



Derek Walsh (left), 7, of Farmington Hills helps his partner, Robert Turnquist, 6, of Farmington with an experiment testing acids and bases.



Christine Kuo, 7, of Farmington Hills contemplates during an experiment on acids and bases.



During a community education science workshop at Highmeadow Community School, teacher Sharon Ostalecki helps David Wildberger, 6, of Farmington Hills and Danny Fuchs, 7, of Farmington Hills with an experiment on acids and bases.

## Elementary program is 'experimental'

By Casey Hana  
staff writer

An after-school science program for elementary school students has parents excited and teacher Sharon Ostalecki busy planning for the future.

"They're so curious," she said about 12 youngsters who attended the program each Monday afternoon. "I think it's important to have some (science) at an early age."

The program was not offered through traditional school curriculum, but in Farmington Public Schools' community education program at Highmeadow Community School. Students in grades one to three attended the first session.

A substitute teacher in the Farmington district, Ostalecki offered a variety of science education during the eight-week session, including chemistry and electricity.

Her hands-on program included problem solving, experiments and other creative ways to learn. Students learned to work in teams and even developed some social interaction skills through the class.

*'They're so curious. I think it's important to have some (science) at an early age.'*

— Sharon Ostalecki  
teacher

"I'm pleased with it," she added.

**STUDENTS ARRIVED** at 4 p.m. Many times, they stayed after the one-hour session because they enjoyed the science learning so much. They came from a variety of areas throughout Farmington and Farmington Hills. Several children live in West Bloomfield Township.

"They feel free to experiment, feel free to talk and move around," Ostalecki said. "They would come in so eager — it was so much fun."

"When I started out, we were just going to do experiments. When I saw the level (of students), I changed the program."

Parents were an integral part of the program. Many came to class with their children, spent time learn-

ing with them, and also donated materials used in experiments.

Two new sessions are planned through the Farmington community education program starting the week of April 11. An outdoor environmental program for students in grades one to five and a combination physical science and conservation program for 4- and 5-year-olds will both be taught by Ostalecki.

The program for older students is scheduled for Mondays 4-5 p.m. and will not be limited in number, she said. The program for younger children will be limited to 10 and will be Wednesdays 4-5 p.m.

Ostalecki was encouraged to start the program earlier this year by parents who want their children exposed to more science at an earlier age. Her interest stems from her education, which is science and mathematics based.

Next fall, she hopes to take her community education program one step further and integrate computers with science learning.

Farmington schools has an award-winning science program that stresses a hands-on approach and offers

help to teachers from science consultants, but the emphasis on science education does not currently begin until the fourth grade.

School board trustees have set a goal to have a science room at each elementary; currently, there is no space.

## Hills seeking state grants to help develop city parks

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The state can expect a flurry of grant applications from Farmington Hills for city-owned parks.

City officials are applying for state money to help continue developing 210-acre Heritage Park on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile. A grant also is being sought to develop a new athletic park in the city's southern section.

Applications are being sent to both the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, both of which provide matching grants.

"Most likely, it will be the 50-50 grants," special services director Dan Potter said, referring to the grants available through the land and water trust fund. The natural resources trust fund provides 75-25 matching grants.

"We'll send in four applications — two to each of the funds for each of the projects," Potter said. City officials are waiting for the state Legislature to appropriate about \$190,000 in a matching grant expect-

ed in October for the second phase of development at Heritage Park.

Work to be completed in the second phase includes a small outdoor classroom-amphitheatre with parking lot, three additional picnic areas and two miles of trails for handicapped people.

**THE MATCHING** grant city officials are preparing to file would be for the park's third development phase, which includes more handicapped trails and a connection to the planned visitor's center. A special outdoor arboretum designed for the handicapped also will be included. Expected costs are \$400,000 for the third phase.

The second grant application is for development of a 15-acre park on an unnamed site in the city's southern section. Estimated costs for park development are \$250,000.

The city has received tentative approval for a \$150,000 50-50 matching grant to buy property for the planned athletic park, Potter said.

Whether the city receives the 50-50 or 75-25 matching grants, its share will be paid for with money from the voter-approved five-year 0.5-mill park levy, Potter said.

## Drafting students get computers

By Janice Brunson  
staff writer

The Farmington school board approved the purchase of a computer program that vocational education director Earl Baumunk said will upgrade the district's drafting department into a state-of-the-art program.

The board Tuesday unanimously approved \$38,799 for nine IBM-50 computers and accompanying personal-design software programs, which permit advanced drafting students three-dimensional capacity on a split screen for the first time.

"It's design by computer as opposed to design by parallel and tri-

angle, part of keeping our technical program up to date," Baumunk said. The split-screen capability of the system enables students to draw and view simultaneously up to four different angles of a single object, according to Farmington High drafting instructor John Klenczar.

"We're real excited about it," Klenczar said, adding that the new computers give the department five advanced systems.

The systems will be installed in drafting labs at Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison high schools, for use by an estimated 320 students enrolled in drafting classes. THE SYSTEM was recommended

by members of a vocational education advisory committee consisting of educators and citizens. The committee is one of nine ongoing advisory groups that assist Baumunk in "keeping our technical programs up to date."

Among those who served on the computer selection committee were George MacMunn, chief engineer at Farmington Hills-based Jervis B. Webb Co.; Kurt Carlsen, computer manager at Farmington-based Krueger Machine Tool; Norman Smith, graphic engineer at Ford Motor Co.; and John Abed, superintendent of CAD/CAM interface at GM Truck and Bus.

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