Wicomico continues drownproofing program

A program designed to teach survival methods for water-related emergencies to sixth-grade students in Wicomico Cty. public schools which began during the 1977-78 school year is being continued during the current school year.

Water safety is the name of the game in Wicomico County, where a "downproofing" program helps teach children to swim.

As a result of the program, known as "drownproofing," about 1,100 sixth-grade students from all elementary schools were given training and information on survival skills and lifesaving measures.

The board of education program, which is held at the Mid-Delmarva YMCA pool in Salisbury, provides five one-hour sessions of instruction and practice during the school day for each student involved. The sessions are spaced over a two-week period.

Some of the skills taught by Red Cross instructors are preventive lifeguarding; mouth - to - mouth resuscitation; use of personal flotation devices;

Basic water skills such as leveling off, changing direction and turning over; survival floating including bobbing, treading water and sculling;

Swimming rescues; non-swimming rescues such as throwing assists, extension assists and equipment rescues; survival swimming strokes including elementary back and side; clothing flotation and more.

The program, which has been made a part of the regular elementary physical education curriculum, includes instruction geared to the ability level of all children ranging from non-swimmers to advanced swimmers.

Knowledgeable and qualified volunteer instructors are available in sufficient numbers to provide proper instruction and meet safety standards.

The children are transported between their schools and the YMCA by school buses.

Teachers from the students' home schools accompany the children on the bus and at the pool.

By the end of the 1978-79 school year approximately 2,100 students will have participated in the program.

Mrs. Marian B. Church, supervisor with the Wicomico County Board of Education, works with third - grade students. She switched roles with the regular teacher, Mrs. Alice Konze.

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Prince George's County offers suburbs plus the nation's capital

Perhaps as a backlash to the highly publicized "glut on the market" of teacher applicants for the past few years, the Prince George's County public schools are experiencing a marked decrease in teacher applications especially in secondary subject areas.

Although the trend of fewer students selecting careers in education has been slowly developing over the past decade, the scarcity of qualified teachers has been more keenly felt this year than since the 1960s.

Secondary teachers in such areas as math, science, industrial arts, special education and English are increasingly difficult to locate for vacancies that develop in late summer and early fall. The professional personnel office has advised more than 400 teacher-training institutions of current and continuing employment opportunities especially for secondary teachers.

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Much enjoyment has been found in sailing, crab feasts and horse races, not to mention the many parks located throughout the county which offer a variety of activities for its population of 690,000.

Additionally, Prince George's County houses the Capital Centre, home of the Washington Bullets basketball team and the Washington Capitals hockey team.

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