

Farmington Observer



hallways

A page of Farmington-area school news

TV: an integral part of this classroom

By Casey Hans
Staff writer

MARILYN DROZ is a teacher who encourages students to watch television. As parent groups nationwide speak out against the abuses of television, she uses it as a tool in her Royal Oak classroom where she works as a consultant for learning disabled students from kindergarten through grade six.

"By teaching children to be selective about what they view, the learning experiences are endless, she said.

"My children get very excited about learning," the Farmington Hills resident said. "There's very little we can't cover. They're learning a lot of thinking skills. Messages are coming across much more clearly."

Television teaches a variety of other skills, including handling social situations, vocabulary, story plots, and prompts additional research and reading, Droz explained.

"TV is the mass media—it reaches people like nobody can," she added. "The skills they are learning from watching on television will transfer over to reading, and then to life."

"Children can turn from a passive TV watcher into an active TV learner."

DROZ was led to use television by an individual experience with one of her students. She was able to teach him—and teach him—by referring to a TV program he viewed the night before.

She formulated her plan, sent letters home to parents, then began using the TV and video recorder in class. Situation comedies are the most applicable for teaching, she said. "The Wizard" program is her

favorite tool.

"I needed something a little bit different—the traditional methods didn't work," she said. "I think this is an alternative."

"It took a lot of guts to bring a TV into the classroom," she added. "When they analyze it, they find the quality programs are the ones they enjoy."

"There are motives in television, motives in literature—maybe we can teach them there are motives in life too."

Droz was recently awarded a \$2,500 Education Service Enhancement Grant from the special education division of the state Department of Education for her television training concept. She is planning workshops for parents and possible in-service training for area teachers to share her TV methods.

Droz has written a book that will help with the training, and as part of the grant she will develop a handbook for parents.

ALTHOUGH HER work is directed towards learning disabled students, she encourages teachers to use television with other students as well. "What works well with a learning disabled child will work wonderfully well with others," she added.

Her interest in television linked her to a coordinating committee for a 1987 Channel 2 program "For Kids Sake," which stresses the importance of learning through television.

She appeared March 1 on a special "For Kids Sake" program stressing reading skills. She is also a finalist in a CBS network contest for her work.

By learning to use television as a tool, students can also be helped in all their subjects, Droz said. "They learn to take meaning from their environment."



Illustration by MARVIN TEEPLES

A teacher uses television as a tool for her learning disabled students to encourage them to read.

inkwell

Inkwell provides primary and secondary school news and information about Farmington-area students. The column appears throughout the year as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 35203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

ART COMPETITION

Farmington Area Arts Commission is sponsoring an art competition for high school students who live in the Farmington school district.

Winners will receive \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, \$100 for third place and \$50 for honorable mention. Entry blanks should be received by the awards committee before Wednesday, March 25.

Applicants may submit original works of art 5-7 p.m. Monday, March 30, at East Middle School. Art works will be judged that evening and should be picked up between 9 and 10 p.m.

Awards will be presented Sunday, May 17, at the Farmington Community Center.

For more information, write: Farmington Area Arts Commission, Awards Committee, 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills 48018.

NEW PLAYGROUND

Farmington Education Association has concluded a drive to raise money for a barrier-free playground at the Cloverdale Developmental Training Center.

Teachers, support staff and administrators made contributions resulting in a profit of \$2,000, according to FEA president Tom Christnowski.

About \$30,000 in federal money, plus community and school group contributions, will finance the \$86,000 playground.

Cloverdale serves as a center for severely mentally impaired children in southwest Oakland County. Adaptive equipment provides students with greater independence in play and leisure activities.

The FEA fund-raising effort was the idea of a special education teacher from Kenbrook Elementary and a member of the FEA board—Ethel Herren.

FINALISTS NAMED

Farmington Hills residents Bradley Hayash of Birmingham Brother

Rice High School and Daniel Holmes of Detroit Country Day School were two of 13,500 finalists nationwide in the 1987 National Merit Scholarship competition, according to information from those Oakland County schools.

The two will compete for 6,000 scholarships to be awarded by the National Merit Corp. of Evanston, Ill., in April.

TOP 102

Richard Los, a Farmington resident and a Farmington High School student, placed in the top 102 of 23,000 high school students participating in the 35th annual Michigan Mathematics Prize competition.

He was honored March 7 at an awards program held at Michigan State University.

Charles Wubbena, a Farmington High School teacher, supervised Los' entry.

SALES STANDOUT

Farmington High School senior Trudy Papler placed first in sales competition during a foresters meet Feb. 28 at Frankenmuth High School.

The National Honor Society member also was selected to receive a Phi Beta Kappa certificate for her 3.9 grade point average.

Papler plans an engineering career.

MUSIC MAKERS

Two Farmington Hills residents who attend Detroit Country Day Upper School in Birmingham earned awards at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District Solo and Ensemble Festival Feb. 14.

Dan Holmes was awarded in first-division ratings, presented for excellent performance. Jean Kim won an award for good performance in second-division ratings.

BANQUET GOERS

Twelve Farmington High School engineering drawing students attended the American Society of Body Engineers' 3rd Annual Drawing Contest awards banquet March 5.

Farmington High School submitted 23 of the 166 entries from 36 schools in the tri-county area. Following are the winning students and how they placed: Lance Byrnes, third place; Cam Aitken, sixth place; Tom Gammerrath, 10th place; Stephen Pittaway, 11th place; Michelle Edwards, 11th place; Heidi Wylie, 15th place; Craig Aber-

nelby, 14th place; Mike Neal, 15th place; Darin Magera, 16th place; Brian Townsley, 19th place; John Buchanan, 23rd place; and Tom Hundt, 25th place.

ALL A'S

The following Farmington Hills Harrison High School students received all A's during the first semester marking period, according to information from the school.

Nine graders include Dana Apfelblat, Todd Rope and Angela Tomel. Tenth graders include Carolyn Blason, Darcy Pinal, Michael Merkle and Kelly Wright.

Eleventh graders include Steve Bissell, Neal Blatt, Jennifer Bilzlik, Richard Brockhaus, John Chuhuan, Alicia Courtney, Julie Cunningham, Christine Elderidge, Brian Fitzgerald, Denise Lawrence, Marilyn Mara, Deborah McKenney, Julie Reeker, Eric Rosenthal, Todd Rumpas, Debbie Sheere, Dawn Simmons and Wes Wood.

Seniors include Scott Bissell, David Chen, Lisa Disner, Edye Fleischner, Stuart Freedland, Richard Frembs, Glenn Gayer, Jim Gooden, Michael Happold, Michelle Harrison, Elizabeth Kent, Kristen Kells, Lori King, Kisa Korby, Curt Lindberg, Brian Murphy, Scott Perkins, Mark Schiefelky and Marc Tenenbaum.

APPLICATIONS TAKEN

Applications are being accepted for Lawrence Institute of Technology's 19th annual Summer Science Institute in Southfield, scheduled for June 22 through July 31.

The six-week program is open to high school juniors interested in science, computer science, mathematics or engineering. They must have maintained at least a "B" average and have received no grades lower than a "B" in math and science. Applicants should have completed one year of both chemistry and geometry, and two years of algebra by the end of the 1986-87 academic year.

Participants receive tuition-free instruction from full-time faculty members of LIT's School of Arts and Science. Topics range from chemical kinetics to computer techniques. The only cost to the student is a \$50 non-refundable registration fee. All materials will be furnished.

Applications must be postmarked by May 1. To apply, contact your high school math or science chairman or your guidance counselor.

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