

## Happy birthday, dear Grace!



SILVANO LAMMICH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The big one-oh-oh: Grace Selke celebrated her 100th birthday Monday at the Greenery Extended Care Facility in Farmington. On hand were her friends from the Trinity Episcopal Church in Farmington Hills. Friend Belle Hargreaves opens a card for Grace, who was born March 28, 1893, in Wisconsin. She attended school in Ypsilanti and was a music teacher for much of her life.

## Teachers' letter stresses shared roles in education

BY MARIE CHESTNEY  
STAFF WRITER

## CLARENCEVILLE

Clarenceville teachers can teach students to master MEAP tests. But they can't force students to come to school each day and stay there. And they can't force parents to show an interest in their child's schoolwork.

That's the gist of a letter now being circulated in Clarenceville schools and soon to be sent home to Clarenceville parents.

The letter is signed by the teachers' union, the Clarenceville Education Association, and other workers such as secretaries, custodians and maintenance and transportation staff.

Clarenceville's staff members are bristling at the harsh spotlight put on them recently over students' poor showing on the 1992 Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) exams.

Superintendent David Kamish called the scores embarrassing and disappointing and announced that beefing up the reading, math

and science curriculum would be the number-one priority in the months ahead.

Calling 1992 scores unacceptable, the Clarenceville Board of Education backed Kamish.

The letter from Clarenceville teachers and staff called Kamish's command a "Band-Aid" solution to a more complex problem.

"There is no doubt in the minds of the staff that we can accomplish the goal of raising the MEAP scores," said Clarenceville staff. "We can, as the administration has directed, teach to the mastery of the concepts on the MEAP test."

But, the staff said, unless all parts of the Clarenceville community work together — parents and students as well as staff — the message of educational achievement won't get through to those students who need to hear the message most.

"It's a problem for everyone in the community, not just a teachers' problem," said Bob Wolf, teachers' union president. "We only have the kids for a short period of time. If parents and students aren't concerned about their education, there's not a lot we can do."

Selectively skipping classes is so rampant at Clarenceville High that school administrators recently talked about forcing students to stay in school during the lunch hour.

Skippping was used because students suffer no real penalty for doing so, Wolf said. "Some skip in the morning and come in after lunch. Some skip afternoons. How many things can we try to try to get kids to be here?"

On any school day, Wolf said, up to 80 Clarenceville High students are more apt to skip morning or afternoon classes and wind up at the Livonia Mall, the Ram's Horn Restaurant or at home.

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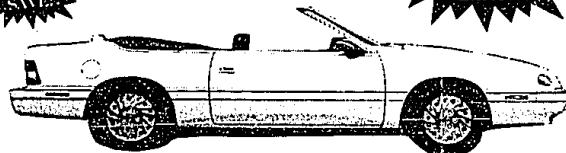
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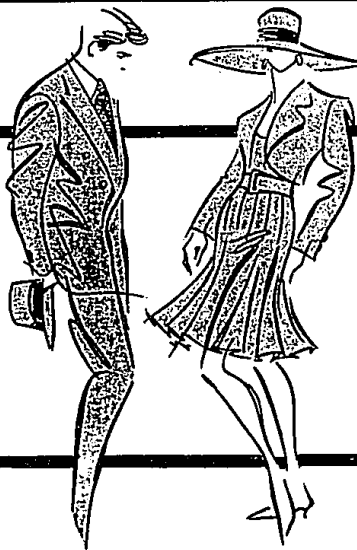
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