

## Dr. Farinella: Choose children over dollars

By Patricia DiMaggio  
Dr. John T. Farinella was born in Hartford, Conn. He began his tenure as Clark's superintendent of schools in 1972, and in the last 13 years he has seen the school system in particular and education in general change and grow.

Some of those changes and the resultant growth can be directly attributed to Dr. Farinella. "We've completely revamped all of the curriculum programs. Some areas we've gone into with intensity are: Mathematics — we introduced algebra in eighth grade. In language arts we've put the emphasis on reading and written language. In social studies we've ascribed to the conceptual approach rather than the time-line factual approach, and we've introduced foreign language in the elementary schools."

Standardized testing shows pupil achievement has improved. The Clark school system now ranks in the 93rd to 94th percentile in the nation in all grade levels.

The challenge of declining enrollment had to be met. Dr. Farinella saw the closing of two schools, Abraham Clark and Charles H. Brewer.

"We solved that problem in a way that strengthened the school system," explained the retiring superintendent. "We consolidated grades six to eight under one roof — a single middle school — and we have two schools servicing two ends of town so the township is equally and completely served."

The Abraham Clark School was sold and the

Brewer School has been leased to the township for 20 years.

There has been a complete revamping and updating of all School Board policies.

"We now have a comprehensive Board policy manual that is up to date," said Dr. Farinella. "There had not been a revised manual in 12 years."

There is an on-going five-year curriculum development plan and a five-year pupil-enrollment plan.

"The staff is included in all deliberations and decisions. Their input is solicited. We are unique as a school system in that we have at least 12 curriculum committees operating every year which involves every staff member. Our school system is a combined effort," he added.

There are several challenges facing the school system in the future that Dr. Farinella thinks are critical and very important. One involves a pre-school for all four year olds. There is presently a pre-school for handicapped children and Dr. Farinella feels that is unfair to other children who could benefit from that early introduction to learning.

Another challenge is implementing a full-day kindergarten for more organized levels of learning.

Dr. Farinella explains, "Researchers show children given this benefit move along more rapidly than those not given the opportunity. This will raise the challenge of our accelerated programs. When you bring them in earlier there will be an impact on grades one to

eight. The learning pattern must continue."

The school district head would like to see every classroom in the community equipped with micro-computers to take advantage of the technology available in enrichment, remedials and reinforcement.

Clark is one of the first school systems to bring in mini-computers to handle business administration operations.

Dr. Farinella will leave the position of superintendent on Sunday, June 30. He will stay on as a consultant for a smooth transition until Tuesday, Dec. 31.

He lives in South Plainfield and has two sons, one a junior at Penn State, the other a sophomore at Rutgers University. His hobbies include photography, mechanics, writing and gardening.

"My family has grown so fast, I think it is time to take the opportunity to stop and look around and see what's out there," he explains.

He thinks of his tenure as a great experience.

"There were some rough moments and some great moments and you live through all of them. On balance, it's been a very successful experience."

The community has a good outlook towards his school system and I've had Board members that were supportive of education," he added.

"I think it is important to leave a message to the community. You have come

to choose between saving dollars and making sure the kids get the right opportunity in life, you should choose to spend the dollars," he concluded.

He concludes.



**TO COMPETE IN IRELAND** ... Kathy Curtis, a freshman at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark will travel to Ireland the end of this month with nine other New Jersey gymnasts to compete in the Shamrock Games. The girls will also help to introduce the sport to the Irish children. She is a member of the Bridgette National Team and trains at Felgley's School of Gymnastics in South Plainfield. She was also a member of Johnson's Crusader Gymnastic Team, where she became the Union-County All-around Champion and was the all-around silver medalist at the North Jersey sectional meet. She was also voted the Most Valuable Player award by her teammates.

## Board adopts revised child abuse policy

By R.R. Faszczewski  
A revised policy on reporting of cases of child abuse suspected by the township's elementary school authorities was adopted unanimously on May 28 by the Clark Board of Education.

There had been a conflict between some Board members and Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farinella last month when the policy was introduced.

Dr. Farinella had said county education officials had instructed local school officials that any teacher suspecting a child had been abused would be required to report the incident directly to the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services without first going to his or her superior in the school system.

However, Board attorney, Steven Glickman, and Board members doubted whether the law was meant to prohibit having school superiors notified of incidents first.

The reason for the interpretation of the law he had received, according to Dr. Farinella, had been so school administrative officials could not stand in the way of a teacher who wanted to report an incident to the state agency.

Under the revised policy the authority of both local administrative school officials and the state agency are recognized.

While there is no specific order in which the reporting is to be done, the revised Clark regulation calls for the chief school ad-

ministrator to report each suspected and/or alleged case of child abuse to the child study team and to the state agency as required by law.

It also requires all school personnel to report alleged and/or suspected instances of child abuse to the building principal, and provides the child study team or a designated member of the team will follow the progress of the child and maintain communication with the state agency on behalf of the child.

Also required is prompt action including, when necessary or as required by law, securing treatment of injuries resulting from abuse so as to protect the health of the child.

Another controversial policy, on steps to be taken if a student is seen as being at risk of committing suicide, was introduced at the May 28 session.

Simplified after being tabled last month, the policy outlines specific steps to be taken at every stage of the process from observation of behavior that indicates a student may be at risk to engage in a suicidal act to dealing with students who have actually attempted suicide in school.

Board members, F. Donald Paris and James E. Kehoe, still expressed reservations about the liability of the school district in the detection of probable suicide risks and asked for further clarification on that point.

Mr. Glickman will review the policy and report on his

findings before the policy is adopted.

After a discussion of several options for acquiring an AT&T telephone communications system for the school district the installation of the system in the four district buildings at a maximum cost of \$23,700 was tabled pending a review of the options.

School business administrator, H. Edward Flanagan, explained the new system would enable calls to be transferred from one phone to another, all present phone stations would be replaced and updated wiring would be installed.

However, there was some uncertainty whether it would be more economical for the district to buy the system outright or purchase it under a lease plan in stages of payment.

Board member, Toby D'Ambola, favored the lease plan because it would enable Mr. Flanagan to use funds left over from the initial payment to put in free balances for completing maintenance projects Mr. Flanagan felt were necessary this school year.

Mr. Flanagan also pointed out the lease plan would enable the district to retain capital while paying for the system.

However, Dr. Farinella felt it was more advisable to pay for the system all at once.

He also pointed out the lease system would cost more than the \$23,700

authorized in the proposed resolution because of the interest to be charged.

In other action, the school body: --Approved its 1985-1986 affirmative action plan. --Adopted a \$1,122,416, \$166,562.35 in budget transfers for the 1985-1986 school year.

Gave Mr. Flanagan permission to advertise for bids on the Frank K. Hehly School boiler, the Valley Road School replacement windows and the Carl H. Kumpf School hot water heating system.

Approved the retention of an engineer to provide the necessary plans and specifications for the above renovations. --Okayed the employment of Mr. Glickman as its attorney from Monday, July 1 of this year to Monday, June 30 of next year. --Authorized the hiring of Jeanne Decker, the township treasurer, as treasurer of school monies for the 1985-1986 school year, effective from July 1 of this year to June 30 of next year, at an annual stipend of \$1,800.

Gave its permission for Mrs. Donna Mancini to be hired as an art teacher at Kumpf at an annual \$29,980 salary, pro-rated from April 15 to Sunday, June 30 of this year.

Approved the retirement of Jack Hong, an industrial arts teacher, effective June 30 of this year.



**ON TOUR** ... At the herb garden in the Robinson Plantation in Clark, Carl H. Kumpf School students, shown, left to right, are: Front row, Michael Grossman, Gregory Amato, Eva Anisko, Kierstin Medvedich and John Chirco; back row, Kenneth Coapito, Jennifer DePazza, Kathy Coasmas, Nicholas Buocico and Richard Jankowski. In the rear is tour guide, James Mumford.



**MARKING CLOTH** ... Spinning flax at the Robinson Plantation in Clark, shown, left to right, are: Robert Harper, Denise Donin, their teacher, Walter Boright, and Patrick Stowey.

## Kumpf students visit plantation

Students in Walter Boright's seventh-grade social studies classes at the Carl H. Kumpf School in Clark were transported back to the 1690's when they visited Clark's Robinson Plantation on May 7. This authentic farmhouse, owned by the township, has been restored and is currently managed by the Clark Historical Society. It is open to the public without charge for historical tours which include demonstrations about life in the 17th and 18th centuries.

A visit to this plantation enabled Mr. Boright's students to understand more about the American history which they are studying.

The restoration literally brings history to life, they reported.

## 21 day salute to honor America

That there be public gatherings and activities at which the people can celebrate and honor their country in an appropriate manner.

June 14 - July 4, 1985

## Galiszewski named 'Teacher of Year'

A teacher at Clark's Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School, Thomas Galiszewski, was selected as Union County Regional High School District No. 1 "Teacher of the Year."

Mr. Galiszewski's entry packet will be forwarded to Dr. Vito Gagliardi, county superintendent, and he will join in competition with other local district winners for designation as county teacher of the year.

A panel of judges will make the final county-level decision and the county teacher of the year will then move on to compete in the state-wide contest. Commissioner of Education Saul Cooperswah will announce the New Jersey Teacher of the Year.

The search for local, county and state teachers of the year is being conducted by the New Jersey State Dept. of Education as part of the national Teacher of the Year program—an annual project of the National Council of Chief State School Officers, "Good Housekeeping" and the "Encyclopaedia Britannica."



**SUPER ATHLETE** ... A spokesman for the sports science department of the University of Denver announced Ellen Axelson of Clark was chosen to receive Mabel Billings Memorial Award. This is the only award given by the department to a male and female student for outstanding service and leadership. She also received special recognition from the dean for finishing her senior year with a 4.0 average. The Clarkite has been attending Denver University on a basketball scholarship, where she was a starter for four years. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Axelson.

## HELP US CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAY

New Jersey's oldest weekly newspaper, The Rahway News-Record, is 163 years young this year and The Clark Patriot is 20 years young, and the papers plan to celebrate in real style.

We are looking for stories, photographs, proclamations or historical pieces about the newspaper and the city and we are asking our readers to help make this a banner year for Rahway and Clark's only real hometown newspapers.

## Papers set holiday deadlines

The offices of The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will be closed on Independence Day, Thursday, July 4. The newspaper will be mailed to homes and in stores on Wednesday, July 3.

So that our staff members may enjoy the holiday ALL COPY FOR THE JULY EDITIONS OF THE NEWSPAPERS MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITOR, AT 219 CENTRAL AVE. RAHWAY, N.J. 07065 OR DROP THEM OFF AT THE POST OFFICE BOX 1061, RAHWAY, N.J. 07065 OR TO S.P.A. MONDAY TO FRIDAY.