Introducing Our Community Schools Staff... All can be reached at 876-9268; 2:30-5:00

Kitty Basler, of Wendell St., has been a staff person since 12/71. She is the preschool coordinator and is the coop kindergarten teacher.

Ken Basler, also of Wendell St., joined the Community Schools Staff in the fall of 1973. He is the preteens coordinator.

Jan Potter is our new teen-adult coordinator. Having grown up in the Agassiz neighborhood and attended Agassiz School, Jan knows the neighborhood well. He now lives on School St., Somerville.

Julie Snow is our new community liaison person. She has had much administrative experience which should help her as she tries to pair up people's needs with available community services. She now lives in Somerville.
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS

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 community liaison staff person, Julie Snow 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 co-ordination 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.

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,
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS - Continued

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.

At Agassiz, there are two full time and two part time staff positions. 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.

COUNCIL MEETING - Oct. 30, 8:00 PM

Agassiz School Library.

Agenda - 1)Introduction of NEW STAFF
2)Representatives from Sanctuary, Inc., will explain their program and future in this neighborhood
3)Programs - What's going on. Come with new ideas.
4)Future Plans.

If you have any issues that you would like to have brought up at the next council meeting, please call Julie Snow, the Community Liaison Staff person at 876-9268. It can then be placed on the agenda.

Don't forget to ask for your Whistler if you have not been receiving it. Just call 876-9268 or 491-5655.
Let's Do our Part for the Dept. of Public Works

Now that our neighborhood streets are being cleaned once a month (instead of once a year!) it only seems fair to cooperate as best we can. Here are two requests:

1. Don't park your car on that side of the street that has been posted.

2. The day before the cleaning (which is announced in the Cambridge Chronicle every month) and is posted on the streets just prior to the cleaning days) please sweep off your sidewalk into the street. Then at the end of the day both sidewalk and street are clean!

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP

The Agassiz Neighborhood Planning Group, continuing into its third year, is a community organization concerned with the future development of the Agassiz Neighborhood.

A.N.P.G. was formed in 1972 when it became apparent to several residents, who had banded together to oppose zoning variances for high rise apartments on Prentiss St., that a standing organization was necessary to insure quick mobilization when required for isolated issues and to provide continuity and direction for the community planning concerns.

Since its formation, A.N.P.G. has been instrumental in focusing community attention on a number of issues. The following are some of the topics A.N.P.G. has dealt with:

I. Harvard and Lesley
The Presence of two major institutions with limited land resources on the border of the neighborhood constitutes an obvious concern, especially when the accelerated rate of neighborhood land purchases by both institutions is taken into account. A.N.P.G. has tried to respond to this reality by (1) focusing community attention on the activities of the institutions with regard to purchase of land, building programs etc. and (2) informing the institutions of neighborhood concern over their policies and actions. Specific issues that have been dealt with include the Sacks Estate, Sacramento Field, Lesley Day Care Ctr., institutional purchase of property and the Harvard Report.

II. Rezoning
A.N.P.G. has had as one of its major goals the establishment of zoning districts which it feels will allow for the preservation and growth of a family oriented residential neighborhood. Existing zoning was detrimental to this effort and consequently rezoning had to be petitioned for.

The Northern area bounded by Oxford St. and Mass. Ave. down to Garfield St. was successfully rezoned from C2 to C1. At present two more rezonings are in the works and are soon coming before council: the rezoning of Business A Districts which affects the Mass Ave side of the Neighborhood and a C3 to C1 rezoning of the 2 block Wendell to Garfield/Mass Ave to Oxford area.

This latter is both crucial and by no means a certainty. It will come before the Council on Oct. 21 and all Agassiz Members are urged to attend. A petition has been circulated that supports the proposal and these will be presented on the 21st.
What is at stake is the future development of the Sacramento Field area where Harvard owns considerable property, and the north side of Wendell St. where developers have immediate plans to erect twelve story luxury apt. buildings.

III. Land Ownership
A.N.P.G. has conducted a survey of property ownership based on information available from the assessor's office and the registrar of deeds. This information is useful in detecting patterns of land assemblage in absentee owners.

IV. Traffic
Particular concern has been directed to the traffic on Oxford St. and its future as a neighborhood artery. Discussions have centered around the possibility of closing Oxford St. to thru traffic. A future issue under this heading will be the Red Line extension of the MBTA.

Jim Herold

Ed. note: We will provide a first hand account of the City Council meeting and its subsequent decision and effect on the neighborhood zoning problem.

THE COMING OF WINTER

Winter is like a blustery visitor who comes uninvited to track your floors with snow and leave your door ajar to the cold, yet makes good company when the day is done and the fireplace takes over as host. Nietzsche said it nicely in referring to winter as "...a bad guest that sits with me at home; my hands are blue with his friendly handshakes."

In the country, coldness is measured not only by the thermometer but also by the wind. It is when the farmhouse curtains move with the draft, and fireplace smoke puffs out into the room, that cold really penetrates and makes itself most known.

When snow has piled up around the frame farmhouse or barn it is easier to keep it warm, for snow actually keeps out the wind. This is the time of year that the old-time farmer piled dried leaves and cornstalks around the base of his barn and around the north side of his house. He probably learned this trick from the rabbits and mice that tenanted every snow-covered pile of cornstalks in the fields. But the Indians knew it too; all along the trails of two hundred years ago there were "brush shelters" that were mentioned in early writings of cross-country travelers. George Washington often spent the night in a brush shelter during his surveying days.

The brush shelter was simply a leanto of sticks and dried leaves that backed against the north and during the winter gathered a roofing of snow. By building a fire on the south side, or by hanging a blanket over the opening, the traveler was assured of a comfortable place to rest during a bad snowstorm.

(Reprinted from Eric Sloane's Almanac and Weather Forecaster, Duell, Sloan and Pearce – Little, Brown, Copyright 1955. The text of this book, by a New England author, is illustrated with his sketches.)

Don't forget the next Council meeting; Wed. October 30, 8:00 PM.
The Agassiz Community Children's School

The Agassiz Community Children's School serves approximately 60 families whose children range in age from 2 to 6. The program is housed in 2 separate locations: the Preschool (ages 2-5) is located in the North Avenue Congregational Church, 1803 Mass. Ave., the Coop Kindergarten is located in the Community Schools Room at the Agassiz Elementary School, 28 Sacramento St.

Both programs operate from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. The Preschool offers an option of a part-time, half-day schedule and give priority to neighborhood families; the Cooperative Kindergarten extends the school day from 8:30 to 2:30 for children already attending a half-day kindergarten session and gives priority to those attending the Agassiz Public Kindergarten.

Both programs are open-structure oriented and are parent cooperatives - requiring parent involvement in the classroom and for other jobs which maintain the smooth functioning of the school. The current enrollment limit at the Preschool is 32 families with age and sex balancing as priorities. The current enrollment limit at the Cooperative Kindergarten is 22, 11 children in the morning session, 11 in the afternoon session and 22 for a lunch session of 45 minutes.

Currently both programs are fully enrolled. For more information, contact the Preschool Parent Administrator, Phyllis Kornfeld at 547-9355 from 8:45 AM - 10 AM, Mon.-Thurs.; contact the Preschool-Kdg. Coordinator, Katherine Basler, at 876-3472 from 8:30 AM-2:30 PM, Mon.-Friday.

The Agassiz Whistler is published mid-monthly by the Agassiz Community Schools Program for the entire neighborhood. If you have any information, want ads, services, etc. that you would like to have printed in the Whistler, please call 876-9268 or 491-5655
HAUNTED HOUSE - CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

We have free tickets to the Haunted House at the Children's Museum. If you could take 2-5 additional kids at a time convenient to your schedule (afternoons, weekends, holiday) from now until Halloween it would really help. Call Ken at 876-9268 M-F 2:30-5:00.

HALLOWEEN PARTY AT AGASSIZ

The 2nd Annual Agassiz Halloween Party will take place Thursday, Oct. 31 from 6:30-9:30 at the School - Everyone Welcome - Dunking for apples, donuts on a string, games, a prize for everyone in costume, haunted house.

Volunteers needed - Pot-luck snack table (no candy)
Call the Community School 876-9268 for more information.
Mon-Friday 2:30 – 5:00

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

MONDAY
Gym Hockey 2:45-3:30
Grades 2-6
Creative Movement 3:30-5:00
In the gym. Open to all grades.

TUESDAY
Drop-In 2:30-5:00 Open to all grades. Will not start on Tuesdays until Oct. 8.
Drop-In consists of activities and events going on in the Library - study, chess and checkers
Art Rm. - special art projects, woodworking, etc.
Gym - structured physical activities
Community School Rm. - Board games, sand table, blocks, resource books, etc.
Gymnastics 2:30-4:30.
Limited to 25.

Will include floor exercises (tumbling, mat work, etc.) and use of equipment (parallel bars, horse, balance beam, etc.) This class will begin on Nov. 5.

Piano 6:00-7:00 Beginning piano for ages 7 and older. Limited to first five that register. There will be a charge of $8.00 for 10 lessons.

Guitar 7:00-8:00 Beginner 8:00-9:00 Advanced beginner
Limited to the first 14 that sign up (7 per class). There will be a charge of $8.00 for 10 lessons

WEDNESDAY Drop-In 2:30-5:00
Will start Wed. Oct. 2
See Tuesday for description
Special Art Rm. event. Pottery Workshop.

Drama 2:30-4:00 Limited in number. Please register in advance Open to grades 4-8

THURSDAY
Gym Hockey 2:30-3:30
Ballet 3:30-4:30 In the gym. Beginning ballet for grades K.- 6 Open to both boys and girls There will be ten initial classes and the cost will be $10.00

Pottery 2:30-4:00 Open to grades 4-8 Limited size pre-register Will start with hand building and then into wheel throwing in the Art Rm.

FRIDAY Drama for adults 2:30-5:00 See Ken for more details.

Field Trips 2:30-5:00 Small groups to go places in Camb. & Boston Reachable by public Transportation. Limited to first 10 that sign up. Cost $.50 for transportation.
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM cont.

Oct. 26 - Haunted House - Children's Museum
Nov. 1 - New England Aquarium
Nov. 8 - Camb. Police Station

SATURDAY Football 9:30-11:30
Sacramento Field Open to everyone - boys and girls Tag Football

Harvard Football We have tickets for the Harvard Home Games - Free
This is a great family outing and we'll all go in a group. Sign up in advance.

REGISTRATION FOR ALL ABOVE PROGRAMS CONDUCTED MONDAY-FRIDAY 2:30-5:00 IN THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S ROOM
CALL 876-9268 for more information.

The next P.T.A. Meeting will be on Tues., Nov. 12 at 8 PM in the School Library.

Planned Agenda:

1) Jim Herold will present a master plan for landscaping the school grounds.

2) Discussion of Law 766 which deals with the school services available to Physically, Emotionally, Perceptually Handicapped Children. Representative from School Dept. and Office for Children will be present to discuss the impact of the Law on the Agassiz School.

Goings On:
Harvard Home Football Games: Community Schools has free tickets to these games. This is a great family outing and we'll all go in a group. Sign up in advance 876-9268.

Neighborhood Needs:
Volunteers Needed: We need volunteers for after school and evening programs. If you have a skill you would like to share; leather craft, jewelry making, chess etc., or would like to help out in the existing programs; art, gym, pottery, game room etc., please get in touch Mon-Fri 2:30-5:00 at 876-9268 or stop by the community school room. We are able to provide the variety of programs at little or no cost because of volunteers. If we are to continue we need your help.

Future Whistlers: In order to print the monthly Whistler efficiently, we need your help! We need people to: write or suggest articles, Distribute (flyer) the paper on their own streets, and suggest improvements. If you can help out with any of the above, please call Abby Clark at 491-5655. Also if you have not received a Whistler and wish to please call.

Want Ads

Experienced Babysitter, Carl Bauer is available for babysitting 7 days/wk from about 7 PM - 12 PM. Call 492-5837.

Note: The Agassiz Community School keeps a list of baby-sitters available for most hours in this neighborhood. Call 876-9268 M-F 2:30-5:00 if you wish to be put on the list or need a baby-sitter.

BULLETIN BOARD
Note: For further information on community related notices please call Julie Snow, the new Community Liaison Staff person, at 876-9268 between the hours of 2:30-5:00
CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

October 14, Columbus Day
October 28, Veteran's Day
November 28, 29, Thanksgiving Days
December 21-January 1, Xmas Days
February 15-23, Winter Vacation
March 28, Good Friday
April 19-27, Spring Vacation
May 26, Memorial Day
June 17, Bunker Hill Day

Last scheduled day of classes June 25, 1975

DO YOU WANT THE WHISTLER?

Call 876-9268 or 491-5655

Or clip this coupon and mail it or drop it off at 28 Sacramento St., Community Schools Room.

Yes! I want the Whistler

Name
Address

☐ I can help distribute the paper on my street once a month, once every two months, etc.