AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL - NEWS

Don't forget our new WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE COURSE to be held not once, but twice a week, Monday and Wednesday evenings, 8:00-9:30; and Ellen Karlson, who teaches the course, has set the cost at $4.00 per month. This promises to be an exciting, useful class, and a great way to stay in shape! Call 876-9268 any weekday afternoon to sign up.

GOING ONCE! GOING TWICE! Our CLAYWORKS course need people. Our evening coordinator, Jan Potter, teaches the course, and since he's a terrific potter himself (no pun intended), it's an ideal opportunity for anyone interested to try her or his hand at clay. The class meets Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. Call 876-9268 any weekday afternoon to sign up. (Cost = cost of materials)

EVENING GYM HOCKEY - Since the school is now open on Monday nights for the women's self-defense class, we will have gym hockey on Mondays as well. So here's our current evening gym hockey schedule: Mon. 6:30-7:30, Tues. 6:00-7:30, Weds. 6:30-7:30.

The production of "Sleeping Beauty" by the National Children's Theater at the Charles Playhouse (Tuesday, Feb. 13th) was an effective, exciting piece of children's theater. The children were on their feet, participating in the production from beginning to end, and the actors and actresses portrayed each character with real energy and imagination. They will be starting a new play in March, and we recommend it to any family looking for a worthwhile, involving way to spend a Saturday (morning or afternoon). Call 661-0830 for more information.

MEETINGS-MEETINGS-MEETINGS in MARCH

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MTNG. Weds., March 5th, 8:00 p.m. in the school library.

CO-OPERATIVE KINDERGARTEN MTNG. Tues., March 11th, 7:30 p.m. at Pat Tabors' house.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING MTNG. #2 With Agassiz Neighborhood Planning Group and Camb. Dept. of Planning and Community Development. To discuss Sacramento Field and its possibilities for development. Weds., March 12th, 8:00 p.m. in school library (see Chronicle for any change of date).

CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ADVISORY BOARD MTNG. - Thurs., March 13th, 8:00 p.m. at Fletcher School.

COMMUNITY MEETING TO DISCUSS MBTA RED LINE EXTENSION - Tues., March 18th, 7:30 p.m. at No. Cong. Church.

PTA - Weds., March 19th, 8:00 p.m. in school library.


CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COMMISSION MTNG. - Thurs., March 20th, 8:00 p.m. at Fletcher School.

Since we seem to have a pretty complete schedule of community meetings on hand for each month, it might be helpful to check with us before scheduling or re-scheduling any meeting which might involve people in the neighborhood. Call Julie Snow, 876-9268, any weekday afternoon to check.
Run for your calendar! Because of the re-scheduling of the Feb. meeting, the March meeting will be pushed back a week. It will be on Weds. March 15th. The exact content of the agenda is unknown at this moment, but an exciting, productive time is predicted.

All general meetings are at 8:00 p.m. in the school library.

Thurs., Feb. 27th: there will be a meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the library for all K, 1 and 2 parents, and 1, 2, and 3 teachers to discuss the lower grades program for next year. Mixed classes again? How will new teachers be chosen? How can parent-help time in the classroom be improved? Etc. Speak now or......

Thursday, March 6th (also 8:00 p.m. in library): an upper grades meeting. 5, 6, 7 and 8 parents, students and teachers are invited. This is an important one, and we urge you to come. We'll be talking about how the upper grades program (6,7,8) might grow and change.

The Fund-Raising Committee is meeting on Monday nights right now. To find out where, call Marilyn Sullivan at 868-5947.

SUPPORT THE AGASSIZ BUDGET !!!

The School Committee will be holding public hearings on the budget on Thurs. and Friday, Feb. 27th and 28th. The final vote will be taken on Monday, March 3rd. The PTA should have a contingent at each meeting. Please plan to make at least one night. They will be held starting at 7:00 p.m. at School Committee Hqtrs., 1700 Cambridge St. (in Rindge). Call the School Department (492-8000) during the day to check because calendar changes are possible.

I could use help coordinating this. Please! Someone volunteer. It's a one-shot thing and if enough people help, no one will be overburdened. Call me now at 354-4097.

Everyone: IF YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE, WRITE A LETTER OR A POST CARD TO EACH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER urging them to vote for our request for funds to renovate the coal room and the storage room to provide more reading and tutoring space.

Thanks!

Ginny MacLean

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEST FOR AGASSIZ SCHOOL ADDITION - The Agassiz' School Planning Committee of the P.T.A. is sponsoring a sketch problem for architectural students in the three architectural schools in the Boston area: The Harvard Grad. School of Design, the M.I.T. School of Architecture, and the Architectural School of the Boston Arch. Center.

The sketch problem was issued during the last week in January. Over forty submittals are expected, although only fifteen are required by the P.T.A. meeting motion authorizing the exercise. The motion also authorized a prize of $100 for 1st prize, $50 for 2nd prize, and the award of an Honorable Mention for 3rd prize.

The invited professional jury members have accepted, and the jury will convene in early March to judge submittals and select the winners.

If the response to the sketch problem is sufficient and adequate, we will then be in a position to approach the School Committee with a request that they consider our needs for an addition to the Agassiz School and for a budget item for this year to cover the fee for the services of an architect to design the addition.

John Norton

COMMUNITY SCHOOL PHONE: 876-9268
At the last AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING we began with a report by Dick Graham, a Divinity School student working with Rev. Joseph Palmer, on the recent activities of the North Congregational Church. Their Wednesday senior citizen group is going strong, and they have been wondering about organizing a spring community fair. This would provide opportunities for neighborhood people to display (and sell) arts and crafts, etc., and to disseminate information about community goings-on; and it might include a pot luck dinner and either music or movies afterward. The Rev. Palmer is eager to find new avenues of community involvement for the church, and he is open to hearing any ideas you might have about this.

Kitty Basler’s proposed leave of absence was again discussed, and after a final motion by Jeelle Brown to approve a Maternity Leave extending from June 30, 1975 to July 1, 1976, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

The subject of staff and program evaluation for the Community Schools Program was then discussed. It was decided that at the next Council Meeting, we would discuss possible forms for an evaluation questionnaire to be distributed in the Whistler. It was also suggested that at each monthly Council Meeting, time should be set aside for Council evaluation of different aspects of the program. At the next Council Meeting, this will begin with a brief review of the Co-operative Kindergarten’s history and a discussion of its admissions policies and priorities.

At the end of the meeting, there was a brief review of the Community School budget and a suggestion by Fran Brown that there be a fee for next year’s after-school program (to generate needed additional funds). The feasibility and mechanics of initiating that idea will also be on the agenda of the next Council Meeting.

AGENDA FOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MTNG. March 5th, 8:00 p.m. in library:

1) Discussion and development of questionnaire for evaluation of Community Schools Program, to be disseminated in Whistler.

2) Initiation of Council evaluation of Community Schools Program, to be ongoing. (First area of concern will be Community Children’s School - Co-operative Kindergarten)

3) Discussion of admissions priorities and policies of Co-operative Kindergarten (see below).

4) Discussion of possible gardening sites in neighborhood (to be prepared by the city for community use).

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR AGASSIZ COMMUNITY CHILDREN’S SCHOOL - CO-OPERATIVE KINDERGARTEN, FOR NEXT YEAR - Most of this year’s kindergarten parents feel that a lottery system should replace the present system as the only way to give everyone a fair chance. Anyone eligible for Agassiz Public Kindergarten could register. Two-thirds of the 24 places would be drawn for in early May, and the other third would be drawn in September, after school had opened. This would mean that priority would no longer be given to single working parents or to children who had been attending the Community Children’s School Preschool. It also raises other important issues. At the next Council meeting, the Council will vote on whether or not to approve this new policy, to keep the old system, or to devise some feasible alternative.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Friday
2:00-5:00 p.m.
AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING
GROUP - NEWS

KENNEDY LIBRARY - A.N.P.G., as a member of COPE (Communities Organized to Protect the Environment, including Neighborhoods 9 and 10, the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association and the Riverside-Cambridgeport Community Corp.), was represented by Jim Herold at a joint press conference which applauded the Kennedy Library Corp. for its decision not to build the museum portion of the proposed Kennedy Memorial Complex in Harvard Square. COPE members pledged to work to keep the scholarly archives and park at the Bennett St. MBTA yard site.

MBTA RED LINE EXTENSION - On Tuesday, February 18th, members of the A.N.P.G. attended a meeting between the Porter Square community and the consulting firm of DeLauw, Gathers and Co., who is conducting a series of these meetings to study the possible impact of the MBTA Red Line extension on communities and businesses in the area.

At the first meeting, discussion centered around the number of possible design options for the North Cambridge stop and different locations for it within the Porter Square area.

Future considerations might be:
Who exactly will use the No. Camb. stop? What are the possible adverse effects of the extension on neighborhoods including Agassiz? (e.g. pressures on zoning regulations to allow for more dense building, commercial building, etc.)

At this first meeting, technicians far outnumbered community people, and it is very important for more people to attend these meetings, if only so that all the important questions get asked about the possible impact of the Red Line extension on residential neighborhoods bordering the Porter Square area.

NEXT MEETING: Mar. 18th, 7:30 p.m. at the North Cong. Church.

CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTER

The Child Care Resource Center at 123 Mt. Auburn St. in Cambridge (next to the Harvard Square P.O.) is open Monday through Friday to help parents find child care for their pre-school children as well as after-school programs for their children in school. The staff at the Resource Center is also available to meet with community groups interested in starting their own programs and to give them technical assistance in getting started. For people interested in working in the area of child care, they have a bulletin board of job vacancies in the Boston area. The phone number at the Resource Center is 547-9861, and they are open from 9:00 to 5:00.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS ITEM:

Why all the earth-shaking at the corner of Hammond and Gorham Sts.? Harvard University reports that they are demolishing part of the Electron Accelerator complex and that because the building was built deeply into the ground a great deal of demolition and excavation is required. They project that the work will be completed by April 1st, 1975, at which time the ground should be leveled and planted with grass. When questioned about the return of many of the trees that were removed and any future plans for development of the site, Mr. Armistead of the Office of Community Affairs (H.U.) said that he did not know what the plans were for the replanting of trees, and that at this time, there are no plans for future development of the site.

CLASSIFIED - FOR SALE: 9 month old GE gas dryer. Heavy Duty #18, harvest gold, DELUX model. $140.00-$150.00. Call 864-0872.
PRE-SCHOOL NEWS - On Feb. 5th, the Children's School Pre-School was captivated by the "Mulberry Thunder-bridge Puppet Theatre". Using all handmade equipment and producing marvelous sound effects, they did a "crankie" story, a ghost story, and a tuneful, pun-filled skit. They really know where kids are at!

NORTH CHURCH PLANS CONTEMPORARY EASTER SERVICE - North Congregational Church is planning to have a contemporary celebration for the Easter service on March 30th. Members of the Agassiz community are warmly encouraged to help create and to participate in a service that would respond to the hopes and feelings of a wide variety of people. A planning session for this service will be held on Thursday, March 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the parsonage at 13 Arlington St. Please call the minister, Joseph Palmer, at 547-1448 during the day, or Richard Graham at 498-7813 after 6:00 p.m. if you plan to come. A variety of refreshments will be served, including wine. Please feel free to bring your children, as we hope they also will be a part of this community Easter celebration.

NORTH CAMBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS
Senior citizens should not be a forgotten group within our community, as we must all cope with and understand the process of aging within ourselves. To demonstrate an interest in the senior citizens in your area, we ask you to volunteer one hour each week to pick up someone in your neighborhood and transport her or him to our meetings. Meetings are held at the North Congregational Church every Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Please call Ethyl Shattuck weekdays at 547-1448 if you have time to share. These meetings are open to all North Cambridge senior citizens.

Laura Sova
North Congregational Church

"THE ASHES OF MODERNITY" - On Sunday, March 2nd, the title of the North Congregational Church service will be "The Ashes of Modernity." Following the eleven o'clock service, an informal coffee hour and discussion will be held in the church basement. Let me share with you some of the thoughts that will be developed in that service.

"So here we are again, beginning Lent again, talking about ashes, being quaintly liturgical and irrelevant to modern man, quoting the Bible, hanging crepe like someone's dead or dying, being lugubrious, morose, pessimistic, alarmist, and generally cantankerous about the human condition."

"And again, groups of people, quite used to deadly pollution in both the cities and suburbs, gather in churches to talk about whatever it is we talk about on Ash Wednesday. In other times, we would have marked out foreheads with ashes from last year's Palm Sunday palms and said to each other, 'Remember, O man, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' But this being the 'post-Christian era of the secular city,' industry swabs our lungs with carcinogenic materials and Detroit's purple people eaters spew exhaust all over the city turning the blue sky of Boston gray. So we trade the ashes of liturgy, which denoted repentance, for the ashes of modernity, which are laden with death. This is the price of Progress. Are you drinking tap water with lead traces? Tell it to the City Council. Are your children ingesting flakes of lead paint? Tell it to the Commonwealth."

"What shall we talk about this Ash Wednesday? Palm leaf ashes? Crosses on foreheads? Sin? No, pollution it must be. The ashes which assault human life. It is the 'in' topic. It gives a political platform to candidates, incumbents, challengers alike. It promises to be a financial bonanza, as the industries which polluted our atmosphere will now get contracts to clean it up. Is this repentence?"