

HILLSIDE and BROOKSIDE

MEMO

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PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR

School will open next fall on Thursday, September 9. Seventh and eighth grade classes will be dismissed at 1 p.m.; other classes will meet for the full day.

THE NEW GYM -- the end is in sight

Finishing touches are being put on the new gymnasium and classrooms which have been under construction since last summer. While completion was not in time for use in the 1970-71 school year, most of the moving operation was accomplished before school closed.

The Board, as well as the teaching staff, learned to live with frustration and disappointment as construction deadlines came and went. We learned once again that construction schedules are virtually impossible to meet, and that patience is required in almost inhuman amounts.

Except for landscaping, the entire addition will be completed early this summer, and all facilities will be in full use on opening day next fall.

GROSSMANN'S RETIRE

Alwyn Grossmann, secretary to the Board of Education since 1949, retires July 1. Mrs. Grossmann, who has served as secretary to Superintendent Seibel for 14½ years, will also retire.

The Grossmanns were long-time residents of Allendale. They now live in Wyckoff. Mr. Grossmann was employed by Citizens Bank for many years, while he served the Board part-time. In 1966 he became the first full-time secretary.

Al has seen, and in many ways supervised, four expansions at Brookside and the construction of Hillside School during his tenure. This in addition to his diverse regular duties, which included providing essential continuity to the Board as its membership changed over the years.

Board and staff members, as well as many friends, attended a dinner honoring the Grossmanns on June 10.

BOARD STUDIES CURRICULUM

In their continuing effort to keep up with new developments in education and to make Allendale's classroom activities more productive, the Board and members of the staff have participated in a series of work sessions. It is the Board's intent (as well as its responsibility) to establish and maintain broad policies and goals. These, in turn, provide the administration and the teaching staff the direction they need to meet our education requirements.

The mathematics curriculum is currently the object of an in-depth study. The ultimate goal is to update the math program throughout all eight grades, and to incorporate new methods and approaches which will make classroom teaching more effective.

The science program is also undergoing revision. New approaches are being implemented so that the new science laboratory will be used to the fullest. Greater emphasis will be given to self-learning techniques, which encourage students to think analytically.

In language arts, French will be added on a limited basis at the sixth grade level next year. The planned 20-minute classes twice a week will serve as an orientation and introduction to our established two-year foreign language program in seventh and eighth grades.

STAFF CHANGES

Mrs. Charles (Irene) Taylor has been employed to replace Al Grossmann as secretary to the Board of Education. She has served as Mr. Grossmann's secretary for two years, and in this capacity has

become familiar with the numerous duties of the job, including completion and filing of the numerous reports required by the county and state departments of education.

Assuming responsibilities for the maintenance of the physical plant, which includes both Brookside and Hillside, will be Charles Concodora. He has been named Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Concodora has been head custodian at Brookside for 3 years.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ABOUND AT BROOKSIDE

It may appear, at times, that educational activities are limited to the hours from 9 to 3. Such is far from fact, however, as evidenced by the myriad of special activities and clubs, each sponsored and directed by a member of the teaching staff.

There are, in fact, more than 25 clubs open to students. There is an Ecology Club, for example. In addition to studying many aspects of this our environment, members have gotten a taste of practical experience. They have also gotten their feet wet and their hands dirtied in accomplishing their chosen project -- cleaning out the brook that flows through the park and past Brookside School. Faculty advisor is Mrs. A. Anderson, although other staff members have assisted.

Mr. Wasek has sponsored a fencing club. Although small in size, the group has learned the fine points of this ancient art from Mr. Wasek, who excelled in the sport during his collegiate career at William Paterson College.

Music plays a big part in Brookside's extracurricular activities. Mr. DiGrazia's

8 a.m. band rehearsals achieved outstanding results, as demonstrated by their performance on Memorial Day. Had it not been for the band's spirit and pride of accomplishment, there would have been no parade on that rainy Monday morning.

The Board suggests that parents encourage their children to take advantage of these very valuable adjuncts to their classroom education. A little extra push from home is often all that is needed.

FINAL TOUCHES BEING PUT ON HILLSIDE NATURE AREA

Several days of concerted effort in late winter and spring, on the part of scouts from Troop 59, have seen a marked transformation in the Hillside Nature Area. The classroom area and the basic trails have been completed under the direction of Scoutmaster John Cebak and two Eagle Scout candidates, Rich Kolb and Buddy Blide. Dick Claycomb supervised the project for the Board of Education.

Over the summer, the scouts plan to continue their work, identifying and marking plant life and other points of interest. The Allendale Garden Club provided the basic plantings for cover and food for wildlife.

Residents are encouraged to enjoy this area, although it has been developed primarily for use of Hillside and Brookside School classes. Public access is from the service road between Hillside and Donnybrook Avenues.

In order that the natural resources of the area remain intact, we ask that all users limit their movements to established trails, and refrain from removing or destroying any plant or

animal life. And since it is designed to be a wild life refuge, bicycles and motor scooters should not be used in its confines.

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON AUDITORIUM RENOVATION MAKES ITS REPORT

Many residents have been contacted during recent weeks by members of the Citizens Committee named by the Board to consider the feasibility of its plan to renovate Brookside's auditorium! Mrs. Nancy Vander Werff, who chaired the Committee, made the Committee's formal report to the Board at its regular June meeting.

Reaction to the proposal was mixed, according to Mrs. Vander Werff. The majority of those contacted were sympathetic to the need, and agreed that some repairs or remodeling is needed. But the financial pressures from other community activities, such as the purchase of Crestwood and second-stage sewerage, make further expenditures less than attractive at this time.

Members of the Board have been aware of these factors, and have worked with the Council in working out an orderly schedule for these very desirable and much needed community improvements. The Board will, of course, continue to keep them in mind in any plans they make.

Some repairs cannot be postponed for very long. The problem is to find a way to do the job in stages without undue financial hardship to taxpayers, while at the same time keep total costs as low as possible. Because of the nature of the project, the most inexpensive way would be to do it all at one time.

The Board intends to continue its study of this project in the months to come. We solicit the community's suggestions and, perhaps more important, their understanding, in solving this problem that becomes more pressing as time goes on.

"OUR SCHOOLS" PROGRAM

In order to make our schools more responsive to the needs of our rapidly changing society, the New Jersey State Board of Education established the "Our Schools" Program. It is the first step in a long-range planning and development effort for education in our state. The program seeks answers to major questions on educational goals, performances, and future programs.

Extensive citizen participation is encouraged through state, regional and local meetings. The views and concerns

of participants will be guides to the State Board of Education and the legislature in formulating educational policy.

Allendale is represented in the "Our Schools" program by Board member - James Harris, William Castor, Mrs. H. Vander Werff, Superintendent Henry Seibel, and two students from Northern Highlands - Helen Ash, and Jay Blodgett.

SCHOOL OPENINGS

We are in need of full time and "on call" teacher aides for playground and cafeteria supervision at noon time for next year. Teacher aides are paid on an hourly basis. If you are interested or may know of someone who may be interested, please contact the main office of the Brookside School.

**Board of Education
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