



Photo by SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Forest Elementary second grader Steven Rives looks to the chalkboard Friday as he learns to cartoon during an after-school enrichment class held at the school. Cartooning is one of more than 100 classes offered at Farmington elementary schools through a community education program.



A number of Forest students enjoyed the two-hour, after-school cartooning enrichment class held at the elementary school Friday. Helping each other draw are second-grader Danielle

Goodman (left), fifth-grader John Redmond, and second-graders Rachel Redmond and Sara Levin.

After-school classes rattle popularity meter

By Casey Hane
staff writer

THE FARMINGTON schools' community education department has given new meaning to the term "staying after school."

It's all fun and learning for hundreds of elementary students who are signing up for after-school classes like "Speaking Spanish," "Computer Whiz Kids," "Mighty Might Martial Arts," and "It's For the Birds" through the district's community education department.

Terry Leland, who supervises the kids' program, said she is pleased to see how popular it has become. Since the fall of 1988, when the program was piloted at Highmeadow Common Campus Elementary, it has grown to include all elementary schools in the district this year.

"I think it supports the community education concept of lifetime learning and daylong learning — that learning doesn't end at 3 o'clock," Leland said.

In previous years, the program was registering between 100-200 students per session. This year, there were 700 registrations in the fall and another 600 were logged for winter term. Of the 6,500 elementary level students, the program is now serving about one in 10.

"I have been really enthusiastic about

getting into all 13 schools," Leland added. "With more space, we'd like to see it grow."

AT HILLSIDE and Flanders elementary schools last week, students were learning about computers. Longere students were speaking German. And at Forest Elementary, students were busy learning how to cartoon through a Cartoon Creations class.

Elementary students can select from more than 100 classes each term, with individual schools offering between four and 13 selections per term. All are held after school and most meet for one hour. About 50 community education teachers handle the classes.

Any area student, including those in private schools or from other districts, can sign up for the classes which, like all community education programs, are self supporting. Leland said. Class fees range from \$5 for some one-time sessions to about \$25 for some 6-session classes. Full and partial tuition grants are available for families who cannot afford to pay for the extra classes.

"When I schedule a school, I look at them individually," she explained. She uses parent requests, surveys and student participation as measures of what will be offered. The more convenient the program, the more students are

likely to attend, she said.

THE MOST popular classes have been any of the four foreign languages taught — German, Spanish, French or Japanese — computers, the various physical education activities including golf, karate and aerobics.

Although teachers do not need to be certified for community education classes, many of those teaching in the Farmington children's program are. Leland said. Also teaching are at least one senior citizen, and several teams of high school French V students who are teaching a "Parlez-vous Francais?" course at several schools. Leland said she is looking for ways to involve students in more of future programs.

The classes also offer enrichment opportunities in a time when districts like Farmington have cut back some music programs and cannot offer things like foreign language at the elementary level. The program even boasts a Children's Community Chorus with children of all ages which performs at area events.

Call the Farmington Community School at 489-3333 if you have an idea for a class, if you are interested in teaching a class or for more information about classes.

Kids community ed has wide offerings for spring

Various after-school classes are offered at elementary schools in the Farmington school district through Children's Community Education. A brochure with full listings was sent home to parents in mid-March or is available by calling 489-3333.

Farmington's after-school enrichment program has grown from introduction at one school four years ago, to all 13 elementary schools this year.

Registrations are currently being taken for the spring session, which begins the week of April 6. Following is a sampling of classes offered at various locations. Although most students attend enrichments at their own schools, they can attend any school they wish:

• **Abracadabra** — Students learn to make objects appear and vanish, how to defy laws of gravity and learn to pass solid objects through one another. Plus they will take home a bag of tricks. Offered for students in grades 1-6 at Beechview and Hillside.

• **Act One** — Have fun performing skits, short plays and musical

numbers. Learn parts, practice, choral readings and do improvisations. Offered for students in grades 2-5 at Gill.

• **Cheers** — High school cheerleaders will instruct students in chants, cheers, pompon routines and team spirit. Cheerleader safety will also be featured. Offered for students in grades 3-5 at Beechview, Forest, Gill, Highmeadow, Hillside, Kenbrook, Larkshire, Longacre, and William Grace and for students in grades 2-5 at Flanders.

• **Pompons** — Taught by high school pompon squad captain, this class teaches various routines. Offered at Wood Creek for students in grades 3-5.

• **Michigan Wildflowers** — Do art projects, take nature walks in the woods and have hands-on fun. Offered at Gill for students in grades 2-5.

• **Living Science Foundation** — Visit Farmington High School the morning of April 11 to see and touch animals firsthand. Learn about animal ecology, the Amazon jungle,

Australia and the deserts of the world from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit the entire time, or stay for a one-hour class on one of the above topics. For families.

• **Cartoon Creations** — Neal Levin's workshop will teach students how to cartoon through simple instructions and games. Offered to students in grades 1-5 at Beechview, Eagle and Wood Creek.

• **Mini Aerobics** — Exercise, dance and rock music come together in this fun fitness class for kids. Offered at Larkshire and Wood Creek for students in grades K-4.

• **Mini Meteorologists** — Learn about floods, droughts, tornadoes and hurricanes plus weather maps and tracking through experiments and hands-on activities. Offered at Wooddale for students in grades K-2.

• **Young Writers Workshop** — Children will do weekly creative compositions of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and autobiography. Taught by certified teacher, author and member of the Society of Children's Writers. Offered at Wood Creek for students in grades 3-5.

police/fire calls

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

• AIDS BANDIT ARRAIGNED

A 25-year-old man, dubbed the "AIDS bandit" by local television stations, faces felony charges in connection with the armed robbery of a 7-Eleven store and a restaurant in Farmington Hills, according to Farmington Hills police.

Brian Spencer, a Farmington Hills resident who was already in custody on unrelated charges, stood mute to three counts of armed robbery before 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris March 19.

Pleas of not guilty were entered on Spencer's behalf. He remains in the Oakland County Jail. Bond was set at \$50,000 cash for each of the three counts. The maximum penalty for armed robbery is life in prison.

Spencer was charged in connection with the armed robbery of a 7-Eleven, 22323 Middlebelt, at 11:40 a.m. Feb. 25, and the Feb. 22 armed

robbery of two people in the parking lot of Mayberry's restaurant at Grand River and Eight Mile.

Farmington Hills police issued a photograph taken by a security camera of a man as he robbed the 7-Eleven store. The man walked into the store, put a bag of potato chips on the counter and handed the employee a note, saying he had AIDS.

The police department received two tips identifying the man in the photograph, detective Sgt. Charles Nebus said. Police don't know whether the man in fact has AIDS.

At Mayberry's restaurant, a couple was approached by a man with a knife who demanded money. They each gave him \$7. He demanded more, adding that he had a gun and AIDS, so he had nothing to lose. He removed the woman's bracelets, worth \$200. The thief told the woman he wouldn't take her wedding ring because it had sentimental value.

Spencer was already in custody in connection with the March 9 robbery and assault of a 29-year-old Dear-

born Heights woman, who was run over with her own car, near Eight Mile and Tuck.

• THEFTS REPORTED

Approximately \$400 cash was reported stolen from Bob Sak's Toyota, 35300 Grand River, March 24-25.

A desk-top computer and coffee maker valued at \$3,095 were reported stolen from DMA International Inc., 22260 Haggerty, March 25.

A 1989 Ford valued at \$20,000 was reported stolen from a house on Hamilton, March 23-24.

A VCR valued at \$300 was reported stolen from a house on Sunnydale, March 28.

A 1987 Pontiac valued at \$8,000 was reported stolen from a unit at the Beechwood Condominiums on 12 Mile, March 23-26.

A ring valued at \$1,500 was reported stolen from a house on Whittington, March 10.

A portable telephone valued at \$800 was reported stolen from a car parked at Metro Music Cafe, 34555 12 Mile, March 20-21.

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We are proud to co-sponsor Detroit's Run/Walk/Racewalk. The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation "Race for the Cure" Saturday, April 11, Detroit Zoo. Presented locally by The Meyer L. Prentiss Comprehensive Cancer Center of Metropolitan Detroit. Proceeds to benefit breast cancer research, detection and education. Entry forms are available at all Jacobson's Detroit area stores.

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