



# EXPRESSLY ELEMENTARY



Preschoolers, top to bottom, are from St. Cecilia, Guardian Angels, St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt Street, Nazareth Hall, St. Thomas More, St. Monica, Trinity Montessori.

### Celebrating Week Of The Young Child

The theme of "Expressly Elementary" is celebrating the Week of The Young Child and honoring the preschool and kindergarten programs in the Catholic elementary schools of the diocese.

## A Run on Champions

Students from St. Patrick's Junior High School in Elmira earned the junior high championship in the Arnot Art Museum's first annual Clay Bowl, an olympic style arts competition. Winners were Bridget Creighton, Mary Potter, Susan D'Andrea, Amy Gergely and Susan Gingrich.

The Clay Bowl is part of the Arnot Scholastic Arts Awards programming.

According to a school news release St. Patrick's also won the 1984 Junior High Basketball Championship; a first for the championship in this division to be awarded to the regional Catholic junior high school.

Team members are: Larry Tolbert, Michael Agan, Mark Phillips, John Phillips, Sean Murray, Michael Mesuch, John Cox, Scott Long, Jack Cone, Matthew Cox, David Chapman and John Fagan. The team is coached by Robert Chorney.

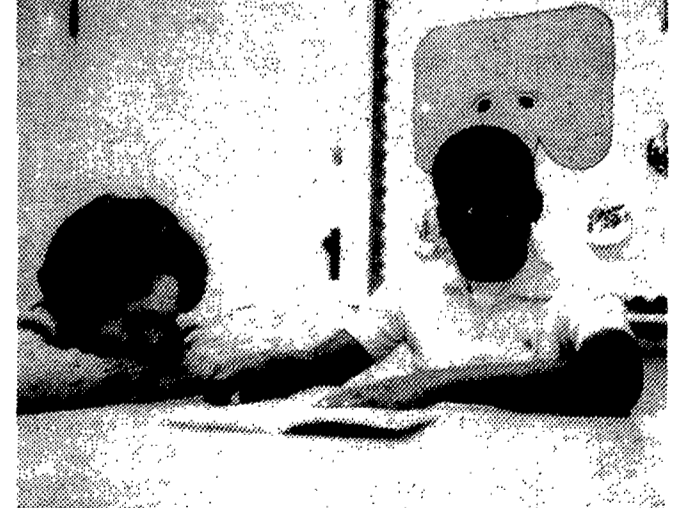
## Young Child's Characteristics

According to Maria Montessori, foundress of the Montessori system, the young child prefers work to play, order to disorder, silence to noise, self-mastery to dependence on others, mutual aid to competition. The child is a joyous, sometimes ecstatic, sometimes serious, little creature. The child is capable of profound spontaneous concentration, of sublimating possessiveness, of acting from real choice rather than idle curiosity, and of obedience. And the child has a strong attachment to reality while still being able to hear underground rivers and see minute blue bugs while the parents hear a bus and see only a broken sidewalk.

## The Montessori Approach

The Montessori classroom has a prepared environment. The basic areas in the classroom are language, math, sensorial, art, geography, science and everyday living. The rationale of the school is to take a child through the developmental periods and help that child to become the person intended by the Creator. The spiritual development of the young child evolves as the child's awareness of self, others and the world is increased. This is encouraged through prayer, celebrations and numerous opportunities to express and develop the child's own creativity.

If you are interested in exploring Montessori education, contact Trinity Montessori School, a non-profit, private school operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. It is accredited by the American Montessori Society and has state certification. The school is located at 4095 East Avenue.



Listener Joey Vellozzi enjoys a story read to him by William Walker.

## Learning Skills Shared by Students

A book-sharing experience is promoting interest in reading and practice in listening for the younger students at St. Ambrose School. Individual fourth graders read aloud to kindergartners, providing the older children with an opportunity to enhance oral reading skills while encouraging the younger ones to sharpen their listening abilities.

Based on the concept of peer tutoring, in which both tutor and student benefit, the project was designed by resource room teacher, Christie Mustico in cooperation with kindergarten teacher, Jean D'Arienzo.



## Early Learners

Some of the preschoolers at St. Thomas the Apostle School are learning which objects are rough or smooth, dull or shiny. The children working with their teacher, Mrs. Jan Cashette are Meghan Haight, Karin Kruegger, Lisa Bowman and Ripton Marini. Scotty O'Neill (background) waits his turn.

## Viewing the Future

The kindergarten children at Our Lady Queen of Peace will chase the April rainy season away by studying occupations.

A pediatric dentist, Ms. Eleanor Novah, from the Eastman School, will visit and speak about her job and good dental care.

A grandmother and mother are planning to come and speak about baby care and motherhood.

The boys are especially excited about their field trip to the Henrietta Fire House where they will learn about being a firefighter.

Tom Connolly, husband of one of the kindergarten teachers, will discuss his job at the National Theater Institute for the Deaf, and teach the children to sign their names.

Mrs. Ellen Fitzgerald will talk about her role as school secretary.

Father James Slattery,

## A Bit Of History

Early childhood education has been an important thrust of program development in the Diocese of Rochester. In the past eight years, programs for three and four-year-olds have been expanded from an offering of five to 41 programs in the elementary schools of the diocese.

Project COPE, a nationally validated curriculum, forms the developmental core of most of these programs. In addition, an Interdiocesan Kindergarten Curriculum has been developed for use in our kindergartens and has sold nationally. All of the elementary schools in the diocese currently offer a kindergarten program. We are pleased with the strong program that exists and the effect that it has had on the academic quality in subsequent instructional grade levels. This feature page will share some of our success stories. For further information, call the Department of Education at 328-3210.

## Program Philosophy, Objectives, Perspective

The preschool Program is geared to the world of three and four-year-olds. The program offers learning experiences and readiness skills, helping each child acquire a feeling of self-fulfillment. Effort is made to further the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social growth of each child.

Christian perspective is incorporated in all aspects of preschool life. The idea of each child being a special person to our loving Father and a special person at Holy Cross School is fostered.

The preschool maintains specific objectives: to afford an opportunity to relate with peers, to participate in play experience, to help each child build pride, to develop creative and intellectual abilities, manipulatory skills, large-small muscle coordination.

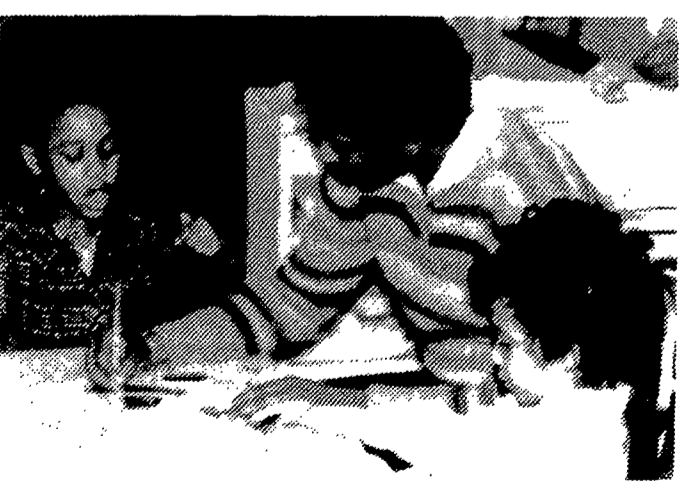
### Early Childhood Meetings Important

By Diane Kingsley

...don't you know that in every task the most important thing is the beginning and especially when you deal with anything young and tender?

This quote from Plato ("The Republic") is the best way to describe the purpose of the early childhood meetings which are held twice a year for preschool and kindergarten teachers. As dedicated professionals, we feel the need to meet with other teachers on the early childhood level to exchange ideas, look toward new goals, and share the uniqueness of our students.

The expanding needs of the early childhood programs resulted in the formation of the Early Childhood Committee. The committee consists of a chairperson, Diane Kingsley (preschool), co-chairperson, Mary Ann Kelly (kindergarten), and a secretary, Yvonne Bourne. Our function is to help teachers with the introduction of new programs, to collect information that would be helpful to teachers, and to organize two meetings a year. Each meeting includes a speaker and a general sharing session.



## A Helping Hand

How many times have you heard the phrases "a mind is a terrible thing to waste" or "children are our future?" St. Monica's in providing an atmosphere for preschoolers conducive to the highest possible level of learning offers a program where children attend school five days a week and are exposed to a structured and academically oriented program. According to school sources the program has proven to be effective.