

■ OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS ■

Involving Parents in Math Instruction

Open Court Publishing Company has recently released a publication beamed at parents, *A Family Guide to Real Math*, which describes ways in which the family can help pupils with math at home: encouraging school progress, everyday activities, games, and mental arithmetic. In addition, grade-level activities are outlined for parents.

Review copies of *A Family Guide to Real Math* are available upon request from Open Court Publishing Company, 315 Fifth St., Peru, IL 61354, or call toll free 1-800-435-6850 (in Illinois, 1-800-892-6831).

Exemplary Education Programs Available

One of the best-kept secrets in the private school community is the National Diffusion Network (NDN). The NDN is a system of access to approximately 400 exemplary educational programs, each of which has been validated through research as educationally effective, cost-efficient, and replicable. Programs cover almost every aspect of curriculum, instruction, and school practice from pre-school through grade 12 to adult education.

Since its inception in 1974, NDN's offerings have been disseminated by state facilitators to both public and private schools. For a variety of reasons the NDN has been under-utilized by private institutions, whose program adoptions have formed only about 4 percent of the total. This convinced the Council for Private Education to undertake the Private School Facilitator Project.

The mission of the Private School Facilitator Project is to inform private schools about the programs of the NDN and advise them on the most efficient means of utilizing the program. Since the project's onset in 1987, more than 400 private schools have adopted an NDN program.

Dr. Charles Nunley, director of the Private School Facilitator Project, observes that the NDN programs are not only adoptable, but may be adapted to meet each school's specific needs and educational style. Further, limited financial assistance is available to schools that cannot afford the cost.

CAPE believes that the NDN system can be very useful to private and parochial schools in their continuing

pursuit for excellence. For additional information, write CAPE/NDN at 1625 EYE St. NW, Suite 412, Washington, DC, or call (202) 659-0177.

Guidebook on School Health

The School Health Educator, a new 265-page paperback book authored by Iris Hayden Stober, R.N., M.S.N., and Barry H. Wecker, M.D., M.P.H., was written specifically to provide the information needed for local health educators in Africa to teach about the health topics pertinent to the needs of developing countries. The language is simple, and the illustrations appropriate for the villages of Africa. The book deserves broad usage in schools, clinics, community health projects, and student missionary settings.

The book may be purchased from MacMillan Publishers Ltd., Houndsmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS, England, for U.S.\$5.20. Seventh-day Adventist institutions can receive a discount on bulk orders if they send their orders in care of Rex Perry, Director for International Science Publishing at MacMillan, and mention the institution they represent.

Test Schools for Radon, EPA Advises

"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has urged all elementary and secondary schools to test for the presence of radon gas.

"It's important that school systems begin planning to test for radon next winter," said EPA Administrator William Reilly. "And it's important that they begin action if radon levels are unacceptably high."

"Based on findings from a survey of 130 schools EPA tested in 16 states, Reilly said, 'It appears that elevated levels of radon gas have been found throughout the United States.'

"Of the 3,000 classrooms tested, 54 percent of the schools contained at least one classroom with a radon level of about 4 picocuries—EPA's established safety limit..."

"Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas which reportedly contributes to lung cancer. The risk of an exposure to 4 picocuries of radon is equal to the dangers of smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day. Studies indicate that indoor exposure to radon may cause 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year, Reilly said.

"Reilly also announced EPA guidelines published to help schools meas-

ure radon and reduce exposure.

"The interim guidelines suggest schools test between October and March in all frequently used classrooms on or below ground level..."

"EPA indicated that testing would cost between \$700 and \$1,500 per building, said Katharine Herber, legislative counsel for the National School Boards Assn.—*Education U.S.A.*, May 1, 1989. Reprinted by permission from *Education U.S.A.* Copyright 1989, National School Public Relations Association.

Hands-on Science Experiments Needed in Every Class

"Hands-on science experiences in elementary school should pervade every classroom, recommend... reports introduced [in April] during the annual meeting of the National Assn. of Elementary School Principals.

"Children see science every day by looking at cars and seeing the way toilets flush, explained Sally Crissman, an elementary school teacher in the Shady Hill School in Cambridge, Mass.

"But, when they study science in school, they read facts and 'merely reading about science has not succeeded,' Crissman said."

The National Center for Improving Science Education in Andover, Massachusetts, has prepared three guidebooks offering frameworks for curriculum and instruction, preparation and support for elementary school teachers and assessment in science education.—*Education U.S.A.*, April 24, 1989. Reprinted by permission from *Education U.S.A.* Copyright 1989, National School Public Relations Association.

Study Says S.A.T. Questions Are Biased Against Girls

"Questions on the Scholastic Aptitude Test are more likely to favor males than females, a study released [in Washington, D.C. recently] asserts.

"The report by Phyllis Rosser of the Center for Women Policy Studies marked the latest volley of a long-running battle over whether standardized college-entrance tests are biased against women.

"In an analysis of two versions of the S.A.T., Ms. Rosser found many mathematical and verbal questions that statistically favored males—but only a handful of verbal questions on which females had the advantage..."

"The S.A.T. underpredicts the aca-

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ademic performance of women in college, the researcher argued, noting that studies by the College Board have shown that women's average first-year grades are as good as or better than men's. Yet, she said, females' average S.A.T. scores reported in 1988 were 56 points lower, out of a total of 1,600, than the scores of males.

"The test is designed to predict first year college performance.

"In comparing high-school grades and S.A.T. scores, the study found that women with the best high-school records were penalized most by the test..., with women with A-plus averages [scoring] much lower than men with the same grades—a gap of 23 points on the verbal and 60 points on the mathematical.

"This may exclude them from the most prestigious colleges that accept their male peers,' Ms. Rosser's report maintains, 'and may also prevent them from qualifying for merit scholarships and other scholarships that are based on S.A.T. scores rather than high-school performance....'

"The E.T.S. and the College Board, which sponsor the S.A.T., contend that the test itself does not reflect or promote bias. Instead, they argue, the racial and gender differences in scores are due to socioeconomic factors and the educational backgrounds of those taking the tests."—*Education Week*, vol. VIII, No. 32, May 3, 1989. Reprinted by permission.

Tuition Likely to Outpace Inflation for Ninth Straight Year

"College tuition is likely to rise faster than the rate of inflation [in 1989-1990], according to early reports...

"Many colleges [have] announced increases ranging from 7 per cent to 10 percent, and a few are raising their tuition by 15 per cent or more.

"In each of the last eight years, the increase in tuition has exceeded inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. Last year, consumer prices rose 4.4 per cent, compared with a 7-per-cent jump in tuition...

"In the last several years tuition has also outpaced the Higher Educational Price Index, which measures the 'market basket' of goods services purchased by colleges and universities...

"Analysts who follow tuition trends say they are not surprised by the increases, and add that they believe costs will continue to outrun inflation in the next few years, if not longer.

"It's the nature of the business,' explained D. Kent Halstead, director of Research Associates of Washington. 'Colleges will raise costs because they want to improve quality. Higher education has to stay at the cutting edge, and that costs money, lots of money.'

"Even though costs are rising, Mr. Halstead believes that a college education will remain within reach [since 80 percent of students attend public schools, which are heavily subsidized by state and local governments]...

"Private colleges will probably raise tuition 3 to 4 percentage points beyond inflation just to pay for current academic programs and to make up for shortfalls in federal student aid, said Julianne Still Thrift, executive vice-president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. [Tuition in 1988-1989 averaged \$1,566 at public four-year institutions and \$767 at public two-year institutions, while private four-year college tuition averaged \$7,693 and two-year private schools averaged \$4,564.]...

"It is no coincidence that tuition began to rise rapidly at the same time as the traditional college-age population began to fall [said Arthur M. Hauptman, a consultant who is preparing a study on college costs for the

American Council on Education and the College Board]. To fill their classes, colleges have spent more on recruiting and on support services for nontraditional students.

"The widening gap between the earnings of high-school graduates and college graduates also plays a role in tuition increases, Mr. Hauptman said. 'The added rate of return adds to the demand for higher education, and that, in turn, leads to an ability to set prices higher,' he said.

"While the public has appeared willing to accept tuition increases so far, David W. Breneman, president of Kalamazoo College, worries that private institutions might price themselves out of the market.... Some private colleges may find themselves 'stranded and in trouble,' he warned at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education....

"Asked about the tuition outlook [Education Secretary Lauro F. Cavazos] issued a statement... that expressed concern about rising tuition and called on colleges to 'make every effort' to keep costs down."—*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 1, 1989. Reprinted with permission. Copyright 1989 by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. □

