



## SCHOOL NEWS

6—Santa Cruz Sentinel  
Sunday, January 14, 1968



Nancy Divine is the listener as her class at Duncan Holbert School participates in a "sharing" time.



Carol Hollingsworth, teacher of the older group of youngsters at Duncan Holbert School, gives Marianne a push.

### READ CLASSIFIED ADS

# Duncan Holbert School Aids The Handicapped Children

Editor's Note: This is 12th in a series on services provided by the Office of Special Education of the County Office of Education.

By Jean Baker  
Sentinel Staff Writer

On the campus of Rolling Hills School in Watsonville, there is a special building bearing the words, "Duncan Holbert School."

From all appearances this building is a part of the Rolling Hills complex — another building housing classrooms. This is true. But the Duncan Holbert School is even more.

The children who come to Duncan Holbert each morning are coming to attend special education classes, classes that were not available a few years ago to these youngsters who are physically handicapped.

As the bus arrives, a custodian meets each youngster. He is there to carry those who cannot walk, to push a wheelchair or simply give encouragement to a youngster who finds it difficult to walk.

Several of the children will spend their day in the classroom lying on their backs on mats or in a bed, but someone, somewhere has made the effort to get these children to the school.

The Duncan Holbert School is another project of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, coming under the supervision of special education, headed by Dick Struck.

For the approximately 25 youngsters, who range in age from 3 to 17, there are two classrooms. Nancy Divine and Carol Hollingsworth are the teachers. Assisting them are two matrons, Betty Baldwin and Carmelita Traulsen.

Classes start at 9 a.m. with a pledge of allegiance. In Mrs. Divine's class, the youngsters group around her in a semi-circle—some in wheelchairs, others sitting at a crescent-shaped table.

As part of the communicative arts, she will ask the children to look at the names of the class members and tell her who is absent. Each child is given an opportunity to share some bit of information with the class.

JoAnne Brown and Marge Wylie are the therapists. The children remove their braces and lie on mats where Mrs. Brown helps them to roll, to move their legs or to sing songs with motions. All therapy is prescribed by the doctor.

Mrs. Wylie, speech therapist, teaches them to say little verses that make use of the tongue and lips.

During this group session, the therapists are assisted in their work by the teachers and matrons. Three girls from The Farm (a special project of Santa Cruz County Office of Education for the mentally retarded) also help move the youngsters, tie shoes or run errands.

Following group therapy, juice is served and the children go to the playground for fresh air and recreation according to their abilities. Some will ride bikes or trikes, others will sing. Some will sit happily at the edge, just watching.

Classroom procedure is much the same as in any classroom. Students are taught to read, to write, to do number work and to learn the language arts.

Both teachers are dedicated to their work in special education. Mrs. Divine has been at the school for seven years. She started as a substitute, enjoyed her work so much that she studied at San Francisco State College to become certificated as a teacher for exceptional children.

Mrs. Hollingsworth, who came to Duncan Holbert three years ago, has a background in working with the physically handicapped.

The classroom atmosphere at Duncan Holbert seems ideal. Both teachers are long on patience and soft-spoken. Children move only as rapidly as they are able and undue pressures

seem non-existent. When needed, discipline is administered quietly and firmly.

During the lunch hour, junior high school girls from Rolling Hills School help feed the children who need assistance.

During the week, each child who requires it will have one or more individual times with the therapist. Mrs. Brown, who is occupational therapist, may have time to introduce the child to weaving, painting or some other form of work with his hands. But because she is so occupied with physical therapy, Mrs. Brown devotes more of her time to working with the child according to the doctor's orders.

Mrs. Wylie, the speech therapist, also sees youngsters on an individual basis. Because many physically handicapped children have a form of brain damage, speech may be impaired or movements of the lips and tongue, sluggish.

Mrs. Wylie works with Mrs. Brown to get the child ready to speak as far as his muscle is able. In addition to moving his tongue and lips, he is taught to lick, blow, swallow, chew gum, breathe, lick peanut butter from a knife.

Mrs. Wylie, spends four mornings each week at Duncan Holbert where she sees more than half of the youngsters. She makes regular reports to the doctor on the child's progress.

Not all physically handicapped children attend Duncan Holbert School. Only those who couldn't benefit from a regular classroom or those who require therapy usually go to this special school. Nor do all youngsters stay permanently. Many leave Duncan Holbert to enter regular classrooms, either on a permanent or parttime basis.

The most immediate need at Duncan Holbert is to obtain a teacher for a third group. The third classroom has been approved by the county board of education, subject to finding the personnel. Another therapist also is being sought by the school.

Children who would at one time have been confined to their homes or a permanent-care situation have new opportunities opened to them as they participate with others with similar handicaps in a group—which is in itself a therapy!

(Next Week: Braille Transcribers.)

SAVE WITH LOW PRICES ON

## DENTAL PLATES

PARTIAL PLATES AND EXTRACTIONS

## New Transfer Plan At SJS For Jaycees

A new agreement between San Jose State College and California junior colleges hopefully