

HILLSIDE and BROOKSIDE

MEMO

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Allendale, New Jersey

FEBRUARY 1975

CHILDREN IN BOTH SCHOOLS ENJOY A VARIETY OF CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

The Music Department of the Brookside School, assisted by the Brookside School Music Association, presented its ninth annual holiday program, *Sounds of Christmas, '74*. Approximately 300 students participated in the concert under the direction of Mrs. Angelyn MacWilliams, Mr. William Miranda, and Mr. Edward Shaughnessy. The program was presented at two assembly programs for the Brookside students. It was also enjoyed by residents of the community at an evening performance prior to the holidays.

Three mini-concerts were given by the Music Department during the month of December; two of these were presented at the Hillside School. They included the Fifth and Sixth Grade Choir, Boys' Glee Club, and the Junior and Cadet Bands.

A play, *Santa Claus for President*, was presented to the students at Hillside School by the boys and girls in Mrs. Hagen's third grade class. Through the cooperation of the Allendale Police Department Santa visited the school at the conclusion of the program. All students received candy canes.

In addition to the various Christmas activities *The Nutcracker Suite* was presented by a team of talented young dancers to the students in both schools.

CURRICULUM

SOCIAL STUDIES

A new social studies program was introduced this September at the Hillside School. During the 1973-74 school year many workshops and in-service programs were conducted to evaluate lessons and curriculum guides for the primary grades. The new program includes related filmstrips and records. Emphasis is placed on the values that direct choices and behavior. A concept and inquiry technique is applied. The study and evaluation of the social studies program is being continued in grades 4, 5, and 6 at the Brookside School by the teachers of the intermediate grades.

METRIC SYSTEM COMMITTEE

Four teachers have been working on a program of study in the metric system for grades K-8. The study is being completed under a grant from the Comprehensive Educational Program sponsored by the Board of Education. Miss Storms and Mrs. Manganini are preparing a program for grades K-3; Mrs. Prytherch and Mr. Albinson for grades 4-8. Several manipulative devices are now in use at the Brookside School including a multi-media kit which features cassette-centered lessons on length and area, liquid volume and measuring weights. A Metrikit is also being used

which provides many "hand-on" activities for children to complete. Both programs are non-graded. The metric activities developed by this committee will help children become more aware of the metric system of measurement through reinforcement and sequential learning.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Allendale school district is a member of the North Jersey Cultural Council. As a member, the two schools receive three live cultural programs a year. The students have seen two programs; "Passing Thru," a Bicentennial theme which presented American Folk ballads, poetry, and dances; and "Creation Myths," a program structured around the idea of man's questioning and his attempts to solve the problems of the unknown. The third program, "Brass Quintets," will be presented in May. Students, parents, and teachers have expressed their appreciation for these programs.

DRUG PROGRAM

On January 22, school was closed at 1:00 p.m. in order that the teachers could attend a drug abuse preventative program at the high school from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. The program was presented by The Institute for the Advancement of Criminal Justice. Teachers from Upper Saddle River, the high school, and Allendale attended.

INTERVISITATION WITH HIGH SCHOOL

Within the past month the eighth grade teachers at Brookside School have been observing ninth grade classes related to their subject area at the high school. The purpose of the visits was to observe the various techniques employed in developing a unit of work, equipment used in relating the subject matter to the students, progress of individual students, and our students in general. The teachers felt these visits were more informative

and helpful than isolated group meetings held in the various schools. Ninth grade teachers will visit Brookside School classes. Our goal is to develop a close coordination in curriculum areas between the elementary and high school.

PARENT SEMINAR SERIES

At the January P.T.O. executive meeting, two programs related to the curriculum were discussed. The first program, "Parent Seminar Series," would be the planning of several afternoon sessions throughout the year in which parents would be informed of specific areas of the school curriculum. The second program would be the expansion of our present resource file related to careers, hobbies, and trips. Through the use of resource personnel our boys and girls would receive first-hand information related to vocations, hobbies, and countries they had or will study.

NEW JERSEY EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

In October, 1973, all of our fourth and seventh grade students were administered the New Jersey Educational Assessment Tests in the areas of mathematics and reading. The state has furnished us with the statistical data on the district test results which has been analyzed by our administration and teachers. The analysis and evaluation of this data have been submitted to the state assessment officials and have received their approval for public release as authorized by state law.

We believe the summary of the data will be of interest to the citizens of Allendale. Each school district, in addition to having its own school results, received the results for its four representative groups: county (Bergen), geographic region (northeast), community (suburban), and the entire state. Allendale's fourth and seventh grade

students' composite scores exceeded all reference groups in reading and mathematics.

Fourth grade students scored above all reference group averages on 70 of the 78 reading questions. Seventh grade students topped reference group averages on 84 of the 86 questions. In mathematics fourth grade students scored higher than reference group averages on 51 of the 62 questions. Of the 82 questions on the seventh grade test, the students scored higher on 79 questions.

On the basis of our test results in relation to our reference groups, it is apparent that we have a successful program in reading and mathematics. Recent revision of our program in both subjects has been a contributing factor. The staff members in both schools are studying the results to determine methods of improving weaknesses revealed by the tests in reading or mathematics.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET AND ELECTION COMING UP

The annual public hearing on the 1975-76 budget for the elementary schools in our district will be held Tuesday, February 25 at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the Brookside School.

Voting on the budget and to fill one seat on the board of education will be from 4:00 until 9:00 p.m., March 11, at Brookside. The aim of the board of education is to provide educational opportunities consistent with the economy. The 1975-76 school budget strikes a balance between the current economic facts of life and Allendale's commitment to its children.

When residents express themselves on the school budget on March 11, it will be the only time they'll be able to do so. A defeated budget goes directly to the borough council without a second opportunity for voters to express themselves.

MRS. KNIGHT RETIRES

Mrs. Donald Knight, eighth grade language arts teacher, retired from the Allendale School system at the end of December. Mrs. Knight was employed by the Allendale Board of Education in 1951. She taught fourth and sixth grades before teaching in our present departmental program. Prior to teaching in Allendale, Mrs. Knight taught in Pompton Plains, New Jersey and Middletown, Connecticut.

We acknowledge Mrs. Knight's faithful service to our community and wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

FACULTY REPLACEMENTS

Since June five teachers have been replaced in our education program. The new teachers are:

Mrs. Margaret Kutner — fourth grade instructor. Mrs. Kutner received a B.A. degree in elementary education from the University of Massachusetts. Mrs. Kutner has four years of teaching experience.

Mrs. Deborah Gibbs — fourth grade instructor. Mrs. Gibbs received her B.A. degree in elementary education from the College of William and Mary. She began her teaching career in Grafton, Virginia.

Mrs. Margaret Goss, a resident of Allendale, teaches the fifth grade. Mrs. Goss received her B.A. degree in elementary education from Marycrest College, Iowa. She has three years of public school teaching experience from Iowa City, Iowa.

Miss Joan Griffo — fifth grade instructor. Miss Griffo received her B.A. degree in elementary education from Kean College, New Jersey.

Mrs. Norma Chamales — language arts instructor in Brookside's departmental program. Mrs. Chamales received her B.S. degree in elementary education and English from Seton Hall University. She is in the process of completing her M.A. degree in English at Montclair State College. Mrs. Chamales started her teaching career in East Orange, New Jersey.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOLS

The State has given permission to use the Attack Warning System (siren) for notification of school closings in emergency inclement weather situations. The signal will be three blasts of the siren at 7:15 a.m. Announcements will still be made on radio stations WPAT and WOR. Please do not call the police, fire department, or schools for this information. If you did not get a call from the P.T.O. homeroom parent the last time school was closed, please notify the school office.

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCHES/MILK

In September, 1974, a bulletin was sent home regarding free and reduced price lunches and/or milk. If your salary income has dropped due to lay-off since that time, your child may qualify under this program. Any questions pertaining to eligibility, call Mrs. Zajac, Brookside School cafeteria.

CALENDAR

- Feb. 25 Public hearing, 1975-76 budget – Brookside School, 8:00 p.m.
- Feb. 26 Meeting for 8th grade parents re. graduation plans – Brookside School, 8:00 p.m.
- Feb. 28 February Program, grade 3 – Hillside School, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- Mar. 3-5 Kindergarten Round Up – Hillside School, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Mar. 11 School budget election – Brookside School, 4:00-9:00 p.m.
- Mar. 17 Regular meeting, Board of Education – Brookside School, 8:00 p.m.
- Mar. 19 General meeting, P.T.O. – Brookside School, 8:00 p.m.
- Mar. 26 Spring Program, grade 3 – Hillside School, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- Apr. 2 P.T.O. Fashion Show
- Apr. 10 Junior Concert – Brookside School, 8:00 p.m.
- Apr. 14-18 Spring Recess
- Apr. 21 Regular meeting, Board of Education – Brookside School, 8:00 p.m.
- Apr. 30 Spring Concert – Brookside School, 8:00 p.m.

**Board of Education
Brookside School
Allendale, New Jersey 07401**

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