

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1993

FARMINGTON NOTES

Easter egg hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt and parade for youngsters living in the Greencastle subdivision, south of 12 Mile and east of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills, on Saturday, April 3. A subdivision board meeting will be held at Monday, April 19. Call Debbie Kendzierski at 478-0254 for more information.

Board meeting set

Members of the board of directors of the Farmington Green West subdivision, located north of 12 Mile Road and west of Drake in Farmington Hills, will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 6. See Toni Kotowski for more information.

Another meeting

Karen Harquanni's house will be the site of a meeting of the board of directors of the Holly Hill Farms subdivision at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 7. The sub is located south of 13 Mile and west of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Call 851-6309 for more information, including the address.

Meeting and election

A meeting and election of officers is planned for those in the Country Oaks subdivision in the 13 Mile/Drake area of Farmington Hills. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

Semi-annual meeting

The semi-annual meeting of residents in the Biddle Hills Estates, located west of Inxter between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads, will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, at the home of Dave and Kathy Hight. Their number and address may be found in the subdivision directory.



Learning: William Grace teacher Ron Freudenburg works with Morgan Golin.

Teacher finds that students keep him young



William Grace Elementary kindergarten teacher Ron Freudenburg is something of an anomaly: He's male and he's 64 years old. The youngsters in his class don't seem to mind, though. And neither does their teacher.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A sugary snack, 18 squirming kindergartners and two pairs of untied shoes would normally add up to one pounding headache.

"The youth, though, is his teacher's aspirin."

"I guess there's still a little boy in me that thinks like they do," said Ron Freudenburg, 64, nearly 60 years removed from such childlike transgressions.

The stereotypical kindergarten teacher is usually young and a woman. Five- and 6-year olds at William Grace Elementary don't seem to notice, though.

On this Thursday afternoon, Freudenburg has his hands full.

The clock inches closer to 2:20 p.m. Children huddle around to listen to Freudenburg's soft, compelling narrative of "Danny and the Dinosaur."

A tale of a large reptile holds away for a few minutes. Then ants infiltrate some pants.

Freudenburg rests the book on his knee, placing his hand on the shoulder of one fidgeting pupil. Without saying a word, the boy rejoins the circle.

Another sandy-haired child pulls the string from the hood of his sweatshirt.

"I'm not doing strings now," said Freudenburg, barely above a whisper. "I'm reading a story."

Soon, the bell rings. The children

file out of the classroom.

Freudenburg dispatches a few stragglers with unrequited kindness. He kneels down to tie a couple of pairs of shoes, fastens a backpack, and zips up a boy's winter coat.

"He really has a way with kids," said Judy Wilson, a paraprofessional who works in Freudenburg's class. "He's got patience with these kids. He understands them."

They're normally not this hyper, Freudenburg said. The culprit: Marshmallow bunnies consumed during snack time.

Freudenburg asks kids to bring a healthy treat, usually something like carrots and dip. Someone didn't get the message.

"What do you do?" said Freudenburg, who relented and gave the glucose goodies to his pupils.

After 42 years of teaching elementary school kids, some situations still leave Freudenburg a bit perplexed. He's taught every grade in the elementary level except first.

He started at Greenfield Peace Lutheran School in 1951, moving to the Farmington district in 1966. He was a music teacher at Eagle and what was Bond school before arriving at William Grace in 1968.

As a position would open up, Freudenburg stepped down a grade. Kindergarten has been his domain for the last 12 years.

See TEACHER, 16A

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