

# Farmington Observer



## hallways

A page of Farmington-area school news

# Art was just 'fine' for a day at Mercy

**T**HERE WAS music and drama — and all artistic things imaginable. A colorful aura surrounded Mercy High School during the school's annual Fine Arts Day, in which students from all grades participated in a daylong show of talent. Sketching, drawing, music and stage arts were all part of the Feb. 28 event, designed to let creativity shine through. Events occurred throughout the school, and included displays and demonstrations of various art forms.

The cafeteria held artists doing caricatures and portraits; in the auditorium was a talent show with dancers, singers and student actors at their best.

As part of the Fine Arts Day, four Mercy graduates who work in the arts as professionals came back to speak to students, encouraging them in future ventures.

Mercy is a private, all-girls high school at 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Music played a big part in Fine Arts Day Feb. 28. Here, Nicole Kostocki sings a selection from the musical, "Oklahoma!" Nicole will play the part of Ado Annie in the school's production of the play March 17-19.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Carol Tomasso, a Mercy senior, sketches a portrait during the school's annual Fine Arts Day. The student in the background is Cheryl Spitalo.

## 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, 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

### ● NATIONAL WINNERS

Members of the Mercy Model United Nations Club returned home with a winning flag.

The Farmington Hills high school team was one of the top five delegations in the nation to compete in the North American Invitational Model United Nations, sponsored by Georgetown University.

Mercy was the only all-girls school to take any awards.

This is the second top award the Mercy delegation has taken in the last two years. In 1987, it received the flag. In 1988, it won an honorable mention, placing in the top 10. Maggie Basile of Birmingham and Heidi Ewing of Farmington were on both award-winning teams.

Others on the team include: Becky Berlin of Plymouth, Colleen Sirhal of Birmingham, Mindy Demray of Livonia, Stacy Sanders of Detroit, Sharon Bawls of Farmington Hills and Jenni Ahern of Lathrup Village. Diane Chatham was the moderator.

### ● TEACHERS LAUDED

Three Farmington teachers were lauded as "Teachers of the Year" in the district, representing each of three levels of education in the Farmington Public Schools.

Susan Patee, a fifth grade teacher at Forest Elementary School; Maurice Wildt, choir director and vocal music teacher at O.E. Dunckel Middle School; and Maria Aratari, a math teacher at Farmington High School, were selected as the three finalists in their divisions.

The three will compete on behalf of the district as part of larger county, state and national programs.

Patee has worked with Farmington schools since 1989, and has taught kindergarten, and in grades 3-5. She wrote, produced and directed the Forest Michigan sesquicentennial all-school musical. She also chaired the district committee on sesquicentennial activities.

Wildt worked in Berrien Springs, Muskegon Heights and Dearborn schools before coming to Farmington in 1973. She has been involved in music throughout his career. Over the years, he has been named the Junior High Music Teacher of the

Year by the Michigan Music Education Association, directed the All-State Junior High Honors Choir and directed a number of musical productions. In the community, he has conducted church and community choirs for years. He has also served as adjudicator for state vocal festivals.

In addition to teaching at Farmington High, Aratari is also a part-time math instructor at Oakland Community College. In past years, she taught in Detroit Public Schools and also at Wayne State University and Henry Ford Community College. She was involved this month on a panel for math and science career seminar sponsored by Farmington schools. She has worked for Farmington schools since 1985.

To qualify, teachers needed a minimum of three years teaching experience and serving as full-time teachers of any grade.

### ● MERIT AWARD

Christina Handley of Farmington Hills is the recipient of a Madonna College Merit Award for the 1989-90 school year.

The Clarenceville High School senior must retain a minimum 3.25 grade-point average at the Livonia college to retain the scholarship.

### ● BOOKS FOR BIRTHDAYS

Longacre Elementary has initiated a "books for birthdays" program, in which parents and others can donate a book to the school's library in honor of an individual student.

Media specialist Shirley Witgen has several unshelved, hardcover books at all levels of interest at a price range of \$10 to \$15. A purchased book will carry a book plate with the child's name and birthdate on the inside cover.

### ● HEART FUND-RAISER

A total of \$630 was raised at St. Fabian School in Farmington Hills Feb. 25, when students Jumped Rope for Heart.

The event was conducted as a community service project, and was developed by the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance to promote the importance of physical education. Locally, the event was sponsored by the St. Fabian student council.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the American Heart Association of Michigan in its efforts to combat heart and blood vessel disease.

### ● STUDENTS COMPETE

Fifteen North Farmington High School students will compete in the Oakland County Science Olympiad, scheduled at Oakland Community

College, Highland Lakes Campus March 18.

The students will compete in various activities, including: Science Bowl, Pentathlon, Egg Drop, Qualitative Analysis, Computers, Rocks & Minerals, Genetics, Bioprocess and seven others.

The event is being coordinated at North Farmington by teacher Virginia Lambert.

### ● RESISTING PEERS

Six North Farmington students participated in a Peer Resistance Workshop with Forest Elementary students.

They put on a 20-minute skit with the theme of "Just Say No" to drugs, alcohol and any other abusive items. Students will also conduct workshops at Our Lady of Sorrows, Eagle Elementary and Highmeadow Common Campus, all in the Farmington area, during this month.

### ● BEE WINNER

Danny Newman, an eighth grader at Warner Middle School in Farmington Hills, is the 1988-89 spelling champion for the school.



All of the students competed by grade level in their English classes, then the top three from each grade met. Runners-up were eighth grader John Gage and ninth grader Drew Nagrant.

Newman will compete for the district title this month.

### ● TEACHING TECH

Staffers in Farmington Public Schools will learn all about "Converging Technologies for Education" in the year 2000, as the district hosts a Technology Fair in April.

The program is sponsored through the district's Staff Development Department.

Larry Ainsley, coordinator of media services for the Birmingham schools, will be the keynote speaker. Ainsley is also president-elect of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology.

Employees will experience several technology demonstration centers including:

- electronic art and music;
- optical media, including laser disc;
- teacher on TV, a distance learning program;
- hypermedia;
- information accessing long distance by computer;
- desktop publishing; and
- multi-media classroom.

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