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Elementary Newsletter, v2n7, March 1, 1990

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MALCOLM PRICE LABORATORY SCHOOL ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE VII

University of Northern Iowa

March 1, 1990

The Child Abuse Law In Iowa

Child abuse is an uncomfortable topic and one which we would rather avoid than address. However, it is increasingly visible in the media and public concern over this social malady has risen sharply in recent years. These conditions coupled with the legal responsibility which has been placed on professional educators for monitoring and reporting suspected child abuse, require that parents and other members of the school community understand the legal obligations teachers and other mandatory reporters bear.

Each certified teacher in Iowa is required to have at least two hours of training every five years in the area of child abuse. One of the books which is often used for this training is Protecting Iowa's Children. A Training Manual for Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse. Published at the University of Iowa, this booklet explains Iowa law and the responsibilities of teachers and others who work closely with Iowa children. The following paragraphs, which summarize many important points of the law, have been excerpted from this booklet:

With the media attention that has been focused in recent years on child abuse, one might have the idea that his social problem is a horror of modern times. In fact, violence, sexual abuse and neglect of children are not new phenomena. What is actually new, in the long view of history, is our concern with the legal right of children to be protected from abuse.

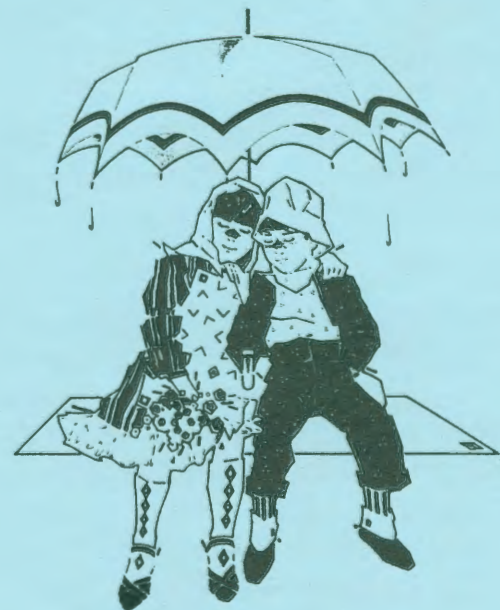
Child abuse under Iowa law includes four categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, prostitution and denial of critical care (neglect).

The question of whether child abuse is more prevalent now than it was in earlier periods of history, is one that may never be answered. We are only beginning now to outline the extent of the

modern problem. Accurate information about the past against which to compare our current estimates may be forever out of reach. We are however, beginning to understand both the short and long-term damage to individual children and to society when children are not protected from abuse. Mandatory reporters have a critical role in the effort to provide that protection.

Mandatory reporters include anyone who in the course of employment examines, attends, counsels or treats a child. Included are physicians, dentists, psychologists, nurses, day care center workers, counselors, teachers and the like.

In Iowa any person who is a mandatory reporter who knowingly fails to report suspected child abuse (to the Department of Human Services) is guilty of a simple misdemeanor, which can mean 30 days in jail and a \$100 fine. But more seriously, the law states that any mandatory reporter who knowingly fails to report is liable for the damages caused by such a failure.



In Iowa about 3 of every 100 children are reported as being abused each year. Twenty-eight percent of these reported cases turn out to be founded by the Department of Human Services. The relatively low rate of founded reports should not be interpreted as meaning that reporting is a waste of time. Even when reports are undetermined or unfounded, the caretaker is notified that the community is concerned about its children and a message is sent to the child that people care.

The goal of child abuse laws today are first to protect the child. Treatment and prevention efforts are, overall, meant to accomplish that end. But although child abuse is an assault on a child's well-being, using penalties such as jail or loss of custody in treating the parents can have an effect that increases, rather than decreases, the damage to the child. The goals of treatment and prevention, therefore, must involve addressing the family as a whole and the isolation, the stress, the feelings of self-hatred that are part of the cycle of abuse.

We trust that this article will not be interpreted as a threat to parents or the family. Rather it is intended to communicate important information regarding a very difficult social problem concerning which we as educators are legally obligated*

PTP Carnival Raffle

A packet of tickets for the PTP raffle will be sent home with children (Grades 1-8) during March. Tickets are 25¢ each. The raffle will be held at the PTP Carnival on April 5 from 5-8:00 p.m. in Nielsen Field House*

Canned Food Drive

During the week of March 5-9, the Northern University High School Student Council will be sponsoring a food drive to collect canned goods for distribution to needy families in the area. Each classroom will be provided with a box for collecting the canned food which children bring to school. We would encourage you to give what you are able for this worthy project*

Class List Policy

Later in the spring we will begin working on class lists for the 1990-91 school year. There are a number of factors which contribute to the composition of each class list and we take pains to see that children are grouped carefully to maximize learning for each child. Occasionally parents have a preference regarding the teacher to whom their child is assigned. While we do not encourage parent requests for particular teachers and we will make no guarantee regarding placement, if you do wish to make a request, this should be done in writing and forwarded to the Elementary Office*

Young Writers Conference

On March 9, 1990, a Young Writers Conference is being held at the Education Center on the Campus of the University of Northern Iowa. The conference is being sponsored by the Cedar Falls Community Schools, the UNI College of Education, and the Educational Services Division of AEA-7.

Open to students in grades 2-6, twenty children from each elementary school in the area have been invited to attend. The conference is designed to celebrate student reading and writing, but it is not a competition. Students will share a piece of their writing and attend activity sessions conducted by reading/writing professionals. We believe that the conference presents another wonderful opportunity for children to grow in their literacy skills. The following children have been invited to represent the Laboratory School in this year's Young Writers Conference:

Megan Mahan	Matthew McGuire
Kristy Reimer	Angela Thulstrup
Noelle Hamer	Kelli Frye
Ashley Atherton	Joe Riehle
Jason Krueger	Katie Baumgardner
SeHee Foss	Stuart Clausen
Amy Bowlin	Amy Dow
Keely Moon	Michael Koch
Jessica Galehouse	Myndi Eggers
* Jeremy Intemann	Brandon Sears *

PLS School Lunch Menus

MARCH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			March 1 Pizza Slice Vegetable Sticks Fresh Fruit	March 2 Hot Ham n Cheese Sandwich Potato Wedge Fruit Cocktail
March 5 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Apple	March 6 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Peaches	March 7 Hamburger Tator Tots Orange Half	March 8 Spaghetti Garlic Toast Lettuce Salad Pineapple Chunks	March 9 Chili Dinner Roll Banana Pudding
March 12 Chili Dog or Hot Dog French Fries Fresh Fruit	March 13 Taco Salad Cinnamon Roll Peaches	March 14 Tenderloin Sandwich Corn Apple Salad or Lettuce Salad Cookie	March 15 Baked Potato/ Choice of Topping Peanut Butter Sandwich Fruit Cocktail	March 16 Chicken Sandwich Pattie Raw Vegetable Salad or Carrot Sticks Applesauce Frosted Graham
 <p><i>Spring Break</i></p>				
March 26 Pizza Sub Sandwich Vegetable Sticks or Coleslaw Fresh Fruit	March 27 Lasagna Garlic Bread Lettuce Salad Diced Peaches	March 28 BBQ'd Pork Sandwich Dill Pickle Baked Beans Cherry Bar	March 29 Beef & Bean Burrito Applesauce Peanut Butter Bar	March 30 Hoagie Sandwich w/Lettuce & Tomato Fresh Fruit Brownie

Elementary Student Council Update

The Elementary Student Council has worked on a number of projects this year. One recent highlight was the "We Are The World" assembly which was held in December to celebrate a spirit of unity in a multicultural world and to recognize the contributions which Sophia Maboe, graduate students from South Africa, made to the programs of the Laboratory School during the year we were privileged to have her with us.

At the meeting on January 23, 1990, the ESC elected new officers:

President - Adlai Griffith

Vice-President - Mark Hays

Secretary - Jessica Galehouse

Messengers - Keely Moon and Kelli Frye

One of the next jobs of the ESC was to develop a plan for celebrating Black History Month. It was decided that the 15 members of the council would identify 15 important black Americans and develop a profile of each which would be shared by the ESC member in the classrooms during the weeks of February 26, March 5 and March 12.

Other anticipated activities for the year include helping with preparations for the PTP Carnival on April 5, 1990 and development of the playground *



Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences will be held on Monday, April 2, 1990 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, April 4, 1990 from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. You will be contacted in the near future regarding the date and time for your child's conference *

Johnna Kincaid Joins Faculty

Kim Miller, elementary resource teacher, will be on maternity leave for the remainder of the school year. Johnna Kincaid will be teaching in Kim's absence. Johnna is originally from Princeton, Illinois and has her undergraduate degree in elementary education and special education from Western Illinois University in Macombe, Illinois. For the past year, Johnna has been a graduate student in special education at the University of Northern Iowa where she was working on her learning disability and multi-categorical special education endorsements. She comes to us with two years previous experience in an elementary resource program in the Knoxville Public Schools.

Johnna lives in Waterloo with her husband, Kyle, and their dog, Corona. Kyle is also a UNI student in elementary education. In their spare time they enjoy fishing and volleyball. Welcome to the Laboratory School Johnna! *

Calendar

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|-------------|--|
| March 7 | Open House - Coffee Tour
9:30 a.m., South Cafeteria |
| March 9 | Young Writer's Conference-
EdC UNI |
| March 19-23 | No School - Spring Break |

Student Behavior at Athletic Events

We encourage elementary children to attend sporting events of Northern University High School. However, we have asked children to participate as spectators at these events and demonstrate good sportsmanship. We ask for your assistance in encouraging your child to attend these events and stay seated in the bleachers during playing time. Your support in this matter is appreciated *

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