



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Donna Yakes (left), satellite manager group of second graders their low-fat of the William Grace kitchen, serves a lunch.

Porky hogs the day, gives nutrition tips

By Casey Hans
staff writer

THE DINOSAUR on Donna Yakes' shirt told youngsters at William Grace Elementary to "step lightly" as she doled out portions of chef's salad and vegetables and cartons of lowfat milk.

Stickers and posters showed a smiling Porky Pig, ready to become a slave to nutrition, and warning students "if you don't eat right, th-th-th that could be all folks."

It was all part of the Great American Lowfat Pig-Out co-sponsored by the American Cancer So-



cety and the American Heart Association on March 9. Farmington Public Schools took the opportunity to stress nutrition in school lunches on that day and throughout the month, which is also

National Nutrition Month.

"The bottom line is the quality of the food, or they won't come back. And they are coming back," said Debra Larson, food services director for the Farmington Public Schools, and a dietician by profession.

THE LAST time the district offered salads as a main course, only 870 youngsters ordered them. As part of the Lowfat Pig-Out Day, excited students ordered 1,300, Larson said.

The district serves approximately 2,000 elementary students lunch each school day. "They seem to be really excited about it — they're all putting their stickers on," said Larson, who was visiting William Grace during the lunch hour. "It's hard. They're used to the fast foods."

Although the special day encouraged students to pay special attention to nutrition, Larson said she and her staff try to set the example every day.

Nutrition messages are printed on the monthly school menus that children take home. Once a month, elementary students are served their lunches in colorful theme boxes.

Larson is available to talk with elementary students in the classroom and offers coloring books to teachers who request them. Many



Tressa Parrelly, a William Grace second grader, eats a salad that was part of the lunch served during the low-fat pig-out at the school.

of the food service staffers also play an important role in encouraging the right foods.

AT WILLIAM Grace, cook Yakes used the dinosaur as a nutrition mascot to promote the "lowfat pig-out" day.

She made a stuffed dinosaur and held a contest for the best name. The winning name was "Fork and spoonasaurus," which offered the stuffed dinosaur as a prize.

Yakes said teachers also got into the act, promoting the contest and nutrition as part of the day.

Larson said parents are also tak-

ing a special interest in school food, and many more are calling to ask about meals and talk about the school lunch menu.

"I never used to (get those calls)," she said. "I'm getting more each year. They have concerns about school lunches, and much of it is justified. I think it's time people address these things."

THE FARMINGTON district gets 20 percent of its food products from the federal government, Larson said she works carefully to ensure the meals are well-balanced. Cooks are trying a number of low-

sugar and low-salt recipes, which the students seem to love.

"We've made some movement in the last two years. We're not there yet," Larson said.

For \$1.25, a student is offered: either pizza with pepperoni or the main food choice of the day, a half pint of milk, one vegetable, a bread equivalent, and choice of fruit or fruit juice. Items sold a la carte include cookies, ice cream bars, juice, juice bars, milk and vegetable sticks with dip.

Students are not allowed to buy a cookie until they finish their full lunch, Larson said.



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—Debra Larson
food services director

Graduation requirements increased at C'ville

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

To improve the education of Clarenceville High School students, the Board of Education has accepted principal David Simowski's proposal to increase required credits for graduation.

Simowski presented his proposal March 9 to raise the requirements from 20 to 21.

"This additional elective credit would provide students with the opportunity to explore or further develop their particular interest areas," Simowski wrote.

THE BOARD was scheduled March 9 to hear the proposal, then possibly vote to accept or reject it at a later date.

But Superintendent Michael Shibley said the board approved the measure March 9, as "they were satisfied with the proposal." The district includes parts of Farmington Hills, Redford Township and Livonia.

Under the new requirements, which will affect the class of 1993, students would complete an additional credit, selected from core subjects of math, science, social studies and English, or from electives including art, physical education, shop classes, or others.

"The overall purpose of high school is to graduate competent, well-rounded individuals," Simowski said.

"With the heavy emphasis on required credits, the department chairpersons and I have discussed the issue and agree that adding one elective credit to the current 20 needed for graduation would support the idea of a more well-rounded student."

Currently, Shibley said, the district requires that students complete three credits (six semesters) of English and social studies; two in both math and science; one in physical education-health and practical arts, which includes shop and home eco-

nomics; and one-half credit in computer science. With these required credits totaling 13½, students must also take 6½ elective credits.

SIMOWSKI SAID school staff members' reaction to the proposal was "very positive."

"And as you can imagine, more positive among the elective areas."

Students' extra elective choices, he said, should be "pretty well spread out. Each department offers something unique in their own area."

Among new elective offerings in the fall is an auto care class geared to the "non-mechanical type stu-

dent," Simowski said.

He said establishing the additional elective requirement, "is going to create some more electives."

Shibley said school officials are considering raising total credits for graduation to 22, with the next required credit coming from one of the core academic subjects.

Architect to set priorities for C'ville building plans

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

Clarenceville Public Schools officials last week took another step toward starting a renovation of its buildings.

At its meeting March 9, the Clarenceville Board of Education approved the hiring of an architectural-engineering firm.

Ralph Skrocki, assistant superintendent for business, said the firm, Griener, Inc. of Grand Rapids, will develop a by-priority list of needed renovations.

"We want these buildings to take us into the next century," Skrocki said, "something that's going to last us at least 25 years."

SCHOOL OFFICIALS, possibly as early as next fall, will choose the projects depending on need and on what they can afford, he said.

High on the list of needed renovations compiled so far, by a renovation committee which includes staff, administrators and the public, is state-mandated asbestos removal.

Officials also want to complete roof repairs, boiler renovations, and the renovation and redesign of classrooms and other school rooms.

Another high-priority project involves renovating the junior high gym. "The noise level is almost

'We want these buildings to take us into the next century, something that's going to last us at least 25 years.'

—Ralph Skrocki
assistant superintendent

unbearable," Skrocki said, as sounds echo throughout the gym.

Concerning room renovations, Skrocki said, "Before we go in, we'll talk about what curriculum might be in 10 years. We want to have it redesigned so it will be something meaningful and useful 10 years from now."

To pay for renovations, Skrocki said the district — which includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township — may either ask voters to approve a bond issue, or ask them to continue the current 2.25 mills already approved by voters for debt retirement, set to expire in 1997.

"It's possible we can do this without any additional debt retirement millage," Skrocki said.

Should officials determine that voters' approval of a bond issue is needed, "Probably the earliest we

would do it would be mid-September," he said.

Skrocki declined to estimate the range of the cost of the renovations, saying this has yet to be determined.

LAST MONTH, the district also hired a construction management firm at \$17,000 to oversee the work. "They know what should be done and shouldn't be done," said Skrocki, adding that because of this, hiring the firm "will pay for itself."

The only renovation work carried out in the district over the past 10 years has been completion of 75 percent of needed roof repairs.

"Finances have been so tight the past 10 years," Skrocki said, adding, "There's 25 percent left to do."

Griener, Inc. will be paid on a sliding scale of 7.5 to 7.15 percent of renovation project fees, according to the agreement.

AN EVENING OF JAZZ

The City of Southfield, Southfield Public Schools and the Southfield Eccentric cordially invite you to

a benefit performance for Southfield High School's REBUILD THE

library

- Tuesday, March 21, 1989
- 7:30 p.m.
- Southfield Civic Center Pavilion

Featuring the metro area's top jazz performers all under one roof in an evening of exciting music:

- Alexander Zonjic Quintet
- Ursula Walker/Buddy Budson Trio
- Onita Sanders
- Orthelia Bames
- George Benson and Friends

Advance Tickets: \$10 (\$12 at the door)

Tickets available at: City Hall Reception Desk (MF 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) and Parks & Recreation Building Reception Desk (MF 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.) at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen Road (at 10½ Mile Road).

Make checks payable to: SHS-Rebuild the Library Fund. Tickets are tax-deductible.

Additional donations are gratefully appreciated and can be mailed to the SHS-Rebuild the Library Fund, c/o The Southfield Eccentric, P.O. Box 187, Southfield, Michigan 48037.

For more information: City of Southfield Community Relations Department, 354-4854.