

## Education today

# Learning about science is a matter of doing

Farmington elementary education science coordinator Doug Cooper says that science has progressed from teachers with textbooks alone to a hands-on experience for students at all levels.

Most of that is at the elementary level with the adoption of the Science Curriculum Improvement Study program adopted by the district three years ago.

The SCIS has 12 distinct units of study for grades one through six, alternating life and physical science on a semester basis in a spiraling effect.

"SCIS brings together science and industry," Cooper said. "It allows children to do experiments. To touch equipment and see things happen. It increases in complexity as they move up the scale."

At the first level of the nationally developed program, youngsters learn to identify examples of solids, liquids and gases as objects. They watch plants grow, as well as observe the reproductive cycle of fish in an aquarium.

By the time they reach sixth grade, students learn about electric and magnetic interactions and ecosystems.

"The students clearly learn the basic fundamental of major science areas," Cooper explained. "It's important to teach a child how to observe, compare, set up tests. All science is based on operating in this mode: to define a problem, experiment with it and solve it."

WHAT WILL happen to the sixth grade SCIS program after the inception of the middle school next year is still a question mark. According to administrators, the alternatives include:

- Moving the sixth grade SCIS program to the middle school.
- Adding significant amounts of supplementary materials to the SCIS program.

- Finding a new transitional program for sixth graders.

Finishing a new sixth to eighth grade science block that articulates the SCIS and high school science programs.

Cooper said in science there is an attempt to avoid rote memorization.

"We stick to basic concepts and theories. A scientist can spend his whole life in a minute area and never learn everything," he said.

"Most great scientists who've made contributions are still alive today."

At the seventh- and eighth-grade level, the approach is both process- and content-oriented in science. Jane Eastep, who teaches seventh grade science at O.E. Duncel Junior High, teaches a hands-on approach that deals with 63 investigations in one year.

"It's exciting because it's mostly experiments," Mrs. Eastep said. "They learn to use lab equipment and they learn lab safety."

"Most people feel students do better by doing than by reading."

EIGHTH-GRADERS also have a hands-on approach in science, concentrating on five types of energy and matter work: chemistry, electricity, light, heat and mechanical properties.

"This is introductory in nature to physics and chemistry," Mrs. Eastep said. "But if they don't go any further, at least the students have had some exposure to them."

A year-long study by the science staff of the curriculum includes many changes. Next year, a class in geophysical sciences will be mandatory for ninth-graders. That includes segments in geology, meteorology, oceanography and astronomy.

The board of education will also be asked to approve more than one year of mandatory science for high school students. More semester courses will be offered.

Courses in the high schools include biology, anthropology, microbiology, physiology, anatomy, chemistry, physical science, physics, electronics and astronomy.

Staffers who completed the science curriculum study concluded that more communication needs to occur among science teachers districtwide and a district plan consisting of science goals and objectives needs to be formulated.



Susan Tudek learns that recording the information learned in an experiment is essential to learning and remembering science. (Staff photo)



The study of science in today's schools means teachers and students working together in performing some complex experiments which might surprise students of the past. Working on an experiment at Duncel Junior High are (from left) Jane Eastep, Steve Belrose and Darci Brown. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Students tuning station into educational feat

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Orchard Ridge's WORB has taken another twist and turn in its short but checkered career.

At its inception three years ago, Oakland Community College professors on the Farmington Hills campus were looking toward the campus radio station as a miniature copy of the Wayne State University station WDET-FM.

Instead, they received a melange of rock 'n' roll and dead air space. After several managers with different styles of running the station, the new crew at WORB vows it will bring back a semblance of professionalism they claim has been missing from the 10-watt college station.

The rock 'n' roll format remains but personnel, who donate their time, are trying to shape the station into a learning tool rather than a commercial success.

That's where WORB station manager Michael Lewis, 24, parts with the WDET style of radio.

"From the very beginning of the station, it was in the constitution to educate people in broadcast arts. That's what we should be doing."

"WDET is nice for the community. But the people who work on it aren't preparing for a career in broadcasting. They'll be prepared only for educational radio. And those people end up as part-time pump jockeys."

WHILE the college crews aren't trying to emulate a large commercial station, they are trying to learn and work with the operation's different aspects.

Lewis points to several former students who have gone onto commercial radio work as proof that OCC's student station has had some impact.

Ken Clavert, disc jockey from WRIF, Steve Cestina, a WJWW disc jockey, and Eric Goldberg, WABX music director, are among those who have passed through the halls of Orchard Ridge.

Afternoon disc jockey Christy Silvers has one foot out of college radio, already. She is the weekend DJ at Ann Arbor's WQIB, which follows a rock 'n' roll format.

Ms. Silvers, 20, left the OCC radio station late last year, disenchanted.

"It was unprofessional," she says. "She moved to WABX, where she was an assistant promotions director, and then to WSHJ, the Southfield school district station which is affiliated with ABC."

Finally, in June, Lewis managed to woo her back to WORB.

"I wanted more air time," she says. "And this is a good learning tool. If you make a mistake at a college station, you can say, 'Oops, I goofed.' At a commercial station one mistake and you're reprimanded; two mistakes and you're out."

The Bloomfield Hills resident began her career in high school radio stations. At Andover High School, her theme song, "Thirty Days in the Hole" by Humble Pie, was rated number one by her student audience.

"I thought to myself, 'I must have something here,'" she remembered as she sat in WORB's crowded studio.



Putting new life into the sound of WORB radio at the Orchard Ridge campus is student Christy Silver. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

IT'S THAT FEELING of discovery that the new management wants students to maintain. But it also wants to achieve some popularity among the campus radio audience.

"We want to turn people out for jobs," Lewis admits. "But we also depend on a record service for promotional copies for the station. We're dying for one. It keeps us contemporary."

With fresher records supplied by the producers, Lewis hopes to make some small headway into the campus listening habits.

He wants programming which would feature songs that most of the listeners know and enjoy.

Programmed radio is a viable way to run a station for Lewis. His attitude toward pressure groups which would prefer that the stations abandon their play lists is summed up in his description of them as "that group of crazies."

"If it's not on a play list, chances are most of the listeners don't want to hear it. In that case, aficionados of the songs would be better off patronizing the local record shop."

"THE MASSES like two-minute tunes," Lewis said. Stations like Detroit's jazz-oriented WJZZ-FM, Lewis says, attract only a small number of listeners for music that most would prefer to ignore.

He prefers the WORB disc jockeys play local artists such as Bob Seger, Ted Nugent and Mitch Ryder.

In the future, Lewis and the crew are looking toward applying to drop their 10-watt status and move up to 100 watts. A recent Federal Communications Commission decision has 10-watt stations scrambling for the higher power rating. The FCC will re-assign 10 watt stations to different positions on the dial. That cramming may not be advantageous for the stations.

One of the stumbling blocks the new management faces is that the station's license renewal was set in late by the preceding management. That means the station must wait until late November to learn if it will keep its license.

"It's foolish to spend a lot of money for a power increase if we don't know if we have a license renewal," Lewis says.

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

CLANG CLANG CLANG is the sound of a shiny red fire engine zooming down the street.

Fire department fans can get a better look at these glistening red monsters during the Farmington Hills Fire Department's open house in honor of Fire Prevention Week.

Fire stations are welcoming visitors from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 9-14. Take a peek at fire equipment at the following locations: Station 1, 24021 Research Drive, near Ten Mile and Haggerty; Station 2, 28222 Middle Belt, north of Twelve Mile and Station 3, 21420 Wheeler, between Grand River and Middle Belt. Equipment will be demonstrated. Kids will get balloons.

Large groups should call 476-0107, station 1 to make arrangements.

NO, JOHN Singer Sargent didn't invent the sewing machine. But he did turn out a few paintings in his time.

To learn more about JSS, attend a luncheon at Temple Kol Ami, 5085 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

The luncheon will begin at noon Oct. 15 and feature guest speaker Joyce Ellen Moore of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Her speech is entitled "John Singer Sargent and the Edwardian Age."

Reservations are required by calling Doris at 626-7366 or Judy at 851-0910. Tickets are \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members.



### Joins design firm

Elmer Wille of Farmington Hills has joined the store design and construction firm of Jon Greenberg and Associates of Southfield. He is liaison there to the trade associations for whom the Greenberg firm is national design consultant.

ANGLES WISHES to repeat that Willoughby Wink doesn't really exist.

(Honest) Wink and his campaign to permeate the Hills with free beer and pizza exists only in the mind of LA's boss.

Recently, the Observer office has been faced with persons asking honestly if they could buy tickets to Wink's Waftle Dinner. Angles wants to assure those persons that no such tickets are available.

FARMINGTON SHOWED A lot of heart in helping Ruth and Howard Eldredge when they lost their home to a fire. The Section 36 Homeowners Association sponsored a dance to help the Eldredges raise enough money to rebuild.

The group wants to borrow Angle's column to say the following:

"The Section 36 Homeowners Association would like to express their thanks to the groups who assisted them with the 'Eldredge Dance.' They are: Metropolitan National Bank, Knights of Columbus, The Gathering Place at Mercy Center, the Farmington Area Jaycees, T&L Printing, Farmington Hills Department of Parks and Recreation, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Farmington Chamber of Commerce and Michigan National Bank."

"Special thanks to the Mach 5 band: Bill Ahee, Wally Steinhilb, Chuck Watrous and their leader Fred Dinglie."

HILLEL DAY School celebrated the festival of Sukkot which began Oct. 5. Sukkot is a thanksgiving festival in celebration of the bounty of the harvest.

The Sukkah is a hut built outside the house and decorated with autumn leaves and colorful fruits and vegetables. Family and friends gather in the Sukkah during the first seven days of the holiday to feast, sing and pray.

Classes of Hillel students will be celebrating the holiday by partaking of treats in the Sukkah on Oct. 10-12.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL Services of Oakland County, 29825 Inkster Road, Farmington is looking for black adoptive parents for homeless black children in Michigan.

Ten adoption agencies of the tri-county area have scheduled an open meeting at 7 p.m. Oct. 22 in the auditorium of Oakland County Court, 1200 North Telegraph, Pontiac. Three black families who have adopted children will talk of their experiences both in the adoption process and with their children.

For more information call 551-7180.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN Church at 35300 West Eight Mile, Farmington Hills, will install its new pastor at 8:30 p.m., Oct. 14. Pastor Lowell Anderson comes to Bethlehem Lutheran from Prince of Peace Church in Grand Rapids.