

# Kids Day at McLaughlin a splashing success

**McLaughlin Residence held its 5th annual kids day with a record 90 volunteers.**

by Roslyn Angel

**S**tudents of Tatham Hall Residence in McLaughlin had their hands full Saturday March 24, when 24 children from York Woods Gate Public School arrived for the 5th Annual Kids Day, which is part of the Adopt-A-School Programme.

The children arrived a little after nine in the morning, and the volunteers wasted no time getting the kids involved. They began with ice breaker games like dodge ball and duck duck goose. The children were then paired up with buddies (Mac students). A lot of the kids had the attention of two buddies because, as in past years, there are always more volunteers than kids.

At 10:00 a.m. the real events began with a three-legged race, a sack race (in a garbage bag), and a dress-up competition. The children and their buddies were separated into teams, and the



team with the most points at the end of the games won. All the children won, however. Each child was given a miniature McLaughlin flag to take home with them, and the winning team received little fuzzy bees as a bonus.

The next stop was the Tait

Mackenzie Building, where the kids were treated to an hour of swimming and water games. The shy kids, by this time, really warmed up and agreed to take a

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dip in the pool. No one wanted to leave, but a barbecue lunch tempted them out of the pool.

The children and their buddies chowed down on hot dogs, hamburgers, potato chips, ice cream, chocolate cake and fruit punch. The only thing that stopped everyone from eating was the offer to go outside and burn off some calories by playing tag, soccer and the infamous dodge ball.

By 4:30 p.m. everyone was pooped. The appropriate people were thanked, and the kids were driven home with three kinds of

ing expertise.

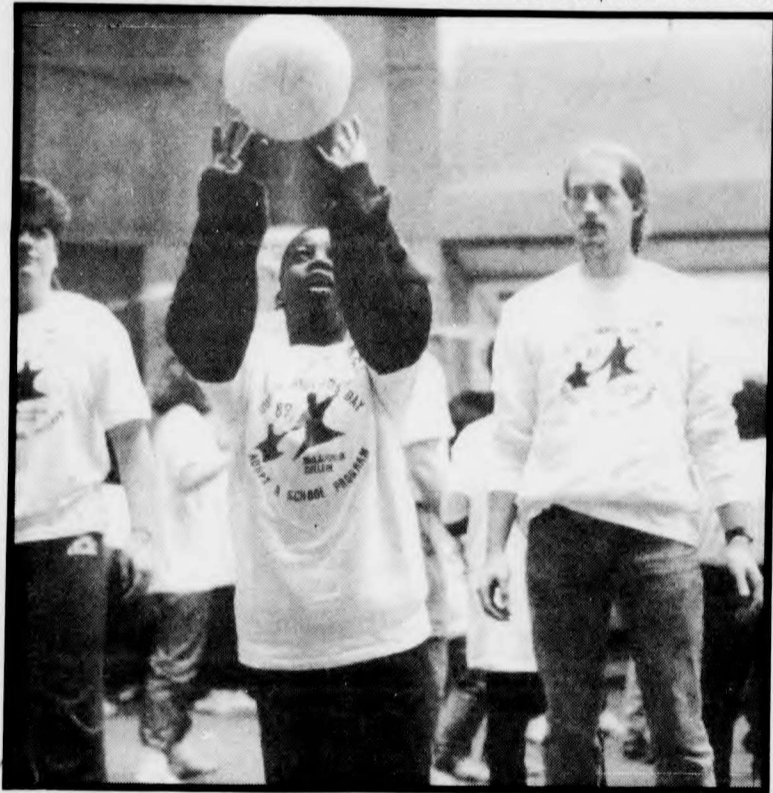
Forrest said that overall the day was a success even though the weather was a little colder than they had expected. The children had a ball, and more importantly they had a chance to just be kids for a day. "A lot of the kids are from immigrant families in poor economic situations," said Forrest. They spend most of their time taking care of siblings and they "haven't had the chance to be kids," she added. On Kids Day, the children can just have fun. They don't have to worry about being responsible. "Everything is taken care of for them when they are here," said Forrest.

She added that during Kids Day, the children get a lot of attention with a ratio of "two adults per kid, instead of at school where one adult's attention" must accommodate a whole class of kids. "They get a chance to feel special and important [on Kids Day], and not just feel like they are one of the crowd," said Forrest.

The original idea for the Adopt-A-School Programme was established, according to Forrest, "to increase good will by the York community," with the other colleges participating as well.

Kids Day is fun for both the children and the volunteers. "Something like this pulls the residence together," said Forrest. So, it seems that the adults get just as much out of it as the kids.

The children get exposed to a university environment that "gives them role models that they don't necessarily get at home," Forrest commented. It shows the kids that "life isn't drugs and booze and that there are adults out there who care."



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