

NEWS NOTES

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EDUCATIONAL
Testing Service is now in its 21st year of operation. Last year, more than five million students took one or more tests developed by ETS.

The ETS Board of Trustees consists of 15 members, 9 of whom are college presidents or chancellors. The other members include a foundation president, the executive director of the Education Commission of the States, the president of the American Council on Education, the president of the College Entrance Examination Board, a congressman, and a publisher.

Not a single public-school educator is represented on the ETS Board of Trustees.

High School Students Tutor Elementary Pupils

Pupils at Fenwick Elementary School in San Antonio with particularly troublesome problems in reading and mathematics have been getting a helping hand from about

50 Jefferson High School students. Members of the Jefferson National Honor Society and Future Teachers of America Club come to Fenwick several times each week during their study hall or activity periods. Teachers have a plan prepared for the tutors to follow.

Members of other Jefferson organizations work with elementary pupils in music, art, and physical education, explaining and demonstrating skills and techniques and encouraging interest in these subjects.

Library Innovation

At Crockett, DeZavala, and Ivanhoe elementary schools in San Antonio, electronic devices called "listening stations" are being used in the school libraries to help children learn to read. Each listening station is equipped with earphones and can be plugged into tape recorders or record players. Thus students

can come to the library and work by themselves, listening to the recordings they select without disturbing others in the library.

Many of the books in the library are accompanied by tape recordings of someone reading the story. The children read the books while listening to the recordings. Each listening station accommodates nine listeners.

Music Neglected in Secondary Schools

At a recent meeting of the Warwick, Rhode Island, Curriculum Council, George Low, Supervisor of Music, pointed out that music is often crowded out of the school day for secondary students—especially for those who are academically talented. Mr. Low reported a decrease in the numbers of Warwick students who are able to participate in vocal and instrumental programs, even though interest remains high.

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School Board-Student Communication

The Arlington, Virginia, School Board has begun an innovative program to encourage communication between the Board and students. Once a month, after school hours, two Board members are available to hear and respond to questions and comments voiced by students. The members rotate among the three Arlington high schools.

Independent Study in Science

Upon completion of a year of high school science, students at Rincon High School in Tucson may take an independent study course in science with permission of the teacher involved. The student must identify a research problem on which he would like to work. Says Science Department Chairman Francis B. Rickett: "The program allows the good student to explore areas of individual interest in depth." Most important, he points out, is that students become involved in learning rather than working for a grade through a conventional course.

Education Book List

Pi Lambda Theta, a national honor society for women in education, has published a list of books in education covering the period from January 15, 1968, through July 15, 1969. Included in the booklet is a list of those books considered to be outstanding by 120 evaluators in various content fields.

Copies of the *Education Book List 1968-1969* (Published March 1970) can be or-

dered for \$1.50 each from Pi Lambda Theta, Suite 800, 1510 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Preschool Program

Three pre-kindergarten sections are now being offered by the Roslyn, New York, School District. The program is designed to provide experiences for disadvantaged children that will help them succeed in school. Although it has similar goals to "Head Start," the year-long program is largely supported by funds from the state rather than with federal funds.

Student Art on Tour

Fifteen paintings by New York City secondary school students are on a nationwide tour of museums, libraries, and school systems following their showing at the Junior Museum of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Safety Education

A survey conducted by the Research Institute for Child Development in Sweden has found a need for instruction in safety, not just advice and warnings. The study revealed that the most effective safety education for children combined classroom instruction and outdoor instruction with interviews and practical and written tests. The poorest results came from classroom instruction alone.

According to the study, young children have the most difficulty in learning to look right and left, to look back when crossing the street, and to go straight across the street.

Half of the six- and seven-

year-olds surveyed were not in command of a traffic situation at intersections. Six-year-olds have difficulty in seeing rapidly moving vehicles out of the corners of their eyes. Locating sounds is also difficult for six-year-olds.

Center for Occupational Information

Schools are kept informed about the knowledge and work skills a graduate must have for job placement with various companies, and business firms are informed about what the schools are doing, by Atlanta's Occupational Information Center for Education-Industry, now in its third year of operation.

To ensure that a company's training program does not repeat what the new employee has already learned in school and does not teach courses for which he has no foundation, business must know what is expected of the high school graduate. The Center performs this function. By visiting schools, Center staff members keep teachers and students informed of changes in the ways of work in Georgia so that school offerings are kept up-to-date.

The Center also publishes one-page "briefs" which tell of jobs available to graduates and what they must have to be considered for these jobs. These bulletins are sent to all high schools in Georgia.

Study in Health Occupations

Douglass, Harper, and Therrell High Schools and Coan Middle School in Atlanta have added a health careers course and a health occupational work-study course to the cur-

riculum. The twofold objective is to provide students with firsthand information about careers in health services and to increase the number of persons entering health occupations.

Students observe in medical laboratories at hospitals and other health agencies and have direct contact with people providing health services.

Transition

An in-service education program has facilitated faculty integration in the Atlanta school system. The program began last January with an all-day workshop for principals. Those principals with experience in faculty integration were group discussion leaders. Urbanologists, sociologists, and psychologists from area universities served as group consultants.

After teachers were informed of their new assignments, they exchanged visits with the teachers they were replacing. Task-force teams consisting of teachers, college professors, and central office personnel met with school faculties to share experiences and answer questions.

Teachers on the teams were selected because of successful experience in working in integrated schools. Members of task forces are available to assist individual teachers or entire faculties with integration problems.

Study Center

Omaha youth with school problems are being given supportive assistance by the school system's Individualized Study Center. The Center features intensive counseling and an

individualized curriculum and serves youths who have been found by their previous school to be disruptive, delinquent, and dropout prone. In the two years of its existence, students have transferred to the Center from each of the Omaha public high schools.

A number of these youths have returned to their previous school and are finding success. Some have received their diplomas through the Center.

The study center cannot offer the student a total school. Thus the objective is to return students to the "mainstream" of school life whenever possible.

The Private Foundations and the Governmental Process

In the current Ford Foundation Annual Report, President McGeorge Bundy notes that:

... in the present-day world, where all manner of issues relate to government, there is almost no subject a foundation touches that may not sooner or later have an effect on legislation. In this Foundation every program area selected by our Board of Trustees for current action is at least indirectly related to the governmental process.

Special Services Guide

A guide for referring Milwaukee pupils to 22 special education programs has been distributed to the schools. The guide entitled, "Available Services Guide," describes programs for gifted, mentally retarded, and physically handicapped students and provides bases for making decisions about referrals.

Descriptions of the services were developed by the Department of Psychological

Services and compiled and distributed by the Division of Curriculum and Instruction.

Minicourse Distributed Commercially

The Teacher Education Program of the Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development has delivered its first minicourse for in-service teachers to a commercial distributor. The course, "Effective Questioning in a Classroom Discussion—Elementary Level" can be rented or purchased from Macmillan Educational Services by any district or teacher education institution.

Four other minicourses have successfully completed field testing and will soon be released for commercial production. They deal with kindergarten organization; mathematics tutoring; secondary school questioning skills; and thinking and language skills needed in work with young children.

Students Work with Artists

Five Wilmington, Delaware, high school students have served one-year apprenticeships in the studios of selected professional artists in the community. On regular school time and for school credits, the students have worked in the field of their talent—sculpture or painting. The apprenticeships are subsidized by the Delaware State Art Council.

Health Services

The Department of Child Development and Guidance of the Wilmington Public Schools provides counseling services for pupils, parents, teachers,

and administrators. Another function of this department is to arrange physical examinations for each child prior to his entrance into first grade. These examinations are repeated every three or four years during the child's school career. Staff members are given a complete physical annually.

Dental examinations are made every two years and dental treatment is provided for children whose parents cannot afford it. Screening tests (eyes, ears, and scalp) are given annually and immunizations against polio, measles, diphtheria-tetanus, and other diseases are administered regularly. A tuberculin testing program is provided for students and staff.

The department was created in 1947 when Wilmington educators realized that the student's intellectual achievement is directly related to his physical and mental health.

Teacher Visitation Day

Teachers in Chickasha, Oklahoma, spend one professional day each year visiting and observing in other school systems in Oklahoma. Each teacher contacts a school that has a program or a department he wishes to see in operation. Evaluation of the visitation program reveals that teachers bring back new ideas and practices they can apply in their own classrooms. The visitation also provides a means for each teacher to evaluate his own teaching.

R & D Publication on Teaching

Teaching, a publication of the Stanford Center for Research and Development in

Teaching, is available by subscription to those who request that they be placed on the Center's mailing list. Write to: Coordinator, Publication Unit, Stanford Center for Research and Development in Teaching, 770 Welch Road, Palo Alto, California 94304.

Animals Become Instructional Aids

Not many teachers have the opportunity to use a baby elephant or golden spider monkey as a teaching tool. A group of San Diego teachers whose classes are participating in the Zoo Project for Handicapped Children are doing that and more.

Each day for two weeks, two classes of educationally handicapped children have school in a secluded corner of the San Diego Zoo where the Zoological Society has provided an exceptional outdoor classroom. Rather than teaching about animals, the teachers are using animals in connection with material from the regular curriculum. For example, a lesson may be related to music—interpreting the sounds and rhythms of animals. Or a reading lesson may consist of a guided animal "scavenger hunt" in teams around the zoo.

To qualify for participation in the project, teachers took a training course at the zoo in which they could gain confidence in handling animals, study the resources of the zoo, and develop planned learning activities for their classes.

Teachers and parents report that some children who have difficulty responding to people respond to the animals with interest and affection. A number of children who are

usually reluctant to participate in written language lessons have been motivated to write about their experiences in the Zoo Project. About 70 classes are participating in the project this year.

State Financial Support Declines in California

In the five-year period from 1964-65 to 1968-69, state support for the San Mateo, California, Public Schools dropped from 29 percent of the school district's revenue to 18 percent. Local taxpayer support was forced to increase from 68 percent to 80 percent. Until a more equitable partnership is restored between state and local government in California, the local taxpayer will have to assume a disproportionate share of the cost of public education.

Boarding High Schools

Alaska is developing a system of regional boarding high schools. Regional schools are centrally located and draw boarding students from small, isolated communities where there are no secondary schools. Regional high schools were in operation at Nome and Kodiak during the 1969-70 school year with a total enrollment of 267 students.

At present, 110 students live in the Kodiak dormitory. Kodiak boarding students come from four villages on the Kodiak Island and the interior and westward area of the mainland.

A regional boarding high school complex in Bethel with a 200-student dormitory and a 600-student high school will be ready for occupancy in the fall of 1972. The state will also

be opening dormitories for 200 students in Sitka and Fairbanks at the same time. In addition, plans are being drawn up for smaller dormitories at Tok, Fort Yukon, and Dillingham, to be opened by September 1973.

Hearing Loss— An Undetected Problem

According to HEW studies, hearing impairment is one of the most serious health problems among rural Alaskan pupils. More than 1,000 pupils out of 10,000 in rural schools were found by HEW to have defective hearing. In a recent survey of 69,207 students by the state department's Special Education Section, however, 709 students were listed as "mentally retarded" but only 238 were listed as "deaf" or "hard-of-hearing."

Commented W. Russell Jones, Jr., Director of the state department's Division of Instructional Services:

The fact that only 238 students with major hearing losses were identified by teachers and administrators indicates that most educators are not able to identify these children. Children may be classified by teachers as "mentally retarded" when really impaired hearing is the cause of their learning difficulties. The problem then is to provide a better method for identifying these students.

As a possible solution, Jones proposed that state Public Health Service teams test all children in the state within a one- or two-year period. He also suggested that teachers be trained through in-service education to recognize children who have hearing losses. He states,

Through such a cooperative approach, it might be possible to reach a large number of children whose hearing impairment results in educational handicaps which increase in geometric proportion each year these impairments are not identified.

The Occult as a Reaction to the Machine Process

In *The Instinct of Workmanship*, published in 1914, Thorstein Veblen noted that:

Neither the manner of life imposed by the machine process, nor the manner of thought inculcated by habituation to its logic, will fall in with the free movement of the human spirit, born, as it is, to fit the conditions of savage life. So there comes an irrepressible—in a sense, congenital—recrudescence of magic, occult science, telepathy, spiritualism. . . . □

Readers are invited to submit items for the NEWS NOTES column to: Professor Laurel N. Tanner, College of Education, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122. Of particular interest to our readers are items concerning innovative programs and research.

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