



# Farmington High hosts meeting of the minds

IT WAS a meeting of the minds. Mental teamwork was the order of the day Saturday as teams went through trial runs for the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition, slated for March 10.

Twenty-one teams participated in Saturday's local event at Farmington High School. Nineteen of those will continue on in regional competition, according to information from the Farmington school district.

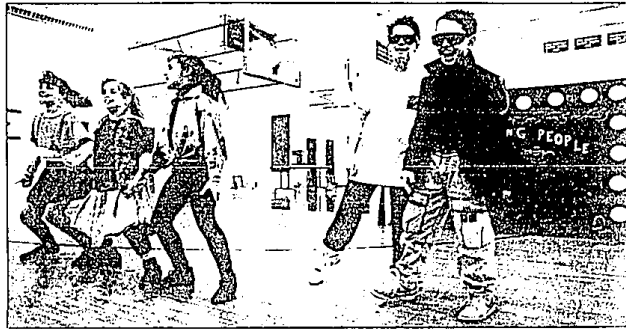
The regional OM competition will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rochester Adams High School. Farmington-area students from Eagle, Forest, Kenbrook, Gill, Larkshire, Longacre, Highmeadow, St. Fabian and St. Paul elementaries and Inckel and Warner middle schools will participate.

Odyssey of the Mind competition is held worldwide. It is designed to teach problem-solving skills. It

stresses team dynamics and creativity.

Student teams have a group of problems from which to select, within their grade level divisions. All teams are coached by volunteer parents.

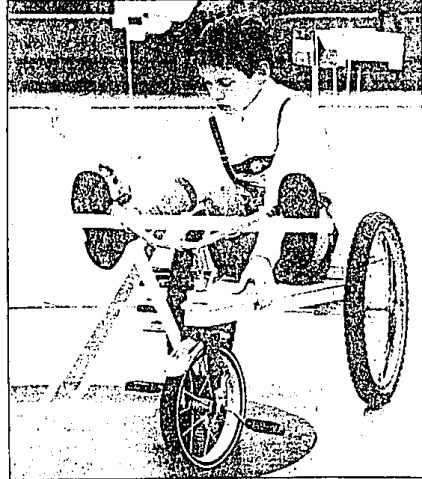
OM is open to all students in the Farmington Public Schools and private area that request to participate. The competition was started locally in 1982 with eight teams from three schools.



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Kristin Trest (left), Lianna Kambouris, Danielle Hasan, Mike Gabry and Nicholas Katcherin, fifth graders from Gill Elementary School, present "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World"

and "Seven Wonders of the Modern World." Also on the team but not pictured is Maureen Carolan, a fifth grader from Gill.



Chris Hoffee, 11, a sixth grader from St. Paul Lutheran Elementary School in Farmington Hills, practices his part in a presentation of geographic odyssey.



Erin Roeder (right) found herself the center of attention before this group of fifth graders from Highmeadow Elementary School. With Lauren Hellisck (left) and Mar chello D'Anna (center), the girls later took the stage for their presentation of "Seven Wonders of the World."

## inkwell

Inkwell provides news about Farmington-area primary and secondary students and education issues. The column appears monthly as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day. Items will not be taken over the phone.

● **teachers' seminar**  
A seminar for secondary teachers, allowing them to share ideas about curriculum, was held at Farmington Public Schools.

Called Ideas Plus, the afternoon/evening seminar attracted 20 middle school and high school teachers. It was modeled after a similar program, Carousal of Ideas, held earlier for elementary-level teachers.

● **successful drive**  
Organizers of an annual food drive at Thomas P. Beahan Junior High in Farmington are calling the event a success.

More than 210 large boxes, packed with thousands of pounds of canned and dried foods, were packed and earmarked for several Metro-Detroit food depots. Recipients included the Farmington Area Goodfellows, Spectrum Human Services, St. Vincent de Paul and Our Lady of Sorrows Christian Service Commission.

Together, students and staff collected, sorted and boxed approximately 5,900 food items. They also collected \$680 in cash, which was distributed to the needy. The collection took place throughout December.

● **student council**  
A newly formed student council at Wood Creek Elementary in Farmington Hills is beginning its first major project.

The schoolwide project involves special wishes for special friends. Students will make valentines to send to veterans at Hines Veterans' Administration Hospital in Illinois. The valentines are handmade with a personal message on each, and signed by each student.

Throughout the year, the student council will be involved in service projects and projects to help all students and staff work together to make Wood Creek a better school.

Other Wood Creek activities include:  
● A parent recently visited kindergartners to share information about the Chinese New Year. She showed traditional clothing, pictures of the festivities and taught the children to wish a "Happy New Year" in Chinese.

● The entire fourth grade is watching the 13-part video "Voyage of the Mimi" and studying humpback whales. Students are busy earning money to "adopt" a humpback whale for each classroom.

● Fifth graders are learning about the great outdoors. This week, mini-classes are being held at the school so students can study environmental concerns and enjoy outdoor activities. Feb. 9 will be their day at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center.

● First and second graders will present an original play, "Wood Creek Faces the Dirty's," sometime in mid-March. They recently held auditions.

● Second graders celebrated the 100th day of the school year on Jan. 29 by counting by the hundreds. One class used rubber grading stamps to make a "100 stamps" chart. Another class made popcorn people, putting them into groups of 10. Another class estimated how much popcorn 100 kernels would pop.

● Third graders are coordinating art and careers with their study of cities in social studies. They formed construction companies, designed skyscrapers, drew the

ironwork and planned the interiors of the buildings.

● In the music department, fifth graders are preparing a special spring program, "Hats Off to Music," written by a Farmington music consultant, Lillian Bryant.

The program is planned for production on April 3 at 2 and 7 p.m. An all-school musical is also slated for the spring, with students working on "Feelin' Good."

● Students in the district's DELTA program will hold a Technology in Communication fair on April 3.

● **Highmeadow hits**  
They're also busy at Highmeadow Common Campus in Farmington Hills.

This week, fourth graders presented a half-hour musical presentation called "Wake Up America," which focused on environmental issues.

Fifth grader teacher Marilyn Greenstein has been selected from more than 300 nominees as a finalist in the 1989-90 Michigan Science Teacher of the Year competition. As a finalist, she will be honored at the Michigan Science Teacher Conference Banquet in Lansing Feb. 16.

Third graders will visit seniors at Detroit Baptist Manor on Feb. 14 and present songs and dances and give the seniors old-fashioned valentines. Baptist Manor is next to the school, and students have "adopted" seniors and visited there several times for special events.

● **high tech**  
In January, students at Eagle Elementary in the Farmington school district enjoyed an assembly on robotics put on by Mobile Productions, Inc. and sponsored by the Eagle PTA.

Children were able to learn about the different functions of robots, and fifth graders were allowed to operate the robots during workshops. "It was a wonderful, educational experience for the whole school," said principal Sue Johnson.

Also at Eagle, a new lunchroom motivational program began in February. Star Sticks are given to students by noon aides and staff to recognize good behavior such as quiet voices, table manners, clean areas, raising hands, straight lines, helping others, and sharing. An Eagle lunchroom stars trophy is presented to the class who receives the most "star sticks" in each lunch period. The class displays the trophy for one week.

At the end of each marking period, the class earning the most "star sticks" in each lunch period will be treated to a pizza party to recognize their star behavior.

● **math-a-thon**  
Students at Gill Elementary in Farmington Hills are again participating in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon project, in which students get sponsors for their participation.

Students work in Math-A-Thon Funbooks, which include 200 problems in puzzles, cartoons and math problems. When completed, they show their work to the sponsors and collect money, which goes to the Sts. Jude Children's Hospital.

Students turning in \$24 or more will receive a T-shirt; a T-shirt and barrel tote will be given to those earning \$100 or more.

● **Creativity planned**  
The annual Creativity Springs Alive display of Farmington student projects has been scheduled for Saturday, April 7 at Harrison High School.

The event, which has grown in recent years, includes not only fine art pieces, but music, industrial arts, science-related projects and other creative ventures. It is sponsored by Farmington Public Schools.

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