

## PROGRESS REPORT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION ON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The educational innovations that are presently taking place in Nutley's elementary schools had their beginnings during the 1966 school year at Washington School. Perhaps a brief explanation of each would be appropriate.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL. The 6th grade staff, Dr. Priestley and Mr. Fowler explored the possibility of introducing a team teaching approach at this level of instruction. After several meetings the itinerant teachers were asked to become involved in the planning for the implementation of this program. As all of you know, by 1967 Dr. Priestley had retired and when school opened the new principal inherited the idea that had its beginnings the previous year. The basic underlying philosophy has brought about team or collaborative teaching and the development of an ungraded approach to education for children of this age level. Two years later a similar program spread to the 2nd grade of this school.

YANTACAW SCHOOL. The year prior to the untimely death of Mr. Thomas O'Rourke discussion was started in reference to initiating a team teaching approach in the 2nd grade at Yantacaw School. Staff members became completely involved and by the end of that school year everything was in order for the implementation of the Yantacaw program. During that summer the three staff members met on a regular basis to plan for this program. When Mr. Hornyak became principal he brought new ideas with him and as the program progressed it took on the form of the British Infant approach to education. This, coupled with team teaching and ungradedness has led to the development of a very exciting program. This year the program was broadened to include the students who normally would be housed in the 2nd and 3rd grades.

RADCLIFFE SCHOOL. Last year the 2nd grade teachers of Radcliffe School, along with their principal, Mr. Bakalian, started to investigate the existing programs at Washington and Yantacaw schools. At the start of this school year they were ready to start a program of team teaching--ungradedness that was unique to the school system. Capitalizing upon the strengths of collaborative thinking and the organization of each classroom along the lines of the learning station concept. This program has many similarities of both the Washington and Yantacaw programs but still retains the uniqueness that has come from the creativity of the Radcliffe staff.

SPRING GARDEN AND LINCOLN SCHOOLS have retained their traditional organizations. A great deal of creative teaching is taking place in both of these schools. Capitalizing upon the use of listening stations and the accompanying materials the learning station concept is present in the classrooms of both buildings. Also, both schools are capitalizing upon the use of student tutors in a tutorial type of program developed at the early elementary levels.

Where are we going?

The programs at Yantacaw are reaching upward and downward to include the entire primary unit. At Washington School the 5th grade teachers have asked to become a part of the 6th grade team teaching program. Preliminary work is being done in all three schools in an attempt to get ready for the implementation of their expanded programs. Teachers in the primary units of all three schools are meeting during the lunch hour, after school and whenever time permits for an exchange of ideas that they might take back to strengthen their own programs.

Most recently staff members from William Paterson and Jersey City Colleges have met with several of Nutley's administrative staff to discuss those institutions using Nutley's schools as training centers. They are most interested in establishing their program where the previously mentioned innovations exist.

Throughout the system teachers and administrators are carefully evaluating the many practices being brought about at the elementary level. It is most important that where change is effected the participating personnel have complete involvement in the change.

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