Lycee kids learn to master French



teacher Corinne Minart helps first-grader Matthew Serizay with his writing skills.

YCEE INTERNATIONAL School Information of Minart holds up a card with the word twouge the path and in the first of the to say the word. They do, and, still in French, the say "very good," going on to the next card. For these students, many of whose families have been transferred here from other countries, there is nothing unnatural about learning and being taught in French.

About 50 percent of the school's preschool and the sindergrates instruction is in French, and the students are encouraged to use both French and English throughout the day in activities and conversation.

throughts ——conversation.

Through this "immersion" in the language, it becomes natural for them to communicate in a second language at a

communicate in a second language at a very young age.

The emphasis is on the learning activity, not the language, and Jean-Francois Genay, director and former French coordinator at the United Nations International School in New York City. "Children acquire the second language in the same way that they learned their first language — through listening and speaking."

the first bilingual school in Michigan to offer an "immersion" program in French for elementary-age students. An accredited, independent, non-profit-school, it was founded in 1987 as the "City School of Detroit." It always emphasized bilingual education but changed its name when it moved to its present sits in 1981, for effect the school's expanded French curriculum.

moved to its present site in 1991, to reflect the school's expanded French curriculum.

The school is not of a network of 21
French schools in the United States, is
licensed by the Michigan Department
of Education and is accredited by the
French Ministry of Education. It was
established with the goal of bringing to
the greater Detroit area is unique, international, bilingual and multi-cultural institution of learning.

Currently, preschool through ninth
grades are offered. The school has
long-range plans to add bening grades.
The program is designed to prepare
students for the French or the international baccalaureate.

The preschool flare of the international baccalaureate.

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with the same focus of learning a second language.

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learned their-first language — through listening and speaking."

THE LYCEE International School, France or French speaking countries.

The home languages of other students



Few are studying foreign languages

Emphasis on foreign language training differs throughout the world.
In the United States:

- Fifteen percent of all high school students study a foreign language.
 Eight percent of American col-leges require a foreign language for ad-
- Nine percent of college students enroll in foreign language courses.
 Four percent of high school graduates today reach meaningful foreign

- two-year colleges offer no foreign language.
 In other countries:

 In Japan, 80 percent of students take foreign languages from the age of 2½.
- e in Sweden, atudents have nine years of English by the time they grad-uate from secondary school.

 In France, students have at least four years of a foreign language in high

include Italian, German, Speilich, Lebances and Farci, to name a few.
Early immoration is also an effective
mease of helping students gain an undevertanding of forcion cultures.

"In a way, it's kind of a reverse of
the intiling pot theory, which is that
weveryone melts is one English language," said state Sea. Jack Faxon, D.
Farmington Hills, founder and director
of the school.

"Here, everyone feels a pride in their
own language, at the came time learning English and French for those who
don't know it."

Even the leachers come from diverse backgrounds our own little Unitod Wattons. Men french for the school
that Faxon refers lass our own little Unitod Wattons. Men their proposers,
while presented teacher Thiondie
About hais from to levery Cossi.

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"I THINK that what's really unnusu-al about it is that we have such an in-ternational flavor," edded Faxon, whose district includes Southfield. "Southfield has many international corporations housed here, but this is

constant as many international corporations housed here, but this is one of the few institutions that has succeeded in having an international mix.

The English-speaking teacher in Minart's class is Janet Potitier.

I love it. I thought this would be a real experience to learn the French immersion program, she said. It's real executing Some of these kids come into school in the fall, and within three mostles, they can understand everything Corinne says.

Some of these kids, 3 to 4 years old, in preschool — they already speak fluent French, Quite a few of these kids are trilingual.

ALTHOUGH SHE has a French name, she says, "I know very little French. My part is to speak English to them, so I really try to block out the French."

them, so I really try to block out the French."

An open house for prospective students and their parents will be held 23 pm., Sunday, Dec. 8.

Parents and their children are invited to tour the school, meet with other parents, and learn more about the bidingual academic programs in French and the school of the students in presenced, and the school of the students in presenced. The school of the students in presenced in the school of the school o

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, carned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmingion-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with ion-area distincts angle — account with m you so we can share your news item with er Farmington Observer readers. Send ms to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 03 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

ARCHITECTS CITED

O ARCHITECTS CITED

Two Farmington fills architects were honored by the Michigan Society of Architects — part of the American Institute of Architects (ALA). Repeated in the American Institute of Architects (ALA) for the renovation of the Grosse Points Shores Municipal Offices. The building originally designed by architect Alabeaus at least six interior and exterior alterations had been completed on the building through the years, little historic detail remained. Wakely stripped the building to its, wood frame and masonry exterior walls and rebuilt it. Using details and proportions from the original building, he added 6,000 square feet to the north side. The building no bouses the village police, fire and administrative offices:

William Jarrati received a gold medal — the

building now houses the village police, fire and no-ministrative offices?

Milliam Jarratt received a gold medal — the highest honor the Michigan architectural profession can bestow on its members. He was honored for "an extraordinary contribution" to the Michigan Society of Architects and for "outstanding achieve-nent" as a professional architect.

Jarratt began teaching at the University of Mich-igan in Ann Arbor this year following retirement after 10 years with the Detroit architectural firm, Smith, Hinchman & Grylls.

He has served the Michigan Society of Architects since 1954. He also has served on the AlA National Board of Directors and on many national commit-tees.

tees.

Jarratt was the Michigan Society's president in 1973. In 1989, he was president of the AIA's Detroit chapter. Since 1975, he has been a member of the AIA College of Fellows as well as its chancelior. Considered an architectural pacestier, Jarratt has left his mark on the S.S. Kresgo C. Internation at Headquarters in Troy and the McNamara Federal Office Building in Detroit.

He also was the principal architect on the Civic Center Piars and Foundain in Detroit.

Jarratt also has been concerned about architectural education.

tural education.

While president of the Michigan Society of Architects, he worked with U-M to develop an integrated
classroom and office professional education program. He also has been an advisor to Ferris State
University in Big Rapids and to Schooleraft College

University is no properties of the Livenia.

The architectural honor awards programs at the chapter, gate and national lovel is spousored by the architectural community to promote the merits of good design and to recognise those who produce it.

range of specialized services to our clients," said Thomas Stevenson, Rehmann, Robson partner in charge. "Meriging this firm into ours allows a broader geographic base of operation and enhances our experience in many financial areas."

Ronaid Bellnsky, regional partner in Jackson, added, "Rehmann, Robson's exteisive experience and capabilities will bring state-of-the-art, on-line computer aervices to clients of YS&B. Rehmann, Robson clients already take advantage of this capability."

Robson cuctus an cary man billity."

Rehmann, Robson & Co. is a full-service certified public accounting and consulting firm. Headquartered in Saginaw, other offices are in Farmington Hills, Jackson, Cheboygan, Grand Rapids and Mid-

● SERVICE MANAGER

Federal APD in Farmington, Hills recently named Larry White national service manager. White comes to Federal APD after six years as marketing service manager for intel Corp. of West Bloomfield Township.

Federal APD, a subsidiary of Federal Signal Corp., is a worldwide supplier of parking, access and revenue control equipment.

• PR FIRM CHOSEN

● PR FIRM CHOSEN Castort and Co., a full-service film and video production company, appointed Hermanoff & Asso-ciates Inc. to handle its public relations. Castorri is a five-year-old production company that has produced award-winning commercials for 40 local, regional and national clients. Clients have included Michigan National Bank, Detroit Edison Co., Little Cassar International and Chevrolet Mo-co. Little Cassar International and Chevrolet Mo-

Castorri is headquartered in Southfield. Her-manoff & Associates Inc. is a public relations firm with offices in Farmington Hills.

. HEALTH CENTER

A new family health center has opened at 30160 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills.

It's operated by Group Health Plan, a health maintenance organization serving 41,000 people through offices in Livonia, Troy and aix other loca-

locations. Other center services include into wo Arays.

Classes on stress management, nutrition, obesi and other subjects of interest to neighborhood redents are planned.

For an appointment, call 355-7820.

FIRMS MIRGE

comman, Robon & Co. of Saginaw has acquired National Bank of Detroit appointed Sarah

ing, Skutt & Breitenwischer (VS&B), a Jackson-ly McCandless of Farmington Hills as loan officer in

do CPA firm.

its Western Metropolitan Regional Banking Divi
we've made a commitment to offer a breagh Mon.

Hanes Underalls Sale: all styles 20% off



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