from Evergreen School.

May Events

The May talent show drew a

huge audience as many of our youngsters displayed their talents for all to see. May was also public speaking month. All grades participated as a wide range of topics was covered.

All of Sunnydale bids a fond farewell to Principal, Mr. Ross, and anxiously awaits the arrival of the new Principal, Mrs. Carol Latour. We extend a big welcome to her!

Linda Lecker

MOUNT PLEASANT

Continuing a tradition, the H&S held their annual Country Fair on May 28th. As a result of hard work by parent volunteers and the generosity of local merchants, the Fair is one of the most successful and well attended events in the community. As usual, the extensive Raffle Table was an exciting attraction with many items and services donated by corporations, mer-

chants and private individuals.

The school raised \$769 for UNICEF this year!

Thank you to all the parents who got out their recipe books and baked for the Kindergarten Open House on March 18. It was an excellent way to entice new parents to buy the Mount Pleasant Cookbook already being used by

many families. Copies, with the beautiful cover designed by Joanna Olson, are selling fast.

Congratulations to Kent Plummer, of Miss Ludington's grade 3 class, who won the bike raffle, and a thank you to Hudson Cycle & Ski for their cooperation. Without their help it would not have been possible.

PARKDALE



Winner Nafeesa Gittens with Mrs. E. McBride, Mrs. L. Kay and Mr. Don Taylor at the Region 2 Public Speaking Finals.

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MORE FOCUS

EDINBURGH

The Songs of Love

It could be quite easy to get depressed these days, given the harsh economic situation, the never-ending wars that we hear about and other atrocities that we are constantly fed by the media. Yet on the evening of April 28th, the media actually covered an event that shed some hope on all the



Mrs. Hochstein's grade 6 class held a mock federal election last Fall. Party "leaders" made speeches and held debates. Only Canadian students were eligible to vote. P.S. The Liberal candidate won!

ELIZABETH BALLANTYNE

"Special: Lunches"

Thanks to the co-ordinating skill of our Unsung Hero, Debbie King, Elizabeth Ballantyne offers students a Hot Lunch Program once a week. It is an appreciated alternate way to fund raise. Parents order in advance at the beginning of each month for the four days. The idea originated with the grade 6's Hot Dog Sale, on the last Wednesday of each month, to cover expenses for their trip to Ottawa. Now, in addition to the grade 6 sale, H&S sells pizza slices from a local pizzeria on the first and third Wednesdays, and hot dogs on the second. It is a nice mid-week break from the pack-the-lunch-box routine, for parents and students, and even some staff.

Learning at the Raptor Centre

Two classes had a most enjoyable and enriching field trip experience at the Ecomuseum/Raptor Centre at Macdonald College. Having studied in the classroom how birds and animals are suited to their environments, they learned this experientially at the Ecomuseum through a slide show about raptors and a demonstration by actual birds, including the owl that stars in the Pharmaprix advertisement.

I, too, learned a few interesting facts. Raptors, except for the vulture who eats only dead prey, have a poor sense of smell as they swoop down on live prey from a great height. Thus, their eggs can be

reintroduced into the nest; however, one should not adopt an abandoned raptor as the bird will "imprint" — it will believe that it is human — and will never learn to hunt from other birds. Therefore it must remain in captivity. A sad fate for such majestic rulers of the sky.

In the afternoon we saw animals native to Quebec, such as bears, caribou, otters, and we learned about the ecosystem of a swamp. The tour guides heightened our appreciation of the outdoors in time for the summer camping trip.

Spring Concert A Big Hit

The Annual Spring Concert was enjoyed by all as the students proudly performed songs and recorder pieces learned in the music program under the direction of our new music teacher, Gail Robinson. One of our grade 5 teachers, Miss Wadsworth, performed with her students having learned the recorder with them, and having passed her practical exam to the applause of her class.

Our other grade 5 teacher, Miss Fredason, led a group of students from various classes, in several folk dances. Parents were invited to an Open House after the concert to see some of the year's work. The evening was a fitting end to the school year.

Of course, still to come were fun, games and a barbecue at the Annual Family Picnic held the last week of school.

Joan Genest

bleakness. The CBC was on the scene at Edinburgh School to document what children who care can achieve. Some 130 members of the choir were on hand to perform for parents, friends and staff, trying to raise funds for a cause that they believed in. If more of these events were publicized, perhaps we could regain confidence that there is still hope for our civilization if these and other youth of the future will continue to care and get involved.

One by one they filed into the crowded gymnasium, glowing smiles on their faces, energetic, determined. As silence filled the room, the voices of Andrea Palumbo and Leigh Morton, both in sixth grade, announced the significance of the event: "We have something very important to share with you tonight ... Nous aimerions dedier ce concert à la Fondation Kory Lippert!"

They then went on to briefly describe the sad case of the kidnapping of Kory in July 1992 by his father after losing a custody battle, and the vain efforts to trace him down. Only days before his seventh birthday, he left on a short trip with his father, but never returned. To date, his mother Lillias Lippert has tried every avenue, spending enormous sums in legal and investigators' fees and still there are no leads. The collection at the end of the concert brought in a sum of \$688 and, unlike many sham fundraisings, was all dedicated to the fund that has been established to help in the search.

Friends of Lillias, neighbours, former staff and students at Elizabeth Ballantyne, where Mrs. Lippert taught for seven years, and even strangers have all come forth so generously to lend financial and moral support. Yet that night few were strangers to the dynamic choir members who in turn know

Mrs. Lippert fondly from her past three years of teaching music at Edinburgh, and it showed in the energy and feeling in their voices.

They sang about love and out of love, under the expert guidance of Joanne Poirier-Ledoux, whom they all respect, admire and adore. Starting with the opening songs of "Sing" and "Au nom de la chanson" then on to some dynamic lines of "Gloria", sung in English and Italian, their golden notes filled the room like seasoned professionals. And professionals they may well be, given the fact that over the past 13 years of its existence the choir has already appeared seven times on the Telethon of Stars and performed to "standing room only" audiences at every Christmas school concert. Yet all did not come easy, as they spend an average of two hours per week after class and another hour during regular school hour, perfecting their skills under the strict tutelage of "Jo-Jo", as Mme. Poirier-Ledoux is fondly addressed.

These children, as did the earlier classes dating back to 1981 when she started the first choir at Edinburgh, are very appreciative of her talents as a director, but also relish her warmth. They are not alone in this admiration, since she also directs a professional group of 52 singers/dancers called "Les Enfants de la Chanson" in Laval.

Song after song, with thunderous applause after every one and the audience clapping in unison, the night came to a close with a standing ovation and clamours for an "encore" of "I Can See Clearly Now". Emotions were flying high as the two Masters of Ceremonies, Marianne Filion and Janice Silverstein reined in several golden voices from the choir to join them in

MISSING



Name Kory Diconca Lippert

singing out a wonderful impromptu "merci" for "Jo-Jo".

A "grand merci" was also extended to the base guitarist, Tony Picciuto, and the drummer, Tony D'Espirito and to the various staff members who made the evening possible. The audience likewise received and advanced "thank you" in anticipation of the expected generous contributions.

The funds from the evening will not solve the plight for Mrs. Lippert, nor for Kory, but it is a warm and reassuring experience to see so many young people so concerned, so dedicated and so talented applying themselves to a cause called LOVE. There can still be hope as long as children such as these are around. Moreover, people like Rosemary Thompson who reported the story for CBC, Marlyn Paxton and others involved in arranging for the coverage and broadcast on TV's Prime Time, are to be congratulated. As long as we have people who care, such as the children of Edinburgh and all the adults who participated, there is hope for a better tomorrow.

Michael Primiani

HOPETOWN, SHIGAWAKE, PORT DANIEL



Lorne Hayes, former Director General of the Gaspesia School Board, cuts a cake celebrating QFHSA's 50th birthday. The cake was decorated by Lori-Ann Hayes.

Lorne Hayes, former Director General of the Regional School Board of Gaspesia, was the guest speaker at the May meeting. Mr. Hayes, who is a past QFHSA Gordon Paterson Award winner for his outstanding service to the education of children, stressed the importance of having a Home & School Association. He explained how Home & School began, its achievements over the years and how much Home & School will be needed in this new Information Age that we are all living in. "Change" is now a given and Home & School can play a very important role in helping parents,

and teachers, and students, to adapt to "change".

Following the meeting, two of the new parents present offered to take on the position of "Ways and Means". Barbara Hottot continues on as Membership Chairperson, a position she has ably filled for a number of years.

Monies raised during the year allowed the Home & School to give out book prizes to students, as well as contributing \$4/student toward end of the year field trips. The books were presented by Barbara Hottot to the students at the school closing ceremonies, held June 28.

Bertha Hayes



Anne Macwhirler, QFHSA Area Rep. for the Gaspé, presents a book to Shigawake Port Daniel student for their library on the occasion of the school's grand re-opening.

MEADOWBROOK

Many people volunteered their time over the past year to organize events sponsored by the H&S. Joanne Phaneuf was responsible for seeing that the graduating students had a wonderful send off from Meadowbrook. Ted Leja picked up the reins of the Breakfast Club and whipped it into fine shape (he should be congratulated for his superb mother-hen act),

and George Vincent helped out. Mary Pasto organized the bike sale with the assistance of Gene Walsh and Susan Ippersiel. Karen McClintock helped repair 812 books. Suzanne Fitzgerald took on both the Fall And Spring Rummage sales. Robert Lawand donated his time to auditing the H&S books. Maira Kanins quietly and efficiently helped Pola Fisher with the volunteer remedial pro-

gram. The children appreciated the efforts these, and all the other parents and staff, who offered their help.

A special thank you to Miriam Lalonde who did a great job as H&S president, as well as giving time to the Breakfast Club, Babysitting Course, Christmas Baskets, etc. Miriam also served as the Recording Secretary at the Annual General Meeting of the QFHSA.

McCAIG

Non Violent Conflict Resolution Program a Success

A conflict resolution program was implemented at the school in February 1993 as part of the plan d'action for the school, as part of its mission statement.

The focus of the program is to teach students in levels one through six the skills necessary to enable them to interact with each other in peaceable manner. This in turn leads to less physical interaction on the playground and so to fewer playground injuries, both physical and emotional. Self-esteem is thus either left intact, or is built up as the children become part of a win-win situation.

There are various programs available to help achieve this goal. They are presently being carried out in many high schools across Canada. The program in operation at McCaig, at the elementary level, emanates from the Canadian Institute for Non Violent Conflict Resolution in Ottawa. To ensure its success, all staff (teachers, lunch supervisors, support staff), students and parents "buy into" the program.

Peacekeepers

We have a population of almost six hundred students and thus thirty youngsters are taught the skills necessary to be peacekeepers in the program. This is done early on in the school year during recess



Peacekeepers from McCaig.

periods. As the resource person, I animate the sessions. A schedule is drawn up and most peacekeepers, 'high profile' in bright red vests, are on patrol two days in a six day cycle.

The whole student body is made aware of the program at an assembly in September. There, peacekeepers role model the skills involved. During the year several peacekeepers and I visit the classrooms promoting the program to keep it alive. Peacekeepers meet with me regularly as well. It takes time and patience but youngsters do come to realize that talking things out empowers them with the skills to negotiate a socially appropriate solution comfortable to both disputants.

The children are encouraged to listen actively to each other. As well, the skills of sharing, respecting, co-operating, apologizing, forgiving, caring, all come into play — skills that are not a formal part of the curriculum but are imperative if young people are to learn to live

together in harmony in their families, at school, in their community, in the world.

At McCaig, we believe that we are slowly taking steps toward this goal through the conflict resolution program.

Gloria Kadonoff

AYLMER

M. Denault took the two grade 5 classes to the Outdoor Education Centre for a winter French Immersion camp. All the activities were in French and the students tried hard to speak in French all the time. At the end, awards were given to four students who made the best effort to express themselves in French: Mia Beauchamp, Nancy Nesbitt, Matthew Rees and Scott Bigelow.

Totem Poles!

Mrs. Barney's class is really doing something exciting. They are making totem poles. Not little ones, but huge ones — eight feet high! They are making them out of papier mâché. The idea started when Ryan McCaig and his mom moved, and they had lots of leftover newspapers. They thought they could make some gigantic totem poles to up the papers. Mrs. Barney's class was doing Indian legends, so the idea fit right in.

Amy Lamoth, Brad Snooks and Philippe Bertrand

CHARLES A. KIRKLAND

Small School, Big Spirit

The year 1994 started off with a "bang" for both parents and children alike. February provided the kids with the perfect weather conditions for their Annual Winter Carnival. To break those "Winter Blues", an adult dance was held for staff, parents and friends. With tickets sold out, the dance was a tremendous success and a wonderful fund-raiser for the school.

The change of seasons brought "Spring Clean-Up". All the children participated by cleaning the school grounds. Even the birds were not forgotten, as a large bird-feeder was built by grade 6. No complaints were heard as this clean-up gave the school-yard a fresh new look. New lines were painted for everything from hopscotch to dodge ball. A new basketball court, complete with new basketball nets, was installed courtesy of the fund-raising committee. Each class was also provided with outdoor toys to keep the children busy.

The final touch, shrubs, flowers

and bulbs, were planted on Environment Day by the students. Everything was ready for the 2nd Annual Family BBQ held in May. Even though it poured with rain that evening, nothing could dampen the family-fun spirit. Quick thinking converted the gymnasium into a Beach Party scene, complete with beach umbrellas and music!

The school year ended with the annual Field/Hot Dog Day featuring ribbons, hot dogs, juice, cookies and popsicles. It was also the day when the Fall '94 Kindergarten students and their families were invited to share the fun and get a feel for their new school. This time the weather cooperated.

The 1994-95 school year appears to be another exciting one, with extra-curricular activities, class field trips and visits. Thank you to all the staff, parents and wonderful volunteers for making Charles A. Kirkland a special place.

Debbie Roverto
& Dianna Murphy



Charles A. Kirkland Field Day/Hot Dog Day, June '94.

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MORE FOCUS

COURTLAND PK.

A Busy May

The grade 6 students enjoyed a very successful trip to Boston. The grade 4 students went to Camp Jouvence in Mt. Orford for a few days. Grades 2 and 3 saw the ballet "Sleeping Beauty" presented by Ballet Ovest. Place des Arts was the setting for a Beethoven Concert for Grades 4 to 6.

There were a few sad farewells this June. The Principal, Miss Urban, was transferred to Cedarcrest School. Mrs. Jane Fullerton-Kelly (Woodland) is the new Principal. Mme. Vasil is leaving for Morrison school where she will be Vice-Principal. The school Librarian, Mrs. Elich, is retiring and Mrs. Croll who is in charge of the Before-and-After School Program is moving away. Their contribution to Courtland is appreciated.

The Quebec Association of Mathematics Teachers (QAMT) is committed to encouraging excellence in mathematics. The annual elementary school mathematics competition gives QAMT an opportunity to recognize outstanding students. Ten of the school's grade 6 students participated in the competition this year and four students received Certificates of Distinction: Angela Patrick, Karen Yeomans, Matthew Sampson, and Lisa Allard.

Five grade 6 students entered the Commonwealth Essay Competition: Katherine Farnell, Michael-John Lamarre, Neil Manning, Jennifer Thompson, and Michelle Wilson. No top prizes were won, but Katherine's story received high commendations from the judges of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

SEIGNIORY

This April the H&S was pleased to present a parent workshop entitled "Children and Self-Esteem" lead by Margaret Mitchell of the LSB. Margaret shared many different ways of helping boost a child's self-esteem, thus enabling participants to take home ideas to work with.

A Bike Rodeo was held in May for all students in grades 1 to 6. Bicycle safety packages were distributed to each child courtesy of Canadian Tire. All participants in the rodeo had their bicycles inspected by two police officers and were given a checklist showing what was needed to make the bicycle street-safe. At one of the four rodeo stations, the children learned and demonstrated the correct hand signals to use when riding a bike. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped run the rodeo, and also to Alanna Brown for organizing this event.

Annual Picnic Promotes Bicycle Safety

The annual picnic was held on June 14th. Families were invited to come and share an evening of fun and games and, of course, food. There was cotton candy, chips, drinks, and BBQs for those who wished to use them. The bake table was loaded with goodies.

With the help of everyone who donated their Canadian Tire money throughout the year, we were once again able to hold another successful raffle.

The highlight of the evening was the distribution of bicycle helmets to children in Kindergarten and Grade 1. The children must sign a contract with their parents saying that they will wear their helmets when riding their bikes. Once again, we thank Mr. Gerald McGee and Canadian Adhesives Ltd. (who donated all the helmets this year) for their generosity and concern for our children's safety.

Finally, to all our Grade 6 graduates — congratulations and good luck in high school!

Anne Griffiths



Gerald McGee of Canadian Adhesives Ltd. and some of our students with their new bike helmets.

CEDAR PARK

Recorder Recital

The 1993/94 school year finished with gusto. Grades 1, 2 and 3 invited their parents to an Outdoor Recorder Recital, under the direction of Brenda Walsh, the school music teacher. Considering the concert was moved indoors due to bad weather, everyone was thoroughly entertained for the entire performance. The children also performed a Recorder Concert for the LSB staff in Beaconsfield.

The school enjoyed a visit from a local writer, Michelle-Louise Sauriol. Grades 4 to 6 were provided with some clues on how to develop their creative writing skills. The older grades also enjoyed the McGill Chamber Orchestra, while studying the life and times of Beethoven. The library has encouraged further studying with many informative books on the subject and received many well written essays about

Beethoven from the students. Our older grades should be congratulated on their achievement in The Fantastik Follies, a musical variety show which was a colossal success.

A popular H&S fundraiser is the family barbecue which was a great success due to the warm weather, sunny skies and the numerous supply of volunteers who offered their services. Parental participation in this event is marvellous and everyone has lots of fun. It's an enjoyable way to end the school year.

Cedar Park's 100th Birthday

Even though Cedar Park's birthday party is a year away, the Centennial Committee has been gathering responses to the survey concerning the celebration which has been overwhelming. At present, the Committee is planning a weekend of activities in September 1995.

In October 1995, the Committee will be hosting a Pre-Centennial Tea where former students and teachers will be invited to share

their memories and old photos with the Committee and some of the present students. A photographer who is able to copy the old photos will be on hand — perhaps taking new photos and making some new memories as well.

Any former Cedar Park students out there? Gather your photos, phone old school chums and bring your memories for our 1995 celebration.

Volunteers Feted

All those who volunteered at the school enjoyed a wine and cheese reception at the library. Goodbyes were said to Sue Roy who is stepping down as President of H&S and hellos were said to our new Co-Presidents, Ann Tellier and Jill Leon. Good luck to Sue with all your future undertakings and thank you for all your hard work. Thanks to all the H&S volunteers. It's because of everyone's participation that Cedar Park will enjoy a grand 100th birthday party.

Cindy Lane

WILLINGDON

A Busy 1993/94 School Year!

The 1993/94 year was another busy one for the H&S. As usual, our volunteers staffed the Library, ran the Extra-Curricular Programme (with after-school courses in Art, Ballet, Chess, Computers, Drama, Film Animation, Science

& Sports Club) and administered the Extended Kindergarten Programme. Every year we organize an Emergency Phone System (we haven't had to use it for six years!), decorate the School at Hallowe'en and Christmas, and lavish attention on our superb teaching staff during "I Love Teachers" week.

We hosted our Ski & Skate Exchange, we counted pennies for

UNICEF, raised money for the NDG Food Bank on our Caroling Night, and held a Craft Sale in December. Our first Annual Spring Fling for parents was a huge success, as was our end-of-year Fun Fair for children, with games, prizes and food — lots of it!

With the help of our involved parent body, we raised funds for the school with a Grapefruit Sale, a Book Fair, and monthly Pizza Lunches (we're not sure who likes these more — the kids or their parents).

To keep everyone up-to-date on all these activities, we issue a monthly newsletter, and also send minutes of our meetings to all our H&S members.

As a result of many of our activities, we were able to give financial help to the school in several areas — we supported the in-school programme of Theatre for young Audiences, we raised funds for the library, and provided money to the teachers for their needs that were not covered by the Board. We were also able to pledge money to the Extended Kindergarten Programme to subsidise some low-income families in the coming year.

An exciting development in the school this year has been the proposed "Step 31" school-wide enrichment programme, which will offer tutoring to any student who wishes it. The H&S was happy to be able to make a substantial donation to the start-up cost.

Anne Childs



On The Move

The grade 6PFI classes spent an exciting day in Montreal. The purpose of the trip was to explore the transportation system of Montreal and learn first hand about the history of the great city.

Parents drove the students to Ste. Anne de Bellevue where they caught the city bus to the Metro station. After taking the Metro to Old Montreal, they walked down to the Old Port and boarded The Pelican, a reproduction of an 18th century brigantine. Costumed members of the crew entertained the students and described sailing life as it was 200 years ago.

After a chilly lunch near the water, students, teachers and parent volunteers took a walking tour of the Old Port area. Taking the Metro to McGill College Avenue to see the famous People Statue, they were surprised to encounter former Prime Minister Brian

Mulroney. He graciously took time to stop and shake hands with everyone.

The day continued with visits to Place Ville Marie, the CN station (to view the wonderful carvings), and the historic and beautiful Mary Queen of the World Cathedral. Then it was off to catch the train back to Ste. Anne de Bellevue at the end of a terrific fun-filled day.

Wendy Oliver and Joyce Macdonald are looking for helpers to work in the library, which lost four parent volunteers in June. Many thanks and best of luck to Mrs. Lyon, Mrs. Fairclough and Mrs. Hortie who moved, and Mrs. Arcand who "graduated".

The H&S thanked Principal Richard Lessard for his support during the last two years and wished him a bright and happy future at his new school, Spring Garden.



Ballet Teacher Shirley Sarna with a kindergarten class, preparing to take part in Willingdon School's production of "Carmen".

Has Homework Been Giving You Problems?... You're Not Alone!

by Heidi Reichel
Cassette tape, \$7.95 US.
Achievement Inc., 485 S.
Broadway, Ste 12, Hicksville,
N.Y. 11801 USA. Tel. (516)931-
2500.

Though I had imagined myself listening to good advice while I did the dishes or washed the windows, I found that this tape is best listened to while sitting down and paying attention. Pencil and paper aren't a bad idea, either. Although the tape can be played many times, it is difficult to relocate the information you may want to hear again — this process is more time consuming than scanning a piece of paper.

There are two key concepts in this tape. First, homework is a child's job. This is the first job a child has in the outside world. This job should take a child past the three R's and into two new R's — responsibility and respect. A responsible student will complete homework in spite of the temptations to do other things and that sense of accomplishment will enhance his/her self respect.

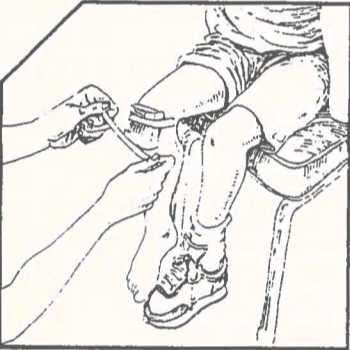
The second concept is that the process of completing homework is more important than the home-

work itself. Homework is actually a complex process. It involves being organized, knowing what the assignments are, when they are due and having the right books and materials at hand in order to complete the task. Homework also involves reading, understanding and following directions, breaking a large task down into smaller parts, doing research and correcting one's own work. No wonder it can be such a struggle!

The key concepts for parents are communication, control and consistency. Communicate with your child and with your child's teacher. Many problems can be cleared up quickly by getting in touch with the school. There's no need to feel hesitant. The teacher wants your child to do well, too! Parental control is important also. Setting limits and helping a child to structure his/her time are of great value. Consistency. There are many practical tips in this tape which will help parents to be consistent. For being consistent is a very difficult task.

This tape has a lot of practical advice on how to get organized so let's start the year off right and avoid a homework crisis!

Anna Marrett



The Doctor's Book of Home Remedies For Children. By Denise Foley, Eileen Nechas, Susan Perry, Dena K. Salmon and the Editors of PREVENTION Magazine Health Books, Rodale Press, 1994. Pp 450. \$37.99

The Doctor's Book of Home Remedies For Children covers home remedies for a variety of everyday health problems faced by parents with children between infancy and 12 years old. Topics are listed in its table of contents in alphabetical order and are addressed by specialists in straightforward and understandable language. They range, for example, from acne, bladder control and diarrhea to teething, vomiting and warts.

Certain topics have additional information and medical alert boxes. The latter advise parents when to seek medical attention for their child. Both types of boxes are highlighted in the index.

A section on Accidents: Prevention and First Aid, with its table of contents listed alphabetically is also included in the book. Topics include car seat safety and first aid for frost bite.

The Doctor's Book of Home Remedies For Children is well organized and does not pretend to replace a doctor's care for your child. Rather, it provides parents with "common sense" tips about their child's health and treatment of everyday problems which can help them



avoid many long hours in a hospital waiting room. For parents it is a valuable work of reference to be kept close at hand and read with pleasure as well as enlightenment.

The Human Body — The Classic Three-Dimensional Book. By Jonathan Miller and David Pelham. Jonathan Cape Ltd., 1994. Pp 12. \$26.00

The Human Body is most suitable to introduce anatomy and physiology to students at the late elementary and early high school levels. Its authors (Jonathan Miller, MD, is world famous for his excellent TV series, *The Body in Question*, of the late 1980's) use three-dimensional and movable pictures to demonstrate how the body works.

One learns, for instance, how blood is oxygenated in the lungs and then pumped by the heart to the rest of the body. The three-dimensional pictures beautifully illustrate how our internal organs are juxtaposed.

The Human Body equips budding anatomists and physiologists with facts and the necessary vocabulary to facilitate any meaningful discussion on how the human body works.

I recommend it as a reference to any elementary or high school library.

Deo Bishundayal
Elizabeth Ballantyne School

OVERDUE ASSIGNMENT Taking Responsibility for Canada's Schools by Jennifer Lewington & Graham Orpwood
John Wiley & Sons,
Toronto: 1993
246 pp., hardcover,
\$26.95

The authors, Lewington of the *Globe and Mail* and Dr. Orpwood of York University, have provided an overview of Canadian public school education. In their opinion, traditional schools are failing the test and our children are often victims of bureaucratic red tape or entrenched positions held by teachers and administrators.

Examples are given of parent involvement. It seems parents, if they are determined enough, can effect change for the better.

This book is good reading for parents uncertain about the state of Canadian education. The basic organization for education is in place. What we need is everyone — children, parents, teachers and administrators — to start working toward the same goals.

Allan Locke

Mummy Laid an Egg

by Babette Cole, Jonathan Cape Ltd., London: 1993, pp 36, \$15.00

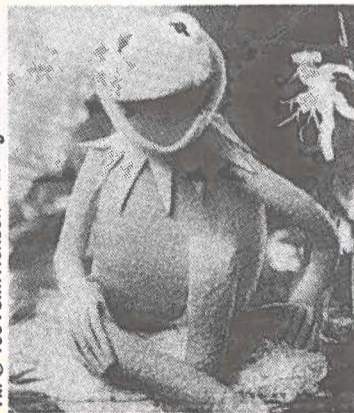
Mum and Dad decide it's time to tell the children just "how babies are made"! They don't do a very good job — in fact they avoid the truth completely! The children laugh and tell them they were almost right and decide to tell their parents how babies are really made! Complete with drawings and all the details Mum and Dad (blushing like beetroots) learn the real facts!!

It's a humorous and simple approach to teaching children all about how babies are made. The drawings are whimsical and the writing simple, yet to the point. Suitable for children aged 5 to 10.

Comments on the book from my own children (aged 7 to 12) range from a simple "I like it" to "It's funny" to "It's O.K." and "Oooh, the pictures are gross!"

It's not everybody's cup of tea and as parents we have to choose the approach we feel appropriate and most comfortable with, to teach and educate our children about sex education. This book certainly allows parents to do this in an amusing way.

Ann Bishundayal



BOOKS ON REVIEW

by Kenneth Radu

Wonderfully produced, even the font of this Tundra release, *A Little Tiger in the Chinese Night: an Autobiography in Art* by Song Nan Zhang, has been carefully selected to convey in western type a flavour of Chinese calligraphy. A recent winner of the Mr. Christie Book Award for Best Children's Story, the narrative depicts the author-painter's life beginning in 1945 in Shanghai where, as a child, he saw a "wild tiger in the bamboo grove," which, according to Chinese folklore, is a sign of good luck.

Shortly after that incident began the Communist transformation of China in the fifties and the "Great Leap Forward" when "all Chinese were called on to build a new country. Everyone followed the communist dream."

Included in the autobiography are a few pages devoted to the insanity of the Cultural Revolution when Mao Tse Tung encouraged young people to create "luan" or chaos and "to break everything." Song Nan Zhang's father, an engineer, was denounced as bourgeois and counter-revolutionary. He was subjected to the infamous process of re-education and relocation, his brothers and sisters banished to distant parts of China.

During this period, readers of *A Little Tiger in the Chinese Night* are informed that Song Nan Zhang loved to draw, studied art for a period under the heavy brush of Marxist ideology, and worked with happy coal miners. A painter of socialist-realist murals celebrating the collectivity, he was himself threatened by the Red Guard who discovered canvases of nude studies in his home.

He also fell in love, married, and visited Paris after the destructive steamroller of the Cultural Revolution was stopped in 1978 and Deng Xiaoping announced that "there will be no more chaos."

In the new China he was able to travel to the remote province of Xinjiang, an area notable for its heterogeneous mix of peoples and which inspired Song Nan Zhang to create one of the brightest murals reproduced in *A Little Tiger in the Chinese Night*.

While on a visit to Montreal, he witnessed the tragedy of Tianamen Square on television. In the end, he was able to bring his family to Canada. "What can I say about my life? Did the little tiger bring me luck?"

As the narrative consists primarily of a summary of events, written in perfunctory prose, one finds it difficult to become emotionally involved with the story. Song Nan Zhang, growing up under the influence of Marxist ideology, directs attention to external details, to the events of history and his place in the community, rather than to individualized personality and private feeling. "I decided to tell and paint the story of my life to help me understand it," he writes, for "one billion lives are made up of a billion individual lives, each as important as any individual life anywhere in the world."

Unfortunately, from my western perspective, that is precisely what he has not done in this attractive book, a problem illustrated by the paintings themselves. Of course, it is not the function of mural paintings or posters to depict the complex individual.

Song Nan Zhang, therefore, fills his canvases for the most part with images of the collectivity engaged in building a dam, denouncing counter-revolutionaries, attending a wedding party, or living in a compound. In so doing, he sacrifices emotional depth and individual psychology, happy coal miners notwithstanding, for the sake of an idealized representation of family and The People. The presence of a few generalized statements like "the only happiness in those years was that I fell in love" is not enough to create a true, individualized autobiography of a man who has lived through a remarkable period in one of the world's most fascinating countries.

Perhaps, in the painting of Song Nan Zhang himself, head buried in hands, bent over in grief over Tianamen, the wall behind him, in the style of a mural, covered with images of the military attack on the people, the autobiographical world begins to deepen. For a moment, we get authentic and private feeling, rather than a correct and public position.

Although the book may in fact be too banal in prose and one-dimensional in painting for this adult to appreciate fully, the narrative and many of the mural-styled paintings do contain interesting cultural details which would catch the attention of primary school children. Song Nan Zhang has lived a dramatic life and survived terrible times. *A Little Tiger in the Chinese Night* is, at least, an introduction to that experience.

Kenneth Radu's most recent book is a collection of stories, *Snow Over Judaea*, published this fall by Véhicule Press of Montreal.

Video

IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

From: Jim Henson Video
Suggested Retail Price \$14.99
Formats: VHS Hi-Fi & Beta Hi-Fi
Closed Captioned for Hearing Impaired
37 mins. running time

Those of you who are parents of small children will be very familiar with the wide variety of singalong videos that are available. It was only inevitable then, that a Muppet Sing Along tape would soon be available too!

So, yes, here it is! — the very first Muppet Sing Along, "It's Not Easy Being Green".

There are thirteen songs on this video, which definitely makes it good value for money. Some of the songs are from *The Muppet Show* (Octopus' Garden, Eight Little Notes, and Bein' Green), while

others are taken from Muppet Movies or The Jim Henson Hour.

Children will enjoy old favourites like "Heat Wave", "Pass It On", and "Splish Splash". As with most sing-along tapes, the words to the songs are highlighted on-screen so that the children (and adults!) can sing along with their favourite Muppet characters. My own personal favourite on this tape is the Muppets' re-make of the Beach Boys' 93 hit "Kokomo" — ah, finally I know all the words!

This first Muppet Sing Along will be a welcome addition to your children's video library. Young children will enjoy watching it over and over again. It's fun, it's magical, it's first class entertainment from those zany Muppet characters.

Ann Bishundayal

SAFETY SCENE



SAFETY SCENE



For School Bus Drivers... IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL!

As of July 1st, 1995, anyone wishing to drive a school bus, whether the "Big Yellers" or the minibuses, must first have successfully completed a 15-hour course as stipulated in Law 81.

That is why our school bus drivers are "returning to school", which follows one of Coroner Marc-André Bouliane's recommendations. The law also stipulates that these drivers must take a 6-hour refresher course every 3 years.

This course was drafted through the cooperation of the Ministères de l'éducation and transport, as well as the Société de l'assurance-automobile du Québec. Among other things discussed in the course are the role of the school

bus driver, knowing the passengers, being aware of the different policies and regulations governing school buses and school bus transportation (including local school board policies and regulations), handling unexpected incidents, as well as communication. The main objective of the course is to make the school bus driver aware of safety in and around his/her school bus.

One point made by an area (région 04) school board transportation manager was that the school bus clientele (our students) have changed greatly in the past few years. More independent, more assertive, school bus drivers must adapt to this change and the course is designed to help him/her

do so.

Readers will recall that a booklet was printed a couple of years ago, *Maître Abord*, which was given to all school bus drivers. Many attended workshops, but this was not required by law. In fact, reading the book was basically on a volunteer basis.

This new course called *Un Métier Unique* is required by law, and present school bus drivers must pass the course before they will be allowed to drive a school bus come School Opening '95. As for the future school bus drivers, forget about applying for a driver's permit unless you have successfully completed the course, *Un Métier Unique*.



Windermere Safety Patrollers



Safety Patrollers, pictured here with Betty Lou Manker, "Chief", on their way to Ottawa for the annual national Jamboree.

The National Jamboree is held annually in Ottawa at the end of May. Safety patrollers from across Canada meet to celebrate, parade and exchange "pins" with other students and policemen who attend. The celebration honours senior elementary school students who volunteer each year to safely guide their fellow students across busy streets around their schools.

The highlight of this year's trip

was a tour of the Parliament Buildings and a climb up the Peace Tower for a spectacular view of Ottawa and the surrounding countryside. Following lunch there was a "jump 'n jive" rock concert for the patrollers at the Ottawa Civic Stadium.

Windermere's 32 safety patrollers are sponsored by the Windermere Home & School Association. The Home & School helps fund

the patrollers and supports the yearly Ottawa trip. There is a strong tradition for this student volunteer activity at the school and all patrollers are awarded certificates at the school's final assembly in June.

Betty Lou Manker, Patrol "Chief", says, "the Safety Patrol is much more than individual students acting as crossing guards. The group also provides a social setting where our students become acquainted with, or further their development of, community responsibility. In addition, they learn about group organization, procedures, cooperation and initiating ideas. Students are reminded regularly that courtesy and good manners are important and necessary".

If you would like further information on how to get patrolling started at your school, call Betty Lou at (514) 694-1012, or the QFHSA Home & School office.

ANNOUNCING the new ENVIRO-BIRD FEEDER

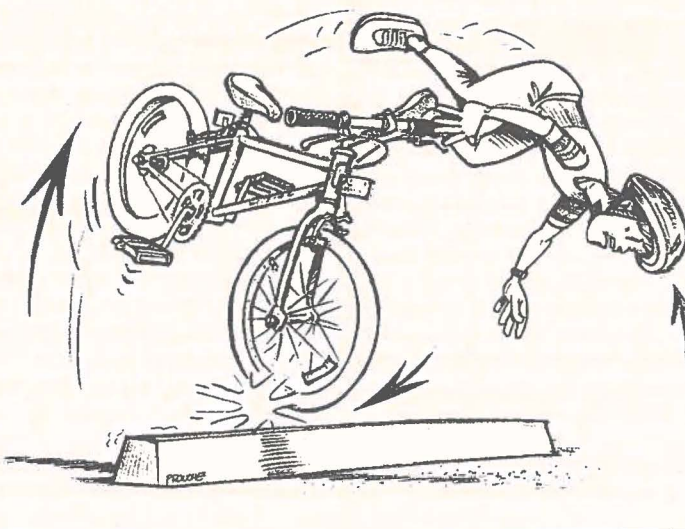
guaranteed to raise money for your school and community projects. Write or call now for free info:

Nomad Environmental Scientists,
P.O. Box 511, Station N.D.G.,
Montreal, PQ, H4A 3P8,
(514) 684 6055.



LE CASQUE PROTECTEUR :

Une solution efficace à la physique de la chute à bicyclette

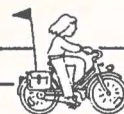


Lors d'une collision, le point d'impact se situe généralement à l'avant du vélo, le cycliste subissant alors une énergie cinétique rotationnelle. Cela explique pourquoi les bras et la tête heurtent généralement le sol en premier.

Bicycle Safety

CAUSES OF THE MOST FREQUENT BICYCLE ACCIDENTS:

- 1- Letting go of the handlebar.
- 2- Riding a modified bicycle.
- 3- Riding a bicycle at night without proper lights and reflectors.
- 4- Carrying a passenger.
- 5- Carrying parcels without a carrier.
- 6- Riding two or more abreast.
- 7- Riding a bicycle where the seat is not level with the handlebar.
- 8- Wearing dark clothing at night.
- 9- Stunt riding and showing off.
- 10- Losing balance in the air current of a large truck.
- 11- Wearing sandals.
- 12- Riding against the flow of traffic.
- 13- Forgetting that a motorist may turn right on a green light.
- 14- Riding too close to parked cars (a door may open suddenly).
- 15- Failing to park the bicycle properly.
- 16- Riding over sewer grates.



NEW BOOKLETS ON SAFETY

The following three booklets were all recently received in the QFHSA office. They are excellent and you might wish to consider obtaining them for yourself.

When Child's Play is Adult Business — a consumer's guide to safer playspaces. Discusses both public playgrounds and back yard equipment. Includes other resources and guidelines.

Safe Not Sorry — a guide to preventing children's injuries. A very graphic presentation of real life situations and actual photographs of injured children. Offers information on what to do in an

emergency after the injury has occurred. (Cost \$3)

On Your Own — a book for kids learning to be at home alone (and their parents). Meant to be read and shared with child and parent. Includes everyday scenarios and simple do's and don'ts. Includes a game for reinforcing the rules.

These booklets are all available from Canadian Institute of Child Health, 55 Parkdale, Third Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 1E5 (tel. 613-722-4829). They have a long list of various safety publications available; cost is usually \$3 to \$3.50 each including handling/shipping charge.