

Personality Profile Of Week

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Jim Renton
Jim Renton was born in Timmins, Ontario, but moved to Toronto as a young boy. He was educated at Whitney Public School and Jarvis and Eton Collegiates, following this he attended Toronto Teachers College.

He now lives in Lorne Park with his wife and three children. Mr. Renton teaches grade seven at Riverside Public School, he is an educator with a great deal of sensitivity and understanding of his pupils, which clearly comes through to the children, since it was one of his students who suggested that the Weekly should write about Mr. Renton.

Although Jim Renton is primarily a dedicated educator, he is well known as an athletic coach, since 1960, the children at Riverside school

have become enthusiastic tumblers. Mr. Renton started coaching the boys first but soon the girls were requesting help too, and have become keen tumblers. The practices are all held either before school, at lunch hour or at recess time. The senior pupils now are able to help teach the novice class. Mr. Renton feels that the kind of team effort involved in gymnastic develops in the children a responsibility and loyalty to the team, that carries over into all phases of their lives. Because this is an activity which the kids have requested they are faithful and disciplined about practising, any child who misses two practices in a row without a good reason is out, but this rarely happens.

Mr. Renton has some definite ideas on education of the elementary school child, with the present awareness of the high school drop out rate it is interesting that he says "the drop-outs really happens in public school, where the "drop out" attitude can be formed." He asks "how can a student be successful in high school unless he has a firm public school background."

He admits that one of his pet peeves is the inferior facilities granted the elementary school child compared to those given the secondary school student, "the public school is the poor cousin", he says.

Mr. Renton says his only problem in teaching, is treating children as children, that a child isn't an inferior person but a young person. He feels that parents often fail to realize the potential and abilities of their children, that they perhaps do this because they fear that the kids will grow up quickly. He says "we accept the misbehaviour

of an adult, but when a child misbehaves, we punish, which of course he feels should be done, but that we should encourage and look to the strength of youth rather than the weakness, most young people to-day are twice as aware politically and socially and have a far greater background of basic knowledge than young people had even twenty years ago."

Mr. Renton feels that gymnastics or other sports such as paddling go hand in hand with a good student, an active child who is doing things puts more of himself into anything whether it is training or studying, and is usually an adventurous and curious child.

Mr. Renton says there are not nearly enough outlets for children especially the girl, a kid who has many varied interests doesn't have time to get into trouble, a busy kid is a happy kid."

Mr. Renton's interests are gymnastics, paddling, chess and showing, and he knows how to do things. He is also taking courses at the University of Toronto, one of the subjects he is studying is the Russian language, he is an ardent supporter of The Ontario Public School Miss Teachers Federation and past president of the South Peel Branch. He is also past president of The Ontario Education Association in physical education.

Mr. Renton says "one of the greatest joys of teaching comes when the pupil surpasses the master this is most rewarding." Many graduates of Riverside school who are now attending local secondary schools, are coaching younger children in gymnastics, paddling and track and field. It is with great pride that Jim Renton watches this happening.