

Children watch as Caroline Dunphy, a painter from Northville, shows them some of her paintings done on the grounds of Claude Monet's house in France.

The magic of Monet

Artist colors world for Grace students

WATERCOLOR artist Caroline Dunphy shared her experiences focusing on French Impressionist painter Claude Monet with students at William Grace Dec. 7, as part of the school's art and language program.

Dunphy has visited Giverny, France to paint in Monet's gardens.

In assemblies throughout the day, Dunphy shared those experiences with students and brought with her a small model of Monet's house in Giverny. A Northville artist, she brought some of her finished work and works in progress. In addition to watercolors, she also works with pen and ink and in oils.

In preparation for Dunphy's visit, third grade students painted their own gardens. Each student painted several colorful flowers to add to a cooperative mural — "The gardens of rooms 4 and 5."

Students also read about Monet

before the artist's visit, coordinated by the William Grace staff and art consultant Stephanie Kessler. Her

visit was made possible through a grant from the Farmington Area Arts Commission.



Caroline Dunphy shows the William Grace Elementary School students some of her art supplies.

Slight change reported in local MEAP scores

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Scores on state-mandated skills testing in the Farmington Public Schools changed only slightly this year, with increases in eight test areas and decreases in four.

Tenth graders taking a new "essential skills" reading test showed the biggest change with a jump of 10 percentage points over last year — the first year the more comprehensive reading test was given.

Local results of the Michigan Education Assessment Program, or MEAP, were released last week. Farmington school board members are expected to hear a report on district's overall testing program, including the MEAP test, on Dec. 18.

Statewide results of the test will not be available until early next year.

District testing coordinator Carolyn Mahalak has started meeting with building principals to go over results. Principals will, in turn, review the findings with their staffs to determine if any changes to teaching methods are needed, or if individual students, classes or subjects need attention.

MAHALAK SAID the district regards the MEAP as a tool for helping the schools, although it has become a measuring stick between districts. "MEAP's always criticized," she said. "You can't make these numbers do more than they were meant to do."

Two reading tests — one measuring essential skills and the other basic skills — and a basic skills mathematics tests were given to students in grades 4, 7 and 10. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 took a basic skills tests in science.

Scores are the percentage of stu-

dents achieving 75 percent or better on the test.

In mathematics, grade four went from 92.3 to 94.3 percent, grade seven went from 82.1 to 84.2 percent and grade 10 from 87.5 to 85.4 percent. As the reading did last year, a new more comprehensive math test will begin in 1991, which district math coordinator Richard Strausz said will focus on the important areas of probability, estimation and problem-solving. It will likely bring positive changes to Farmington's math program, he said.

Science scores continue to be lower than math and reading, which have been tested for the past 20 years. Science testing started only recently, and was shifted last year to grades 5, 8 and 11. This year fifth graders decreased from 85.5 to 82.7, and eighth graders from 72.8 to 68.4. Eleventh graders increased from 53.5 to 55.9 percent.

IN BASIC reading skills, grade four went from 95 to 95.5 percent, grade seven from 96.7 to 95.7 and

grade 10 from 94.5 to 95.7.

The basic skills reading test will soon be dropped, leaving only the essential skills test, Mahalak said. The new test has two reading sections, testing students on an information section and a story selection.

School officials are reviewing the overall increase of the essential reading tests — especially the 10-point percentage increase at grade 10. Tenth graders jumped from 47.4 to 57.9, seventh graders from 47.5 to 52.3. These scores show the percent of students achieving satisfactory performance on both selections.

They do not know why the increase occurred, but speculate it could be a change in teaching and more awareness. "We were pleased the overall the direction is upward, but we're trying to decide why," Mahalak said. "The teachers have been more aware of that testing format."

"The test is calling attention to reading — the awareness level is building."

Highlights of local scores

Here are some highlights from the Farmington Public Schools MEAP scores, state-mandated testing done each fall:

- Most score variations had only a one or two percentage point change over 1989. One exception was the science area, where fifth graders dropped from 85.5 to 82.7, and in grade eight, where scores dipped from 72.8 to 68.4. Students in grade 11 increased from 53.5 to 55.9.
- The largest test score increases came in essential skills reading

tests, where 10th graders jumped from 47.4 percent to 57.9 percent. Fourth graders also increased scores from 48.3 to 52.3 percent, while seventh graders increased from 47.5 to 52.3 percent.

- Basic reading skills tests stayed about even, with fourth graders going from 95 to 95.5, seventh graders from 96.7 to 95.7, and 10th graders from 94.5 to 95.7.
- Basic math skills scores were also similar to last year's. Grade 4 went from 92.3 to 94.3, grade seven from 82.1 to 84.2 and grade 10 from 87.5 to 85.4.



photos by SHARON LEMUEUX/staff photographer

Kindergartner Aaron Dutton closes his eyes and takes a trip in his mind to the house of Claude Monet as painter Caroline Dunphy guides the journey.

It's Not Too Late to Save up to \$25 on Your Next JCPenney Catalog Order...

Not only can we deliver your order fast*, we'll save you money too! Just use either of the attached certificates to save \$15 off your next Catalog order of \$75 or more, or save \$25 off your next order of \$100 or more placed between December 10 and December 18, 1990.

*Most orders delivered to Catalog Department in 2-3 days. Longer in Alaska and Hawaii. Home Deliveries allow 2 additional days.

JCPenney Catalog

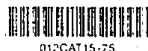
To order toll-free any time! 1-800-222-6161

JCPenney Catalog Merchandise Certificate

Good on any Catalog order of \$75 or more placed before December 18th, 1990. Valid at your nearby JCPenney.

\$15⁰⁰ OFF

Your satisfaction is our goal!



012CAT15-75

JCPenney Catalog Merchandise Certificate

Good on any Catalog order of \$100 or more placed before December 18th, 1990. Valid at your nearby JCPenney.

\$25⁰⁰ OFF

Your satisfaction is our goal!



012CAT25-100