

Alter Junior High Plans

FARMINGTON To make transition from sixth grade to junior high school as painless as possible, many new orientation ideas are being tried out in the Farmington School District.

Sixth graders filled out questionnaires about their concerns relative to moving into the more independent atmosphere of junior high. Later this was done on a district-wide level with results which confirmed the earlier findings.

Most frequently pinpointed was the conviction that work will be much harder at the seventh grade level. There was some confusion about extra-curricular activities that will be available, and students expressed a wariness of how they will be treated by their upperclassmen.

Most confessed to feeling excited about the coming adventure, and more than half felt well prepared to cope with their new surroundings.

WORKING WITH Farmington Junior High, Ten Mile conducted an experiment last year which is being adopted this year with modifications tailored to each school. Sixth graders paid a visit to their prospective junior high school and were assigned a seventh grade "buddy" for the day. They lived through a typical school day experience, thus putting to rest most of their fears about the changes in store for them.

As an outgrowth of the work by a Ten Mile faculty-staff committee, teachers will have an information sheet on students entering seventh grade with outstanding qualifications in the realms of behavior (good or bad), scholarship or attitudes.

There will be an increase in the effort to communicate between the junior highs and their feeder schools. Thus junior highs will be more

highly sensitive to the needs of the entering students.

MORE MOVEMENT in fifth and sixth grades will help to gear students for the switch to constantly changing classes. This will also be accomplished by means of interest groups with a different teacher for each one, and some team teaching. The approach emerged from a movement which began last year among teachers at Ten Mile Elementary School.

Principal Wallace Prince was assisted in a screening process to determine student needs by sixth grade teachers Mrs. Ellen Rich, Mrs. Karla Walkley, and Richard Stasser. Mrs. Phyllis Bodwell, librarian; Mrs. Jay Frid, reading specialist; Mrs. Virginia Britton, social worker; Mrs. Judy Niehoff, psychologist; and Miss Eleanor Snyder, physical education teacher.

Driving School Bus Can Be Rigorous

FARMINGTON During the brief weather lull after one of Farmington's stormiest winters, Farmington Public Schools bus drivers answered questions about the rigors of their daily routine.

Every school day, 54 of their safely deliver almost 7,000 students to and from the area's schools. While it has sometimes been necessary to stay on the outskirts of the hillier subdivisions, bus service has continued uninterrupted throughout the winter.

ODDLY ENOUGH, drivers take bad weather pretty much in stride. They take along some salt for starting up on slick patches but, if they do get stuck, it's almost

always necessary to call the transportation department to dispatch help.

Mrs. Mary Berndt was grateful to a Briarcliff resident who came to her aid with salt and towels, but had to give up and call the tow truck.

One driver noted that in 11 years of bus driving, this is the first winter she hasn't been stuck.

More upsetting from the drivers' viewpoint are the totally unexpected hazards that occur. One cited sewer work going on in one section of the township with workmen's heads popping out of the pavement. "Now that's something that will really scare you," she commented.

Another mentioned the problem of dogs on the loose causing constant fear of running over someone's beloved pet.

STILL ANOTHER was confronted with a file of eight little pigs crossing Haggerty Road and on the previous day horses breaking loose in that same vicinity.

Mrs. Ginny Belcher, traveling down Shiawassee, had a shattering experience when a foal, a half-bred, pulled out in front of her bus trying to see how close he could come without actually cracking up.

Mrs. Belcher's knees didn't stop shaking for some time after that episode. She was thankful that her bus was empty at the time or her sudden stop would have been disastrous to its passengers.

Mrs. Rose Lardie searched all through one subdivision attempting to return a lost poodle to its owner. She was finally directed to another subdivision where the dog belonged and delivered him to his home.

Mrs. Donna Fredericks spied a briefcase in a ditch, discovered who owned it by looking inside, and returned the case and its blueprint contents to a grateful owner from whose car it had been stolen.

These are the events Farmington drivers recall about the snowy, icy winter of 1970-71. Ever on the lookout for additions to their ranks they will be glad to hear from civil-minded residents who could devote a few hours daily to a challenging but rewarding task. The number to call is that of John Grese, bus supervisor, 474-3091.

Farmington Calendar

News items for the Farmington Community Calendar should be type-written, double-spaced, and contain the type of event, date, time and place. Mail to the Farmington Community Calendar, 3226 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48151.

AREA COUNCIL OF PTAs
Wednesday, March 17, at 8 p.m. the Farmington Area Council of PTAs will present a discussion led by PTA presidents Rita Credele, Maynard Gordon and Lorraine LeGrose in the library of Farmington Junior High School.

JAYCEE SHOW
Tickets still may be purchased for the three performances of the 24th annual musical performed by the Farmington Area Jaycees. Tickets at \$2 per person may be purchased at the door for the Thursday, March 18, and Friday, March 19, shows, but must be purchased in advance for the March 20 show.

"The Case of the Purloined Proprietor or Who Heisted Hernandez?" will begin at 8:15 p.m. on March 18, 19, 20 in the Farmington Senior High auditorium. Tickets for Thursday night may be purchased from student council members of the three Farmington high schools. Friday and Saturday night tickets may be purchased at Clappison & Conroy Insurance, Kwikee Duplicating, Godmar Rexall Pharmacy or the Farmington Community Center.

CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ASSN.
Thursday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. the Southern Oakland County branch of the Association for Childhood Education will hold its March dinner meeting in the Clarenceville High cafeteria on Middle Belt between Eight and Seven Mile Roads. Lynne Brooke-Finn, who is on the staff at Wayne State University, will speak on "Creative Dramatics in the Classroom."

BLUE STAR MOTHERS
Thursday, March 18, at 1 p.m., Farmington chapter 49 of the Blue Star Mothers of America will hold its regular business meeting in the home of Mrs. Blanche Gilson at 23016 Floral, Farmington.

STATE BOARD
Thursday, March 18, at 7 p.m. the State Board of Education will hold a special meeting in Livonia Franklin High School at 31000 Joy Road to discuss the tentative policy statement on the common goals of Michigan education. Written statements may be submitted.

SENIOR CITIZENS SOCIAL CLUB
Friday, March 19, at 12:30 p.m., the Senior Citizens Social Club of Farmington will hold its ninth anniversary dinner at Vladimir's on Grand River west of Middle Belt. The group will meet at the First United Methodist Church at 11:30 a.m. Call Julia Schneider at 474-2246 for reservations.

O.E.S. MILLIONAIRES PARTY
Saturday, March 20, from 8 p.m. to midnight, the Farmington chapter 239 of the Order of Eastern Star will hold a Millionaires Party in the Farmington Masonic Temple at Grand

River and Farmington Roads. Donation is \$2 per person. The public is invited.

OAKLAND OSTOMY GROUP
Sunday, March 21, at 3 p.m., the Oakland County Ostomy Group will meet in the Oakland County auditorium at 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac.

BEECHVIEW CARD PARTY
Monday, March 22, from 8-11 p.m., the Beechview Elementary PTA will hold its "Spring Fling" card party in the school. There will be refreshments and prizes and proceeds will be used to purchase new equipment for the school. Tickets are \$1.75 per person. For information, call Mrs. Joy Smart at 477-6188 or Mrs. Louise Dalluge at 474-8823.

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Minorities

Continued from Page 3A
viewpoints by the classroom teacher:

- Encouragement of PTAs, community service groups and churches to develop minority understanding programs for their own groups.
- Attempts to inform parents and the public of aspects of the curriculum involving minority understanding; and
- A adult education course titled "The Nature of Prejudice" aimed not primarily at understanding the black community but understanding the roots of prejudice.

STUDENT ATTITUDES toward minority groups would be sampled in September and again in June to determine whether there had been change during the school year. The survey would be anonymous and administered by personnel other than those in the immediate school building.

However, the committee advised against the FLE recommendation that similar tests be made of teacher attitudes.

Nicita said testing experts agreed that attitudinal surveys of adults were generally not valid because "as people get older they become less honest."

Commenting on his committee's overall report, Nicita said: "We were not asked to develop a program; we were asked to develop procedures to implement the program already adopted. We did not go beyond the FLE report, nor did we limit it. We tried to be honest. "Some points might have been said in a different way so that they might not have raised eyebrows, perhaps. But we said what we wanted to say."