NEW EVENING PROGRAMS

Since the last issue of the Whistler, several new programs have begun:

MONDAY: 7-8 Girls Basketball
8-9:30 Teen Basketball & Hockey

WEDNESDAY: 7-8:30 Guitar Lessons
(all ages)

THURSDAY: 7-8:15 Poetry Workshop
(High Sch)

Also a reminder of ongoing programs:

TUES. & TH: 7-8:30 Adult Exercise
WEDNESDAY: 7-8 Yoga
6-10 Inst. for Contemp Dance
(teens) 7-9 Pool & Ping Pong

If you are interested in any of these groups, please call Sallie (876-9268) to get the details.

THE "Y" FIELD MEETING

Last winter an arrangement was made between Harvard, the Agassiz Community Council and the City Recreation Department concerning the "Y" Field (located on Sacramento Street and owned by Harvard). Under the agreement the University rented the field to the City for 3 months for one dollar. The City of Cambridge agreed to "save Harvard University and its Officers harmless from claims of injury or damage to any persons while on the premises", the Recreation Department would construct and maintain an ice-skating area and maintain the rest of the field in a state of good repair, and the Agassiz Community Council and other groups would be permitted to administer programs and activities on the field and skating area. On or before April 1, the Recreation Department would remove the ice-skating area and return the field to its original condition. The agreement included the provision that after a successful three months with the City on the field, Harvard would look forward to renewing the agreement for a longer period. For a number of reasons (flukes of New England weather, understaffing or overwork of the Recreation Department) there was never a rink.

At the meeting held Wednesday March 29, those attending to plan for the "Y" Field: 1) agreed to request the City Recreation Department to restore the field, 2) to inquire of Harvard through its Community Affairs Office about the best way to restore grass to the rink area and to the part of the field that is a broken-up black top, 3) to plan for neighborhood participation in cleaning up the field, and 4) to initiate formal request to Harvard for the use of both the Sacramento Field and the Sachs Estate for community programs in the present spring and coming summer.

Anyone who would be interested in joining a committee to help plan for the field may call the Agassiz Community School (876-9268), Jill or John Norton (491-5158, afternoons or evenings), or Richard Mumma, Agassiz Coordinator (547-8677).
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

The second Wednesday of every month, at 8 P.M., neighborhood people gather in the Agassiz School library to discuss all sorts of things -- from budgetary matters, to organizing around political issues (Harvard, City Council, etc.), to setting up programs for the summer. Everyone is encouraged to come. Decisions and announcements are made that could affect you.

LOOK FOR US!

To aid us in getting information out to the community, the Agassiz Community School has established a series of locations in the neighborhood where news of forthcoming meetings and their general agendas can be found. These will be locations where notices will be put regularly, so that it can become a habit to look at certain windows and bulletin boards for news from us.

Locations:

Bence Pharmacy - Mass Ave, and Everett Street
Coffee, Tea & Spice - Mass, Ave, & Prentiss St.
Agassiz Food Shop - Oxford and Sacramento St.
Oxford Spa - Oxford and Eustis
Corner Store - Beacon & Museum
School bulletin board out in front of school

If any additional locations would be desirable, please call us at 876-9268 with suggestions.

NEW AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Two new special activities have been added to the after-school program at the Agassiz Community School. On Tuesdays from 2:30 - 4:00 there is now a modern dance class taught by a Simmons student, Ruth Beer. This class is open to both boys and girls from ages 6-12 and is a special program. There will be a small charge for the program, but on one will be turned away who cannot pay. This is a special class and students will have to leave the school when it is over.

On Wednesdays, from 2:30-4:00, a class on clowning and theater skills for boys and girls is being taught by Penny Court, who also teaches at the Children's Museum. The class will include creative dramatics and special clowning skills -- such as juggling and falling and clown make-up. There is a small weekly charge, but again, no one will be turned away who cannot pay.

As part of the regular drop-in program on Mondays and Wednesdays, THERE ARE TWO NEW SPECIAL programs

On Mondays & Wednesdays from 2:30-4:00, there is a creative movement class open to boys and girls, taught by Tom Wanning from Cambridge Friends School. This class is designed to encourage spontaneous movement in which students respond to sounds and words and ideas through body movement. This type of dance is less structured than formal dance.

If you are interested in any of these classes, please call Janet 876-9268 after school.

A FAIR FAIR? NO, A GREAT FAIR!

The February Fair was a huge success. If you were walking anywhere near the School on Feb. 24, chances are you saw kids in purple and orange ACS T-shirts with their faces painted and their pockets bulging with candy. Over 100 kids and parents tossed bean-bag*, pennies, darts, and rings. They saw a puppet show, juggled with clowns, had their fortunes told, walked through a scary ghost walk, watched Chaplin and Laurel & Hardy in action, had their portrait sketched, ate incredible amounts of candy and won a lot of prizes.
If you weren't walking anywhere near the School on Feb. 24th, you may have saved yourself a stomach ache, but you missed a great afternoon! Thanks to all the parents and kids who worked so hard to put it together.

**SUMMER PLANS**

As part of our summer program we have been working on a proposal involving a travelling van filled with materials and resource people which would go to various community schools throughout Cambridge. At each school, the van staff would work with kids (and staff) from that neighborhood on various projects aimed at using inexpensive materials available through scavenging in the home and recycling from local industry. The focus would be how to realize and use the resources around you, in your home, in your neighborhood, and in Cambridge. So far we've been working mainly with people from the Cambridge YWCA and other Community Schools staff. However several other groups have been involved and are helping us try to secure funds and resources (Cambridge Community Services, Childrens Museum, Harvard Comparative Zoology Department). Our main problem at this point is that we need a van. If anyone has any ideas about how or where we could get the use of a VW van (or comparable size) for six weeks this summer (July 5-August 11), please give Janet or Sallie a call.

**SCIENCE MUSEUM TRIP**

During the February vacation on Wednesday, Feb. 23, the community schools pre-school and after-school groups joined together in a trip to the Science Museum. 71 people from the Agassiz Community, ranging in age from pre-schoolers to adults, enjoyed exhibits such as the Transparent Woman, the Beating Heart, the Swinging Pendulum, Machine Motors and many others. In addition, we were guests at two special presentations arranged just for the Agassiz Community School by student trainees at the museum. In these we had the chance to touch a boa-constrictor, pet a crocodile and find out a lot of interesting information about these animals. The trip proved both educational and enjoyable for everyone.

"Running, Leaping, Fluttering"

Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, five 11 and 12-year old girls come into the Community Schools office for drama. Miss Maddie Winfield is their teacher, and she always comes last, carrying notes and clipboard and pen. Immediately the girls jump on her, crying endearments and scoldings and finally drift into the school auditorium. First comes warm-up. Everyone takes turns. Usually it includes follow-my-leader, mirror, or just running, leaping, fluttering until everyone is thoroughly relaxed and ready to begin. Maybe today it will be directing. Each person reads a book or even makes up her own play. But suppose today is just talk about how things are going. One person will sit down and tell a story or an experience; all the rest will act it out. At the first lesson we introduced ourselves (yes, I am a student), with a movement and something to say. And then, there would be a little bit to talk about it. I really think that such a few people are good, I mean there's more togetherness but we welcome newcomers with open arms. Lately we've been working on a small play, only part of what we're going to do, you understand, and it includes choreography, music, directing and most important, acting. I suppose I'm not being too modest, but I do think we, Sarah Wright, Sandy Platt, Maria Woortman, Rachel Cox, and Ginny Wallace, are good actors and Maddie will teach us about theater and acting so real talent can be
developed.

Sarah Wright
7th Grade

ONE-TIME AGASSIZ NEWSPAPER

Kids in the after-school program of the Agassiz Community School have produced a newspaper of drawings and stories called "One-Time Agassiz Newspaper". All pages of the paper were done solely by the students, ranging in age from 5 to 11. The group decided to make the paper available to the public at $0.25 per copy; it will be sold in the Community Schools room by individual students, and at the Agassiz Food Shop across the street from the school.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AN ELECTRIC EEL?

As part of the April vacation activities, the Agassiz Community School has organized a trip to the New England Aquarium, on Tuesday, April 18. A bus will leave from the school at 12 noon and will return at 3:30 P.M. The cost will be $0.50 per person (child or adult) for admission fee to the Museum. Parents and kids of all ages are cordially invited. All those who want to go, MUST sign up by Friday, April 14. Call (876-9268) or come in to the Community Schools Room and talk to Janet.

KARATE FOR WOMEN

Two women, skilled in the Tae Kwon Do form of karate are starting a class for women (12 and over) every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3 to 4:30. There aren't many places in Cambridge where you can get karate instruction free-of-charge, so call soon (876-9268) before the class is filled up.

VOLLEYBALL ANYONE?

We've had a request from a person in the neighborhood to get a group of adults together to play volleyball. Space-wise, the best time is Tuesday night at 8:30. It's great exercise and a lot of fun. If you'd like to play, please call Sallie Monday or Wednesday night, or any afternoon (except Friday) at 876-9268.

GO FLY A KITE!

As part of April vacation activities, the Agassiz Community School is planning a kite-picnic on Thursday, April 20. In the morning, we will have a kite-making clinic in the school. In the afternoon, we will parade to the banks of the Charles and have a bring-your-own-food picnic and fly our kites (weather permitting). Weather not permitting we will have movies at the school. Everyone is welcome--all ages. Anyone experienced in kite-making, please call 876-9268. We need your help in learning how to make different kinds of kites.

EARTH WEEK RECYCLING WORKSHOP

As part of Earth Week Activities, the Agassiz Community School in conjunction with the League of Women Voters Ecology Commission, will be sponsoring a recycling workshop. Working with resource people from the Children's Museum, Central School, the Creative Recycling Workshop at the Flower Show, will be teachers, parents, and students from the Agassiz School. We are planning an evening of activities to engage people in the creative aspects of recycling -- making educational games and toys from materials in the home, making plant containers from waste products, kitchen science which can be done with everyday materials, etc. The purpose of this workshop will be to bring parents, teachers, and children together for a joint
activity that is both fun and educational, to get people working together, and to make the idea of creative recycling more accessible to more people.

More specific information about day and time will be available soon. We encourage anyone interested in working on this project to call Janet 876-9268 after school.

"DANCIN'"

Asked to write a personal statement, I write about dancin'. Me dancin'.

Clumsy as a sloth, I would stumble down Prentiss St. as in a fuzzy cacoon. And one day, there appeared a class of lithe ones--dancing (in Harkness Common and more recently Agassiz School). Having gone to watch the girls, I instead sensed the rhythm ---- and a week later signed myself into the class.

O the agony at first... not wanting to embarrass the rest by wriggling when I should be undulating. But in two weeks, after secretly practicing on Sunday afternoons, I began to take steps....to step with rhythm...to move with music...and I began to taste joy in dancing.

The teachers at ICD (The Institute of Contemporary Dance) are vibrant, exciting, as are the drums, the flute and the soprano sax which accompany the classes.

My personal statement is that I am learning about dance, and that the people at ICD are helping.

That's all!

Robert Miller

THE GIRLS ARE GETTING TOGETHER

Girls in the 4th through 6th grades have been getting together on Monday afternoons with three high school students. We have made Valentine sachets, created a play about a witch and practiced embroidering and pantomime. One Sunday we visited the Museum of Science and its Planetarium. A special thanks to all the parents who drove us there.

In the future we hope to plant seeds in recycled containers, make kites, have a singing session of everyone's favorite songs. We're happy to have more members.

Sarah Peak

T.H.A.N.K.S.
(Try Hiring a Neighborhood Kid Soon)

Remember, just because there's no more snow to shovel (we hope!), there are still lots of neighborhood kids who would like to do odd jobs around the house, walk your dog, babysit, etc. Keep us in mind when spring cleaning starts! Call Sallie (876-9268) Mon. or Wed. nights or any afternoon except Friday and I'll try to match you with a kid, or if you're a kid----with a job ($$$!).

The Agassiz Community School Staff:

Richard Mumma-Admin. Coordinator
Sallie Follansbee-Teen Coordinator
Katherine Gulinello-Play Groups
Janet Kaplan-After-school Coordinator

Telephone: 876-9268