COMMUNITY EVENTS

AGASSIZ COOPERATIVE KINDERGARTEN MEETING, Monday, April 4, 8:00 p.m. at the Mauch's house.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, April 6, 8:00 p.m. in the school library.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Wednesday, April 13, 8:00 p.m. in the school library, to discuss the electron accelerator, and land use in the Agassiz area.

AGASSIZ PLAYGROUP MEETING, Thursday, April 14, 7:45 p.m. in the North Congregational Church.

PTA - NO APRIL MEETING. Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 11, 8:00 p.m. in the library.

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GOOD FRIDAY - Friday, April 8, No School all day.

APRIL RELEASE DAY - Thursday, April 14, Half day of school.

APRIL VACATION - April 18-22.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

During the early part of the March Council meeting, a couple of important issues were covered:

1.) WHISTLES. We heard ample testimony to the fact that a Whistle Program really can work to help deter petty crime in a neighborhood. It was decided to buy a batch of sturdy, black police whistles and to have them continually on sale through the Community School (at 50¢ a piece).

2.) CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL - PLANS FOR A SPRING FESTIVAL. Representatives from the Arts Council were present to give a slide show and description of the festival which is being planned for the week of May 15-21st. Plans are in the offering for a week of special events in all the neighborhoods (music, dancing, parades, fairs, art projects, etc.) culminating in a city-wide parade to the Charles River for a huge potluck feast and celebration along the river banks.

Several Agassiz neighborhood people volunteered to represent the Agassiz neighborhood in the planning stages of this festival, and at the April Council meeting we should hear more about possible projects and special events which may be planned for our own community.

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The major part of the Council meeting was devoted to the Agassiz Community After-school Program, as it functions now and as it should function in the future. Because of the rapidly increasing size of the program, it seemed important to decide what the priorities of the program should be.
COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS, Cont.

Issues which were touched upon were: how many children should be enrolled in the program, what ages should these children be, what is the optimal staffing arrangement for the program, how much should the program cost, and: is the program a day-care program, and if so, what are the implications of that for enrollment policies?

After some discussion the Council reached a number of decisions:

1.) to limit the daily enrollment to 75 children.

2.) to limit the age range to K through 4th grade, providing that special activities be developed and offered separately for older kids (either afternoons at Sanctuary or evenings at school).

3.) to staff the program with two city-paid staff (at present, Ken Basler and Julie Snow), four full-time paid assistants, and whatever work-study or volunteer help might also be available.

4.) to charge an amount which would cover the cost of the program - primarily, the salaries of the four assistants.

The issue of whether or not the After-school program is or isn't or should or shouldn't be a day-care program is a difficult riddle to solve. Certainly many families use the program as day-care, but other families use it for different reasons, and it would seem difficult to choose the needs of one group over the needs of another in order to limit the size of the program.

In order to work on this and other issues related to program definition, a Community School advisory committee was formed, including staff and parents, and at the May Council meeting they will present a proposal for the shape and function of the After-school program for next year.

Finally, the Council passed an overall vote of confidence in the Advisory committee to work fairly and efficiently towards solutions of the problems facing the After-school program.

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The AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 6th MEETING WILL INCLUDE:

1.) GARDEN BUSINESS. Plots in the Community Garden need to be measured off again; old plots need to be re-assigned; new plots, if any, assigned for the first time. All people involved in the Garden project should be at this meeting.

2.) WHISTLES. Captain Burke of the Cambridge Police Department will be present to answer questions about other Whistle programs. And we will have NEW, STURDY POLICE WHISTLES for sale, at 50¢ a piece. Also, posters and flyers for people interested in helping spread the word about the program (ESSENTIAL if the program is to work).

3.) DOGS. More people have responded to the problem of unleashed dogs in the neighborhood, so we will discuss the subject again, and have flyers for volunteers to pass out in the neighborhood.

4.) Report from Agassiz people
COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS, Cont.

working with the Arts Council on plans for the May Festival.

5.) Review of content of April 13th meeting with Harvard.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE COUNCIL MEETING. 8:00 p.m. in the school library.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

ALL PARENTS WHO HAVEN'T RE-REGISTERED THEIR CHILDREN FOR THE LAST TERM OF AFTER-SCHOOL, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We have families waiting to see if there will be spaces in the program, and we would like to give them an answer soon. See Julie in the library to register and pay. THANKS.

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Now that the warm weather is here, we would appreciate it if parents would help us keep the children in the program aware of the program rules:

1.) Always sign in and out in the library when you come and go from the program.

2.) While you are signed in, you must never leave school grounds or cross any streets without an adult present (or, if you're going to Sanctuary, unless you have permission from a Community School staff member).

3.) No going to the store while in the program, and no sending someone else to the store for you.

4.) While we allow kids to bring snacks to the program, we would like to discourage the kinds of food (e.g. gum and candy) that are hard to share and also heighten kids' desires to head for the corner store. (Thanks for your help on this one!)

These are the basic safety rules for the program. One more thing: if your child is in K-3rd grade and has your permission to leave the program earlier than 5 p.m., please communicate this to us. Otherwise, we will ask the child to stay either until 5 or until she/he is picked up. Thanks.

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Spring vacation runs from April 18 to April 22. Here is our schedule of Community School events:

MONDAY         Holiday - no program

TUESDAY        10-12 Drop In
                   art projects
                   sports
                   etc.

                   2-3:30 FILM: "Alice in Wonderland" - at Rindge Tech. BE AT SCHOOL AT 1. We'll be back at 4. Free. We need parents to help; children 5 or younger must be with an adult.

WEDNESDAY      10-12 Drop In

                   2-3:30 PLAY: "Rumplestilskin" - Boston Children's Rep. - at Rindge Tech. BE AT SCHOOL at 1. We'll be back at 4. (Same deal with little kids.)

THURSDAY       12-5:30 RED SOX vs. DETROIT. Tickets are 75¢. KIDS MUST SIGN UP BY THE FRIDAY BEFORE VACATION. We need parents and cars. We'll
COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS, Cont.

leave between 12 and 12:30, the game starts at 2, and we should be back by 5:30.

FRIDAY 10-12 Drop In
1-3 Outdoor Olympics at school.

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There will be no evening program during vacation week. There is an evening program on the release day.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND THE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD

On April 13th, at 8 p.m. in the Agassiz School library, representatives from Harvard will be present to discuss a number of issues that are of concern to the Agassiz community. Two main topic areas will be covered: 1.) the electron accelerator and 2.) land use in the Agassiz area.

The first topic concerns the persistent rumors surrounding Harvard's accelerator (located on the corner of Hammond and Gorham Sts.) about the effects such a facility might have on the neighboring community. Questions that have already been asked include:

1.) What is an electron accelerator?

2.) What is the amount of radiation that emanates from this facility?

3.) What types of monitoring devices are currently being used?

4.) Will there be future expansion of this facility, and will that mean higher levels of radiation?

5.) Should such a facility be located in an urban area?

The second topic is land use in the Agassiz area. The issues surrounding this topic are tied directly to the large parcels of real estate owned by Harvard and the potential development projects outlined in Harvard's 1975 "Long Range Planning Report". With the recent commitment by the city of Cambridge to take Sacramento Field and develop it into desperately needed open, recreational space, there are many possible effects this might have on Harvard's proposed projects and on Harvard's commitment to our neighborhood. The list is long, but we will try to discuss:

1.) Harvard's commitment to divest itself of property outside certain boundaries drawn in the 1975 report.

2.) The methods to be used for selling this property (What about the current occupants? Will Harvard help? Can the neighborhood play a role in identifying perspective buyers?)

3.) Are the Harvard boundaries in the best interest of neighborhood stabilization (which Harvard claims to support)?

4.) At what stage of development is the proposed garage at the corner of Hammond and Oxford Sts.? (Has Harvard done any studies that show the traffic impact of such a facility?)

5.) What is the status of Norton Woods? (What is meant by the proposed change from "housing" to "academic" use?)

This is only a sample of the questions that could be asked. The meeting is open to everyone and the future of Agassiz depends on many of these issues. Come and participate. It's your neighborhood, and you should have some input about its future.
PTA NEWS

The next PTA meeting will be on May 11 at 8 p.m. in the Agassiz school library. There will be no April meeting because of teacher-parent conferences.

Our topic (supported by our telephone poll) will be "Children and Violence". We will probe such issues as the effect of television on children and aggression in children. A short movie is planned and resource people are being invited.

Please plan to be there. Mark your calendars now. Support your PTA, AND your children!!!

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTICES

My wondrous green VW is for sale. It's in running condition, but needs work. Will sell for best offer. Call Annie mornings at home (263-4268) and afternoons at work (876-9268).

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Wanted: a two or three family house to buy in the Agassiz neighborhood. Call Peter Meyer-sohn at 661-3080.

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NEW SEASONS has NEW HOURS: Tues-Sat, 10-4. Come to New Seasons for good quality, second-hand children's clothing, toys, books, etc. At 248 Beacon St., Somerville, diagonally across from Star Market.