Two years ago this fall The Whistler ran the article below to review for neighborhood people what the Agassiz Community School program was all about, as well as to tell newcomers to our neighborhood about it. We've updated it and are running it again for that purpose. If you have any questions or ideas after reading it, please call 876-9268 Monday thru Thursday from 2:30 to 5 PM and talk to the staff, or call 354-5963, Millard Long, the Council's chairman, or write the Agassiz Community School Program at 28 Sacramento Street.

Over the past twenty-five years, community schools programs have been developed by more than 100 cities in the United States. Two of the most well-known are those of Flint, Michigan and New Haven, Connecticut, but each one differs at least somewhat from the others, depending on the needs and available resources of the community. The community school idea, however, is based on the following points:

A COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- may open at 7:00 AM and remain open as late as 11:00.
- may remain open seven days a week and all year round.
- is a place where lots of people—the very young, the very old, and the in-betweens as well as the school-age children—find interesting and beneficial things to do throughout the day as well as in the late afternoon and evening.

-is a center of coordination for many of the activities and services now present in each community, such as the city recreation program, public health services, and work with the elderly and with teenagers.
-seeks, where both wise and possible, to make use of buildings and facilities in the community in addition to those already found in the public school plant.
-is a focus of community life where local citizens identify their interests, problems, needs, and ways of handling them.

The Cambridge Community Schools programs started in June of 1969. There are 14 individual programs, one for each of the elementary school areas in the city. Each of these 14 individual programs is controlled by a local community council which is the decision-making body in their program.

The council meetings are as close to the traditional New England town meetings as it is possible to come in this age of automation and alienation. The entire community actually belongs to the council—there is no set number of members. Everyone is welcome to join. However, approximately fifteen people in our area have chosen to
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS - Continued

attend the meetings regularly, providing the continuity needed to run a strong program.

The council hires and fires personnel, signs - when possible - legal documents, sets budget priorities, authorizes spending of the monies and oversees the program from week to week.

Each neighborhood council has a major responsibility to see to it that they represent the ideas, feelings, and concerns of their local community. They send representatives to the city-wide Community Schools Advisory Committee. These representatives express their local area's viewpoint in terms of the overall program and how it affects them. These concerns can be fiscal, organizational, staffing, etc. The Advisory Committee, then, is primarily responsible for reflecting the views, ideas, and opinions of the 14 neighborhood councils, and to speak in a unified voice to the Community Schools Commission.

The Commission, a body appointed by the City Manager to oversee the workings of the Advisory Committee, has the legal responsibility to set policy and to oversee the operation of the program. In the setting of policy, however, it leans heavily on the advice of the Advisory Committee.

The Director of Community Schools has the power to implement the policies set forth by the Commission. All staff associated with the program are administratively responsible to the Director. All decisions of the Director may be appealed to the Commission.

In Cambridge, each council has one community organizer (a co-ordinator) and one assistant or more (preferably local residents) who work for them. These staff people, paid by the city, try to carry out the council's wishes. For example, if the council decides it wants a program for adults in the evening, the staff, consulting at length with neighborhood people, would create ideas for several possible programs. The council then decides which, if any, of the programs they want. Next, it is the staff's responsibility to make that program a reality--space must be found for the activity, volunteers (neighborhood people, outside professionals) may be needed, supplies and equipment must be bought or found. In addition to this work, the staff is legally responsible for the control and use of the school after school hours.

These programs which are created and controlled by the council are funded by the city. Each year the City Council passes a budget for the total, city-wide program. Each individual council gets an equal share of this budget. Other sources of money for the programs are small fees charged for some activities and money raised in various ways by the neighborhood. Grants can also be applied for by community groups.

The Agassiz program then is yours—it grows if and how you want it to. The staff is present to implement the wishes of the council, the council is made up of anyone who wishes to attend council meetings. It is one of the few organizations in this, or any other city which is DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE IT SERVES.
DROP IN; CALL; COME TO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

The community school room is located in the basement of the Agassiz School (across the hall from the science room); it's outside door is the purple one off Sacramento St. Drop in and see us or call 876-9268 from 2:30 to 5 PM, Monday thru Thursday.

Neighborhood council meetings are regularly held the second Wednesday of each month; therefore, our next meeting will take place in the Agassiz library at 8 PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11. Everyone is invited!

Proposed Agenda

Temporary Teen Coordinator
Report on Commission Meeting--pay split
Fall program--pre-school; after-school; teen; adult
Sachs Estate
Zoning appeal
Dance group
Suggestions for new business

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DROP-IN PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS BEGINS

There will be a regularly scheduled drop-in for older people to meet each other to do whatever they wish to do. All interested in getting together are invited to meet in the Agassiz School library on Tues., Thurs., and Friday afternoons from 2:45 to 5 through the end of October, after which time people may decide to change the time, place, etc. or continue with the three afternoons.

* * * * *

CHANGE IN TEEN COORDINATOR

The Agassiz community council has hired Ken Basler on a temporary basis to act as teen coordinator, filling the position left vacant when Sallie Follansbee resigned to go back to graduate school.

Ken's appointment will be temporary until the next Community Schools Commission meeting on October 19, when the Commission will be asked for approval of new staff arrangements that the Agassiz council has proposed.

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AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The After-School Program will start up again on Monday, October 2, 1972. Designed to provide educational and recreational activities for children ages 5-14 during the hours after school, the program will consist of a loosely structured drop-in program on Mondays and Wednesdays and more specific class-like activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Programs are open to all. If you have any comments or ideas, please call Janet 876-9268 after 2:30, Monday thru Thursday.

Schedule So Far
(Suggestions for additions are welcome)

*Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30-5:00 DROP-IN
Activities include: running, sitting, playing, climbing, talking, making, jumping, listening, reading. There are lots of materials for kids to choose from, the gym, the community schools room and the library to use, and adult volunteers to help people do things. Free of charge.
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM - Continued

*Tuesdays & Thursdays—CREATIVE
MOVEMENT with teacher,
Peggy di Castro
"Can you express yourself
through your nose? Have you
ever danced with someone else's
elbow? Do you want to paint
your hands and jump around the
room making noises? Let's
look at ourselves through rhy-
thm, sound and space, using im-
provised instruments, masks,
fingerprints, clay and...junk.
This is not ballet; this is
not modern dance; it's some-
thing else...it's creative
movement!"

Boys and Girls
Tues. 2:30-3:30--ages 5-8
Thurs. 2:30-3:30--ages 9-11
Thurs. 4:00-5:00--ages 12-14
The cost is $1.00 per session
(to pay the teacher), but if
you can pay less, or nothing
at all, come anyway. Communi-
ty Schools will pay for anyone
who cannot. So all are invi-
ted to attend, whether they
can pay or not. Please call to
sign up for creative movement
before the first session (Octo-
ber 3) because there is a limit
of 10 to a class. Call Peggy
at 492-1274 (evenings) or
Community Schools 876-9268
(2:30-5:00, Mon.-Thurs.).

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EXPANSION OF PRE-SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES

The Agassiz Community Play-
group began in the spring of 1970 through
the Community Schools Program. At
that time, several small, informal
groups of children and their par-
ents met one or two mornings a
week at the elementary school. We
are still a part of the Community
Schools Program though we have
moved our location to the North
Congregational Church (on Mass.
Ave. next to Sears); expanded
our enrollment to 33 children
in morning sessions; increased
the number of days per week
that we meet to all five week-
days; and recently extended
the length of our day, which
was 9 AM to noon, to 9 AM to
2:30.

The Agassiz Community Play-
group is a parent cooperative
preschool which follows the
public school calendar with the
addition of a program continu-
ing through the summer. At the
present time our morning enroll-
ment is full. However, we have
room for several children in
our noon to 2:30 session. We
have some kindergartners al-
ready in the afternoon program
and would like to encourage
parents of those who go to the
morning kindergarten session to
contact us if they would like
their children in our group as
well. The cost is about $25
a month for five days a week
(pro-rated for two or three
days a week) with some scholar-
ship money available. Please
contact Betsy Harshbarger,
our parent administrator,
(547-8946, mornings) if inter-
ested.

We have been trying to think
of ways to serve the community.
We would like to help out any-
one who is thinking about
starting a playgroup or people
who would like ideas about ma-
terials, equipment or activi-
ties for young children. The
following are some possible
ways we might get together:
You are welcome to visit us at
school (please call Betsy
Harshbarger, the teachers lis-
ted below or the Playgroup--
547-9355—in advance). Also,
ask us about our informal
PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES - Continued

evening discussion meetings (topics related to our kids, materials, the public school, etc.). Let us know if you might be interested in an afternoon, evening or weekend workshop.

We have access to the auditorium for Saturday morning events (films, dance etc.) for young children. We would really appreciate suggestions from people in the community for other activities. People to call with ideas and questions are teachers at the Playgroup--Kitty (876-3472), Harriet (666-4829) and Henry (787-9674).

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REMEMBER THE CHILD-CARE REFERENDUM?

by Betsy Blumenthal

Almost one year ago the voters of Cambridge mandated their city to provide child-care for those who deserve it, by voting strongly in favor of the child-care referendum. Much has happened during this year to encourage the city to implement this demand. Several groups representing child-care interests in Cambridge (the Coalition for Child-Care, the Day-Care Resource Center, the Cambridge Day Care Association and the 4 C's (Community Controlled Child-Care) Committee of Cambridge-Somerville) worked to co-ordinate existing child-care programs and towards developing new services. This summer the latter two groups discontinued their operations due to lack of funding and an overlap of purpose between them.

Now in Cambridge a new group is organizing to co-ordinate all child-care programs and services in a united effort to implement the referendum and further the development of excellent child-care in the city. The group, which as yet has no title, meets every two weeks at different centers throughout the city. Its members meet to share their concerns and problems and to search for common solutions. They expect to work politically in support of the ordinance for a child-care department in Cambridge which was presented to the City Council last spring by the Coalition for Child-Care. Interest in the creation of a city department for child-care is heightened by the passage of new state legislation which seeks to operate through city-wide councils for child-care.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Monday, October 9, at 8:00 PM. Call Betsy Blumenthal for the location of the meeting and further details (547-2566).

CHANGES IN AGASSIZ ELEM. SCHOOL

Agassiz school is back in session with two main changes. Kay Barron is now Kay Cox, and whether she should be addressed as Mrs. Ms. or Master, the Agassiz Community sends her and her husband all our good wishes for the future. And the two busloads of children from Rindge Towers are no longer with us, making Agassiz a very small school indeed. Some classes have only 6 children in them. The first social event of the year was held on Sat., Sept. 23 when parents and kids met on Sacramento field for a picnic lunch. On Tuesday, Sept. 26 the formal beginning of year welcome took place at Agassiz School. Since the Whistler is being written before that occasion, details of it will appear next time. The first task the PTA is addressing itself to this year, is just what do we all want from PTA?
(For further information, unless otherwise noted, call Agassiz Community Schools 876-9268) Mon.-Thurs., 2:30-5:00. Also, check the actual bulletin board in the Community Schools room. Other notices will be posted there between Whistlers. Please add announcements you would like to share with the neighborhood.)

**GOINGS ON**

**Cambridge Center for Adult Education**
42 Brattle St.
Harvard Sq. 547-6789

Full range of courses. Openings in classes still possible although most start around Sept. 25. Call right away if interested.

**Loeb Drama Center**

There is a good possibility of getting a substantial discount for their upcoming fall series. If you are interested, talk to Ken at the Community Schools room.

**Cambridge Community High School**

A tuition-free alternative high school begins its third year this month. If interested, call Judy at 492-1839; if interested in teaching, call Len at 646-4418.

**Cambridge YWCA**
7 Temple St. 491-6050

- Creative Recycling Workshop
  Turn discarded materials into creative and useful items. Starts Sept. 25. Call right away.
- How to Survive in Cambridge
  For newcomers & residents alike. Every Weds. starting Oct. 4 for five weeks.

**Cambridge Library**

There is an excellent film program every Weds. from 3:30-4:30 at the Main Library and on Friday, 3:30-4:30 at the North Cambridge Branch. (Kids films)

**Folk Dancing at the Cambridge YWCA**

Beginning on Fri; intermediate & advanced on Thurs. Both nights at 8:30. Newcomers welcome! $1.25 per night.

**The Greater Boston Teachers Center**
131 Mt. Auburn St.
Cambridge 876-2790 (between 10 AM & 3 PM)

For parents, teachers, students in education. $15 each series of workshops. These workshops are held in various schools, museums, educational resource centers in the Cambridge-Boston area. Build classroom materials; explore the ocean, beaches, pond life; use recycled materials; explore music, dance, math, art, drama, poetry in an open classroom environment. Workshops at various times, beginning from the end of Sept. thru the end of Oct. and lasting 4 to 6 weeks.
INTERESTS

Calling all persons tired of not being physically active! Come and play tennis, volleyball, etc. Call Ginny after 6:00 PM at 876-5096.

Also, interested in starting a choral group?

NEEDS

The Community Schools Office needs volunteers:

1) to answer telephones and greet visitors in the office between 2:30 and 5:00, Monday thru Thursday.

2) to work with children (ages 5-14 in the after-school drop-in program, Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30-5:00 and in the pre-school program (ages 2-5) which meets Monday thru Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 (especially between noon and 2:30). We need any skills you can share: music, carpentry, science, art, sports, crafts, pottery, drama, dance, a sense of humor.

3) to work on the reconstruction of the Community Schools room in the school. We are presently designing and building storage spaces, shelves, and a multi-purpose loft, and we can use the help of anyone who can measure, saw, hammer, paint—or just lend moral support.

If you can offer help in any of these areas, or know of anyone who can, please call us at 876-9268, Monday thru Thursday, 2:30-5:00. Thanks!

--Future Whistlers

In order to get out a monthly Whistler efficiently we need help:

People to: Suggest articles they would like written.
Write articles.
Type stencils (we have typewriters available).
Distribute (flyer) The Whistler in their own neighborhoods.
Suggest improvements in The Whistler.

If you can give us suggestions and/or help, please call at the above number and times. ALSO please phone in your address if this Whistler did not reach you through the mail or if it went to an incorrect address.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Cambridge Recycling Program -- Newspaper collection starts October 2:
1) Tie newspapers in 6-8 inch bundles.
2) Place beside trash can on your trash day.
3) Call 876-6800 for additional information.
WHISTLER WANT ADS

For Sale

6 Arabia-Ruska cups & saucers, hardly ever used, in perf. cond. ½ price or best offer. 864-9081.

Glass-covered coffee table—good cond. $8.00. Miriam 547-8429.

G.E. automatic, hvy dty washer, used 2½yrs. Dolly avail. in bldg. for moving. $125.00 (10% donated to Agassiz Playgroup) 868-8548.

Afganistani embroidered suede fur coats, sm. women's sz. $65. 864-9159.


Peachy orange divan-opens to 3/4 bed, good cond. $25. 876-7550 aft. 7PM

Bird cages-2 suitable for finches etc. (one 11"X29"; a flight cage 2' X3') one suitable for parrot-size (14"X18") 876-3472 aft. 3PM.

Wanted

FOR AGASSIZ COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP: used ice skates to fit kids 3-5 yrs; tumbling mats; high intensity lamp; good folk, rock & classical records; kids books; unit blocks. Inexpensive or free. 876-3472 aft. 3PM

3-speed woman's bike and 5 or 6,000 BTU air conditioner 868-6097.

Used car in excel. mech. cond. $400 or less.

Pillow (free or very cheap) Harriet 666-4829

Single-size bed for 3 yr. old--free or cheap, in good cond. 492-5217.

Some one to make a simple slipcover for armchair, 868-5914 aft. 5.

Person to assist young family with care of 2 sml boys on occasional wk-end trips to Vt, esp. during ski season. Rm & bd in sml home provided, & sml salary. Shld have flexible hrs. as 3-4 day wk-ends are contemplated. Call Betsy, 547-2566.

Teenage baby-sitter for 2 yr. old Benjamin. $.75/hr. Ride home avail. "I would like someone who wouldn't mind washing the dishes, who loves kids and who is reliable. We would want him or her regularly 1 night a wk and on call for wk-ends." Barbara Powell, 4 Sedgewick Rd., Camb. 864-1560, evenings.

TO PLACE FREE WANT-ADS IN NEXT MONTH'S WHISTLER, CALL 876-9268, Mon.-Thurs., 2:30-5 PM or write Agassiz Community School, 28 Sacramento St.

People who contributed to the writing of articles in this Whistler: Ken Basler, Betsy Blumenthal, Harriet Dann, Kitty Gulinello, Janet Kaplan, Jancis Long, Dick Mumma and Jill Norton.