

# Activators and Junior Kids Care are active groups

By Liz Hopkins  
Staff Writer

The Digby Regional Junior High School groups the Activators and the Junior Kids Care Team are into their second year of activities under the direction of Junior Guidance Counsellor, Keith Manzer.

Karen Wagner, a member of the Activators, said this year there are 40 active members in the group, from grades eight and nine; up from the 22 members of the previous year. She said interest in the group has really grown positively.

She said the purpose behind the group is to unite the students within the school as part of a whole district. The Activators would like to see more understanding between parents and teenagers. She said though that the main purpose behind the group is to promote better spirit with fewer problems in the school.

The Activators have been involved with fund raising - selling candles to raise funds for a Christmas Social for the District grade five and six students which will take place Nov. 29 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Multipurpose Room of DRHS. They are hoping for a good response from the district's schools. The remainder of the money earned from the candle selling will be going towards the purchase of awards for sports.

Karen said during this year's Drug Awareness week from Nov. 17 - Nov. 23 much emphasis in the Drug Awareness Week Poster Contest will be on testimonials. This is where participants will be encouraged to give their own testimonials of how they tried to get people to break habits such as smoking, drinking and drugs. All the posters will be displayed in area stores.

Brenda Duncan, a member of the Junior Kids Care Team, said both the Kids Care Team and the Activators help each other and their activities often overlap or compliment each other.

The Kids Care Team started out last year with six members and this year has grown to 20 members.

ing practises and how wisely the food dollar is spent.

One of the Junior Kids Care Team's main projects is assisting new grade seven students in adjusting to their new high school environments.

The Kids Care Team has also visited the Children's Training Center and Tideview Terrace to gain a better understanding of the needs and lives of those involved.

Mr. Manzer said the groups hope to set up a helpline box which would enable students to ask for help with problems anonymously. He said the box would be emptied regularly and the problems discussed with the proper resource persons such as school officials, psychologists or drug rehabilitation personnel. Mr. Manzer said the responses to the Helpline box would then be posted on a bulletin board next to the box.

The Activators and Junior Kids Care Teams are involved with the Drug Dependency Commission and their statistics have been used across the province. Recently the Activators helped with the setting up of three Parent/Teen sessions with area psychologists Nancy and Mario Villarroels.

These sessions were brought about after the Junior Kids Care Team conducted surveys among their peers to see what kinds of relationships and problems they had with their parents. They were asked what kinds of things their parents criticized them for; what they were given credit for; what types of things they could not tell their parents and why.

Topics in the first Parent/Teen session included how to give effective advice and direction to teenagers and how teens can bring up personal matters to their parents. The second session dealt with the subjects of how much school work is too much and why are teens criticized. The final session dealt with how late teens should be allowed to stay out and how to deal with brother/sister rivalries.

Brenda said the Kids Care Team cares about everyone from the aged to the handicapped, both physically and mentally, adults and kids.

The Junior Kids Care Team has been responsible for conducting many important surveys and formally presenting the issues.

Some of their surveys have had to do with concerns such as drugs and alcohol and the one they have been conducting of late concerns food buy-

The Activators and Junior Kids Care put on panel discussions and skits during the sessions. The Villarroels information and background as well as guidance to the discussions.

Mr. Manzer said the Junior Kids Care is planning a session of Christmas Caroling at the hospital and Tideview Terrace and perform a Christmas play which was written by one of the group's members.