

the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

SEPTEMBER

The Agassiz Community School Newsletter

1981

COMMUNITY NOTICES

AGASSIZ SCHOOL OPENS, Thursday, September 10th.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAMS for K-4th Grades begin, Monday, September 14th.

SEPTEMBER RELEASE DAYS (there are 2 per month this year), Thursday, September 17th and Tuesday, September 29th. Half day of school.

FIRST AGASSIZ P.T.A. MEETING, Thursday, October 1, 7:30 p.m. in the Agassiz gym.

* * * * *

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

There is lots of news to report!

In conjunction with the re-organization of human services within the city of Cambridge and reflecting some of the effects of Proposition 2 1/2 on those services, our first bit of news is that as of July 1st, Julie Snow is now the full-time (and sole) Agassiz Community School Coordinator, while Ken Basler has become a Program Manager/Developer, overseeing community and youth programming in the Agassiz, Peabody, Lincoln and Fitzgerald School districts. While we will surely miss Ken, in his new position, he will be facilitating planning for the broader North Cambridge community, and this will mean increased resources and programming for members of the Agassiz community as well, particularly teens, adults and senior citizens.

Here in the Agassiz neighborhood, most of our current programs will continue as before, including:

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS, Cont.

1. The After-School Activities Program for K-4th Grades.
2. The After-School Day Care Program
3. The After-School Activities Program for 4th-8th Grades.

There will not be any evening programming in the Agassiz School this year, but both the Peabody and the Fitzgerald Schools will be offering evening sports, courses, and special events for teens and adults. We will publicize all such opportunities in the WHISTLER as they are scheduled.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM for K-4th

This is a program designed to provide creative, fun, stimulating after-school activities for children in the K-4th grades, on a part-time basis. Parents may sign up children for 1 to 3 afternoons a week (except for 3rd graders - see below).

Each day begins with a snack and meeting time and is followed by two choice times, one from 3:00 to 4:15 and the second from 4:15 until 5:15 or 5:30. The day ends at 5:30 although children may be picked up as late as 6:00 p.m. Offerings during choice times include: cooking, arts, crafts, sports, field trips, science, drama, and free times. At the time of registration, parents and children can see the schedule of daily activities and choose days which appeal to the interests of the child(ren).

Robin White and Smiley Winter will both be back as the teachers in this program.

While this is not, officially, a day-care program, we realize that parents may want to use this to answer some day care needs. For this reason, we allow third graders to sign up for 5 afternoons a week. This is also why we have recently begun to admit

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS, Cont.

4th graders into the program on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays only (and to provide special age-appropriate activities for them on these days).

TO REGISTER for this program, parents and children should come to the Agassiz Community School office at 20 Sacramento Street on Wednesday-Friday, September 9-11, between 2:30 and 6:00. The cost of the program is \$3.00 per day and tuitions must be paid four times a year for 10 weeks at a time. The first 10-week tuition will be due at the time of registration. People needing additional scholarship assistance may apply for it at the time of registration.

Remember:

K-2nd graders may come 1-3 days.

3rd graders may come 1-5 days.

4th graders may come 1-3 days, Mon-Weds-Fri only.

We are aware of the many threatened cutbacks in extra-curricular activities during the regular school day and hope we can help to counteract these losses with imaginative programming in arts, sports, music, and science. We welcome your suggestions of ideas for activities!

AFTER-SCHOOL DAY CARE PROGRAM for K-2nd

Now entering our third year, our After-School Day Care program is designed specifically to meet the needs of working parents and their children. The program runs daily from 2:30 to 6:00 p.m., on school release days from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m., and on vacation days from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The two teachers are Darryl Barbee and, new this year, Terry DeLancey. The day-care day also includes a snack/meeting time and choice time, but it also includes a free time early in each day to give children an opportunity to cool out, spend relaxed

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS, Cont.

time with friends and teachers, and to engage in smaller group or individual activities or games of their own design and choosing.

Children MUST be picked up by 6:00 p.m. each day at the latest and we ask parents to be considerate of teachers' needs to leave at 6:00 p.m. as well.

Parents are expected to be more involved in this program and will have opportunities such as:

1. attending bi-monthly parent meetings,
2. participating in a parent steering committee which will plan these meetings and oversee the program throughout the year,
3. helping out with fund-raising projects, of which there are two during the year.

The first parent meeting will be scheduled for mid-September and we hope parents will make a special effort to attend this.

The cost of this program is \$17-\$25 a week per child. We have designed this sliding scale to give parents some opportunity to match their tuition payments against their income. This is your task. We ask only that you assess your situation fairly and remember that the entire program depends on tuition funds (and fund-raising) for its operation.

TO REGISTER for this program, parents should come to the Agassiz Community School office at 20 Sacramento Street between Wednesday, September 2nd and Friday, September 11th, between 2:30 and 6:00 p.m. At this time, parents will be expected to fill out a registration form and pay for September's tuition. (After that, tuition will be due BEFORE the 1st of each month.) Some additional scholarship aid will be available. Parents needing this should apply at the time of registration.

We welcome any suggestions you may have special activities or choices for your children. We realize that s/he will be

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS, Cont.

spending much of her/his time in our program, and we're eager to design a program that responds to as many individual needs and interests as possible.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR 4th-8th

This is our program of courses for 4th - 8th graders. This will begin in October. In the past we've offered such courses as: cooking, calligraphy, photography, circus arts, drama, knitting, sewing, ceramics, and woodworking.

Please let us know if you have any special interests for this year.

GYMNASTICS

Robin White will offer Friday gymnastics classes again this year. Anyone signing up for either the After-School Day Care Program or the After-School Activities Program for K-4th should indicate on their registration form that they which to sign their child(ren) up for these classes and we will enroll kids in the classes until they are filled.

Last year's Saturday and evening gymnastics classes, sponsored by the Recreation Department, will take place in the War Memorial gym this year. We will publicize classes as they are scheduled.

SENIOR CITIZENS

This year, we will be starting a SENIORS COLUMN in the Whistler each month. We will publish items of interest as well as relevant program information for the North Cambridge area.

Your ideas for this column are welcome!!!

* * * * *

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL OFFICE
498-9056

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The primary function of the Agassiz Community Council is to oversee the Agassiz Community School programs, to ensure that the programming speaks to the needs of the community, and to bring new needs for new programming to light when they develop.

The Council has also been the forum for addressing other issues relating to the "quality of life" in the Agassiz community. Issues such as: zoning, neighborhood safety, and the relations between neighboring universities and the Agassiz community have been routinely taken up in these meetings.

Since issues and problems have been the main calling cards for Council participation until now, the Council membership has fluctuated radically from month to month, from meeting to meeting, and from year to year. This year, we would like to develop a more stable Council with ongoing responsibilities and interests in both the Community School and the community at large. Tasks for the Council will include:

1. formulating goals for broader based community programming - i.e. among the North Cambridge cluster of schools (Agassiz, Lincoln, Fitzgerald, Peabody)
2. making concrete decisions about how funds should be spent to implement this programming.
3. providing input, ideas, and proposals for additional programming within the Agassiz neighborhood in areas such as: teens, adults, or seniors.
4. creating a community voice, representing the Community School Program, the Agassiz School, The Agassiz Playgroup, The Agassiz Community Center, and the interests of all ages in the community to address issues of "quality of life" in our neighborhood.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A COMMITMENT OF YOUR TIME AND ENERGY TO OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS. (That's all it takes to be a member of the Council!) We meet on the second Wednesday of every month. Our first meeting will be WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14th AT 8:00 p.m. IN THE AGASSIZ LIBRARY.

* * * * *

SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY OPENS FOR
ITS SECOND SEASON!

The Sacramento Street Gallery, a community-run gallery in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street, will open its second season on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th with an exciting ONE DAY EXHIBIT OF WORK BY LOCAL ARTISTS. Anyone making art in the Agassiz area is invited to bring up to three pieces to the Gallery from 10 a.m. to noon on that day. The public may view the work from 12 to 4 pm (on that same day). Come and enjoy the diverse talents of your neighbors!

The following FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, the Gallery proudly presents the WORK of WEN-TI TSEN, in a one person show running until October 11th. Join us at the opening party on the 18th from 7-10 pm, or visit the Gallery Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 3 p.m. Coming this fall: a week-night viewing time! Soon you'll be able to enjoy area art on your way home from work!

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS
Agassiz Community School
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, Ma. 02138-1882

AGASSIZ P.T.A. NEWS

The first P.T.A. meeting of the new year will be Thursday, October 1st, at 7:30 p.m. in the Agassiz School gym. Come meet your children's teachers, hear about new mini-courses in the upper grades and about our experimental Parent Liaison Program (P.A.L.), an effort to more fully welcome parents new to the school and the neighborhood. Agassiz School depends on the support and participation of parents! Please join us as the new year gets underway!

WHISTLER ITEMS

If you have an event you want to publicize, a service you want to offer, something to sell, or an article of community interest, it has to be in the Agassiz Community School office by the middle of the month prior to publication. Thanks! *** IN THE OCTOBER WHISTLER, watch for information on: The 4th-8th Grade After-School Program, the new Department of Human Service Programs, and MORE!!! (For more information or to make additions to the mailing list, call Julie Snow at 498-9056, M-F, afternoons.)

<p>NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID CAMBRIDGE, MASS. BULK RATE NO. 58292</p>
--