PUBLIC SCHOOL OUR COUNTRY'S HOPE

Alice Florer, Supervisor Elementary Schools, Kent County, Md., Editor.

(Authorized and Approved by Prof. L. C. Robinson, County Superintendent of Schools, Kent County, Maryland.)

This week we are launching the Kent County Educational Department in the county papers for the benefit of the schools. We hope each teacher will cooperate in the success of this subject by making contributions from time to time.

There appeared in this paper last week an announcement regarding American Education week, a statement of its purposes, and an invitation to all the ministers in the county, all officers of the American Legion and all officials of every fraternal organization to attend a meeting in the office of the Board of Education, Chestertown, Maryland, Monday evening, Nov. 12th. for the purpose of discussing ways and means by which the people of Kent County might be induced to visit the schools during the week of November 19th. to 24th and thereby aid in developing an intense public interest that is so essential to educational progress. Due to uncertain weather conditions and conflicts with previous engagements of some of the organizations on that evening the meeting was not well attended. Therefore an urgent request is now made for volunteers to assist the school teachers throughout the county in making their program during next week a success. You who are willing to help in any way could facilitate matters by offering your services directly to the principal of the school in which you are most interested. Already, some volunteers have reported for service. Let's have others follow in rapid succession until every school in the county has at least one outside helper. All who are gifted in music or public speaking can weild a wonderful influence for better educational opportunities for the boys and girls of Kent. Are you going to do your bit?

Ministers of all denominations are urged to open the week by preaching a sermon on education, either morning or evening of Sunday, Nov. 18th. If, however, plans of any minister for that day can be changed at this late date it is hoped that he will not overlook the cause of education on Sunday, Nov. 25th.

Elsewhere in this department will be found a suggestive program for each day of American Education Week prepared by Miss Alice Florer, Supervisor of Elementary Schools. This should be used as a basis for the week's program in all of the schools.

LOUIS C. ROBINSON
Superintendant of Schools.

Last week we announced through the county papers that Kent County was going to recognize American Education Week. We judge that the teachers are casting about for material and suggestions as to how to proceed to bring about the best results.

The following may be of some help in planning programs for the week. The main and by far the most effective feature of the entire week will be the fact that your people have gathered together, thought together and listened together. That they have met on common ground and either listened to the discussion of a common subject or have entered into the discussion themselves of a common subject. The program follows:

Sunday, Nov. 18.—All ministers of the county are invited to preach a sermon in their respective churches on this day.

Monday, Nov. 19—Religious Day.—Since Thanksgiving is coming so soon and we are always expected to recognize it; and since we are all desirous of giving thanks and expressing our appreciataion to the Giver of all good for our blessings, teachers may use this program for the day before Thanksgiving if they wish.

Let us begin this program by offering prayer to a Divine Providence for the privilege of living in a free country; for our free American institution, the Public School, and for health and strength to do our work from day to day. Remind the children that there are people today under tyrant rule, while we are a free people; that there are many people on beds of sickness, while we are permitted to enjoy good health; that there are those who are not endowed with mental ability to grasp meaning from the printed page, while we have that power; that there are those who have that ability, but who, from choice or from being deprived of that privilege at the right time, have missed their opportunities and have thus missed some of the finest things in life.

Try to have them see how fortunate they are in being able to attend school and try to have them make the most of their opportunities by improving their time each day; impress upon them that they should be thankful to an "All-Wise Providence" for all of these blessings.

Tuesday, Nov. 20—Patriotic Day.—Study the lives of some of the great men in our history. It will be much better to study the lives of two or three great men or perhaps one for each division in school and study them intensively, actually "clinching" the strong points in their characters, than to study many in an artificial way. This study will bring out the strong points which boys especially will wish to duplicate in their own lives. One of the greatest educators in America today made an intensive study of the life of Benjamin Franklin when but a small boy. Today his friends see the life of Benjamin Franklin in the daily life of this man who has done so much for the Public Schools of America.

Subjects for speeches, compositions, etc.:

1. Is it not your duty to vote? Is it not your duty to vote at the primaries?
2. A flag on every school house. Why?
3. Salute to the flag.
4. What is patriotism?
5. American ideals.
6. Our duty to the foreign born.

Wednesday, Nov. 21—School and Teacher Day—Parent-Teacher Associations should assist in making plans for this program. Representatives of the organization should be invited to give addresses at evening meetings and they should cooperate with the teachers in urging the people to visit the schools.

Subjects for speeches and compositions:

1. Do you know your child's teacher? If not, get acquainted with her during American Education Week.
2. Are the teachers of your school normal or college graduates? If not why not
3. Are the luxuries costing more in your community than your schools? Find out, if possible.
4. Do you belong to the Parent-Teacher Association? If not, join American Education Week.
5. Visit your schools.
6. Our state program for schools.
7. The nation's debt to the teacher.
8. The relation of education to civilization.
9. Better trained teachers for rural schools.

Thursday, Nov. 22—Illiteracy Day—Write Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, Frankfort, Kentucky, who is chairman of the Illiteracy Committee in the N. E. A. for material.

Subjects for speeches and compositions are:

1. What can be done to eradicate illiteracy in this community.
2. Illiteracy a menace to the nation.
3. America's debt to the foreign born.
4. Economic loss due to illiteracy.

Friday, Nov. 23—Community Day.—"Equality of opportunity" for every boy and girl in our land should be stressed on this day. Farm organizations should assist in making this program. These organizations should furnish speakers for this program.

Subjects for speeches and compositions:

1. The one-teacher school, the last remnant of pioneer days, cannot furnish twentieth century education.
2. Consolidate the one-teacher schools. Give us farm boys and girls a chance to go to high school.
3. The schoolhouse, a community center.
4. The number of children in this district is .....
   The school enrollment is.....
   The average daily attendance is .....
   Is this efficiency?
5. The village community school.
6. Equality of opportunity in education for the country child.
7. School needs of the community.
8. Our need for a Public Library.
9. The teachers and the community.
10. Utilize local problems as: Why we should have playground equipment, hot lunch, health work, etc.

Saturday, Nov. 24—Physical Education Day.—It is necessary from both physical and moral standpoint for the children to have recreation. Physicians, dentists, physical education, directors, teachers and all others interested in the health of the community should have a part in the making of this program.

Subjects for speeches and composition are:

1. The conservation of rural health.
2. What the schools of Maryland are doing for health.
3. Americanization through the playground.
4. The value of exercise.

This may seem like a big series of programs. While it would be very nice to have something at your school each day during the entire week, each teacher is not expected to do all of this. However, each teacher is asked to read the program through and with her pupils and patrons or a committee of her patrons, which she may appoint, decide upon which part of it she and her community can do best. Then she is asked to make arrangements for a program which she feels will be a contribution to the welfare of her community.

Teachers, do not overlook the fact that this is a time for you to demonstrate your ability for leadership in your community. It will probably require that you will have to be a leader in getting these activities started, but your patrons will certainly find some patrons who will gladly assist you if you will enlist them for service.

This program is based upon the material organized by the American Legion, the National Educational Association and the U. S. Bureau of Education. We hope every school in the county will recognize American Education Week, in some way that will be the means of getting the people together. Let us have a report of your meeting and it will appear in the Kent County Educational Department.

Recreation Periods

One of the most important periods in the day is the Recreation Period. We have asked the teachers to make daily preparation for class work; we have asked them to keep a daily schedule of all work done during the day and the successful teacher always prepares for each day's work. But we find in our visits about the county that only a few teachers plan for the recreation periods.

Teachers, I am sure we are right in saying that this is ONE of the most if not THE MOST important period during the day. It is the time in the day when character is being "builded." If you do not give your children something to do; if you do not teach them to play games or get them interested in some form of activity, they will either be "restless and roving," or they will be concocting mischief.

The schoolroom should be a workshop, not a playhouse. When recreation time comes, every child should leave the room and enter into some definite, interesting game. All children love to play. At least ninety-eight per cent of them do. All they need is to be "started off," directed, until they know how to play the game and they will do the rest. If you have not started some organized plays and games, please do so at once and you will be surprised at the results. Children who stay inside all day are not in condition to do the best work. They cannot be healthy without some form of play or exercise. On stormy days, there are many quiet games and many fine exercises that will take the place of the games until better weather comes. See that every child in school who is well plays every day.

School Halls

Sometimes we wonder if pupils really understand why the halls and ante-rooms in the school buildings were made. Hall discipline has much to do with the morale of any school. Not long ago, we visited a school where a splendid spirit prevailed during the school hours but when recreation time came, the children ran and talked in the halls as if they were made for that purpose! We discussed this situation with the teachers and with the pupils and we all agreed that it was not the best way to do. The next time we visited that school there was a decided change. No loud talking, no running in the halls nor inside the rooms. It was like a different school. There was an entirely different tone to the whole school. Those teachers are doing their best to make theirs a twentieth century school and they are succeeding.

The supervised play in this school under the direction of the teachers occupies the time and minds of the children from the primary grades and up during the recreation periods. They are busy every minute and enjoy it to the limit. They are never alone on the playground One of the teachers is always with them and the children prefer to have the teachers with them for they enter into the game with the heart of a child.

Lunch Period

All dinner pupils should go into one room under the supervision of a teacher. The following program may be of some help in arranging for the dinner hour:

Appoint two monitors for a week at a time, different pupils each week, if possible. When recreation time comes, instead of dismissing pupils, say "Monitors will pass." Monitors pass and bring in lunch pails. In a town school the pupils from all rooms should go into one room under the supervision of one teacher. However, each room should have monitors to get the pails and lunch boxes.

When lunch boxes are passed, some form of napkin should appear. It may be a linen one or it may be a paper one or just plain newspaper but they should use napkins for the desk. The teacher might have newspapers ready for this purpose in cases where children do not have napkins.

All eat and visit in a friendly, courteous manner until a certain time has elapsed (teacher and pupils decide what that time shall be.) Then all who are thru, may pass out quietly, put their lunch baskets away in the same place every day and enter whole heartedly into the games.

The monitors sweep up any crumbs that may have fallen and go out to play. There may be a few who eat slowly who will not be thru but ordinarily the teacher will set the time so that all may go at once. Unless for some particularly good reason, no child should enter the room again until school calls. You realize that this does not refer to bitter cold or stormy days but even a winter day that is bright, all children should be on the playground if the grounds are dry.

When the bell rings the children pass in quietly and in order. When it is time to dismiss in the evening, the same monitors pass and get wraps and pails and lunch boxes. Every child works quietly and rapidly putting on wraps and overshoes etc. As each child gets ready he is seated. When all are ready, and the teacher is "every where present" to see that the work is going on rapidly, they sing a good night song. The following is a good one:

School is over work is done,
Night is slowly coming on;
Sweetly sleep till morning light,
Good Night! Good!

Then the teacher may say, 'Good Night children' and they say Good Night Miss ———. Then at her signal they all pass out quietly by rows.

Some one may say this is too mechanical. It certainly is not mechanical but it helps the children to form habits of regularity, courtesy and self control. These are three mighty fine habits which will function in later life. This sort of dismissal sends the children home happy and that is very essential. It certainly does "tone up" a school.

In a school where the children did this every day in the school year, with perhaps a variation of the good night song, hardly a day went by in the winter months that parents did not come a little before four o'clock. They would say, "I just came to see the children dismissed. The children love it. It is a beautiful spirit." If this can be done successfully in a school of sixty five pupils from the first to the eighth grades inclusive, it can be done in any school in Kent county.

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1. Do your pupils talk in the halls?
2. Do your pupils run in and out restlessly during the recreation periods.
3. Do they all eat their lunches together under the supervision of a teacher; do they conduct themselves as courteously as they would at the table in their own homes?
4. Do your children take a part of their lunch at a time, run around in the room or out on the play ground while they "gulp it?"
5. Do your children congregate in the halls for conversation?
6. Do your children walk about restlessly, first in and then out, not knowing what to do?
7. Does your school exhibit culture and refinement both on the play ground and during school hours?

There is never a time except when passing in and out for pupils to be in the halls. Halls are only for the convenience of getting into and out of the rooms. Let's clear the halls and then keep them clear.

There is never a time for the children to play in the school room unless it be supervised games on stormy or cold days. When pupils are disorderly at the recreation periods it lowers the morale of the entire school.

When you read this article examine your school and see in which class it belongs.

One of the functions of any school should be to set up ideals and standards not only for the children but for the entire community.

Be sure you help the children to form habits of refinement and self control. You will accomplish this much easier and much more effectively if your recreation periods are definitely planned. Our hope is that every school in Kent County may emphasize this side of the life of the child. It is the best kind of "Citizenship" teaching and will absolutely illiminate nine tenths or more of all discipline problems. It is the building of character and will go with the child throughout life. What are you doing for the future citizenship of your community? Think it over.

School News

Chestertown

Mr. H. H. Hartman, of Queen Anne's County gave a very interesting and instructive talk to Miss Harley's fifth grade class on "Sheep" to which the seventh and fifth A were invited. All expressed themselves as having gained much information thereby. The pupils sent Mr. Hartman a vote of thanks.

Worton Point

Miss Edith H. Crew and her pupils gave a box supper recently from which they realized $42. They bought a revolving chair, globe, wall clock, curtains and several necessary things.

Skinner's Neck

The Hallowe'en Social in Skinner's Neck school proved very successful. The proceeds were $25. After all expenses were paid they had $17. This will be used to pay janitor's fees for the winter and to purchase a pencil sharpener. Mrs. Minnie Kelley is the teacher.

Sassafras

Mrs. Earnest and pupils of Sassafras entertained their friends at a masquerade party at the hall on the evening of Hallowe'en. A box of chocolates was given Mr. R. W. Johnson who was selected for having the most clever costume. The evening was spent playing games appropriate to the season. Refreshments consisting of ginger cake, lemonade and apples were served. Eighteen dollars and fifty cents was realized which will be invested in library and supplementary books.

Cherry Lane

Mrs. Anna M. Hague and the pupils of Cherry Lane school gave a pie social and festival in the school house, November 2nd. The sum of $38 was realized. The "Copper and Bowers" cake brought $6.50. Cash donations were received from Mr. Copper and from Mr. George W. Sutton.

$16.50 will be used for supplementary readers and a phonetic chart.

We are going to hold "open school" on Friday, November 16th from 1:00 to 2:30 p. m. At the close of this session a Parent-Teacher Association will be organized. All patrons and friends interested in the schools of Kent County are cordially invited to attend these meetings.

Auto Licenses To Be Cheaper

Thirty-two cents per horsepower will be the charge in 1924 for registering pneumatic-tired automobiles, it was announced recently by Governor Ritchie. The present charge is 60 cents per horsepower. According to a statement submitted by Wm. S. Gordy, Jr., State Comptroller, the 1-cent gasoline tax produced a revenue of $680,479.27 for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30. On this basis the 2-cent gasoline tax, effective Jan. 1, will produce $1,360,958.54, according to Mr. Gordy's statement. A statement from D. Marshall Schroder, Deputy Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, shows that the receipts for the registrataion of automobiles for the fiscal year ended 30 were $2,880,260.35. According to the Governor's computation, in accordance with the requirements of the law, the receipts from the new tax will permit the reduction in registration fee from 60 cents to 45 cents per horsepower.

Farmers, List Your Repair Needs

It would be hard to find a farmer who at some time or another has not lost valuable time waiting for necessary repair parts. Take this matter and total up the time lost in a year and it will astonish you. And the cause repairs are not ordered as soon as they should be.

There is no better time than right now—just before the busiest season on the farm—to go over your machinery carefully, make a list of repairs you are likely to need and send it to us. With this list in our hands, we can order our stock so as to be prepared to meet every call promptly.

Repair part service is a necessary part of our business. We realize what it means to you in time and money to get what you need at once. Help us to help you by making up your list now and sending it in to us.

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THE STAM DRUG CO
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THE PRESCRIPTION STORE

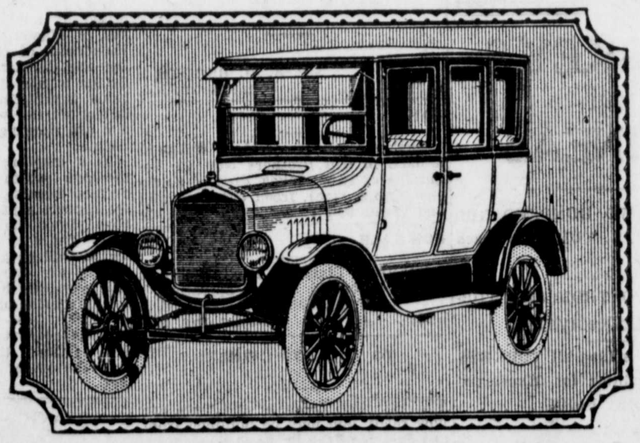
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It is lower and sturdier in appearance. New cowl, hood, radiator and apron add size and finish to the front. Sun visor, and wide, well-finished aluminum doors with bar handles perfect the design of the body.

The lasting lustre of the exterior finish is equalled in richness by the soft brown shades of the silk window curtains and the deep broadcloth upholstery.

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LAST DAY

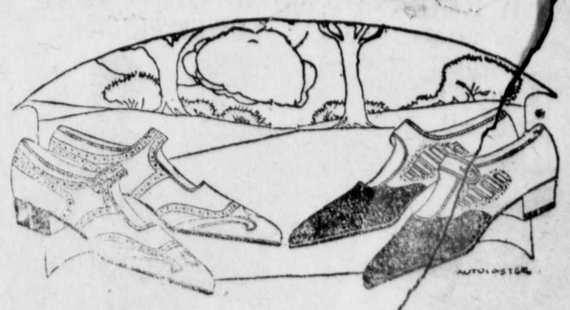
This Saturday, Nov. 17 the last day of our first anniversary sale.

You should avail yourself of this opportunity to get bargains before it is too late.

We still have some bargains in Men's and Young Men's Suits and Overcoats at greatly reduced prices. We also have some bargains left in Women's Coats and Dresses.

Our dry goods department is likewise still showing bargains.

When you think of shoes we have them in all sizes, kinds and quality at bargains that you will not get again soon. Come and look us over before closing hours today as this Sale ends with today.



SEE OUR ADVERTISEMENT NEXT WEEK

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