PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The theme of this year's annual is "Humour in Education". One might wonder why it seems necessary to point this up in any school, particularly in Wagar, where a subtle and sometimes not-so-subtle sense of humour is quite evident and well-developed.

The elemental joke of the small child consists in being tickled or in expecting a sudden thrust, which only ends in a playful touch. As the child grows older the range of things that become humorous is extended. The funny events of daily life are those in which a strained expectancy is changed into nothingness, or else there is a shift from the serious to the insignificant. There is humour in the sudden change from the sublime to the ridiculous. Maturer humour then becomes "poking fun", or is referred to as a "thrust", a "dig", or a "sally of wit." The neatness of caricature diverts us by the same principle, and you will see this side of humour well depicted in this Annual.

What cannot be shown or recorded so easily in our "Prelude" is the humour of every-day classroom life and the inter-actions of pupil and teacher. J. Ewing in his essay, "Reflections of a Dominie", describes this situation for teachers, and asks, "What manner of being sits before us in the classroom, awaiting, with what patience he can muster, the final bell that summons him to freedom and peace? Regard his superficial earnestness, his simulated mirth, and the sensitive finger which he places on the gauge of our smoldering wrath."

As a teacher, I know that it is possible the pupil is sometimes supplied with a diet of dry bread for which he must provide his own jam—that of humour. His subtlety is shown by his skill in getting the greatest value out of a small joke. Even the most serious of teachers must occasionally allow some small glint of expression to light up his normal forbidding appearance. But this moment is one which has been eagerly awaited by the pupil. Now observe the pupil's cunning. Should the teacher be a hearty fellow, not too sensitive or delicate, the whole class bursts into a roar of laughter. If, however, he seems different and cautious about this first venture within the risky area of humour, a polite glow of appreciation shows in each eye, and smiles of approval appear on each face. And so the hook is baited with a juicy worm or a choice fly to agree with the appetite of the fish.

I think we have all shared some such humorous incidents together in Wagar. The experience of laughing at and with each other, and on occasion laughing at ourselves, brings us much closer together. When later in life we look back on our High School days, it is these lighter moments we often remember most vividly and with the greatest pleasure.

J.F. Stewart





MRS. PALTIEL Vice-Principal

MR. GOODWIN Vice-Principal



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Miss H. Ferguson English



Mr. K. Mann Science



Mr. R. Kurys Mathematics

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Mr. S. Balaban



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Miss R. Bidner



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Miss G. Davies



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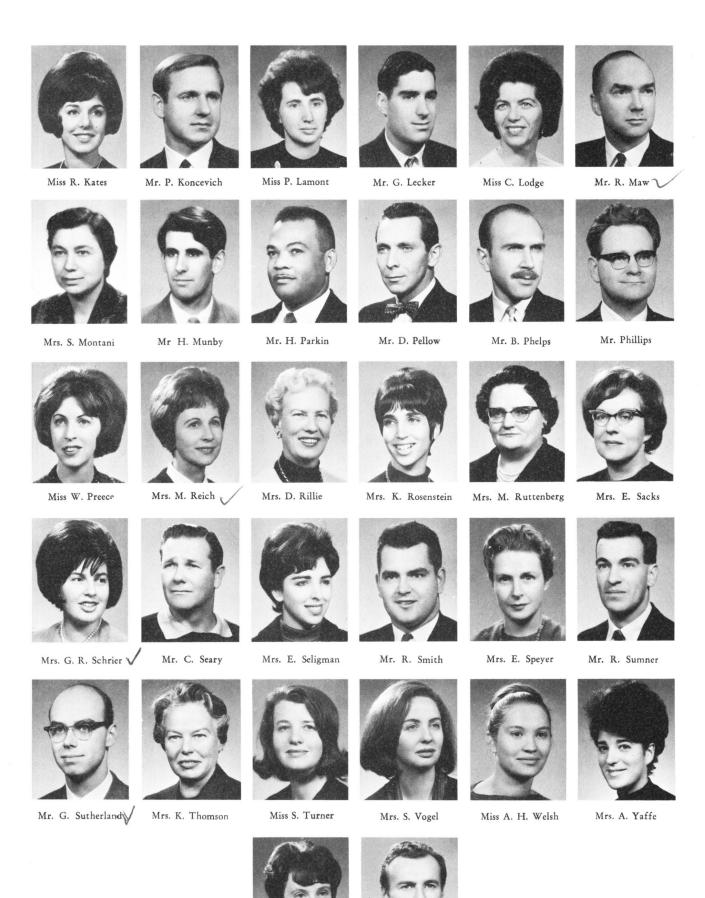
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