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# East students 'shadow' career professionals

By Casey Hens  
staff writer

**K**ELLY LUDY peeked across the tummy of a 6-month-old puppy, just released from the operating room and still sedated.

In her veterinarian lab coat, the East Middle School sixth grader looked much like the doctors and technicians who were performing surgery on a variety of animals last week at the Plaza Veterinary Hospital in Farmington. She was even allowed to help, by holding some of the animals and aiding the technicians.

Her smile was never ending. "I really like animals," she said, adding that both a cat and dog share family life at her house. "It (veterinary medicine) sounds very interesting. It was interesting seeing how their insides are different than ours."

Ludy was one of eight East students participating in a Job Shadowing career program. Currently a pilot at East, organizers hope to extend the career program into other middle schools, and possibly at other grade levels as part of Farmington Public Schools' career education goals.

IN THE program, students are matched with professionals in the area, allowing them a chance to get a hands-on look at a possible career.

"My hope would be that we could do it districtwide," said Mary Beth Sikora, career counselor. "Our ultimate goal would be schoolwide."

Sikora and Sharon McConaghie, a middle school counselor, developed the program this fall, asking for interested students. They received an overwhelming 372 requests, but were only able to select a few for the initial program.

Those students were then surveyed to see which careers interested them, then organizers went out to the community to find professionals willing to be matched with a student for a morning or afternoon.

"Everyone we had talked to have been most cooperative," said McConaghie. "I just feel this is one more way of exposing the kids to the real work world. We plan to open it up again next semester."

**STUDENTS, FROM** grades 6-8, participating in the first program on Nov. 28, were:

- Kelly Ludy, who worked with veterinarians at Plaza Veterinary Hospital, Farmington.

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— Sharon McConaghie

- Ellen Evans, who worked with first grade teacher Nancy Stroth at William Grace Elementary School, Farmington.

- Kristy Corr, who worked at Farmington Pediatrics, Farmington.
- Kelly Gross, who worked at the Professional Veterinary Hospital, Farmington Hills.

- Ron Salomonson, who worked at the Westland animal shelter of the Michigan Humane Society.
- Dana Lampinen, who worked with McLean and Friends, a commercial arts firm in Southfield.

- Jason Weiss, who worked with Farmington Hills attorney Dan Penning, who took him to downtown Detroit to see the court system.

- Steven Kozle, who worked with the Farmington Department of Public Safety, where he toured the department and rode with an officer.

VETERINARIAN JOHN Richardson said his office works with area students often, especially from families who bring their pets to his office.

"This is old hat for us, we've been doing this for years," he said. "Some youngsters decide they love it, others aren't as excited once they see what's involved, he said."

The organizers planned the Job Shadowing day to coincide with National Career Awareness Month, celebrated throughout November.



Kelly Ludy (center), an East Middle School sixth grader, watches as technician Stacy Templeton prepare a 7-month-old Bouvier for surgery at the Plaza Veterinary Hospital, Farmington.



Ellen Evans (center), an East Middle School sixth grader, watches as Nancy Stroth (left) conducts a reading lesson with one of her students, Adrienne Michael.

## 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. Items will not be taken over the phone.

### • MEDALLION AWARD

Richard Corp, teacher and National Honor Society adviser at Farmington High, received the Medallion Award at the Southeast Michigan NHS Conference this fall sponsored by the Eastern Michigan University honors program.

The award is presented each year to the NHS Adviser of the Year. Farmington High principal Gerald Potter nominated Corp for his contributions and service to his school.

Designated Farmington High Teacher of the Year in 1987, Corp serves as chairman of the school improvement committee. He teaches physical science and psychology. He is a 19-year veteran of teaching and advising.

The NHS tutoring program, which Corp supervises, has enabled Farmington students to improve their academic achievement levels. A "Gold Card" program was instituted under his guidance, rewarding academic excellence by admitting students with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, at no charge, to a variety of school activities.

Potter describes Corp as a "master teacher, an exemplary staff member who is always striving to improve his teaching/learning environment. As a result of his total commitment to serving students and the community, he enjoys the support and respect of school staff and administration."

### • GOOD SAMARITANS

Students at Thomas Beahan Junior High School in Farmington are busy this month taking care of others:

- Eighth graders are serving meals, doing clean-up and other miscellaneous chores as part of a parish-wide effort through Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, in which some 30 homeless people will be given food and shelter.
- Students in all grades at

Beahan are collecting canned goods to refurbish pantries at various soup kitchens during the holiday season.

- Detroit Hunger Awareness Day was held Nov. 30, an annual event for the school. Students were asked to forgo lunch and donate the money to charity. A visiting missionary addressed the school's religion classes as well.

### • MATH QUALIFIERS

Students from all three public Farmington high schools qualified for Part II of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

Fourteen North Farmington students, four Farmington High students and six Harrison High students are among 917 students statewide to win the honor.

To gain this distinction, the students had to score in the top 5 percent of the 19,292 students took the Part I test.

Students included:

- North Farmington — Sanju Baluja, Jason Blederman, Kelvin Chou, Jeffrey Haber, Dhraj Kalra, John Mitchell, Michael Ober, Joshua Rintamaki, Manish Sabnis, Scott Simpson, Jeffrey Sung, William Trenkle, Mike Weh and Joseph Zeff.
- Farmington — Eric Crawford, Dave Chong, Atul Gupta and Vipul Panchal.
- Harrison — Dana Apfelblat, Shaw Brown, Jim Cannon, Dan Fulga, Mark Rabinowitz and Todd Hope.

Special congratulations go to Scott Simpson who had the highest score among North Farmington students, his score placed him in the top 92 students of those taking Part I.

The Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition is sponsored each year by the Mathematical Association of America. It tests mathematical knowledge and creativity through the pre-calculus level.

Part II of the test will be given on Dec. 15. The top 100 finishers in the state will be given special awards and scholarships.

### • LANGUAGE FORUM

Fern Onickel, sixth grade teacher at Warner Middle School and Barbara Rebbeck, gifted coordinator for the Farmington district, presented their Fairy Tale and Kibitz Goose unit at the Michigan Council for Teachers of English Fall Conference in Lansing recently.

Teachers from across the state attended the conference to update their knowledge and skills in the language arts.

### • BOOK SEQUEL

Ideas of sixth graders at Power Middle School in Farmington Hills are being published nationally.

The students, from Marlene Angelo's reading classes, worked with gifted coordinator Barbara Rebbeck to write a sequel to the book "Mrs. Armitage on Wheels" by Quentin Blake.

Nancy Pollette, a national expert on language arts and a book publisher, was so impressed by the efforts, she will include some of their ideas in her next book "Whole Language in Action."

Pollette has also contracted with Rebbeck to write an activity book for language arts classes entitled "Creative Books for Creative Minds."

### • SENATE FINALISTS

Gerami Seltzman of Walled Lake Central High School was one of 34 Michigan high school students selected as regional and state finalists in the U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Competition. It is sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

Seltzman and other finalists will receive a certificate of recognition from the state board of education for their leadership role as student council officer or other elected post in their high schools.

### • EYEING THE WORLD

First graders at Longacre Elementary in Farmington are studying a special science unit that focuses on the eye, under the tutelage of student teacher Pam Brown.

Brown contacted Kodak, which sent the class 50 free cameras to use. K mart agreed to develop film for the project at cost. Students will take their own photos as part of the project.

### • TRIO LAUDED

Three Longacre Elementary students were lauded recently for top sales in the Farmington school's third annual wrapping paper sale.

Ryan Higgins, Jimmy Tossian and Kristin Slezosky were top salespeople. Profits will provide Longacre with special programs, media center equipment and other items.

## CASHMERE BLEND

Brave the cold weather beautifully! Cashmere and nylon blend knit set by Liz Calbarne keeps you covered and warm from head to finger tips. A wonderful array of colors to coordinate with or accent any coat; scarlet, dusty rose, black and heather beige. A hot combination for cold weather! Beet, \$23. Scarf, \$28. Gloves, \$19.

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