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Welcome to **ATTACK!** a two-page occasional publication. Most of **ATTACK!** will be concerned with the holistic curriculum which, if acted on, is a fundamental way to undermine the present undemocratic education system. Don't be discouraged if opportunities to teach holistically are limited, do your best, be a guardian, and act as a witness to this culturally significant and inspiring way of teaching and learning. **ATTACK!** is a partner to <https://networkonnet.wordpress.com>

Attack! 83 Developmental in action: a senior room of a two-teacher school (1987) – the holistic before the fall Part 6

There have been times when I have bemoaned at being challenged by Kelvin Smythe's conceptualisation of developmental, and the way it pushed me along the developmental continuum. But what greater reward can you have than the warmly enthusiastic responses of children and parents.

The challenge and the hope are summed up in an extract from a poem by Stephen Spender.

An Elementary School Classroom
*Far far from gusty waves, these children's faces
Like rootless weeds the torn hair around their paleness;
The tall girl with her weighed-down hair the paper-
seeming boy with rat's eyes; the stunted unlucky heir
Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,
His lesson from his desk. At back of the dim class
One unnoted mild and young: his eyes live in a dream
Of squirrels game, in tree room, other than this.*

There is a lot of poetry in our room – working poetry – poetry that spins off from what we are doing, thinking about. Sometimes I provide the poetry; more often now the children.

Newsletters

The following are three examples of the foolscap newsletter distributed to begin the week's programme.

WEEK 4

Kia ora tamariki ma

The highlights for my week have been the Winter Olympics in Calgary. I especially liked the women's downhill and the two-man bobsled which were on last night.

The speed the competitors were going! I wonder if they get frightened? I like John Parker's poem about learning to ski.

First Day
*Like something just born
I fall and flounder and flop and flag
With my long metal feet
And my long metal arms
And my boots
And gloves
And goggles
And thick clothing
And pudding basin hat
A cow doesn't ask her calf to ski –
Why does Mum do this to me?*



This would make a good cartoon which brings me to our theme for the week: **CARTOONS COMICS and ANIMATION.**

I have noticed that some people have made some very interesting overhead projector transparencies of butterflies and moths using overlays.

Read 'Making Pictures Move' (*School Journal*, Pt 3, No. 2, 1980) to find out about animation.

Activities you may choose from are:

- Research cartoons and animation
- Read comics and discuss different styles (You may bring these from home)
- F. 1 and 2 must read 'Fantastic Fables' and 'Values for Tomorrow'
- How about swapping or lending your comics to someone else?
- Draw cartoons.

The cartoon below or picture story as it is called, drawn by H. M. Bateman, is one of my favourites. Did you have as much trouble catching your butterflies as this character did?



There are some neat insect cartoons in the *Cricket* magazine as well.

Deon has brought his collection of *Footrot Flats* books which I am sure he will let you read. I was most interested in the book explaining how the *Footrot Flats* movie was made. You can find out more about Murray Ball in the *School Journal*, Pt 4, 1981. I will be quite happy to discuss any other activities you might like to do. Speak to me or use the request sheet. (Perhaps they will include the use of the video or the overhead projector.)



Your butterfly and moth work last week was excellent. I was pleased to see:

- People observing closely
- Discussing their observations
- Focusing and
- STAYING ON TASK!

Well done!

This week I would like you to:

- Collect a cricket, a praying mantis, and a katydid: How are they alike? How do they differ?
- Find out information about their life cycles (f. 1 and 2 complete cabbage community tasks as well, please fairly regularly).

We will have our picnic next Monday, 28 February. Let's hope the weather improves. How did you get on with your weather maps?

Have you discussed your interpretation with a friend? I expect you to be doing some homework. I would be pleased to talk to you about your weather maps if you wish.

F. 2 please plan our swimming sports this week. Discuss a suitable date with me.

Did you know?

The chinook, a wind phenomenon that occurs over Montana in the United States and Alberta in Canada, is capable of raising the temperature more than 30 degrees F in three minutes. Deep sea air from the Pacific Ocean drops rain and snow as it passes over the Rockies. The dry air then tumbles down the eastern slopes becoming compressed as it does and as a consequence is incredibly hot. One February the temperature in Calgary rose from 14 degrees F to 76 degrees F (I will help you convert this to Celsius).

Proverb of the week:

'Saying IS one thing, doing is another.'

Continued in Part 7

