

the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

SEPTEMBER

THE AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1982

COMMUNITY NOTICES

AGASSIZ SCHOOL OPENS, Thursday, Sept. 9th.

REGISTRATION FOR AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (K-4th) and FRIDAY GYMNASTICS CLASSES, Thursday & Friday, Sept. 9 & 10, 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. (2nd floor).

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAMS for K-4th BEGIN, Mon., Sept. 13.

SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY - SEPTEMBER SHOW: WORKS FROM KALEIDOSCOPE (Carolyn Krinsky's art workshops for kids). OPENING: Saturday, September 18, 12-2:00 p.m., 20 Sacramento St. KIDS INVITED!

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL/COMMUNITY SCHOOL

For those of you who are new to the Agassiz School or neighborhood, the Agassiz Community School Program is a part of the Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs. Our job is to provide programs and services which meet the social, educational, and recreational needs of the people in our neighborhood and school. The governing body of the program is the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. The primary function of the 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 programming to light when they develop.

The Council is also 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 community are routinely taken up in these meetings. The Council meets once a month and is open to all members of the Agassiz community.

The Community School office is in the

Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street. The current Coordinator is Julie Osherson. Her office hours are from 2:00 to 6:00, Monday - Friday, and you can reach her during this time at:498-9056.

Here is a run-down on the Community School Programs for this fall:

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FOR K-4th

This is a program designed to provide fun, creative after-school activities for children in the K-4th grades. Parents may sign up children in K-2nd grades for 1, 2 or 3 afternoons a week. 3rd and 4th graders may sign up for 1 - 5 afternoons a week.

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 last as 6:00 p.m. Offerings during choice times include: cooking, arts, crafts, sports, field trips, outdoor free play, etc. 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).

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 3rd and 4th graders to sign up for up to 5 afternoons a week. If full time care is not needed, parents may want to explore other program options available to 4th graders (see After-School Activities for 4th-8th Graders).

TO REGISTER FOR THIS PROGRAM, parents and children must come to the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St. on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 9 & 10, between 2:30 and 6:00. The cost of the program is \$3.50 per afternoon 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 scholarship assistance may apply

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (K-4th), Cont.

for it at the time of registration.

AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD CARE PROGRAM FOR K-2nd

This program is designed specifically to meet the needs of working parents and their children. The program runs daily from 2:30 to 5:45 p.m., on release days from 12:30 to 5:45 p.m., and on vacation days from 8:30 to 5:45 p.m. It is located in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street. Each day the children are picked up at school (or met at the bus) by the teachers and brought to the Center for the afternoon.

This year we will have three teachers: Terry DeLancey will be our head teacher and Anne Kelleher and another teacher (to be hired by the time school opens) will work with her. The child 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 time with friends and teachers, and to engage in smaller group or individual activities or games of their own choosing.

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

1. attending 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,
4. help out with cleaning and maintenance of the space.

The cost of this program is \$18-28 a week per child. We have designed this sliding scale to give parents some opportunity to match their tuition payments against their income.

REGISTRATION for this program took place at the end of June so there will be no formal registration process this fall. Parents who wish to put their child on our waiting list should come to the Community Center on Sept. 9th or 10th, 2:30-6:00 p.m., to fill out an application.

For more information on this program, call Julie Osherson at 498-9056, afternoons, after Sept. 7th.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR 4th-8th GRADES

In the past we have offered courses for this age group such as: cooking, calligraphy, circus arts, drama or ceramics. This year we are, tentatively, planning three options for this age group:

1. COURSES FOR 4th-6th GRADERS in many of the same areas. Registration for these will be Oct. 4-8, and courses will start the following week.
2. AN AFTERNOON CHECK-IN PROGRAM FOR 4th-6th GRADERS. In this program, kids would report (on the days they're registered) to an "After-School Coordinator" at 2:30 and at the end of the afternoon before going home. In the meantime, a variety of options would be open to them: participating in the courses offered, hanging out with the Coordinator - talking, doing homework, etc., visiting a friend, or going to Sacramento Field or the Tot Lot for sports.

The Coordinator would be, in a sense, the liaison between the child and one or both working parents and would be in charge of each child's "afternoon plan" and her/his whereabouts during this time. If you know that you would sign up for such a program, PLEASE CALL JULIE AT 498-9056 AND PUT YOUR NAME ON AN INITIAL REGISTRATION LIST, so she can be sure there is sufficient interest in and need for this program to develop it further.

3. CLUBS FOR 7th & 8th GRADERS. These will be developed with extensive 7th and 8th grade input and control.

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL THESE OPTIONS IN THE OCTOBER WHISTLER.

GYMNASTICS

Robin Morrison will be back to teach our Friday Gymnastics classes, starting on October 8th. There will be three classes:

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|-----------|------------------------|
| 2:45-3:45 | Beginners |
| 3:45-4:45 | Intermediates |
| 4:45-5:45 | Advanced Intermediates |

Cont.

GYMNASTICS, Cont.

REGISTRATION for these classes will take place on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 9 & 10, at the Community Center. Since these classes are sponsored by the Recreation Division (of the Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs), there is only an initial registration fee, which can be paid at the time of registration or at the first class.

Classes will start on October 8th and run for a fall 10-week term. Children who are signed up for After-School programs may register for these classes and be gotten from the programs to the classes and back again. Other children must be brought directly to the gym and picked up there at the end of the class.

SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES

We are looking forward to a year of growing involvement in the activities and services available to senior citizens in our neighborhood. MUTUAL AID meetings will continue through the fall at the North Congregational Church, and we are hoping to offer SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES again (also in the North Church) starting on October 8 - Fridays, 10-11 a.m.

LIZ SIMONS' WORK-YOUR-BODY CLASSES!

Liz Simons and Cathy Camel will be back teaching these fabulous aerobic/exercise classes at the following times:

- MON. 6-7 (first class: Sept. 13)
- WEDS. 6-7 (first class: Sept. 8)
- SAT. 3:30-4:30 (first class: Sept. 11)

These are held in the Agassiz School gym and are for women and men both. People must sign up for 2 classes a week, 10 weeks at a time. Sneakers should be worn. The cost is \$3.00 per class up to 2 classes a week; the 3rd class is \$2.00; 4th class is \$1.00. Payment should be made for 10 weeks at a time, but installment payments are possible if absolutely necessary. Bring payment to the first class, or come on Sept. 8th and try a class before you decide (\$3.00 for one trial class).

LESLEY COLLEGE BIG SISTER PROGRAM

A group of Lesley students will be working in conjunction with the Agassiz Community School program to set up a Big Sister Program in the fall. We will keep you posted on this as it evolves.

BROWNIES & JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS

As soon as we have our leaders for this year, we will start up our Agassiz troops for the year. If your child is interested in becoming a Brownie or Junior Girl Scout, call Julie at 498-9056 and let her know so we can be planning ahead!

BABYSITTERS FOR OUR BABYSITTING LIST

Each year we like to keep an active list of competent babysitters on file in the Community School office. Many people call for names from this list, so it is a useful source of work for babysitters.

If you would like to have your name on this list for the coming year, you need to be 12 years or older, and you must have a short interview with the Coordinator. To do this, call Julie at 498-9056, starting in September. People looking for sitters should also call Julie at this number, Mon-Fri, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m..

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

The first meeting of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council for this academic year will be on Wednesday, September 15, at 8:00 in the Agassiz School library.

This will be a joint meeting of the Council and the Agassiz Neighborhood Planning Group. The Planning Group is an adjunct committee to the Council (see following article) whose primary focus is on development issues within the neighborhood. COUNCIL MEETINGS ORDINARILY MEET ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Items on this joint meeting will include:

1. A final report by Dennis Carlone (a consultant hired by the Cambridge

COUNCIL, Cont.

Community Development Department) on the possible interface between Lesley College and the community vis a vis future development.

2. A review of the Neighborhood Planning Group activities.
3. In particular, a review of the Downzoning Petition recently filed by the Planning Group and a vote on this by the Council. (see following article)
4. A review of the Community School programs planned for the year.
5. A report on the Agassiz Community Center; plans for renovation work & Center activities.
6. A discussion of outreach efforts in the coming year.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A COMMITMENT OF YOUR TIME AND ENERGY TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL. All it takes is attendance at our monthly meetings, and in exchange you can keep up with neighborhood issues, have a role in shaping your Community School programs, and meet new friends and neighbors. SEE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 15th!

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP

This spring, some Agassiz residents decided to form a committee to heighten neighborhood awareness of and involvement in local planning and development activities. The work of the committee - called the Agassiz Neighborhood Planning Group - is intended to assure continuous neighborhood involvement in this important area and to guarantee that we learn as early as possible about proposals affecting our neighborhood. The May issue of the Whistler described the objectives of the group.

To date, the work of the group has concentrated on two subjects. One is a two-part development proposal which calls for: 1. constructing 12 townhouses on the large parking lot on Frost St. and 2. adding 2 stories to the Wicker Shop building on Mass. Ave. for commercial and office use. The other concern of the Planning Group has

been a petition to down-zone the northwest part of the neighborhood from C-1 to B. The affected area is bounded by Sacrament St., Mass. Ave., Roseland St. and Oxford St. This petition will be the subject of a discussion and vote at the September 15 Council meeting.

The Planning Group, like most neighborhood committees, is open to all Agassiz residents. It is a sub-committee of the Neighborhood Council and will give a monthly report of its activities at the Council meetings. BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER, IT WILL MEET ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, at 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz School library. People interested in joining this committee should come to the joint Council/Planning Group meeting on September 15.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER

THERAPEUTIC TOUCH LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION AND COURSE

Therapeutic Touch is a technique for channeling life energy through ourselves to relax and balance the energy field of another person. When we let go of restricting patterns of mental, emotional, and physical tension, our natural powers have some greater freedom to come into play and we find ourselves able to bring renewed energy and imagination into the work of our lives.

The practice of Therapeutic Touch involves visualizing oneself as a channel for vital energy (also called prana, chi, and ki) in a spirit of healing peace. One learns to use the hands to sense where built-up tension needs to be cleared and where the flow needs to be directed into the other person's energy field. How this offering is or is not used is totally up to that other person. Like all meditative approaches to healing, Therapeutic Touch is an interaction, not an invasion.

I have been living in this neighborhood for some years now, and I'm currently working with a group of Therapeutic Touch practitioners called Healing Circle. Our fall

activities are beginning with a demonstration and a basic course at the Agassiz Community Center:

FREE INTRODUCTORY LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION Sunday, September 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

BASIC COURSE (12 hours) Sunday, September 26, 12-4 p.m. and the next three Thursdays, 7:30-10 p.m. (September 30, Oct. 7 & 14)

Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge.

For more information, please call 354-3137.

- Yarrow Anne Cleaves

STRESS MANAGEMENT COURSE: LEARNING TO UNWIND

Learning to more effectively handle stress as it arises throughout the day. Stress reduction, attitudinal and life-style changes, and techniques for more effectively confronting situations.

October 6, 13, 20 7:00-9:30 p.m. Cost: \$45.00 Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. For more information or to register, call Joel Grossman at 1-462-9245.

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AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

New Pre-School Day Care Program - a small pre-school day care for children 2 years, 9 months to 5 years, is opening mid-September in the Agassiz neighborhood. I am an experienced pre-school teacher and have my certification to run a day care program. The program will be on the first floor of my house. I am in the process of getting my home licensed as well.

I will offer a great variety of educational activities, art experiences, and the more usual pre-school activities. I have a vary large number of books, records, and games and toys.

I established and ran a pre-school for four years in Saudi Arabia. I also worked

two summers in day care in the United States. It will be a fun educational experience!

To register or for more information, call Layla Cable at 876-0722.

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SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

- 1. Do you have a friend or neighbor in the Agassiz Community who does not currently receive the Whistler and who might like to?
- 2. Are there any courses or workshops for adults you'd like to see offered at the Community Center?
- 3. Would you be interested in after-school language classes for children in the 1st-3rd grades? 4th-6th? Which languages?
- 4. Would you be interested in serving on a Teen Council (this question is for teens, of course) to help plan activities or services for Agassiz teens?
- 5. Would you be interested in volunteering in any of our programs or to help with the maintenance or upkeep of the Agassiz Community Center?

TO ANSWER ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL JULIE OSHERSON AT THE AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER, 498-9056, ANY WEEKDAY AFTERNOON AFTER SEPTEMBER 7th. We want to know your feelings and ideas about these questions. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COORDINATOR: JULIE OSHERSON
AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: JOEL BARD

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AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL PHONE: 498-9056
AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CENTER: 547-1062
AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD CARE PROGRAM: 547-1062
AGASSIZ PUBLIC SCHOOL: 498-9256

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Agassiz Community School
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, Ma. 02138

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