

"In planning the dance program, I was very surprised to see how well it was balanced. They decided on having an Announcer.

"One of the best results of this project was the good effect it had on several "problem cases." I really feel that it was one of the very most worthwhile projects that I have had the pleasure to see through.

"Besides all the good lessons it afforded, I know that when my children go to Junior High School next fall they will know how to conduct themselves in a becoming manner and also will be able to enter in the fun that is afforded by their Twilight Dances. The bashful, quiet girls and boys will not have to miss all of this fun. You would be surprised to see what these lessons have done for them."

-- Mrs. Cosgrove

Many rooms had these parties inviting a room from another school, and the groups met not with competition as a basis, but, rather, cooperation. These parties were no hit-and-miss affairs. The whole plan revolved around the idea "one must give our guests a good time." From the time the invitations went out, the cookies made (in school), the program planned and carried out, and the last guest bade farewell, the whole thought was - "consideration for others." Here, certainly, is a great opportunity to build attitudes which are socially sound.

We must ever keep before us the objectives of such a program. Years ago we taught dancing to teach dancing - our emphasis now is not on the accumulation of a series of steps but rather on what goes on within the child's mental and emotional processes. Dancing, social dancing, makes a very fine channel through which the skilled teacher can direct all sorts of attitudes and habits necessary for a wholesome living.

There are fifteen schools in Duluth where the sixth grade boys and girls have been introduced to such a program. Of course, some schools are more successful than others, but in not one school could one say that the plan did not work.

The man Physical Education teacher can be a great help, or hinderance, to a dance program - depending on his attitude. The man who mixes in and helps direct or even takes charge himself can make a great contribution.

We are fortunate in Duluth in having principals and a large group of teachers who are character education minded so that the introduction of any program that had for its objective the development of socially well adjusted boys and girls was a simple matter.

"I have long since felt that a Physical Education program furnishes a rich field for the development of character. Many of our children do not have the opportunity of learning those fine courtesy traits essential for wholesome living. We long since, in the lower grades, have taught the folk dances of other nations, but we have failed in providing a similar activity program for the upper grade boys and girls, who need it far more in their relationships with each other.