



Third-graders from teacher Dodie Harris' class at Hillside Elementary School in Farmington Hills perform Friday to honor civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

SHAHUN LAMIEUX/staff photographer



David Floury portrays Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a Hillside Elementary School skit Friday.

# Students salute black leaders

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"They learned about a man who helped bring about important civil rights changes for people all over our country in a productive, non-violent way. They have expanded their vocabulary and now understand what the words civil rights, equality for all, segregation, violence versus nonviolence, brotherhood and boycott mean."

"Now when they recite: 'My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,' the words have more value to them."

ALTHOUGH KING's actual birthday was Jan. 15, the later date has been designated Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

This day is not a legal holiday for school purposes, however, Michigan public schools are required to observe it, according to Michael Flanagan, superintendent of the Farmington Public Schools.

"In a period where we are witnessing a resurgence of racial intolerance, threats toward world peace, homelessness and religious hatred, it is fitting that we observe the day by presenting to our students the proper and appropriate recognition to teach the significance of this commemorative time," Flanagan said.

"We must forever be cognizant of Dr. King's principles and ideals. His steadfast belief in the dignity of all human beings should be a reality for all."

All schools are encouraged to hold

special exhibits, assemblies and discussions.

Chuck Autry, an assistant principal at North Farmington High School, said teachers plan individual activities within their classrooms. Special bulletin boards are displayed in the halls. King will be mentioned at a general assembly Jan. 25, Autry said.

During Harrison High School's National Honor Society (NHS) induction tonight, Principal Clayton Graham will mention King, who was also a (NHS) member.

Graham said that he called Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta on Friday to collect additional information about King.

"King skipped ninth grade entirely, went to 10th and 11th grade and graduated at age 15," Graham said. "He always had a commitment to his fellow man."

Since 1987, Linda Arnt, a Farmington High School English teacher, has written an annual tribute to King which she reads over the loudspeaker.

In this year's address, to be delivered Jan. 21, Arnt states:

"We are responsible for our own actions and we can be certain that we don't prejudice other people merely on the basis of their race, gender or national origin. We can be certain to stand up publicly for these ideals. We can look at the life of a great American, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and try to follow his example."

## police/fire calls

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

### • BOMB THREAT

The phone mail service at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company of America received a bomb threat call about 10 a.m. Jan. 16 from a man who is believed to have faked a Middle Eastern accent. He identified himself by an Arabic name and said he was calling to inform the company of a bomb in a bathroom, set to explode at noon, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

The bathroom was searched and police and company officials found nothing.

### • BOMB ALERT

A bomb threat was phoned to Farmington High School Jan. 16, Farmington police said. According to the police report, the caller said, "Yeah, there's a bomb in the high school." A search was made, but nothing was found, police said.

### • THEFTS REPORTED

Nintendo games, earrings and a pair of baby gloves valued at \$880 was reported stolen from a house on Briar Crest Knoll, Jan. 17.

### • CHURCH THEFT

Some \$500 in construction materials was stolen from the St. Gerald's Church construction site sometime during the weekend of Jan. 12-13. The discovery was made Jan. 16. Two aluminum doors valued at \$400 and \$100 of copper tubing were stolen.

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