



Students (above, in front row from left) Jennifer Pak, Lauren Fleming and Lindsey Burtney listen to Elaine Grohman (right) talk about her art teaching and work.

photos by DANIEL LIPPITT/staff photographer

Students were able to personally examine the artist's lettering during the presentation.



Learning is 'letter-perfect' at Highmeadow

By Casey Hana
staff writer

EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS, prehistoric clay paintings on clay tablets and typestyles in modern magazine advertising are all part of an art enrichment course for fourth and fifth graders at Highmeadow Community Campus.

design problems and critique contemporary artists who use lettering in their work.

A lengthy list of student activities for the class includes: exploring brush lettering, simulating prehistoric cave paintings and experimenting with various types of pens, among others.

THE OFFBEAT art class is one of several art enrichments offered at the elementary school, which has worked with an alternative curriculum since opening two years ago. Also offered in the arts are courses in architecture, fiber arts and paper-making and computer design. Elective enrichment classes in math, language, comput-

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— Harvey Goldstein
art teacher

ers, science and other fields are also offered to Highmeadow students in grades 1-5, who study the basics each morning, then continue their day with elective classes.

"That's the purpose of this school," Goldstein said. "We don't teach kids what to think, we teach

them how to think."

ALPHABETRICS AND other art classes make use of the Farmington school district's 2-year-old art curriculum, which includes not only hands-on study of art but the study of art history, criticism and aesthetics. "The new curriculum is

in full swing," he said, pointing to a wall which compares items of art and non-art. "My students can tell you, for example, why a Campbell's Soup label is not art, but when Andy Warhol does it, it is."

A recent Alphabetrics session culminated with a visit from calligraphy artist and instructor Elaine Grohman, who offered insight into her work for students. As part of the class, students learned to do calligraphy handwriting and hand-lettering done with specialized writing tools and materials.

"I might have to write one letter 50 times to get it right," said Grohman, an instructor at the Center for Creative Studies and a Farmington Hills parent with children at

Wood Creek Elementary and Warner Middle School. "I like to write something several times in several different ways to see the kinds of effects."

Grohman is internationally known. Two of her art pieces were selected from 600 entries for a cultural exchange and exhibit in Moscow which opened in November. She works in a number of areas, mostly doing commercial work including logos, brochures, invitations, menus and even a decal for a professional racing car.

Students were most impressed, however, with special gifts brought by Grohman each student received a sheet with her name written in calligraphy.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

• TWO ARRESTED

Two Detroit men face felony charges in connection with the breaking and entering of DuLac Hair Fashions, 29525 Nine Mile, about 2:30 a.m. Jan. 3.

Robert L. Hughes, 24, and Jeffrey L. Grady, 22, stood mute to one count each of breaking and entering with the intent to commit larceny at their arraignment Jan. 3 in 41st District Court in Farmington, according to Farmington Hills police.

Not guilty pleas were entered on each man's behalf. Both failed to post the \$10,000 corporate-surety bond. Preliminary examination on the charges is scheduled for Jan. 11 before Judge Fred Harris of Farmington.

Conviction brings a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Police saw a man walk into the beauty shop and saw him moving around inside the front of the store for about 1-2 minutes, according to a police report.

Police found the front door of the shop shattered and a brick laying inside the building. The shop owner reported that an envelope with about \$38 was missing. The money was later recovered.

Police kept an eye on the man who entered and left the shop and a second man, both of whom drove along Nine Mile, stopping a couple times at pay phones. Police finally approached the car driven by the pair on Eight

Mile. When police checked the car's license plate number, they found it was listed as a rented car that had not been returned, according to police.

• OFFICES DAMAGED

Two offices at 30330 12 Mile received about \$1,000 damage each to entry doors when someone tried to break in Dec. 31-Jan. 1. About \$10 was taken from one of the offices, Farmington Hills Dental Associates. Nothing was reported from the second suite, an orthodontic office, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• JUVENILE TRESPASS

Three 15-year-olds were arrested for trespassing on the roof at Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street Dec. 30. Petitions have been filed with the Oakland County Probate Court, juvenile division in the matter.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, the three were confronted by police, and attempted to flee east on the roof. A parent of one of the boys arrived and talked two of the boys into coming down. The third boy was found in Shawassaw Park.

The three were ninth graders at Farmington High.

• THEFTS REPORTED

A watch and firearm valued at \$350 and a jar containing \$200 cash was reported stolen from a house on Hensseler Dec. 27.

A diamond ring valued at \$995 was reported stolen from a purse in

the sales room at Bob Saks Toyota, 35200 Grand River, Jan. 1.

A leather jacket, 35 mm camera, clothes, a purse and contents and gym bag valued at \$525 was reported stolen from a car parked at the Travelodge, 21100 Haggerty, Dec. 31.

• DAMAGE REPORTED

About \$500 estimated damage resulted when someone shot a hole through the roof of a 1989 Dodge parked on Sky Drive, Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

About \$200 damage resulted when someone scratched the word, "Satan," into the driver's door of a 1987 Dodge parked on Sincola, Jan. 3.

When someone tried to break into a house on Purdue Dec. 31-Jan. 2, the door was pried and glass broken, causing about \$800 damage. Door frames of a house on Lyncroft were broken, causing \$300 damage, when someone tried to break in Dec. 28.

Damage was estimated at \$1,000 when someone backed into a gasoline pump with their car at a Sunoco station, 29372 Grand River, Dec. 31.

Damage was estimated at \$800 when someone cut the top of 1989 Jeep Wrangler parked on West Mureland, Jan. 1.

Damage was estimated at \$800 when someone cut the tires on a Pontiac Bonneville parked on Grand River, Jan. 1.

A three-foot tree planted by students at Flanders Elementary, 32600 Flanders, was found cut and laying in a neighbor's yard on Laurelwood Jan. 1-2. Damage was estimated at \$50.

SPRING & SUMMER LAUREL COLLECTION

Wednesday, January 9
Birmingham

Thursday, January 10
Livonia

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Collection Sportswear

Effortless style accentuated by brilliant color. Tailored shapes house an attitude—looks that mean business, and these that are definitely weekend-ready. From the collection. Jacket \$499, shirt \$299, pants \$449.

Jacobson's



We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard, VISA, and American Express. Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Alzheimer's group meets at nursery

The Farmington Family Support Group of the Alzheimer's Association, in cooperation with Botsford Hospital, will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, in the Farmington Nursing Home, 30405 Folsom Road.

This group, which is for caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals afflicted by Alzheimer's disease, meets on the first Tuesday of each month and offers educational support programs. For more information, call 477-7400.

2 Farmington stores robbed minutes apart at gunpoint

Employees at two Farmington businesses were robbed at gunpoint shortly after 6 p.m. Jan. 2, within minutes of each other, according to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports.

The businesses involved were Fantastic Sams, 51151 Grand River and Thrifty Flowers, 22840 Orchard Lake Road. Both are located near the Grand River-Orchard Lake intersection. A total of \$434.10 was taken from the stores' cash registers.

Police have linked the two robberies, which occurred four minutes apart and within several blocks of each other, but have not yet determined whether there were one or two subjects involved in the robberies.

THE FIRST robbery occurred at 6:08 p.m. at Fantastic Sams, where two employees and three visitors were confronted by a man who came to the locked front door and requested change for one dollar.

After letting the man in to get him change, he pulled a gun on the owner and demanded money.

As police responded to the first incident, another was reported down the street at Thrifty Flowers at 6:12 p.m.—where a lone employee was held at gunpoint by a man who also demanded money from the cash register.

Employees at the Farmington Bicycle Shop also reported a man coming into the store to ask for change, but left without incident.