

CAMBERWELL HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS' & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

News Bulletin

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INVEST IN EDUCATION

"The values in which democracy places its faith require opportunities for the balanced personal and social development of each citizen. The character and quality of our educational institutions are of concern to us all." Few would question the soundness of these introductory words from the Prime Minister's statement on education in the House of Representatives recently. Few, if any, doubt the necessity for ensuring that there are enough teachers properly qualified for their responsibilities, for providing buildings and equipment, and for seeing that talented children are given the opportunity to use their ability fully, whatever their backgrounds. But there is plentiful evidence that there are deficiencies in our present arrangements.

Some of these are of immediate concern to us at Camberwell High School. The Principal's Report this year mentions the serious problem of overcrowding. With an enrolment of 900 in 1962, the School has classes of 40 or more even at the higher levels. There is inadequate provision for practical science classes, more library space is needed, equipment storage space is insufficient, and staff accommodation is lacking. In other schools, similar problems exist, in some cases much more acutely than in ours. There is an overall shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in science and mathematics.

If these deficiencies are to be remedied quickly, we must invest a larger proportion of the resources of the community in education. Money must be spent on buildings and equipment. Talented people must be encouraged to train as teachers, and more money must be invested in their training and in the payment of salaries consistent with the idea that only the best possible teachers are good enough for our children.

We have shown our belief in the importance of secondary education by enrolling our children for secondary courses. We do not need to be persuaded that a larger investment in education is necessary. Others do. Politicians

will act if they are convinced that enough people want action. Part of our immediate job as parents is therefore to convince others of the importance of education.

The task of convincing people is always done best by those who are themselves convinced. Those who are convinced are likely to be actively involved and therefore well informed. If, then, we believe that education is important, we, as parents, can contribute in two ways. First we can join with other parents and with the staff to help our own children here at Camberwell High School. Then with the first-hand knowledge this gives us, we can convince others that full realization of the potentialities of the citizens of the future requires a large increase in our investment in education.

NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of the school year marks the completion of another stage in the education of our boys and girls. Many of them are expecting next year to enter a University, a Teachers' College or other tertiary educational institution to continue their studies in specialised fields, and many will be seeking employment of various kinds. The realisation of their expectations will, in large measure, depend on their success at the recent examinations and the accommodation available at these senior educational establishments or the absorptive capacity of the various types of employment. To all who are leaving, the School extends its best wishes for future success and happiness.

The return to school, for studies at a higher level, of a large proportion of students who were successful during the previous year has been a pleasing feature of this school for many years. However, it is now becoming noticeable that unsuccessful pupils in the higher forms, instead of seeking training or employment in

occupations for which they may be well suited, are returning to school to repeat the previous year's work. Scholastic success in such senior forms depends on the capacity of the student to cope with studies of a rather academic type and on his willingness and determination to apply himself seriously and consistently to his studies. It is therefore very desirable that an appraisal of the reason for a pupil's failure be made, since if it were due to a lack of either of these attributes, a repetition of the year's work is still not likely to bring success.

STAFF

Next year will again, unfortunately, bring many staff changes. Mr. Horne, Mr. Jones, Mr. Hardenberg, Mr. Green, Mr. Joyce, Miss Moore and Mrs. Gliddon have received well merited promotions to other schools and we congratulate them on their advancement. Miss Clark and Miss Young are resigning from the Department and Miss Firth is transferring. We thank them all for their wholehearted services to the school, which in several cases have extended over many years, and wish them happiness and well-being in the years ahead.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The co-operation of parents is sought in ensuring that pupils wear correct school uniform. It should be noted that long trousers worn by boys must be dark grey (clerical grey) in colour with a trouser cuff of not less than 17 inches in width, and should be worn with a suit coat of the same material, or alternatively, with a school blazer. School tie and cap are essential details of the uniform. All clothing should be clearly marked with the owner's name to permit identification in case of loss. Extreme hair styles are not permitted.

CHURCH SERVICE

As usual, a service was held at Trinity Presbyterian Church to mark the close for this year of lessons in Religious Education. A challenging address was given by Dr. Whiting, newly appointed minister of the Church of Christ, Hartwell. An anthem was rendered by the school choir and the lesson was read by the Senior Prefect, John Waters.

PARLIAMENT OF YOUTH

The School again this year took part in the "Parliament of Youth" telecast conducted by the Herald & Weekly Times Pty. Ltd. and was the opposition party in an interesting and enjoyable debate against St. Bede's College, on the subject "Should the study of an Asian

language be made compulsory to Matriculation standard?". Later, at a school assembly, Mr. V. Wilcox, M.L.A., on behalf of the sponsors, presented the three "front benchers", Emese Gargya, Helen Daniel and Michael Knoche with framed certificates, and Mr. H. Redding presented a cheque for £25 to the school.

SPORTING NEWS

The early part of third term is devoted to athletics. The boy's season commenced with the annual cross-country run. This was followed by the Inter-House Athletic Sports meeting, which was held under ideal conditions on the school oval. This was the first time the oval had been used since its re-grading and the opportunity for preliminary training added to the standard of the sports. Our own House Sports were followed by the Central Division, All High Schools' and All Schools' carnivals, and at each of these meetings several very fine individual performances were recorded by our students. For the girls, Lois Barton was outstanding in winning the three Open sprint events at both the Central Division and the All High Schools' sports, equalling one record and breaking another at the latter meeting.

NEWS FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council has over the past term endeavoured to finalise several projects for which it has been working for some time. When it is realised that no moneys may be spent, involving any modification to school buildings or grounds, without the prior approval of both the Education and Public Works Departments, the apparently long delay between deciding what needs to be done and actually having the work put in hand becomes more explicable.

However, the Council can point to several concrete achievements. Exterior lighting has finally been installed around the school, and is both effective and attractive. A large section of the southern boundary fence has been renewed and the remainder straightened and strained. These two measures will help discourage unauthorised persons from entering the grounds. On the new oval, which was used for the first time for the House sports in October, a practice turf wicket has been laid for the use of cricket teams. The second stage of the oval works, involving construction of retaining walls and terracing along the eastern boundary, is still awaiting final P.W.D. ap-

proval, after further revised plans and specifications were submitted some months ago. The insulation of the gymnasium ceiling, for which funds have already been allocated, also awaits P.W.D. approval, but it is expected that this latter work, at least, can be done during the vacation.

Two major items have caused the Advisory Council deep concern. One, referred to by the Principal in his Annual Report, is the serious overcrowding experienced at the School. Urgent representations have been made to the Minister, in support of the Principal's own requests through departmental channels, and Council has been told that the needs of Camberwell High School will be considered when priorities for the Department's building programme for the next financial year are being reviewed.

Because the School has such a small overall area, compared with many of the recently established high schools, the provision of single-storey classroom blocks provides no answer to the problem. It has been strongly suggested to the Department that a new multi-storey building, to replace existing prefabricated classrooms and simultaneously provide additional space, would be the best solution.

The other, and perhaps more serious problem, is the possibility of an elevated arterial roadway being built across the western end of the school oval. When this project was first mooted some years ago, vigorous protests were made both by the Advisory Council and the Education Department, and we were assured that its construction was not envisaged for at least 15 years and that due consideration would be given to our objections. There now appears to be some possibility of this road being built within 5 years, and unless some modification of the original plan were made, the school would lose about one-third of its oval, the whole of the hockey ground and most of Willison Park, and thus be almost completely deprived of playing areas. The location of an elevated, high speed freeway so close to the school would make teaching and study conditions deplorable, and the Advisory Council has made both written and personal representations to the Minister to urge the case for a diversion of the proposed road. The matter will be kept under constant review and every possible effort made to preserve conditions at the School.

Parents will be interested to know that the answers to the questionnaire recently circulated regarding contributions to Advisory Council funds were overwhelmingly in favour of the new system proposed. Its institution will, it is hoped, enable the Council to plan even more effectively for the development of the School.

Council would like to take this opportunity also of expressing its thanks to the Parents' Association and Women's Auxiliary for the fine work they have done during the past year in improving the appearance of the School grounds, in furnishing the sick bay and generally in promoting excellent relations between parents and staff.

PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

Our activities for third term commenced with a Parent-Teacher Evening for the Junior School on September 17th, which was welcomed by both staff and parents. We hope that such meetings will form a regular part of our programme for the future, and would welcome suggestions from all concerned as to the most effective method of arranging them.

On Friday, September 21st, a Barn Dance was held in the School Gymnasium. Although the number attending was not as great as hoped for, due largely to a local epidemic of influenza, all those who did come had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

We should like to thank all those parents who have supported our various functions, and to report that we have had the most successful year for a long time, since our annual balance sheet showed a credit balance of approximately £77. Of this, £25 has been donated to the school prize fund.

Following recent press publicity, the Committee of our Association made some investigations into the difficulties being experienced in secondary schools, and a letter setting out the findings of this committee was forwarded to the Minister of Education. Several members of the committee also attended "Operation Uplift", a day conference organised by the Eastern Education Group at Lilydale High School on November 3rd. It is proposed, during 1963, to provide in our programme for some discussion evenings on matters of immediate educational importance, and we hope that as many parents as possible, whether members or not, will attend these functions.

On the more material front, a series of Saturday working bees, organised by Mr. K. Noldt, has made considerable improvement to the grounds and school frontage, and built cupboards and a porch in the gymnasium for the use of the Women's Auxiliary. Painting, lawn mowing, carpentry are jobs which always need to be done, and these working groups will continue their valuable function next year. Any parent willing to assist would be welcome; Mr. K. Noldt (82-4542) would be glad to hear from you.

The Annual General Meeting, the first to be held under the new constitution, took place on Monday, November 19th. The meeting was addressed by the Principal, Mr. R. W. Andrews, and the Senior Mistress, Miss D. McMillan, who spoke on the difficulties of accommodation experienced at the School. Following the President's speech of thanks to the retiring committee, 20 members were elected to the committee for 1963. The names and phone numbers of the new committee are set out at the end of this Bulletin.

We would once more like to thank Mr. Andrews, Miss McMillan and all members of the staff for their co-operation and interest during the past year.

L. ROBB,
(Hon. Sec.).

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

With the third term drawing to a close, the Auxiliary is making plans for 1963 and the programme for first term has already been drawn up as follows:—

February 27th: First meeting of the year—

Social to welcome old and new mothers.

March 27th: Annual General Meeting.

April 24th: "Meals in a Moment".

All meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at the Highfield Road Methodist Church Hall, at 1.30 p.m. Special provision has been made for the care of young children while mothers are attending the meetings, and the Auxiliary hopes that mothers will avail themselves of this service.

Secondhand uniforms will be on sale on the first day of the new term and on the first Monday of each month, at the School Gymnasium, between 12 midday and 1 p.m. This service has proved of great value to parents with growing families. Mrs. Noldt (82-4542) would be glad to provide you with any information.

The past term has been a busy one for the Auxiliary and its members. On October 3rd, Inter-House Sports Day was held on the newly reconstructed school oval, and the Auxiliary conducted stalls and served afternoon tea, the proceeds from which were donated to school funds. On the following day, October 4th, 36 members were the guests of A.C.I. Plastics for their annual display, held at the Chevron Hotel. October 9th brought Morning Coffee, an Apron Parade and Pinnock Sewing Machine Demonstration at the home of Mrs. Gilbert, while on October 30th a Miniature Fete held at Mrs. Key's home resulted in more than £100 being raised for the School.

These activities were in addition to the regular monthly meetings where we were once again fortunate in having excellent speakers. Our thanks must be expressed to Mrs. Williams, of the V.W.T.U., for her demonstration of fruit drinks, and to Mrs. Judson for her shopping guide, which was enjoyed by all those present. The last monthly meeting took the form of a Pre-Christmas Social, with Mr. and Mrs. Andrews and Miss McMillan as special guests. November 14th was the day of the traditional luncheon provided for Matriculation students before they leave School to prepare for their examinations, and the final function of the year took the form of an afternoon tea tendered to the staff of the School on December 10th in appreciation of their work during the year.

During the past term, the Maintenance Subcommittee of the Parents' Association has installed a new cupboard for the storage of secondhand uniforms, erected a protective porch over the back door of the gymnasium and

started the painting of the kitchen for us. We ourselves hope in 1963 to complete the equipment and furnishing of the sick bay started this year. The Auxiliary also provided two dolls to be dressed by sewing classes at the School, under the direction of Mrs. Bradstreet and Miss Young, and entered in a competition in aid of Deaf Children.

The President and Committee would like to thank Mrs. Gilbert and Mrs. Key for the loan of their homes for Auxiliary functions, and to express their thanks to all members for their wonderful support during the year. We hope to see you all again at our meetings in 1963, and wish you all the compliments of the season.

E. JACKSON,
(Hon. Sec.).

OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A warm welcome awaits all students leaving school this year, with the Old Students' Association. Those interested are asked to contact me at Camberwell High School (Phone 83-7096).

DIANE TUCKFIELD,
(Hon. Sec.).

C.H.S. PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

Committee for 1963

President: Mr. R. D. Key (83-7048).

Vice-Presidents: Mrs. H. Ewart (83-5737), Mr. K. Noldt (82-4542), Mr. H. Halstead (29-7226).

Treasurer: Mr. B. Pettigrew (83-8391).

Secretary: Mrs. L. Robb (83-8208).
Asst. Secretary: Mrs. M. Hipgrave (83-7855).

Committee Members

Mr. G. Hipgrave (83-7855), Mr. K. Horwood (83-4946), Mr. T. Hogan (89-3254), Mr. J. Wright (82-2173), Dr. W. Savige (83-7034), Mr. H. Messer (83-7339), Mr. H. Peowrie (28-1638), Mr. I. Maddock (83-5088), Mr. L. Moffat (83-3098), Mrs. N. Ellis (82-4250), Mrs. J. McKenzie (29-1729), Mrs. I. Janosi (28-1228), Mrs. D. Backholer (83-6280).

Women's Auxiliary representative: Mrs. V. Noldt (82-4542).

Old Students' Association representative: To be nominated.