

Students learn energy lesson

(Continued from page 1A)

who previously taught in the Farmington School District.

"Even if the savings were minimal, we helped the students re-evaluate themselves to cope with a situation. They even made energy saving one of the themes of last year's yearbook."

PERHAPS the fact that a student was behind the whole concept assisted in kicking off the program.

Now a senior, Shawn Burns was one of the students on the calendar committee, one of the many committees at

Mercy in which students, faculty and parents plan for the next year.

It was Ms. Burns' idea to go with the four-day school week, a concept that garnered the high school national TV coverage last year.

With all the interest in energy saving, Mercy found itself ahead of the game. In fact, McKee and students traveled to an energy symposium in Lansing only to find that they could have been on the panel rat... in the audience, since Mercy... engaging in the on-stage proposals.

Will it work in other schools?

William Prisk, assistant superintendent of finance in the Farmington School District, wants some hard figures first. Because last year was a milder winter than 1976-77, most districts experienced some savings, he says.

But he admits that the idea has potential. What it needs is someone to thoroughly investigate the angles in a full-time capacity, particularly because the public school level it might take county participation to bring the program across.

Athletics and practices would have

to be rescheduled. The district participates in the county's vocational education program and others which would call for cooperation.

And since Farmington School District by law provides for transportation for parochial students as well as public school students, converting to a four-day winter week or a longer vacation in the coldest months of the year with extensions into warmer months might require that every school in the area cooperate in the effort.

The ideas are there, Prisk says; but "Is it worth it? That's what we need to know."

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Recreation offered for winter months

A bevy of offerings for adults and children to liven up the fall and winter are being planned by West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Dept.

The newest edition of "Time Out!" newsletter, mailed to more than 12,000 township homes, features a rundown of upcoming events, classes, afternoons and evenings out and extended travel, sponsored by the parks department.

Halloween events include the annual Township Pumpkin Carving and Decorating Contest (Oct. 21), a bonfire and hayride (Oct. 22), a children's Halloween Costume Party (Oct. 28) and a trip for pre-schoolers to the Detroit Institute of Arts Theatre (Oct. 30).

A Thanksgiving Puppet Show for pre-schoolers on the day before Thanksgiving will give their mothers time for uninterrupted cooking while Christmas events include: a Santa's Party for pre-schoolers; a supervised trip to the Christmas Carnival at Cobo Hall for older school-age children; Christmas Walks at both Meadowbrook Hall and Grosse Pointe and a holiday decoration festival.

TRIPS FOR YOUNG and old are on tap including Saturday outings to the

Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary and Ice Follies for school children, "Teen Treks" to football and hockey games, ski trips, and week-day trips to Kelly & Company, Frankomuth, the Ren Cen, the Detroit Art Institute and a play at the Fisher for adults with some leisure time to spend.

Evenings out, especially planned for theatre and music lovers, include a performance of the award-winning musical "Annie," the Detroit Symphony's Schubert-Vienna Festival and a Yuletide Evening at Greenfield Village.

Extended travel offerings include a Williamsburg Weekend (Nov. 25-28), Boyne Mountain Family Ski Weekend (Feb. 22-25) and a Ski Week in Austria (March 2-8).

Fall classes include painting and bridge and one-time workshops on dried flower arranging, nature ornaments, winter wildlife and a hunter safety clinic.

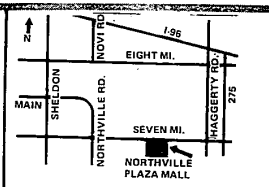
A series of mini-courses to introduce adults and youths to some sports and hobbies include sessions on: 10-speed bicycle maintenance, model rocketry and home stereo HiFi systems.

For further information on the parks and recreation program, call 661-2240.

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