

Frank Kasun is decorated as a Christmas tree by fourth graders. All this student ef-fort on his behalf brought tears to the retiring principal's eyes.

# Vocal music teacher Kathy seremet ac companies Ea gle Elementary

## Principal gets rousing goodbye

By Casey Hans stall writer

TEARY-EYED Frank Kasun said goodbye last week to gazers of education — the last 39 4 years as the principal at Eagle Elementary.
"I'd like to first thank everyone. This is a very special place." Kasun told a gymnasium filled with his students, from kindergarten through the fifth grade. "We think you are very special people and we love you." I'm proud of you."

I'm proud of you. Kasun encouraged students to always "be their best."
Students and staff dedicated their winter assembly — on the last day of school before the holidaly break — to the retiring principal, who has worked in the Farmington Public Schools for 24 years. They also welcomed new principal Su Johnson, who officially takes over in January.

The program included several spe-cial segments, including one involv-ing student Erica Smith, who sang a

song about friendship and love while the entire school around her used sign language as she sang the words. Fourth graders sang as they dressed their principal as a Christmas tree. Staff members, also known as the Dinga-Ling Singers, sang a few numbers to entertain students and many guests.

Students also presented Kasun with a book, with their interpretations of how "Mr. Kasun is special because . . . ."

In addition to Friday's assembly, the Eagle Elementary community enjoyed a "Frank Kasun Day" earli-er in the month, and held an evening reception where people could visit and offer their best wishes.

Kasun said he plans to remain in Formington, using it as his base from which to travel. "Were going to stay in the area, but we want travel some and become fluent in French and German," Kasun said. He said he also plans to join a health club to stay in shape.



Eagle kindergartners sing "Wrap Myself Up and Send Myself to You," as part of their holiday performance at the school. Tracy Singer (right) adds the appropriate hand gestures to the melo-dy. Just behind her is Laura Azzo.

### Local students boost scores on state tests

By Casey Hans staff writer

There was an overall improvement this year in state mandated assessment tests for Farmington students.

But testing procedures for the Michigan Educational Assessment Program in science, and especialty reading, have changed This affects was an experienced to the state of the

in 1989.

• Reading (basic skills only) —
fourth graders went from 91.6 per-cent in 1988 to 95 percent in 1989.



#### MEAP Scores -**Farmington Public Schools**

Grade Math	1989	Į 1988	Net Ch	Net Change	
4th 7th 10th	92.3 82.1 87.5	90.0 82.5 82.5	+2.3 4 +5.0	Numbers are percent of students scoring 75% or better on lests	
Reading 4th 7th 10th	48.3 47.5 47.4	of 350 que	A porcent of unswering at le estions on bot imprehension	h parts of the	

Seventh graders went from 92.9 percent in 1888 to 967 in 1889. Tenth
process and the sevent from 89.4 percent in
1888 to 96.7 in 1899. Tenth
process and from 89.4 percent in
1898 to 94.5 percent in 1899. Only a
portion of this test was given this
year for comparison purposes,
a Science — fourth graders taking the test secred 57.2 percent in
1998. Compared with the same students now in the fifth graders socred 72.8
percent compared with 50.8 percent
in 1998. This year's tilth graders
year's eighth graders socred 72.8
percent compared with 50.8 percent
in 1998. This year's tilth graders
secred 53.5 percent in 1999 compared with 36 percent in 1990 compared with 36 percent in 1990 compared with 50.8 percent
in 1998. With the new reading tests, Farri
ington students fared better in reading comprehension after reading an
in the percent of the second state of the second s

satisfactorily on the informational reading portion. A total of 48.3 percent reached state standards on both.

• Seventh graders — 7.3.9 performed satisfactorily on the story portion, while only 53.7 performed satisfactorily on the informational reading portion. A total of 47.5 percent reached state standards on both.

Tenth graders — 68.3 percent performed satisfactorily on the story portion, while only 54.1 percent performed satisfactorily on the informational reading portion. A total of 47.4 percent reached state standards on both.

Assistant superintendent Judith White attributes the lower scores at the high school level to students being interested in other tests, such as college entrance exams on which their future depends. "The kids in general don't take the test as serlously," she said. "It doesn't tet for grades, it doesn't tet to college. It's always a challenge at the secondary level to get them to take this seriously,"

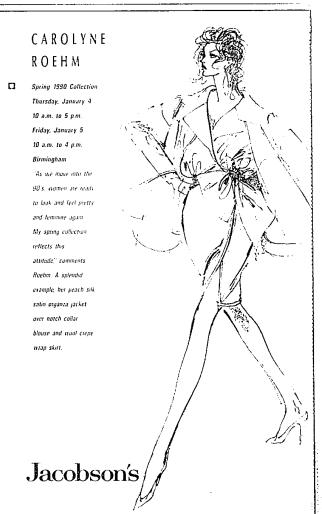
### Flanagan responds to criticism

Michael Flanagan, newly appoint-i Farmington superintendent of

Michael Flanagan, newly appointed Farmington superintendent of
schools, defended hinself last week
against critics who believe be lacks
a sufficient teaching background.
"I do believe I meet those (North
Central Association of Secondary
Schools) requirements," said the former deputy superintendent, appointed to the top post in early December.

Flanagan has several years of college-level teaching experience, but mone in elementary or secondary grades. North Central, an Ann Arn-brased regional accredidation agency, requires a minimum of two years of teaching experience for superintendents.

Some community members were concerned about Flanagan's lack of cartyling to jeopardire this district, he said.



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