

Head Start Program Launched Locally

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Edna Cloyd, Editor

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The Class of 1979

Gets Two Months Head Start for Kindergarten

When Torrance school doors open next fall, going to school will be old hat to 75 members of the Class of '79.

This group of kindergartners will have two months' attendance in the Torrance Unified School District's pre-school program already tucked under their pint-sized belts.

Begun this summer as a federally-financed program at three elementary schools, the pre-school curriculum is geared towards helping youngsters whose experiences have been limited in becoming receptive towards learning.

Classes of 15 students each are being conducted at Fern-Greenwood, Torrance Elementary, and Crenshaw Elementary School. Each class is supervised by a master teacher who has a staff of one assistant and two aides.

"By keeping classes small and having the staff to give each child the individual attention he needs, we hope to help the insecure four-year old develop a strong self-image and build positive attitudes towards school and school attendance," states Mrs. Gertrude Aldershof, curriculum consultant and project director.

How do you build a four-year-old's "self-image"? According to Mrs. Aldershof, such activities as standing in front of a mirror and identifying his nose or his arms help. Because each youngster has his own clothes hook marked with his name his awareness of himself as an individual is heightened.

Feeling wanted and accepted as a part of a group as well as an individual also adds to his confidence. Hopefully, learning to enjoy school experiences at this early age will cultivate attitudes that will curtail drop-outs ten years from now.

One of the most important activities which it is hoped will help attain both goals, Mrs. Aldershof stated, is increasing the students language and communications skill.

"To help the children become proficient at expressing themselves (which is the best

way to prepare them for proficiency at reading)," Mrs. Aldershof said, "we use puppets, flannel boards, and create opportunities for them to talk."

Because parents are considered the most vital part of the teaching team, parent meetings are conducted every other week. A school psychologist, counselor, physician, and nurse attend the meetings. Staff members and parents toss around ideas for carrying through the program in the home. Parents are invited to be in and out of the classroom at any time; and two-hour-a-week individual parent conferences are also held.

One parent, who is employed in a laboratory where cultures are grown recently volunteered to make cultures of germs on the children's hands before and after washing.

In addition to learning experiences geared towards mental well-being, the pre-school program is also concerned with improving the child's physical health.

A complete physical examination is given to each student by a school doctor and physical health and nutrition are discussed by parents at their meetings. "Parents realize that children will be better learners if they are in good health," Mrs. Aldershof said.

How are the youngsters adjusting to the program?—"It's too soon to tell," says Hugh Dooley, principal at Crenshaw School, "but we haven't had any of the problems we usually have with kindergartners at the beginning of a new year."

At Crenshaw, where three of the five classes are being conducted, youngsters are enrolled who speak Japanese, German, Spanish, and Philippine Island dialect at home. "Although we encourage parents to keep the child fluent in his second language by speaking it part of the time at home, we conduct our classes in English because we feel that the sooner a child becomes fluent in the language spoken in this culture the better he will do in school."



FARMER IN THE DELL

In organized play, these pre-schoolers learn cooperation by choosing partners and they learn the meaning of teamwork. The instructor, Douglas Forester, in center of ring, a University of Redlands graduate is volunteering his time at the school. Forester worked with the Head Start program at Redlands.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Mirrors are used in helping these tiny tots build a self-image. Here little Amy Tew takes a look at herself, identifying her nose, eyes, mouth and hair, learning that she is an individual.



LEARNING TO CONCENTRATE

A puzzle gets the undivided attention of five-year-old David Rodriguez, used as a means of teaching these pre-schoolers the art of concentration in preparation for their school days ahead.



INDIVIDUALITY STRESSED

Play dough is used in one class to bring out the individual creativity of each child. In this class, making what he wants to make, are three five-year-olds, Tony Lujan, Jeff Morse and Tommy Frasier.

They Traded Rain, Snow and Cold For Sunshine and Home in USA

Fourteen days after their wedding in Oslo, Norway, they boarded a ship and were enroute to their new home America.

Looking to the future, the newly-married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Olav Ween, who now live at 5335 Reese Rd., Torrance, decided they wouldn't wait for several years to get an apartment in crowded Oslo, that it would be easier to make a living in the United States, and they had heard of the California sunshine as compared with the cold, snow and rain of their native land.

The couple arrived in New York in 1956, visited with relatives and friends across the United States and settled in Redondo Beach, moving to Torrance five years ago.

Mr. Ween continued in sales work and is now a sales representative for a pharmaceutical firm. Mrs. Ween is a nurse and worked until the arrival, seven years ago, of her first son, Jon Erik. Their second son, Hans Olav is now four and a half. Both youngsters speak English but understand Norwegian.

Mr. Ween was graduated from UCLA in 1959 and will receive his masters in marketing research from USC next January.

Mr. Ween's brother, Ivar Ween is a science professor at El Camino and he and his nephew, Jon Erik, are spending this summer in Norway.

The family attends the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection where Mrs. Ween sings in the choir and assists with the Sunday School for Retarded Children.

"We don't get homesick because we see so many people from Norway at the Norwegian Club in Palos Verdes," stated Mrs. Ween. This club and recreation field on Hidden Valley Rd. in Palos Verdes is owned and maintained by the Norwegian government under the direction of the Norwegian consulate.

It's a bit of Norway on the California coast as all members must be Norway immigrants, Merchant Marines or of Norwegian extraction. Norway's Independence Day, May 17, is always observed with day-long festivities at Nansen park and Midsummer Night, June 27, is an-

other day of celebration. Midsummer Night in Norway is celebrated with all-night festivities since it never gets dark. The Fram, sports club at Nansen park, is the scene of many athletic games including soccer. Norwegian pastries, coffee and other foods are available at the club.

This Norwegian housewife, who says she enjoys staying home reading, sewing, cooking and working in her yard, has chosen three of her favorite Norway recipes to share with readers. Correct measurement is most important in cooking, contends this housewife, who gave her recipes in grams, since she has a gram scale, and we have done our best to translate it into cups, tablespoons and dashes.

FISH SOUFFLE

1 pkg. frozen filet of haddock
2 heaping tbsp. flour
2 tsp. margarine
¾ cup milk
4 eggs
juice of ½ lemon
salt to taste
pepper to taste
dash of nutmeg
dash of sugar

Make a thick gravy from margarine, flour, milk. Season with other ingredients. Let cool. Add one egg yolk at a time stirring well. Whip egg whites until soft peaks are formed. Blend into mixture carefully. Cut the frozen fish filet into one inch sticks. In ovenproof casserole place one layer of fish, sprinkle with salt. Finish up layer for layer ending with the gravy mixture. Dot top with margarine and sprinkle with bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for about 50 minutes. Serve at once with melted parsley butter, boiled potatoes and a salad.

MADARIN CAKE

1½ c ground almonds
2 cups powdered sugar
½ cup water
½ c ground bitter almonds
½ lemon peel
2 eggs
½ cup flour
1 tsp. baking powder

Mix ground almonds, powdered sugar, ground bitter almonds, and lemon peel. Mix in the eggs and work the dough until smooth and even. Finally mix in flour and baking powder. Spread the dough on a cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees. Remove from oven and cool. Use 1½ cups whipping cream to spread over cake and decorate with mandarin orange sections.

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THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT NORWAY

Mrs. Olav Ween and her four-year-old son, Hans Olav, sit on a settee brought from Norway as they talk about the good time Hans' brother, Jon Erik, is having with his grandparents in Oslo, Norway. The decor at the Ween home is Scandinavian modern and all furniture came from Norway. When Jon

was six months old, Mrs. Ween took him to Norway and it was then that she bought most of her furniture. Other pieces were bought and shipped from Norway by Mr. Ween's brother, Ivar, a science professor at El Camino, who visits his homeland regularly.

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