

Creative place

This summer camp gives kids' inventiveness a chance to shine

There aren't lakes or bonfires at Camp Invention, which takes place through Friday at Farmington Community School. But there are plenty of kids having camp-like fun, enjoying themselves while learning at the same time.

Alexia Turisaini, 7, who will attend second grade at Forest Elementary School, couldn't wait for one particular activity. "I hope I learn how to do the trash can ice cream."

On Tuesday, the 56 participants in Camp Invention had the chance to do just that — churning their own ice cream by way of kicking cans of ingredients across the gymnasium floor.

But, for every youngster, there seemingly was another reason for wanting to be at the first Camp Invention to take place in the Farmington district.

"We got to take things apart," said an obviously excited Andrew Tapert, 8, who will soon attend third grade at Wood Creek Elementary School.

"And I like making stuff," noted 8-year-old Brent Fonzan, entering third grade at Flanders Elementary School.

At "Motion: A-Movement Park," one of five camp stations, Brent could have paralyzed paper plates and coat hangers into what would become an amusement park roller coaster.

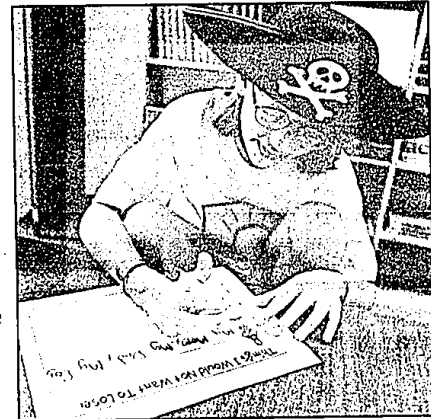
The variety of activities — including scavenger hunts, role-playing and creative gamesmanship — help campers get a well-rounded experience by the time the five-day session is over, said Nanette Martin, a Dunckel Middle School teacher who is supervising the Farmington session.

"I knew kids would like it because they get to be creative," said Martin. "They're using critical thinking skills all the time. But because they're having fun, they don't think they're learning."

Other camp stops include "I Can Invent" (where household appliances are brought in, dismantled and turned into some-



What have we here: Zachary Glover disassembles a ceiling fan to see how it works. "I Can Invent" is a workshop where the campers can take apart old machines and perhaps create their own inventions with the parts.



Treasured list: Sarah Pounds writes her list of things she would not want to lose. At "YoHo!" one of five stations at Camp Invention, kids decipher codes and navigate maps to find a treasure.

Library millage booster likes how Aug. 4 bid is taking shape

There's nothing scientific about it. But Masha Silver just has a better feeling about this year's proposed \$11.7 million millage proposal compared to previous attempts in 1989 and 1993.

Silver is among the many button-wearing volunteer library boosters who are phoning residents in Farmington and Farmington Hills to remind them about the Farmington Community Library millage proposal.

At the Tuesday, Aug. 4, primary election, voters will decide the proposal, which would enable renovation and expansion of the library's Farmington Hills branch and refurbishing of the Farmington branch.

"I think it's going to pass. I have a feeling," Silver said this week. "More people are aware of it and are aware of the need. And there's a big need."

One reason for increased awareness is the fact library officials such as Director Bev Pappi and others have taken their presentation to both the Farmington and Farmington Hills city Board of Education.

Jack Inch, a longtime school board trustee, Tuesday said he thought bringing the plan to the board earlier this year was a good idea and a positive step to

enhance public understanding of why the library needs the millage bid to pass.

Pappi explained the reasons for the millage attempt to the board, emphasizing how schools and libraries need to complement each other in educating young people.

Silver likes the chances of this particular proposal better than proposals that were rejected by voters in 1989 and 1993, largely because both branches will stay where they are. The Farmington Hills branch is located on 12 Mile Road, between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads; Farmington's branch is located at 23500 Liberty Street, near city hall.

The current proposal is "much more acceptable," said Silver, because "they'd be updating and adding to what's there, but not going to another site."

The Hills branch would see a 36,000-square-foot addition and 67 parking spaces built on an adjacent parcel. The existing facility would also be updated to address various needs listed in an area survey — more books, computers and compact discs and more quiet study space.

It would cost \$8.8 million to expand the Hills branch, with renovation estimated at \$2.4 million.

in downtown Detroit. Presenting the conference is The Alexia Foundation, based in Birmingham.

Among those who will be attending is Farmington Observer reporter Tim Smith, the father of a premature daughter.

"Prematurity is such an

unknown for many people," said Smith, who authored a forthcoming book about the subject, scheduled to be released in spring, 1999. "This conference hopefully will help people get some answers."

For more information, contact Elaine Sayers at (248) 643-4169.

The itinerary for this camp is different. But youngsters did enjoy some more-typical camp perks.

Most wore T-shirts with the Camp Invention logo. Each will receive a ticket to Inventure Place/The National Inventors Hall of Fame, in Akron, Ohio.

And, they had some counselors around to spend time with. All of this comes at a price, of course. According to Martin, tuition ranged from \$145 to \$180, depending on when kids were enrolled. Some financial assistance was available, she said.

Recent Harrison High School graduate Jon Lora, 18, said he signed up to be a Camp Invention counselor in order to "be around kids of different ages" and to help spark their creativity.

"I think it's different, it's a cool thing," Lora said, adding that it is important for younger children to learn at an early age how to think and create.

Martin led campers at one of the stations, "AMAZing Games." For the first activity, "The

Human Machine," students broke into groups, were given index cards with the name of an appliance (refrigerator, etc.) and worked out how to act out those roles so that other students could guess what those were.

Place/The National Inventors Hall of Fame, located in Akron, Ohio. Besides Farmington Community School, a session is taking place this week at Pleasant Lake Elementary School in the Walled Lake district. From Aug. 3-7, another session is scheduled for Green Elementary School in the West Bloomfield district.

Camp Invention is a program of non-profit Inventure



Where's Zak?: It looks like chaos, but Andrew Sump, Kyle Green, Kevin Glover and Daniel Lubin create their own spaceship at the "Planet Zak" workshop.

mpi the "teacher's store"

Back to School Sale!

10 to 50% off storewide!

Includes the latest and greatest merchandise for BTS 1998!

FREE Fun-Tak!

reusable adhesive

spend \$15 in any of our mpi the "teacher's store" locations and receive one package of Fun-Tak. FREE!

must present coupon at time of purchase coupon valid July 12-18, 1998

Livonia MI
16911 Middlebelt Rd.
Livonia, MI 48154
734.525.0720
Mon-Fri 9:30am-7pm
Sat 9:30am-6pm
Sun 12pm-5pm

Sterling Heights MI
2383 1/4 Mile Rd.
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
810.979.8050
Mon-Fri 9:30am-7pm
Sat 9:30am-6pm
Sun 12pm-5pm

mpi the "teacher's store"

Conference for parents of preemies set for July 25

Area parents of premature infants have a unique opportunity to learn more about a delicate topic.

"Empowering Parents of Premature Infants — A Conference for Parents and Professionals," is set for 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 25 at the Cobo Cen-