



Thursday, February 9, 1995 (A-1)

'Olympians' shaping up their minds

Students enter training for Odyssey of the Mind

Farmington-area students went through a trial run Saturday at Farmington High School for this year's Odyssey of the Mind competition. Emphasis is placed on team effort, creative thinking and fun during the academic games, which in-

volve students in grades kindergarten through 12.

The teams will now take their expertise and months of planning to the regional OM competition scheduled for March 4 in Rochester. From there, winners will compete with other schools around the state, and possibly around the world. Last year, a Warner Middle School team competed in the international competition.

One of this year's Farmington teams from East Middle School spent much of their free time together, planning for the OM competition and working as carriers for the Observer twice each week, according to coach and parent Kathy Rodak. They are Carrie Earle, Dave Brun, George Curran, Kimberly Rodak and Karen Miller.

The OM competition is broken down into grade level divisions, with each team selecting from five predetermined problems which they work to solve throughout the fall months. Many parents act as team coaches, but the teamwork and problem-solving belong to the students.

Odyssey of the Mind was formerly called Olympics of the Mind, or OM Competition. The name was changed due to a 1987 court decision, which barred use of the word "Olympics."



At left, a team from East Middle School prepares for the competition. They are (from left) Carrie Earle, Dave Brun, George Curran, Kimberly Rodak and Karen Miller. All are carriers for the Observer.

photos by THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer



Above, Power Middle School seventh grader Doug Burton helps to prepare his team for "Cause and Effect."



Beechview Elementary fourth grader Robin Tromblay participates in the "Odyssey of the Mind" long-term competition Saturday.



Odyssey of the Mind regional director Pat Gibrach judges "Cause and Effect," one of the OM classifications. The local competition Saturday will prepare students for regional competition in March.

inkwell

Inkwell provides news about Farmington-area primary and secondary students and education issues. The column appears monthly as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

● LIFESAVER TAGS

The Farmington Education Association is providing information packets to the parents of elementary school youngsters. The packets will include "lifesaver tags" to sew into clothing.

The project is being financed through the FEA and done in conjunction with the Farmington Hills Police Department and the Farmington Department of Public Safety. Students from kindergarten through fifth grade have received the information at school to take home, according to Margaret Culver, FEA spokeswoman. "We have gotten a lot of positive, verbal feedback," she said. "I think we're going to expand it a little bit next year."

The packet also includes information about what parents should keep handy in case their child is lost and who to contact in case of emergency. Anyone wishing a packet should contact the FEA office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 476-4191.

● THEY'RE OUTSTANDING

Azma Diaverno and Craig Kantola were named to the Outstanding High School Students of America because of their academic and civic accomplishments.

Diaverno, granddaughter of Pat Birney of Farmington Hills, is a student at Grosse Pointe South High School.

Kantola, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Pello of Farmington, is a student at Milford High School.

● THANKS TO PARENTS

A reception is scheduled for 4 p.m. today at East Middle School to thank parents who helped to pass the Farmington Public Schools' \$7.3 million bond issue to build a west-side elementary.

The reception will be held in the school's cafeteria; the school is on Middlebelt, between 10 and 11 Mile.

● TEEN DEPRESSION

A specialist on adolescent depression will hold a parent workshop Thursday, March 9, at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.

Dr. Steven Spector will answer questions and discuss moodiness and lack of communication with youngsters as part of the evening workshop, which begins at 7:30 p.m.

Spector's free talk will be followed by a question and answer session.

He is a psychologist and co-director of the Beacon Hill Clinic, Birmingham. He is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Wayne State University and a contributor to the "Advisory Board/Parent Talk" page of the Detroit Free Press.

● COUNSELING WEEK

Feb. 6-10 is National School Counseling week. Counselors at North Farmington High School have some special plans. Using the theme, "Counselors Are the Hearts of the School," the following events are planned:

- stress workshop for the staff.
- positive mental thought on daily announcements.
- treats for staff as a thank you for their cooperation.
- counselor visits to classrooms.

● SPECIAL SERVICES

An update on special services in Farmington Public Schools will be the topic of three School/Community Forum meetings for March. The public is invited to all three meetings.

Guest speaker and assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele will discuss: the district's gifted program, special projects through federal and state grants, professional development, drug-free schools, remedial education and the "effective schools" concept.

The meetings will all be held at 7:30 p.m.

• Thursday, March 2 at East Middle School, Middlebelt, between 10 and 11 Mile.

• Wednesday, March 8 at Wooddale Elementary, 28600 Peppermill, west of Farmington Road, north of 12 Mile.

• Monday, March 13 at Harrison High School, 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake Road and Middlebelt.

This is the third general School/Community Forum meeting held this year for all parents and interested

residents of the Farmington school district. Others dealt with staff development and curriculum, and high technology issues for education.

● SPECIALIST SPEAKS

A specialist in "family ecology" spoke recently at the Fairview Early Childhood Center in Farmington Hills, giving parents tips on dealing with kids.

Helen Hagens, a specialist in adults who work with children, spoke about "Discipline: Helping Young Children Comply with Adult Requests" on Feb. 2.

She explored the way preschool and early elementary children think differently about their world than do adults.

In conjunction with the talk, the school held its second annual Book Fair.

● INVENT AMERICA!

Thirty-one million American children — including Farmington students — will have the opportunity to develop the creative and problem-solving skills necessary for the future, as the Invent America program continues this year.

The program encourages students to learn problem-solving skills and turn unique ideas into inventions while competing for awards, national recognition and trips to Washington D.C. Winning inventions are exhibited in the National Museum of American History.

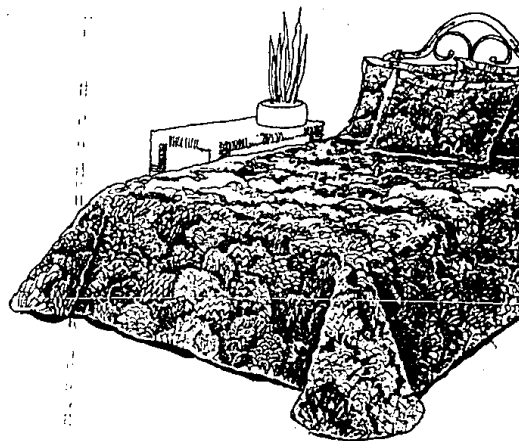
This year's Invent America is sponsored by the Troy-based Kmart Corp.

Invent America has reached students in 30,000 elementary schools. Students from kindergarten through grade eight can participate. For further information about Invent America, call Kmart at 645-9906 or Invent America direct at 1-703-684-1836.

● 2 GET HONORS

Two Farmington Hills students qualified to take Part II of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, according to information from Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills.

Ray Purohit and Michael Warren were two of 20 Country Day students who qualified. Students who score among the top 100 in the Part II will be honored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America.



THE ART DECO BEDROOM

Begin with the bedspread...a blue screen print with touches of mauve and gold on cotton chintz. Then order special window treatments and accessories...or other colors...to create your own personal bedroom look. "Sinbad" by Beau Ideal, spread: Full, \$275; Queen, \$325; Dual, \$380.

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