

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 86 Number 93

Monday, September 8, 1975

Farmington, Michigan

24 Pages

Fifteen Cents

Media Centers

They help children communicate

By SUSAN AVERILL

You might compare it to walking out of Miss Haversham's musty and mildewed old study and into a sunny room of bubbling activity. But any way you look at it, the media center is an improvement over the traditional elementary school library.

The difference between the old and the new is the difference between passivity and activity, boredom and attention, rigidity and freedom, according to school officials.

True media center philosophy, which the Farmington School District has slowly been developing since 1971, is focused on individualized instruction.

"The idea here is that the media center becomes the center of the school for individualized instruction and exploration," said Larry Freedman, assistant superintendent of elementary education.

"It's done through open scheduling philosophy where you can come in on an unscheduled kind of basis to do research and explore.

Exploration doesn't mean just wandering through a library, and selecting books on the basis of interesting covers. Nor does it necessarily mean selecting books at all.

"IT'S NOT JUST through books, but all media film and tapes, picture files and newspapers. Classes are no longer scheduled to come into the library at a special time only to take books out. We're getting away totally from that."

The idea students are supposed to absorb from the new facilities is that the media center is a wealth of information that's exciting. And it works, according to Freedman.

"The kids like to go to the media center. The classrooms are smaller and the teacher can devote more individual attention to each student when she can send some to the media center to work on a project," he said.

The whole idea, he said, is to help individual children maintain an interest in school and in learning.

Media centers can be used so that they develop confidence and strength in a child who might otherwise feel unsuccessful.

"If a student's reading is very poor, then he doesn't have to do his research in books and read a report from a paper. He can use a filmstrip or a record. It helps kids be successful.

ful. If a kid recognizes his strengths, then he can accept some of his weaknesses," Freedman said.

It may also give him enough courage to work on his weaker points.

The change in philosophy and environment have also meant that the media specialist (formerly called a librarian) had to expand her knowledge. She almost had to become a team with the classroom teacher in guiding students.

"A SPECIALIST HELPS the child find material, encourages its use and provides material for the class and teacher for different areas of instruction. For example, if the class is doing a report on China, she'll bundle information together on it."

Often, a teacher will send small groups of students to the center for

search topics. But the different activities don't clash.

"They really don't disturb each other. If they're listening to records, they have head sets. The small group viewers will just be looking at slides on a wall."

Although the library concept has changed, Freedman said students aren't shortchanged. "The basic library skills are still taught. They're not lost," Freedman said.

The Farmington media centers, bigger than most elementary libraries, are "deliberately spacious so that they don't give a confined feeling."

Carpeting is intended to set a more relaxed atmosphere.

"They can even sit on the floor if they want to, some kids feel better reading that way. It's a warm kind of atmosphere. We don't want it to be formal at all."

Freedman said the first media center, built at William Grace Elementary School in 1980, was originally intended to be a larger library to accommodate the functions for which the students used it.

A NEW SCHOOL, Wood Creek Elementary had a larger library built into it in 1979 and was followed by Eagle, which needed its five-charred library facilities remodeled.

Keenbrook and Flanders elementary have the most recently finished centers, and construction plans have been approved for Forest and Beechview elementary.

Schools remaining without centers are Highmeadow, Fairview and Ten Mile. These schools each have rooms which serve as temporary media centers.

Take your pick

Schools offer courses

p.m. Room 104D. Fees are payable at time of registration.

Senior citizens (over 65) will be admitted tuition free in classes of unlimited enrollment.

Refunds will be granted when classes are cancelled. All other requests for refunds must be made to the adult education office before the second class meeting. A \$2 registration fee will be deducted in the case of withdrawal.

Those with the years to fly have two classes available. A ground school for a private pilot rating, instrument ground school, and powder puff mechanics.

The pilot rating course covers the fundamentals of aircraft structure, aerodynamics, meteorology, plotage and radio navigation. It includes preparation for private pilot FAA written examination. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a certificate to meet FAA requirements.

The class will be in Room 111E on Mondays, from 7:30-10 p.m. Cost is \$25.

The instrument ground school course covers the fundamentals of instrument flying, aerodynamics, instruments, radio, regulations, navigation, meteorology, and flight pro-

cedures. Costing \$25, the course will be in Room 106E on Mondays from 7:30-10 p.m.

A powder puff course is offered to women who would like to have a basic understanding of the auto, its maintenance and trouble shooting. Costing \$15, it will be in Room 106G on Thursday, from 7-9 p.m.

AN AUTO TUNE-UP and repair class using electronic diagnostic equipment will be on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. in room 107C. Cost is \$15.

Those interested in learning welding can take advantage of the class to be on Tuesday, from 7-10 p.m. in room 106C. Cost is \$20.

The class will teach basic experience in gas and arc welding techniques. Gas welding will include fusion welding, fillet and braising.

Two classes are being offered in photography. A course in general aspects of photography, including technical mechanics in picture taking, use of proper lighting meters, basic composition and film will be on Tuesdays, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in room 108E. Cost is \$12.

The second class will be on Wednesdays, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room

(Continued on Page 24)



Farmington Hills U. S. champion roller skater, Eugene Catenaco, practices three hours a day to maintain a peak performance. Story and pictures in the sports section. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

Tragedy strikes, couple perseveres

By CORANNE ABATT

A can of gasoline, a match, a garage fire and only part of the story of what happened at the Farmington home of George Uxa when it was razed to the ground by flames.

Neither Uxa nor his wife, Lucille, have a sense of smell. Both were asleep as their garage went up in flames filling the house with smoke.

THE FARMINGTON POLICE Department has arrested two suspects in connection with the case. They are Donald Kingston, 17, of 2104 Birchwood Farmington, and Rayford Wilson, 3183 W. Nine Mile, Farmington Hills.

Farmington Public Safety Director Daniel Byrnes estimates the fire damage at the Uxa residence to be \$15,000. He said a 2.5 gallon gasoline can fused with a paper wick started the blaze.

"The Uxas are lucky to be alive," Byrnes said. "The garage was attached to the house. If the height hadn't spotted the fire, they might have never gotten out."

Although grateful to be alive and to hurt Mrs. Uxa said she cried when the charred contents of the garage were spread out to be tabulated.

She looked at the sad remains of a dozen antique chairs Uxa disabled and unable to work, was refashioning them for one of the couple's married children. Now she wishes she had given them sooner. She found a cracked mirror of a carved antique armchair they had bought recently, but the beautiful piece itself was gone.

All that was left of a charming Victorian dressing table was the cape

weil bench. Not enough of two hand carved chairs her father had brought from Germany was left to salvage. A spin cabinet her son had asked for was no longer usable.

NOT A SHRED was left of a collection of family pictures and a prize tape of her grandmother saying a special prayer while the relatives were all gathered in the family home in West Virginia.

Counting the stark tragedy has been the kindness of neighbors. Many Mrs. Uxa said she knew only casually because she works long hours as a secretary for a funeral home.

She talks about the young couple two doors down, Robert and Margaret Lloyd who took them in and have cared for them like family for the past 10 days. "You wouldn't believe what they did for us. They are so hospitable and warm—never asking for a thing but to let them help."

She speaks of the many on the street who have invited them for meals saying with a smile, "I have enough rain checks for a month."

She sits in the cluttered living room. The painters are working in the home. Parts of the white kitchen floor are still stained brown from the smoke. She holds a pile of quilts, several made by her 83-year-old grandmother the year before she died. There are smoke stains on the quilts.

"I don't know whether I dare wash these to try to remove the smoke damage. They're so fragile, but there's no way we could ever replace them, and we can't use them this way."

In the next breath, she said again she and her husband are grateful to be alive, adding, "You find out, too, how human, how nice, how wonderful, people are."

Margaret Lloyd comes to the door to ask if she and her husband would like breakfast.

A can of gasoline, a likely looking table—that's what it was except that in the fire were the treasures of a lifetime collected by a couple who have known adversity and never wavered.

They still haven't, but it takes more stamina than those who set the fire ever dreamed of.



Lucille Uxa checks heirloom quilts for evidences of fire damage. Painters and decorators were still busy a week after the Uxa garage burned repairing smoke damage to the Farmington Hills home. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

REGISTRATION BLANK

CLASS _____ DAY _____

CLASS _____ DAY _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone No. _____ Total Fee _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mail to:
Farmington Community Education
32500 Shawwassee
Farmington, Michigan 48024

inside

News
Columns
Editorials
Community Calendar
Obituaries
Sports
Farmington Life

Section A
6
6
9
9
10
Section B

TRAVEL CREDIT

A trip to Yellowstone Park brought not only adventure and travel but six credits for local residents. For first-person accounts of the venture, see Page 18, Life section.