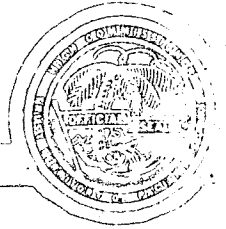


PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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RELEASE: 60-67

Marianas

EBEYE ESTABLISHES A "HEAD START" PROGRAM

Truk

Ponape

Marshalls

Yap

Palau

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mar. 10 . . . One of the most important features of the Ebeye Rehabilitation Program is the establishment of a Nursery-Kindergarten School on Ebeye. This program is being funded under a U. S. grant known as the 89-10 Program; however, much of the work is being accomplished by voluntary community help. The school is being housed within the "shelter" which was renovated and painted with the help of the Youth Corps. The Women's Clubs and the Ebeye Advisory Committee did much of the planning prior to the establishment of the school and are now working as volunteer helpers.

On Sunday, February 26, 185 leading citizens of Ebeye and the staff celebrated the commencement of this new project. The following day, 40 children ranging from 3 to 6 years of age started school under the able direction of Mrs. Quinn and her staff. Within two weeks the school will absorb another 40 children and then by March 30, the full quota of 100 children will complete the enrollment.

Plans are already underway to expand the nursery-kindergarten by establishing a tuition fee in order to supplement the limited budget of the 89-10. Many parents who work on Kwajalein have expressed an interest in having their children participate and are willing to pay for this privilege.

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One important feature of the school is the feeding program which includes two substantial meals per day.

Although the feeding activity is an interesting feature of this 39-10 program, the most important objective is to give these pre-school children a "head start" before entering the first grade. Two Peace Corps Volunteers, Mr. and Mrs. Paprocki, who have recently joined the staff, have expressed an interest in helping to teach English as a part of the kindergarten-nursery school. In addition, there will be many vital experiences which the children will have in preparation for their future roles as citizens of this developing community. Mrs. Louise Vierstra, a registered nurse, joined the staff as a regular teacher of the nursery kindergarten along with two Marshallese teachers, Miss Edward and Miss Human.

As this interesting and vital program develops on Ebeye more community support will be needed in the way of voluntary assistance or contributions of discarded toys and furniture. Please contact Dr. William V. Vitarelli, the High Commissioner's Representative on Ebeye, if you wish to contribute in any way toward the success of the new Ebeye Nursery-Kindergarten School.

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