

# Honored from page A1

in the Farmington district for 12 years — the last seven at Hillside.

Nominations came district wide. Curriculum coordinators, school psychologists, consultants, parents — past and present — contributed raw reviews

on Harris' teaching style. She's been lauded for working with gifted children to those with Attention Deficit Disorder. "She accepts nothing less than success, and she is willing to devote whatever time it takes to help a student achieve that goal," said Marilyn Herz, media specialist at Hillside. "No one falls through the cracks." Such platitudes from colleagues are particularly rewarding, Harris said.

"I am dramatic," she said. "I'll do anything to turn a kid on. Motivation is a strong part of my teaching." "I hold kids responsible and accountable with rewards and consequences." Privilege passes — shortened to "PPs" in Harris' inimitable vernacular — are held out as rewards for academics, citizenship and conflict resolution. At the end of the year, students use PPs to bid in an auction for prizes.

Consequences? "They never get away with anything with me," she said. "They lose some PPs, which are like gold." She gives students carte blanche to travel in their imaginations. Kids recently went on a field trip through the Internet to Alaska to follow the Iditarod Dog Sled race. Harris was one of the first teachers in the district to use computer online services and the Internet as a regular teaching tool.

Using the computer, they were able to follow the mushers through the 14-day march of endurance. Kids had to research the weather conditions, calculate distances involved, history of the event and terrain of the land.

Harris also uses newspapers and magazines to get fourth graders talking about current events. "I want kids to be informed beyond the walls of Hillside," she said. Passion for her job comes nat-



Staff Photo by BRADMAN LESHAY

Passion for the job: Keeping the kids' attention comes naturally for Dodie Harris, who has taught at Hillside since it opened.



## THE "GOODS" ON REAL ESTATE

by Randal Goodson  
**WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE?**

Sometimes there are defects in a house that the homeowners no longer notice, such as small leaks in the roof or a basement that only gets damp when it rains. When the house is on the market they don't have a real sense of urgency about having such defects repaired. The Realtor feels quite differently, however.

When buyers are deciding which houses deserve serious consideration, any kind of water problem may appear to be much more serious than it really is. The sellers may regard a damp basement as simply a sign that it's time to clean the gutters or check the soil buildup around the house or a leaking roof as a call for new flashing. But to someone who has never owned a home, these defects can be taken as signs that the house may not fulfill their primary need for shelter from "the elements." People may be perfectly willing to rent a home with minor water problems, but they are likely to pass up the same house if they think it won't keep them perfectly dry.

For solid advice on buying or selling real estate, consult Randal Goodson, Vice-President, The Prudential Great Lakes Realty. Please call him at 810-626-9100 or visit his office at 31000 Northwestern Highway, Suite 101, Farmington Hills.

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## Green, Gippert top district teachers

Farmington Public Schools honored Karen Green of Power Middle School as Middle Teacher of the Year and Carl Gippert as High School Teacher of the Year.

Green joined the district in 1988 teaching fourth grade at Gill Elementary. She's been a sixth-grade teacher at Power Middle School since 1990.

She serves as the sixth grade team leader and as chairperson of the math department.

She was cited for her classroom structure, variety of teaching strategies and dedication to the profession in her nomination.

A parent also lauded Green for



Karen Green Carl Gippert

her ability to communicate with her students. The parent wrote, "My daughter said, 'Mom, she made math fun,'" the parent said. "I can think of no higher praise."

Gippert joined Farmington Public Schools in 1986 teaching instrumental music. He is the

band director at North Farmington High.

He is a member of a number of organizations and his bands have received numerous awards for their performances. Recently, the North Farmington bands received outstanding awards at a national band and orchestra festival at the Presidential Inaugural Heritage Festival including for outstanding instrumental program.

"Mr. Gippert was without a doubt my favorite teacher of all time," a student wrote. "He taught me to have confidence in myself and I always knew he believed in me. He had a great impact on my life."

**Arthritis Today**  
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Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: (810) 478-7800

**THE ROLE OF EXERCISE IN ARTHRITIS**

If you have arthritis, you face a problem in undertaking daily exercise.

Common sense tells you that exercise is necessary, but the pain in your joints tells you know you are limited in what you can do.

If you have osteoarthritis, even of the knees, likely you are able to undertake walking as exercise to some extent. Remember, that for your bones you need not walk fast, just be persistent in your movements. Previously, the thinking was that your heart needed stress to become stronger; therefore exercises that pushed you physically were encouraged. The feeling now is that any activity is valuable and the gain from extreme effort is not worth the time and strain.

If you have rheumatoid arthritis there is no ready answer to the question of how often. Foot inflammation, usually part of the arthritis, makes walking difficult and jogging impossible. Swimming is an excellent alternative, but getting to a pool when it is open to you can be difficult. Maneuvering the wet tiles is hazardous, and the value of the exercise depends on how well you can swim.

Daily activity is a necessity, what you will do and for how long, depends not on a doctor's recommendation, but on the meeting of your body with your mind.

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