



Izumi Yokoo explains to her classmates at Mercy High School what life is like in her native Japan. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

### Customs and foods exchanged

## Students learn of foreign lands

Foreign intrigue fit the halls of Mercy High School this week. Unfamiliar accents and unusual foods were evident around almost every hall corner.

And in the gym, a mock French gambling casino materialized.

The celebration of other cultures was part of language day at the Farmington Hills school. Students, travelers and visitors from other lands united their efforts to bring different cultures to language students at the school.

Izumi Yokoo, an exchange student from Japan entertained her American classes with a description of her life back home in Toyota, Japan.

American customs such as hugging and kissing in greeting surprised her at first.

"Suddenly everyone was hugging me. We never do that. It's scary," said Ms. Yokoo. She smiled at her audience and her classmates shared a giggle.

The custom of kissing close relatives also came as a surprise to her.

"We never do that," she said, referring to children kissing their parents. "I do nothing with my parents," she said.

THE 17-YEAR-OLD student is a junior this year at Mercy instead of a senior so she could brush up on her English. Although she likes America, she plans to return to Japan and attend a university. She demonstrated the way she

writes her name in Japanese on the blackboard, writing it so fast that murmurs of surprise came from her classmates.

The style she used to write her name is called Hiragana, which came from China, she said. A more angular style called Kojiki, which originated in Japan, is also used. A third style of writing is used to convey foreign words, like television.

"I think Japanese is a difficult language. In novels they used all three types of writing," she said, while confiding to her audience that she came to America with a supply of Japanese books.

She is staying with the family of Mercy student Coleen Kaminski. Ms. Kaminski stayed with the Yokoo family in Japan last year.

Art in Africa also took the stage during language day.

Sculpture brought by Mrs. Cheaber Farmer from her trips to the continent illustrated her discussion of African customs and life.

MRS. FARMER, the grandmother of Mercy students Rachael and Donna Givens, taught Latin and Swahili in Detroit's Mumford High School until her retirement.

Holding up a small wooden statue of a boy climbing a tree that she found in Western Africa, Mrs. Farmer said, "Look what they can do with a little junk."

As the class laughed and passed around the statue, she took out another small carving of a stool.

The stool is a symbol of authority which keeps away evil. In Akra the stool was the symbol of the king's authority. The British took the original made from gold and placed it in one of their museums.

Besides being a symbol of authority, the stool is used to represent the Earth in the saying, "the earth is the foot-stool of God."

When asked by a student why the British didn't return the stool, Mrs. Farmer replied, "They didn't give the things they took from Tutankhamen's tomb to Egypt. It's the same thing."

"Finders keepers, losers weepers."

From the art of Africa, the topic switched to manners in Polish society.

HATS AND GLOVES are still worn by women wanting to look elegant in Poland. But blue jeans are encroaching on the fashion scene.

Occasionally, both fashions will combine and a woman will appear with hat, gloves and blue jeans.

If a coat is added to the costume, the woman will be helped into it by her male companion.

Helping women on with their coats has faded from American society and it took a while before Robert Giercek, director of Polish Studies at St. Mary's Seminary Orchard Lake, became used to the idea.

"It embarrassed me until I got used to it," he said.

If he forgot to hold his wife's coat, his friends reminded him.

Another custom, is kissing the woman's hand as a form of greeting.

Language day is part of an approach to language at Mercy that teachers say has encouraged young women to sign up for the classes.

Language is not required at the school, which offers courses in French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek and Polish.

THE APPROACH has helped the school increase enrollment in language classes by 18 per cent from last year and by 32 per cent over the last three years, according to Mary Jane Smith, chairman of the language department.

Of the school's 1,300 students, 1,202 are enrolled in language courses with French and Spanish vying for the lead as the most popular class in the department.

"We don't know if they've (language days) been of special help but they haven't hurt enrollment," said Ms. Smith.

The popularity of the classes also is helped by the business climate of the country.

"Part of it has to do with the way the U.S. culture is opening up. English is no longer enough," she said.

Holding a miniature carving of a stool once used by African royalty, Cheaber Farmer tells Mercy students about her travels through the continent. She wears native garb. (Staff photo)

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

**THANKSGIVING** holiday will be just a little bit nicer for Farmington area senior citizens thanks to the efforts of the Farmington Area Jaycees and the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Division. The two groups are throwing a Thanksgiving luncheon at noon on Nov. 22 at the Mercy Center. All seniors interested should call Loretta Conway at 474-6118 to make reservations. Transportation will be made available through the senior adult transportation service. Just call 474-3333. Both the ride and the meal are on the house.

**HOLIDAY SHOPPERS** are being offered a deal by the Parks and Recreation Division. On Dec. 7, a bus will depart from Farmington Hills City Hall, 3155 Eleven Mile, at 9:30 a.m. For \$5, the spree will include a trip to Renaissance Center as well as a tour of the Detroit metropolitan area newest attraction. Lunch will be on your own. The bus will return at about 3:30 p.m. Persons may register at the parks and recreation offices, at 474-6115.

**RAILROAD FANS** take heed. The Farmington Hills library branch, 32737 Twelve Mile, is sponsoring a program on model railroading Nov. 21, from 7-9 p.m. This free program will feature guest speakers from Joe's Hobby Shop in Farmington. Films on model railroading and an explanation and display of many different types of model railroading devices and equipment will also be featured.

**DON'T FORGET** about Mercy High School's production of Joseph Kesselring's play "Arsenic and Old Lace." The play will be presented on Nov. 17-18 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available through the school for a price of \$2.25. The school is at 29300 Eleven Mile.

**NIGHTHAWKS, ATTENTION.** The word is out that some heavy duty late night discussions take place up at Greene's Hamburger place on Ten Mile and Orchard Lake, especially after Monday night council meetings. Discussion leader is Sharon Rieden, who makes a heck of a good cup of coffee.

**CONTEST TIME** with a holiday theme is on tap at the Farmington library. The children's department is sponsoring a holiday decoration contest for elementary school aged children. Children are invited to create original holiday decorations based on characters from children's literature. The ornaments should be brought to either of the branches between December 11-20. The holiday ornaments may be constructed from paper, balsam wood, bread dough, clay, styrofoam, felt, yarn, clothespins, shells or other creative materials. They must be original, home-made ornaments. Store bought kits are unacceptable. They will be displayed in the library. Prizes will be awarded for the most original and for the best

crafted ornaments in two different age categories: Kindergarten through third grade and fourth through sixth grade. Winners will be notified by December 23.

**M-I-C-K-E-Y** because we like you. All those Mickey Mouse fans will have a chance to celebrate his 50th birthday with a special program on Nov. 18 at both branches of the Farmington library system. Registration is unnecessary. Highlights of the party will be cartoon characters in fun fitness for all elementary aged students. Special "mouse" refreshments will be served. The Farmington branch, on Liberty, will present this program at 10:30 a.m., while the Hills branch, will hold their party at 2 p.m. of the same day. Children are invited to wear their Mickey Mouse tee-shirts or Mickey Mouse hats.

**DR. WARREN RINGOLD MD.**, has been named assistant director of the emergency department at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. The department handles 50,000 emergencies a year. Dr. Ringold has been a staff physician in Oakwood's emergency department for three years. The 30-year-old Farmington physician received his medical degree from the University of Michigan and graduated from Central Michigan University. Among his duties will be the development and implementation of a continuing medical education program for Oakwood's residents and emergency nursing staff.

**GABRIELLA SZAMBORSKI**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Szamborski, 32282 Lee Lane, Farmington, will be making music with the Susquehanna University Chamber Orchestra on Nov. 17 at the campus in Pennsylvania. She is a senior majoring in music.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO** Dr. Edwin Cohen D.O., of Farmington, who recently was elected vice president of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology. The college was formed to improve standards, stimulate study, extend knowledge and promote a general understanding of the services provided by osteopathic dermatologists.

**SINGLE POINT**, a metropolitan adult Christian singles group, will present the Covenant Players at its bi-monthly meeting Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Ward Presbyterian Church, Six Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. All single adults more 18 years or older are welcomed. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

**DEADLINE** Material submitted for the Inside Angle, 22170 Nine Mile, Southfield, 48034, should include the name and phone number of the sender and should be typewritten if possible. Items should be received at least one week before publication.



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