

# Educator: give kids skills to decide

By Casey Hays  
staff writer

Children as young as 5 can learn to be responsible for their decisions and their choices, Longacre Elementary teacher Pat Baumunk said last week.

And parents are the ones who can best teach these skills, helping their children develop their self-esteem and make the right choices, Baumunk said, referring to information from the book "Peer Pressure Reversal" by Sharon Scott.

"There are no magic answers," Baumunk said. "A lot of it is common sense. You cannot control what one other person does, including your children. You can only teach them the skills."

"Teach them to make the right decisions."

Nearly 40 Farmington-area parents thought the issue of peer pressure and their children important enough to brave last week's snowstorm and listen to Baumunk's interpretation of the "Peer Pressure" book. The evening was sponsored by the Gill Elementary PTA.

SHARON SCOTT is a member of the Dallas Police Department, which claims a reduction in delinquency by working with youths and their parents.

Baumunk said parents can help to "dilute" peer pressures by communicating with their children and offering to guide them, being careful not to make the actual decisions. "They find decision-making very difficult," she said. "As we help them, they become very dependent on us."

"If you've communicated with your child, they will not be afraid to come to you," she added. "A child's difficult decisions can range in topic from cheating in school, to drug use or other troublesome activities like shoplifting. Many times the peer pressure is subtle and hard to avoid, experts say."

According to information published by Farmington Families in Action, youngsters in the Farmington area are introduced to cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana and other drugs as early as age 12, with the greatest percentage of students beginning drug use in their freshman year of high school.

"Our students say drug use seldom

*'(Children) find decision-making very difficult. As we help them, they become very dependent on us. If you've communicated with your child, they will not be afraid to come to you.'*

—Pat Baumunk  
Longacre Elementary teacher

is the result of direct peer pressure," FFA information said. "More often, it happens because of curiosity, the individual's need to be a part of the group, or the individual's desire to feel good."

BAUMUNK GAVE an example from her fifth-grade class, when, in an impromptu hand vote, five of the 10-year-old students said they had already been offered a drink at a party.

Peer pressure "can crush a child's budding free will and drive the youngster into a stampede toward sameness," said psychologist Dan Kiley in an early 1981 article on par-

enting and peer pressure. "You cannot stop peer pressure from affecting your children, but you can offset the negative impact of it."

Kiley offers 10 steps:

- Control peer pressure in your own life.
- Don't foster competition.
- Provide security through rational rules.
- Stress individual differences.
- Leave a "loner" child alone.
- Supervise without interfering with a child's space.
- Discuss undesirable companions; help the child overcome a

weakness to eliminate the need for that particular friend.

- "Snooperise" only in extreme situations.
- Practice what you preach.

SCOTT'S BOOK stresses many of these, but also teaches parents to coach. It suggests children be taught to: evaluate their situation, be aware of what is happening around them, and to apply the "trouble rule" offered by Scott in her book, asking themselves "could there be trouble?" or "will these actions hurt anyone?"

"The faster they (kids) recognize things are going bad, the better decisions they will make," Baumunk explained.

In making decisions, children should be taught to weigh both sides of an issue, sometimes by writing down the pros and cons. Another portion of the Scott book teaches the skill of saying "no" only twice. Then the child should make a statement of his or her position and withdraw from the situation, Baumunk said. A third "no" invites further peer pressure.

These skills must not only be taught by parents, but practiced and



Pat Baumunk  
Longacre teacher

reinforced with children before they are effective, according to the book.

In order to teach awareness to children, parents must also be more aware, Baumunk said. Effective discipline, using organized activity to dilute peer pressure, influencing a child's choice of friends and networking with other parents are all issues addressed in the Scott book.

"You'd better change — kids have changed," Baumunk said. "You have to be ready to do what you have to do."

## Kindergarten signup set

Farmington Public Schools will hold kindergarten registration March 7-11 at all elementary schools and early childhood centers.

Any child in the district who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1 of this year can enroll.

Orientation for 1988-89 kindergartners is scheduled for May 13.

## carrier of the month

### Farmington

Brandon Dixon, 13, delivers the Observer in the Normandy Hills subdivision. He has delivered the Observer since 1985.

The O.E. Dunkel Middle School seventh grader's favorite subjects are science and geography.

His hobbies are water skiing, snow skiing and playing the piano. He received the Presidential Award in fifth grade.

Brandon plans to be a marine biologist when he finishes school.

Being organized and more responsible are some of the things he learned on his route.

Brandon is the son of Linda and Bill Brandon of Farmington Hills. He has one sister, Brittany, 8.

If you want to be a Farmington Observer carrier, please call

591-0500

### Brandon Dixon



**Mane Design**  
FULL SERVICE SALON  
471-0140  
Valentine's Specials

- 2 Haircuts Condition & Style \$30 reg. \$42 New clients only
- Perms Complete \$40 reg. \$55 New clients only
- Manicure & Hair Styled \$15 reg. \$20
- Front Highlights for ages 15-21 \$16 style extra
- Massage 2 for 1 1/2 hr. massage per person, for \$15 each
- Haircuts \$2 off for ages 13-16 style extra
- 5 Stylists to Serve You

We specialize in Root Perms - Piggy Back Wraps - Waves Only - Demential Coloring - Foil Wraps - Cellophanes - Hair Texturizing - Pedicures - Solar Nails - Facial Waxing - Massage - Nexus & Paul Mitchell Products Expires March 12, 1988

29421 W. 12 Mile Rd. • Farmington Hills • In Rainbow Square

## The pulse of your community • The pulse of

**IGA ORCHARD-10 IGA**  
24065 Orchard Lake Rd.  
MON.-SAT. 8-9; SUN. 9-5

**DOUBLE COUPON**  
ORCHARD-10 gives you 100% more on all (cents off) manufacturer's coupons up to and including 50¢ face value. OTHER RETAILERS DO NOT DOUBLE AFTER 50¢. EXAMPLE: A 75¢ COUPON AT OTHER STORES IS WORTH ONLY 75¢. AT ORCHARD-10, A 75¢ COUPON IS WORTH \$1.25. AT OTHER STORES, A \$1.00 COUPON IS WORTH ONLY \$1.00. AT ORCHARD-10, A \$1.00 COUPON IS WORTH \$2.00. Other retailers and free coupons excluded. Limit 1 coupon for any one product. Coupon plus 100% bonus cannot exceed price of the item. All cigarette coupons at face value. Offer in effect now through Sunday, February 14, 1988.

IGA Taberlite Boneless Beef  
**SIRLOIN STEAKS**  
Save 1.10 LB. **1.99** LB.

Golden Ripe Premium  
**BANANAS**  
**.29** LB.

IGA Taberlite Assorted  
**PORK CHOPS**  
7-11 Chops Per Package Save .60 LB. **1.29** LB.

"Bud" Brand Fresh Green Tender  
**BROCCOLI**  
**.89** Bunch

All Layer Varieties Betty Crocker  
**Cake Mixes**  
10.25-18.5 OZ.  
**.69**

Woodley's  
**LARGE EGGS**  
**.49** DOZ.

Beef, Chicken or Turkey Banquet  
**MEAT PIES**  
8 OZ.  
**3/1.00**

Oven Fresh Lumberjack  
**WHITE BREAD**  
20 OZ. Loaf  
**2/1.00**

**COCA COLA, DIET or REG. CAFFEINE FREE, SQUIRT or SPRITE**  
8 Pak 1/4 Liter **1.89** +DEP.

**WILL**  
FUNERAL HOMES, INC.  
3 LOCATIONS — ALL FREEWAYS  
Holland — 25452 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia — 31000 W. 12 Mile Rd.  
Detroit — 4412 Livonia Ave.  
937-3670

**WANT AN "ORIGINAL" WAY TO SAY... I LOVE YOU?**

T. J. Cinnamons Valentine Gift Box.

Six delicious, heart-warming, ORIGINAL GOURMET CINNAMON ROLLS in our special Valentine Gift Box, topped with a silk-like American Beauty Rose!

This Valentine's Day — be original.

Call ahead for convenient pick-up at your nearest T.J. Cinnamons Bakery.

**T. J. Cinnamons® Bakery**  
The Home of the Original Gourmet Cinnamon Roll.™

4702 N. Woodward at 14 Mile 549-7522  
33181 Grand River Downtown Farmington 477-7077  
30967 Orchard Lake Orchard Place Shop, Ctr. 855-0001

**CRISIS**  
A time of crisis calls for solving difficult problems, making hard decisions. For nearly 100 years McCabe highly skilled staff has been helping families through such trying periods.

**McCabe**  
funeral directors  
SINCE 1893

31950 12 MILE RD., FARMINGTON HILLS, MICH.  
Phone: 553-0120

DETROIT LOCATION:  
18570 GRAND RIVER AVE. Phone: 836-3752

L. DAVID MCCABE, Director  
KEVIN L. MCCABE, Director  
EDWARD P. DEWAR, General Manager

Experienced Counselors in Pre-Need Arrangements