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ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Monday, October 1, 7:30-9:30 P.M. Farmington High School, Room E-110 Shiawassee & Orchard Lake

are improving, according to Dr. Watson.

Clarenceville Helping Kids To Like Reading with the pleasure of success. "It's a developmental program, and it may fail at the junior high," acknowledged Mrs. Vickery. "We're refining, and we're going a bit slower. Some teachers would like help in the high school and we may supply it, but it will be a different program." In viewing the total program Mrs. Vickery said, "We're succeeding, but not 100 per cent. We don't claim to have a paancea, but we're doing far better than we were and we are pleased."

PATRICIA VICKERY

In evaluating progress, the district looked at attitudes as well as achievement. "Teacher attitudes are a strike out," said Dr. Watson

"We believe teacher atti-tudes have changed because they are doing things differ-ently, but that's not mea-sured," said Mrs. Vickery.

C'ville Board

Sets Meeting

A bank account, equipment and school grounds will be the primary topics of discussion during a Clarence-ville school board meeting scheduled for 8 p.m. Thursday in the board offices on Eight Mile Road.

Following the regularly scheduled meeting, the board is expected to hold a closed door (secret) executive session to discuss the (teachers' failure to ratify a contract, and to plan strategy for future negotiations.

in the report.

Summer is the season for growing things, but in Clarenceville School District things grow during other seasons

things grow during other sea-sons.

Things like learning, read-ing, attitudes and programs.
Growth was fertilized four years ago when the LEAD-ERS (Learning Environment and Desires Enhances Read-ing Skills) program was in-stituted for children in kin-dergarten through the second grade.

The program began as a proposal to provide teachers with skills needed to teach reading. Since then, the pro-gram has expanded and will extend through the fundor

extend through the junior high for the first time this

year.
Reading was a problem far from unique to Clarenceville according to Patricia Vickery, project director for the program. But that didn't di-

ery, project director for the program. But that didn't di-minish concern.

"After three years studying and gathering data, we did find three problems in the district," she explained.

"Kids were not reading to their ability. Grades 14 were reading at a level considered illiterate.

illiterate.
"We also found that training institutions didn't have
the background they
needed," she continued.

"Finally we discovered that kids didn't like read-

ing."

Clareneville administration responded by initiating the LEADERS program which was based on "behavioral objectives" - objectives that could measure a child's knowledge by what he was able to do. In order to evaluate the program, a performance objective was established. The district predicted that 59 per cent of the skills at their individual levels.

"A report to the state indicated that we have been fairly successful," said Mrs. Vickery.

In kindergarten, 89 per cent reached the performance objective. The percentage of students reaching the goal in first grade was 59 per cent, and in second grade it was 91 per cent.

An outside evaluator, Dr. Richard Watson, program evaluator for Odkland Intermediate School District who has worked with the district since the program began, noted the fifth and stith grades were moving up on standardized tests.

Since last year was very many they couldn't be evaluated according to behavioral ob-

according to behavioral objectives.

Dr. Watson also questioned with improvement was not seen in the third and fourth grades. He suggested that perhaps the norming procedure or national average score used to judge the test was too high.

Last year the present fourth grade did very well on a state assessment test. This year they did poorly. "It could be just as mechanical as children taking a mechanical second process of the process of th

Shouts of "Bingo" will be heard every Wednesday night in the Clarenceville School District when the Band Parents and Friends Club sponsors bingo parties from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Wedimir's on Grand River could be just as mechanical as dildren taking a mechanical as children taking a mechanical scored test for the first time, "speculated Mrs. Vick. Glub sponsors bingo parties grade very carefully."

In general reading mechanics are improving faster than comprehension, but but her improving comprehension, but but her improving faster than comprehension and the faster than th

Such things include operating three or four different levels of achievement in one sub-ject, and giving students a choice in what they do.

conce in what they do.

Perhaps more significant is
the change in student attitudes which have improved
on three levels: environment,
self concept and reading.

While all have improved, the
biggest shift has been seen in
reading attitudes.

reading attitudes.

Students like to read more, like different books and like to read aloud, according to Mrs. Vickery. In addition, discipline problems have disappeared on an elementary level.

"We have to create a good learning environment with materials they enjoy," she said. "They have to feel comfortable. If a student doesn't want to come, he won't learn."

nave an outside eval-uator because critics say we can't be objective. He (eval-uator) feels we have a good program," ishe continued. "We still have some refining to do and that's what we're doing." won't learn."

Looking into the future, the
LEADERS program begins
on the junior high level for
the first time this year.

"Once elementary grades under the LEADERS program got to the junior high, teachers there came to us for help. They said 'We're getting some kind of strange animal here'," she said smiling Although reading and reading skills are the "core" of the program, Mrs. Vickery said that eventually the entire curriculum will be involved. Presently subjects such as math, spelling and creative writing are involved, but not all day or even every day.

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