

William Grace Students 'Learn By Doing'

A day doesn't pass during which pupils at William Grace Elementary School "learn by doing," to quote Nicholas Abid, Grace's principal. Scarcely a week passes without some grade in the school demonstrating to other grades the knowledge it has gleaned about anything from the American Indian to ethnic folk life to circuses.

Grace's 570 pupils are encouraged to involve themselves in research for their projects and because they are in an "ungraded school," they are encouraged to cross grade

lines to seek out facts pertaining to a particular area of study.

WITH THE HELP of Mrs. Leona Crouse, director of the school's Learning Center, and her two aides, Mrs. Eileen Place and Mrs. Gert Alkema, Grace's teachers are directed into creative, instructional work.

The key word here is "creative," because Grace pupils utilize all manner of materials, including songs, dances, poems, skits, costumes, props, pictures, books, posters and so on when they develop

Optimistic On Negro Housing

The Chicago Conference on Religion and Race says it will be easier for Negroes to obtain housing in the suburbs next year.

In its year-end reports, issued Sunday, the conference noted it had assisted 87 Negro families in obtaining housing in predominantly white communities during 1967. Howard W. Smith, conference housing director, predicted the number would triple in 1968.

"Although the changes have been slow, there will be much greater opportunity for middle-income Negroes to obtain housing in the suburbs during the coming year, because of the progress communities are making in passing fair housing ordinances," Smith said.

a project for presentation to the school.

They raid the library source material, helped with enthusiasm by librarian Mrs. Winifred Voorhees.

As Abid explains it, "We ask the teachers and the youngsters to get INVOLVED in the learning process."

"And the process is LEARNING,"

"Learning," says Abid, "is a spiral process that builds on something that is learned before."

HERE ARE just a few of the "learning process" projects with which Grace boys and girls are involved:

• Next week the pupils will learn all about circuses from Sandra Rogers' Primary Grace II. The primaries read circus story in their reading book and went on from there to creative writing and thinking to develop a circus complete with costumes, performers, animals and acts of magic.

• Marlene Katz's Primary II children are busy reading and writing about farms and are building model farms and animals. The children will visit

a farm soon.

• Gisella Nagy's fourth graders have been studying about the people of Japan and have made large cut-paper mosaics to represent this country and its culture.

• As Christmas gifts to their parents, Mrs. Pauline Wiese's third-year primary children wrote and illustrated original stories which were later bound in hard covers.

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ROYAL TALE -- While producing a version of "The King and I," 6th grade pupils at William Grace School studied many things about Asian countries in their social studies class. Some of those in the play were (from left) Debbie Isbell as Lady Thiang; Diana Leach as Anna; Marcel Crudele as the King; Glenn Furnice as the King's son; and Ken Wiggle as Anna's son.



WAR DANCE -- Pupils in Room Five at William Grace School had learned so much about American Indians they decided to teach the things they knew to the rest of the school. Whooping it up at a war dance at one of two performances are (left to right) Bobbie Morrison, Lora Jo Anselmi as the victim, Jeff Anderson and Steve Martin.

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