



School psychologists explain their roles

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Four school psychologists will appear in a public information forum to break down some of the barriers and take away



DOUG SMITH

some of the mystery of what they do. The forum will be held by the Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (MACLD).

The quote comes from Ruth Schade, president of the Farmington Chapter of the association who will zero in on "helping, educating, informing and aiding parents where we can" during her tenure.

Judy Niehoff, Ron Redenour, Jim Meier and Lew Smith will address the open meeting at 8 p.m. Nov. 15 in Room J-292 in Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus.

Graham Lewis, director of Special Education in Farmington Schools, and Doug Smith, one of two supervisors of the department, will be in attendance to answer questions from the audience.

Parents and educators are always concerned and curious about the types of testing used by the psychologists, Mrs. Schade said.

They want to know what type of results the psychologist looks for, and what the various interpretations of these results are.

"THE PSYCHOLOGISTS panel," she continued, "will discuss these types as well as explain their role in the Educational Planning and Placement Committee (EPPEC).

This committee, stemming from about a three-year-old piece of legislation, is of particular importance to Mrs. Schade and the MACLD.

The Michigan Mandatory Special Education Act requires special education programs and services for all eligible handicapped children from the time they are born until they are 21 years old, or have graduated from high school.

After a referral is made of a child who may need special education, and testing and other educational evaluation have taken place, before any plan can be formulated, the local school superintendent must appoint an Educational Planning and Placement Committee.

Based on diagnostic data, this committee will decide if the child is eligible for special education, recommend the best program for the child and describe the program and educational goals.

The law requires the parents be invited to be a member of this committee.

All too often parents, perhaps remembering their own school experiences, shudder at the mention of the word test. All the word, psychological, and even more fears and anxieties are created, Mrs. Schade believes.

By learning more about the school psy-



Judy Niehoff tests, then runs continuous re-evaluations, for students from her office in Cloverdale Developmental Center. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

chologists and their role in the assessment of children, parents will be better equipped to understand the purpose, tools and procedures of testing.

SHE IS IN hopes the assessment and spelling out of the EPPEC will be viewed as a procedure necessary to assist a child in his present efforts and planning for his future.

The school system employs seven psychologists, all billeted in Cloverdale School, but as Ms. Niehoff explains, "our desks are here, but we are generally all over the area." They serve the school population of 15,000, that includes about

80 persons from 0 to 21 years of age who come to them under the mandatory special education act. Remedial reading and speech therapies fall under their purview as well as aid for the severely handicapped.

Ms. Niehoff and Smith both wanted to emphasize that they stood ready to respond to questions and problems, but they were not there to test for the sake of testing.

Smith explained, "If someone tells me his child has a problem and asks for help, then it is our job to see if we can help. But if he asks for a test to see how smart his kid is, that is not legitimate."

One child is faced with learning symptoms, and then how to live the problem he said.

Mrs. Schade believes that a parent who tells the school of a problem of a child's performance in the classroom is doing a very good job. He or she is helping parents understand the child's problem and work with the teacher and the school to find a way to help the child.

Under Mrs. Schade's new format for MACLD in the coming year, four general sessions will be held to open the public with a program of interest to all parents and all types of children.

Cori takes lead in Mercy fall play

Cori Hove, 12, is the lead in the Mercy Family Players' production of "The Sound of Music" in the school commons, 8400 Cambridge, Detroit.

The play will be shown Nov. 19 and 20 in the school commons, 8400 Cambridge, Detroit.

Up to the date of the play, Cori Hove, 12, is the lead in the Mercy Family Players' production of "The Sound of Music" in the school commons, 8400 Cambridge, Detroit.

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Rachelle Brooker, another Farmington resident and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Brooker, 1200 Congress, also has a role in the play.

Heading the costume crew is senior Rosemary Aboud, daughter of the Richard Abouds, 2030 Twelve Mile.

Rosemary made all of the costumes for the Mercy Family Players' production of "The Sound of Music" and was on the costume crew for the Farmington Family Players' production of "Chaper by the Darn" and "Charles and the Marshmallow Dragon."

Tickets at \$2.25 each are now on sale in the school commons. They will be \$2.50 if purchased at the door.



CORI HOVE

Nature of prejudice studied

Religious education will be devoted to an analysis of the nature of prejudice in the fall. The program will be held in the school commons, 8400 Cambridge, Detroit.

The first session will run from 7 to 9 p.m. and will be repeated on the evening of Nov. 20.

Richard L. Denton, the Michigan League of Religious Education, will conduct the workshop.

The workshop is a part of the purpose of the Michigan League of Religious Education, which is to provide a forum for the study of religious education.

sent and at work on their own, where it has a positive and negative effect on others.

It will also be continued, developing skills to analyze the message and impact of films and how they can be used creatively to deal with the issues of prejudice.

Additional films to be screened and discussed will be "The Defiant Image," "Christians and Jews," "A Brief History of Mexican Americans," "The Little Falls Incident," "A Black Odyssey," "Italians in America," "Jews in America," "Woman's Power," and "Bill Cosby on Prejudice."

THE WORKSHOP is sponsored by the Farmington Family Players, in cooperation with the Michigan League of Religious Education and the religious education office of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

The cost is \$2.00 to attend. A donation of \$2 will be asked at the door. Farmington Family Players is composed of religious educators who serve on time regularly for use in their churches and schools.

Membership is open to any interested in using audio-visuals in church education for all levels.

Filmation information can be had by calling Judy Holmes at 979-2100 ext. 21.



On a sentimental journey

Time to Take a Sentimental Journey will be the theme of the UD High School Mothers' Club 30th annual Gala Night, Nov. 20. Memorabilia in preparation for the event is being gathered by three Farmington members of the group, Mrs. Lucien J. Dreyer, (left), Mrs. Conrad Chapman and Mrs. Robert Lilly. Members

of the Austin-More Band will specialize in the big band sound starting at 9 p.m. for parents of students, alumni and friends of UD High, in the school commons, 8400 Cambridge, Detroit. Tickets are \$8 each and may be reserved by calling Mrs. Dieter Rohl, 261-7375.

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Artists prepare for showing

The members of the Farmington Artist Club will pull out their best works to go on display and up for sale when the group holds its fall show Nov. 19-21 in the downstairs room of the Farmington Public Library.

The exhibit will consist of two galleries one juried with awards and one open.

Both will feature a wide variety of styles and techniques created by club members many of whom are prominent artists in the metropolitan area.

The club is now in its 12th year and

has a high degree of talent and organization.

Ray Fleming, painting instructor for the Birmingham-Bloomfield Arts Association will act as judge for the 1973 fall show.

Following a format that is now a tradition with the club, the exhibit will also have an unframed budget art department where original paintings will be available for \$15 and under.

Admission is free, refreshments will be served and public opinion will be solicited in the club's most popular painting pool.

Sixty members of the club are now preparing their work for the show and are working on a variety of projects.

The Farmington Artist Club, which is made up of artists who contribute to the community by their art, is open to the public for the show on Nov. 19-21.

The show will be held in the downstairs room of the Farmington Public Library, 1000 Congress, Detroit. The show will be open from 7 to 9 p.m.

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