



Substitute teacher Linda Sabbola (left) and media specialist Julie Riegel tour the Farmington school district's mobile production van which was demonstrated recently at a Technology conference at Farmington High School. The van is just one of many technology changes in the district.

Panel pushes school technology

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She said previous years of the program helped get staff members acclimated to technology. "Your ability to succeed in this area is only as good as the enthusiasm of the staff. It takes a pioneering spirit — then it gets infectious."

Trustee Susan Rennels said she was excited about the future of technology in the district, and wants all teachers to get involved. "Many times, I wish I could go back to elementary school and start all over," she said.

Rennels called for "grade appropriate" technology standards and some assurance that "within a given time frame, that all staff members will be brought up to speed."

Flanagan estimated that would take about five years.

"It takes a pioneering spirit — then it gets infectious."

— Betsy Rothrock
TAC member

OTHERS, LIKE James Abernethy, said they wanted to ensure that any technology project is evaluated properly. Administrators told him evaluation procedures are written into each project.

The district began its foray into technology in 1979 when the first microcomputers were introduced and "the acquisition of technology was decentralized, and not coordinated." It wasn't until Flanagan put an emphasis on coordinating technology by forming TAC that technology use in

the classroom was supported, encouraged and coordinated district-wide.

The TAC committee has already accomplished a number of things including upgrading media center equipment and classroom computers, piloting mini-lab classrooms in an elementary school and buying electronic keyboards for the district's music program.

In addition, all teacher workrooms have computers, fax machines are

located at all school buildings, and the district has implemented a voice mail communication system.

An integral part of the technology plan is a grant system. In which teachers apply for specific projects and are awarded money. Of the half-million dollar technology budget, \$400,000 is being spent on these grants this year. In addition, the district hosts a "technology fair" where staffers have a chance to see and use updated technology.

TAC member Richard Strauss, math/computer coordinator for the district, said the grant program has been instrumental in introducing teachers to technology. The grants "have been the vehicle for change," he said. "We've created a monster. I'm happy to say. We can't stop people."

Hills eyes mock vote for Mercy

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Observer editorialists questioning why Mercy High School seniors were not included in the popular mock elections prompted the committee to study the issue and request the high school's participation, Faros said.

Admittedly it's not as easy to include Mercy as it has been to include the three public high schools. That's because the Mercy student population isn't restricted to the Farmington area.

Of Mercy's 181 seniors, 54 are Farmington Hills residents. "Only one-third of the seniors are actually residents of the area," city clerk Kathy Dorman said.

When the idea of establishing mock elections for students first came about, committee members didn't really consider Mercy.

"It is a private school with a lot of students who are from out of the area. We thought they might not want to participate so we never contacted them," said Julieann Hovanesian, former chairperson of the voter participation committee.

INCLUDING MERCY in the mock election is expected to cost the city a bit more money. When students at the three public high schools voted in the November 1990 election for gov-

ernor, costs topped approximately \$1,483. Those costs have increased somewhat since 1990, Dorman said.

If the city council gives its OK to Mercy High School, Slater Doelker says school staff will have to figure out how it would work within the school because Farmington-area students are of course not in one class together.

The Observer has criticized city staff for not releasing the results of students' mock elections — scheduled prior to the actual elections — until after the actual elections in which students' parents vote.

But city officials have argued that the decision to keep results quiet until after the actual election is prompted by the notion that students tend to vote like their parents — and would thus show the results of the real election.

In the 1990 governor's election, however, students at the three public high schools would have elected former Gov. James Blanchard instead of Gov. John Engler. Their parents and other voters in Farmington and Farmington Hills gave Engler the nod.

In the 1991 city council elections and bond proposal to expand the 47th District Court, student results in some cases paralleled their parents' votes, but not in others.

Students place at German Day

A number of Farmington students placed in recent German Day competition at the University of Michigan.

In Level I, first place awards were given to North Farmington student Brian Corbin for artwork and Farmington High student Andy Wayne for reading. Sarah Green of Farmington High placed second for poetry and North Farmington's Neal Diebold placed third for artwork.

In Level II, Melanie Downie of North Farmington took first place for speaking, second place awards for poetry and reading. A North Farmington team consisting of Downie, Tim Blundin, Devin Richardson, Aaron Ruskin, Keegan Kefover and Darren Mueller took second place in the commercial category.

In Level III and IV, Caroline Chubb of Harrison took first place for poetry. A Harrison team consisting of Chubb, Derek Lenz, Par Larson, Kim Burkhardt, Matt Heinemann, and Jeannette Platt took third place in the skit category.

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1st, 2nd Musicales winners to do recital

The first- and second-place winners in Farmington Musicales's annual scholarship competition will perform in a recital at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, in the Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile Road east of Farmington Road.

Vocal judge Mary Irvine gave the first place "Awards for Musical Excellence" to Melanie Downie in the competition among ninth and 10th graders, and to Erin Scheffler in the competition among 11th and 12th graders. Chris Swanson was given second place in the 11th and 12th grade competition.

Instrumental judges Walter Westphal and Ara Zeroulain gave violinist Emily Ebenhoe and cellist Laura Avers first and second place awards in the competition among seventh

and eighth graders while cellist Antonia Dunbar and flutist Melanie Downie placed first and second in the ninth and 10th grade competition.

IN THE SENIOR division of the instrumental competition, honors went to two who tied for first place: cellist Allison Davis and flutist Abba Mangrulkar.

For musical excellence at the piano, judges Jean Candlish and Mary Scialano gave first and second place awards to Patricia Blaw while Jonathan Perry and Christine Kuo tied for second.

There was no first place award in the ninth and 10th grade division, but second place was awarded to Anita Aysola, Naoko Torikai and Chris Temporelli placed first and second in the senior division.

The judges also awarded honorable mention to vocalist Michelle Jacobson in the ninth grade and 10th grade division and Jennifer Ilohnke in the senior vocal division.

Flutist Andrea Leonards merited honorable mention in the seventh

and eighth grade division of the instrumental competition. In the ninth and 10th grade division, honorable mention went to flutist Karl Owen and violinist Sara Urevig and trombonist Michael Bregand was awarded Honorable Mention in the senior division.

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