



Youth art blitz invades 2 cities in winter strike

During March there will be many displays of art by public school children in both Farmington and Farmington Hills. The occasion is youth art month and the moving force behind the many displays are the elementary art consultants.

Beverly Ellis, department chairperson says, "This is the first time the elementary art consultants have done this big of a thing and the first time we've tried to do such an extensive display."

Major exhibits will be at the two Farmington libraries, the Twelve Mile and the Liberty Street branches.

Smaller exhibits also are being hung in Botland General Hospital, both city halls, the board of education building and possibly the Holiday Inn of Farmington.

Mrs. Ellis stresses the art was not chosen on the basis of what was best, but more to give a feeling of what is happening in the art classes.

Our concern is with all the kids," Mrs. Ellis says. "We made no effort to pull the best, but rather to focus on representative work."

To call attention to youth art month, the teachers have arranged to send invitations

to the exhibits home to parents via many of the building newsletters. There will also be posters displayed in the communities and outdoor advertising.

Art teacher Denise Thompson will present a special "make it" session on the Bono show on TV 3 on Monday, March 15 and children's librarians, Al Locke and Barb Shamer will have Saturday activities emphasizing art.

Mrs. Ellis gives one reason for her involvement in the community exhibits. It is a matter of helping parents become more educated to the fact that we are geared to ward experience and a happy attitude rather than an end product.

Mrs. Ellis also is arranging to have the elementary children visit high school art departments and have high school students visit the grade schools.

While youth art month will be recognized throughout the state each school district is on its own as far as how to celebrate it.

The elementary art teachers in Farmington elected to plan and hang the exhibits. They are certain this is the most enjoyable way to get the message across.



Elementary art coordinator Gil Maxwell helps prepare a display for the Liberty Street library for youth art month. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

PTA wages 'coffee' campaign to get answers

The Farmington PTA was tired of people who said they were unaware of programs offered to district students.

So last year, the group decided to conduct a "Coffee and Comments" program that would give area parents the chance to

find out what was going on in their schools.

I guess we just got fed up with people

who didn't know what was happening in the schools," says Mrs. Donna Tupper, a Farmington resident and chairman of the PTA's committee sponsoring the discussion program.

Many residents don't know what is going on in the district or the basic purposes of our schools," she continues. "So we decided to conduct these coffees and let people come out to express their concerns and ideas about the district."

We gave parents the chance to say what was on their minds. We also let them know that what they said would be carried back to district administrators.

The coffees began by asking residents what they liked about programs in the schools and then let parents take it from there.

But we didn't want the sessions to turn into a gripe session," Mrs. Tupper says. "So we granted the program around questions we would ask the district. During a three week period, 188 coffees were attended by almost 1,000 concerned district residents."

These coffee and comment sessions fed

ed questions that the committee then prepared and sent to the district administrators for their reply.

Many of these answers were reported in the Farmington Observer & Eccentric last year.

The group has sent several questions concerning junior high school curriculum, testing, physical plants and other major topics to the school officials for comment.

Responses to these questions should be returned to the PTA by the end of this month," says Mrs. Tupper.

Through this program and having our questions answered by the school district, we have gathered a tremendous amount of information. We hope that when we get all our questions answered, we will be able to compile it all into a district fact book," she continues.

And then, hopefully, we can make that book available to the public, especially those residents who didn't attend the coffee program and those just moving into the community," Mrs. Tupper explains. "That way, everyone can have access to this information."



DONNA TUPPER

...and here are some results

The fifth series of questions posed to the school district through the Farmington Area PTA "Coffee and Comments" series are listed below.

Accompanying the questions are answers made by school district officials.

What is vocational education in the Farmington School District?
Vocational education means the same as career preparation. It includes academic and occupational knowledge and skills necessary for entry into an occupational field and/or further technical preparation.

How is it funded?
Farmington Schools receive approximately \$100,000 in categorical state aid for the express purpose of supporting and expanding these vocational programs that are approved by the State Department of Vocational Technical Education Service. Enrollment is limited to 11th and 12th grades only.

In 1967, the voters of Oakland County approved a mill to build and operate four vocational centers. Approximately 220 11th and 12th grade students are enrolled in the 16 programs at the Southwest Oakland Vocational Educational Center (SWOC).

Students spend about two-thirds of their day at SWOC and one-third at their home school.

Which programs are offered at the three senior high schools?
At Farmington High School, auto nursing, arts, machine shop, marketing, electronics, engineering, drafting, welding, printing, clerical typist and stenographic.

At North Farmington High School, auto

machine shop, marketing, clerk typist, stenographic and nursing in conjunction with Farmington High program.

All Farmington High auto electronics, engineering, drafting, clerk typist, stenographic and nursing through the Farmington High program.

Courses offered at SWOC are: auto machine shop, diesel mechanics, welding, arch welding, engineering, design, printing, floral design, advertising display, dental assisting, medical assisting, data processing and greenhouse management.

What are the total number of Farmington students enrolled in these programs?
Total students enrolled are 1,015.

What is cooperative education?
Cooperative education is a component of vocational education where students are placed on jobs related to one of the above vocational classes. Students must work a minimum of 15 hours per week or 360 hours per year to receive two credits which apply toward graduation.

A student may earn up to four credits which apply toward graduation.

Areas of cooperative education are: trade, industrial, health, marketing and office occupations.

Enrollment in the program totals approximately 300 students.

The summer coop program services an other 300 students.

What are the consumer and homemaking programs?
These are vocational courses designed to improve the quality of family living. Exploratory experiences are offered at each junior high school.

Specialized courses are offered at each senior high school because they meet certain state requirements and also generate some monies for Farmington schools.

The approved programs are: Child development, consumer education, foods and nutrition, housing and interior decorating, family living and clothing and textiles.

What is career education?
Career education is defined as the delivery of skills to all students which will provide them with the ability to explore, understand and perform in their life roles while learning, working and living.

Career education differs from the vocational programs described above in that it does not specifically prepare a student with the knowledge and skills of a particular profession or vocation.

Career education includes self-awareness, exploration, decision making, planning and placement.

The Farmington Public Schools have submitted as required by Public Act 97 a career education plan.

This plan, when and if ever fully funded, will provide a sequential curriculum of career education for elementary, junior and senior high school students.

Since funding to implement the career education plan is unavailable from state or federal agencies, the plan remains an effective.

All schools provide as they always have certain aspects of career planning to Farmington students.

IN MONDAY'S EDITION: Other courses offered by Farmington schools.



Pickings aren't easy for Molly the cat when the snow hits the ground. Stalking for a stray bird or rodent is difficult work. But, at last report, she was still searching. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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