



**NOTES 90th BIRTHDAY** - Carrie Grigg, second from left, celebrated her 90th birthday on February 10. She's pictured here with members of her family. Left to right are Sam Grigg, Mrs. Grigg, Gene Grigg and Bud Grigg. Back row, Ruby Ellis, Eloise Huffstetler, Jerry Grigg, Faye McInnes and Helen Moss. Mrs. Grigg, widow of H.L. Grigg, has eight living children, 120 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She is a member of Tabernacle of Love Church.

## Program Helps Young Students

Parents of preschool children, do any or all of these comments sound familiar? "Kevin's birthday is October 19, just three days after the school cutoff date! It's a shame, now he must wait another year before he enters Kindergarten". "Barbara is our only child and we live in a neighborhood where there are no children her age. She's shy with other children and we worry she'll find it hard to make friends in school."

"Bot my wife and I work full-time, and we find it sometimes difficult to match our son's energy level. Some day care centers or babysitters would label Jonathan "wild" and not recognize the need for more challenging stimulation." These situations described to hit home, especially when preschool children are tested on skills such as following directions, as well as recognition of the alphabet, primary colors and numbers. The hardest choice for Mom and Dad is "How do we best prepare our child for Kindergarten?"

Parents searching for a program that suits the needs of the "not yet ready for Kindergarten" group can take heart in the positive opinions expressed by parents of four and five year olds enrolled at Sacred Heart Campus Grade School, Belmont. "If I had to say one thing about Sacred Heart's Prekindergarten program it

is to stress how refreshing it is to encounter a program that goes beyond being just a care facility", said Mrs. Cheryl Fleming, mother of Glenn, who recently turned 5 years old.

Mrs. Fleming believes the daily routine of getting up, dressing and arriving with lunch pail in hand encourages a sense of commitment and responsibility. "I find that Sacred Heart has a basic structure for the children, but one that is not rigid and allows for spontaneity."

Sacred Heart Principal Sister Mary Carmelita Hagan explained the main objective of the Prekindergarten program is the social interaction between the children, the exposure to education and naturally, a Christian environment.

Mrs. Fleming backed up these words, saying "There is a true sense of family throughout the school community from which all benefit".

I'm impressed by the enormous amount of energy Glenn's teacher, Kay McKeel gives to her entire class", Mrs. Fleming added. "I really feel Glenn is better prepared for Kindergarten now."

Instructor Mrs. McKeel is a pioneer of sorts at Sacred Heart Campus Grade School by being the first Prekindergarten teacher in the school's 27 year history.

"I feel I've grown a lot as well as the children," she said as February drew to a close.

"I've had an extremely bright group of children and it's been a joy watching their progress", said Mrs. McKeel.

What about the individual examples, such as the serious, rather quiet child? Here are some hints from Mrs. McKeel... "I basically expose all the children to group situations, such as "Circle Time", Bible Story (on a daily basis) and I encourage an answer to a question," Mrs. McKeel said, adding, "I never force them to talk or embarrass them, but rather let them open up when they're ready".

How about energetic youngsters? Mrs. McKeel said she teaches consistency and the values all parents desire for their child - to "share, show respect for one another and each other's possessions".

Although parents, the principal and the instructor agree on the benefits of its Prekindergarten program, the decisive vote on its success has come from the four and five year olds themselves.

"Glenn Fleming said, "I like having time with my friends and going to the fire station".

Patrick Walden, 4, a recent addition, said "I love my new school a lot".

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