

Math scores dip in Clarenceville

By Teri Banas  
staff writer

The math program for upper elementary schoolchildren in the Clarenceville School District is getting close attention following release of test scores in the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP).

The results showed that Clarenceville's seventh-grade math scores dropped from the previous year, putting the school at the bottom of the list of other Oakland County school districts. Only the score from the Pontiac Schools was worse in the 27-school district comparison.

Clarenceville, which includes part of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township, fared better in the area of seventh-grade math scores when com-

pared to the 34 school districts that reported there. It ranked in the middle of this comparison.

Patricia Vickery, administrative assistant for instruction, said the math program for the fourth, fifth and sixth grades was discussed by the administration during a review of the test scores and that "we would be working to verify our program."

"(The problem) is mostly with fractions and decimals," she said in explaining where students scored lowest.

However, Vickery said, these objectives are not being overlooked in their total curriculum, just laughed later.

"THESE ARE not part of our mastery objectives for this curriculum but for the seventh and eighth graders. We're teaching it to them, but later on."

Some 385 Clarenceville students took the MEAP test in the fall, shortly after the start of this school year. Results show that Clarenceville test scores declined in the areas of seventh-grade math, 10th-grade math and 10th grade reading. Scores went up in the areas of fourth-grade math, fourth-grade reading and seventh-grade reading.

In the math program, 87.9 percent of the fourth-graders tested understood at least 75 percent of the test objectives, compared to 77.3 percent last year. Among seventh-grade students, 58.5 percent understood at least 75 percent of the math objectives, compared to 74.7 percent of them last year. In the 10th grade, 64.7 percent of the students understood at least 75 percent of the math material, down from 72.8 last year.

In the reading program, 86.4 percent of the fourth-graders understood at least 75 percent of the test material compared to 80.3 last year. In the seventh grade, 80.7 percent of the students understood at least 75 percent of the test material, compared to 77.1 percent last year. In the 10th grade, 82 percent of the students understood at least 75 percent of the test material, compared to 85 percent last year.

"WE WERE very encouraged with the fourth-grade (scores)," said Vickery. "Our teachers do attend to the MEAP (test) as one tool, but we never force anyone to teach the objectives out of context."

Currently, the district's math and social studies curriculums are being reviewed in a five-year review program, said Vickery.

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% of Clarenceville students mastering 75-100% of objectives				
	1984-85	1983-84	1982-83	1981-82
fourth grade				
mathematics:	87.9	77.3	88.5	88.9
reading:	86.4	80.3	91.0	81.9
seventh grade				
mathematics:	58.6	74.7	70.9	63.4
reading:	80.7	77.1	88.6	74.4
10th grade				
mathematics:	64.7	72.8	61.7	67.6
reading:	82.0	85.0	75.8	77.1

Determined not to kill animals, she plans a haven for dogs, cats

By Sharon Dargatz  
staff writer

Lydia Stack wants to turn a small patch of country into "Dog City U.S.A." by summer.

If she scrapes together several thousand dollars, she will turn a peaceful rural homestead into a haven for the homeless. There'll be roomy pens for stray dogs and cats, a veterinary clinic, a boarding kennel and a section for pets that senior citizens can no longer keep at home.

The vision, a cross between an animal hotel, orphanage and hospice, is mapped out in Xerox copies of sample floor plans that Stack shows supporters.

"It's going to be in the country for several reasons. The dogs have to go out. I have six runs now, but when it's raining they can't go out," said the Birmingham woman.

Stack, who started the Oakland Humane Society from her house several years ago, has her sights set on two potential farmsteads. If a fundraising drive which is now under way is successful, she'll move most of her dogs but keep part of her Detroit shelter open.

Stack would like to break her de-

pendency on annual fund-raising drives and use revenue-generating programs to help defray monthly bills — which now mount to \$14,000.

"I want a boarding kennel that generates money for the shelter. If someone wanted us to pick up an animal, we'd have an ambulance go out for a small fee. Or they could take a nice ride out into the country to us."

Her current shoestring budget, built mostly by donations, doesn't stretch far enough. Yet the self-described fighter, an image she readily admits some perceive as "bitchy," won't compromise her vow to keep all sheltered animals alive.

IT'S A PROMISE that has cost Stack ownership of a home in Troy, telephone service at her rented Birmingham residence, and credibility among some colleagues.

"Unless the person has a lot of financial assistance it would be considered impossible," said Dr. Charles Dominguez, the state's chief assistant veterinarian. "There's no way you can pick up unwanted animals and try to find homes for them without getting rid of some or to keep enlarging. In her case, one of the biggest problems we have is overcrowding."



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

If Lydia Stack can't find a home, she gives a home to stray animals. Her Oakland Humane Society is strained beyond its limits now, with

"No matter how big the warehouse becomes, it goes to be a problem."

Dominguez said Stack's shelter has improved its efforts to maintain sanitary, uncrowded conditions over the past few years. At maximum occupancy, she turns away strays, but she won't put animals to death for economic reasons. She'll scrape together money for expensive veterinary services for sick or injured animals rather than put the animal to sleep.

"I've loved animals all my life. I'd rather fight than be like the rest," she said, pointing out that other shelters routinely put strays to sleep.

Carl Anderson, Oakland County animal control manager, said unlicensed strays are killed or offered for adoption after spending a minimum four days in the shelter. Seven cities, including Troy and Farmington, operate animal control departments but send strays to the county shelter in

Pontiac. The county also runs a shelter, by contract, for Southfield.

Anderson said "a few" persons adopt sick dogs, sometimes spending up to \$200 for veterinary care. But the majority seek healthy animals.

Stack, a native of Czechoslovakia who spends hours tending her charges, rejects the claim that her unwavering love for animals has become a costly obsession.

"WHAT'S A HOUSE? I have a roof over my head and I'm happy," she said. "People ask me, 'How come you don't help people if you have so much compassion?' I used to go to a nursing home and give people there haircuts. Sometimes relatives would come over and they'd be upset because I was so close to (the residents)."

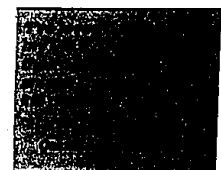
Her two-year imprisonment in a Nazi concentration camp at age 19 has galvanized Stack's determination

but didn't harden her heart. Even those colleagues who question her methods admire her commitment.

Stack said a north or west Oakland County location would reclaim her suburban business, 75 percent of which was lost when the shelter moved from Sterling Heights to factory-lined Mt. Elliot, south of Eight Mile, nearly four years ago at the behest of the state Agricultural Department.

Adoptions, the hallmark of Stack's seven-year-old organization, have dwindled at the urban site and sent shelter occupancy soaring to some 500 animals. Minimum wage workers have replaced the corps of volunteers who once cared for her strays.

"I want to keep part of the Detroit shelter open. We're still needed down there," she said. "I hope I can get a new kennel. It's got to be sometime next year."



**INSIDE ANGLES**

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: *Inside Angles*, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

**JACK T. NACCASHIAN**, son of Edward and Mary Naccashian of Farmington Hills and a 1981 graduate of Harrison High School, has entered the U.S. Air Force Delayed Enlistment Program. He will enter the Regular Air Force on Dec. 17.

**CHRISTOPHER BEITING**, Kristen Mincsek and Deborah Williams, from the Farmington area, have been named to the dean's list at Kalamazoo College. Students named to the dean's list must achieve a 3.5 grade point average or better on a 4.0 scale.

**STEVE PAUL**, son of Stephen and Dianne Paul and a 1981 graduate of Farmington High School, was one of nine students at Adrian College who appeared in the recent production of "Rashomon," a Japanese tragedy. The play was performed six times over a two week span.

**AIRMAN ERIC SMITH**, son of Wickie and Edna Smith of Farmington and a 1984 graduate of Farmington High School, has been assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, after completing Air Force basic training. He will now receive specialized instruction in the aircraft maintenance field.

**JOIN IN THE FUN** at McFrocks' Saloon, 27820 Orchard Lake Road, as they host their Third Annual Pasta Eating Contest to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 9 p.m.

**A REPRESENTATIVE** from World-Wide TV and Appliance will be on hand at the Farmington Branch Library at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3, to discuss what to look for when purchasing video cassette recorders and video cameras. Register by calling 474-7770.

**LEARN HOW** to make an all-natural pine cone Christmas wreath at Independence Oaks County Park. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m.-12 noon Saturday, Dec. 1. Participants will also learn to decorate their wreaths naturally with nuts, leaves and berries. You must bring a grocery bag of pine cones for wreath-making. All other materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 658-0903.

**KEVIN COLLINS** of Farmington Hills is a member of the 1984-85 men's varsity hockey team at Lake Forest College. Kevin, a junior, is majoring in business.

**PVT. MICHAEL MCCOY**, son of Carol Rice of Farmington and a 1984 graduate of Farmington High School, has completed basic and advanced individual training as a cavalry scout at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

**MICHAEL THIBODEAU**, was one of seven students from Oakland County inducted into Alma College chapter of Beta Beta (Tri-Beta), national biological honor society. Michael, a junior, is the son of Francis and Judith Thibodeau of Farmington Hills and a 1983 graduate of the University of Detroit High School. He is majoring in biology at Alma.

**SANDRA WEST**, of Farmington Hills, was recently named a Michigan Certified Nurseryman by the Michigan Association of Nurserymen Certification Board. In order to receive this designation, she was required to pass a three-hour exam that tested her general knowledge of Michigan's nursery industry, her ability to identify plant specimens, and her skills in landscape planning and design.

**PVT. MICHAEL CATON**, son of Ross and Betty Caton of Farmington Hills and a 1979 graduate of Bishop Borgess High School, was involved in a NATO-sponsored exercise by participating in the Army's return of forces to Germany and the Air Force's Crested Cap exercises. Caton is an infantryman with the 3rd Infantry Division in Aschaffenburg, West Germany.

**ROSEMARY LANNEN**, Maureen O'Brien, Mary Herrmann, Kristin Mincsek, Laurie Miller and Andrea Petrioli, from the Farmington area, were among students currently participating in the Kalamazoo College's foreign study program, an integral part of the educational experience. Students are living with host-country families in the European countries of England, France, Scotland, Germany, Denmark, Greece, Spain and Italy. In addition students are studying in Hong Kong, Japan, Africa and Colombia. They receive full academic credit for the successful completion of work overseas.

**BRADLEY S. FILLION**, son of Lewis and Barbara Fillion of Farmington Hills and a 1983 graduate of Clarenceville High School, entered the U.S. Air Force. He will receive technical training as an aircraft maintenance spec and be assigned to an Air Force duty station.

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