

Partnership key: Keep kids involved



Now in its second year, the Farmington Public Schools Community Partnership Advisory Council is dedicated to bringing the schools and local businesses closer together and inspiring them to share talents and resources. Direct queries to Betty Wajford, school/community relations, at 489-3349.

"I'd like to participate in a partnership, but I don't know how to begin or what to do."

That's often the rationale for teachers, business people and community members not to get involved in partnerships.

Farmington Public Schools' Community Partnership Advisory Council recognized early the need to provide training and orientation programs. It made that one of its goals. It recognized that train-

ing opportunities must be diverse to accommodate the diverse needs of participants.

Last year, the council offered a workshop to business and community members who had volunteered to be listed in the Partners in Education Resource Book. The object of the workshop was to help these people feel more comfortable in the classroom and to let them know what to expect from children of different ages.

Sean Whalen, teacher and staff development trainer, shared several tips and ideas to help them make their presentations meaningful, appropriate to age levels and interesting to students.

"Presenters to students should have a clear objective and purpose of their presentation," he said. "The key is to keep students involved by using visual aids, props and a hands-on activity."

To help other business and community members, the council developed a "Tip Sheet for Making Presentations." It lists general guidelines and suggestions on working with students, ideas for

making Career Day or other speaker presentations, tips for hosting field trips, and for providing work shadowing experiences where a student observes the partner in the workplace.

As partnership programs expand, the council will look at ways to provide more opportunities for partner training and orientation.

The council has made two workshops available to teachers this year through the Farmington Schools Staff Development Department. The workshops are designed to help teachers develop and nurture a partnership between their schools or classes and members of the business community.

The first workshop, held last November, attracted teachers from all levels.

Jody Soronen, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce executive director and a workshop panel member, told teachers, "It is exciting prospect to realize the opportunities that will be available to both par-

ties of a partnership. The business community has many talented people who have indicated their willingness to participate in helping our children grow in the adult working world."

Joining Soronen on the panel were: Mary Brown, teacher, who reviewed the Partners in Education Resource Book; Carol Hansen, teacher, who talked about the steps followed in setting up the GLE Elementary School/Hitchiti partnership; Kathy McAdaragh-Hain, science coordinator, who explained the Society of Automotive Engineers' "World in Motion" partnership program; Carol Sheffer, coordinator, Cranbrook Institute of Science, who talked about the EduMentor program; and Ann Sutchek, teacher, who explained the Farmington High School child development class/Boston Hospital child care center partnership.

For a free copy of "Tips for Making Presentations" or more information about partnership programs, call the Farmington Public Schools Office of School/Community Relations at 489-3349.



Sharing insights: Community Partnership Advisory Council members who shared information about their partnership programs and resources with Farmington teachers are (from left) Carol Hansen, teacher, Wood Creek Elementary; Sean Whalen, teacher, Staff Development; Kathy McAdaragh-Hain, science coordinator; Mary Brown, teacher, Harrison High; Jody Soronen, executive director, Chamber of Commerce.

INKWELL

Inkwell provides information about educational issues and people in the Farmington area. Mail information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or send information via fax to 477-9722. Please include a daytime phone number on your news release. Items will not be taken over the phone.

MEDAL RUSH

Our Lady of Sorrows eighth-graders won five gold, six silver and two bronze medals in the sixth annual Olympic Scholarships at Marian and Brother Rice high schools Jan. 25. Winners and subject of expertise include: Margaret Vincent, gold, science; Preeti Kumarn, gold, history; Steven Devovich, gold, English; Marie Gabriel, gold, art; Anna Casadei, silver, science; Kerry Fitzgerald, silver, history; Anne Howard, silver, religion; Jon Jorissen, silver, history; Eric Hong, silver, science; Christopher May, bronze, math and Theresa White, bronze, English. Our Lady of Sorrows Middle School won medals in all-around achievement. The school took the silver in religion, history and sci-

ence. The bronze was won in math and English.

EDUCATOR HONORED

Farmington Public Schools science coordinator Kathy McAdaragh-Hain has been named the 1994 Woman of Distinction by Beta Eta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society for women educators. McAdaragh-Hain serves as first vice president for Beta Eta. She will be honored at the March Coordinating Council meeting and at the Delta Kappa Gamma state convention in May. Four years ago, McAdaragh-Hain received the Michigan Science and Technology Quest Award.

HIGH REFLECTIONS
District winners in the annual PTA Reflections Contest were honored at the Farmington Board of Education meeting Feb. 1.

Kindergarten through third-grade winners in photography were: Robin Baessler, first place, second grade; Flanders; Jenna Dickey, second place, Hillside; John Armstrong, third place, Longacre; and Carly Katz, honorable mention, second grade, Engle.

Fourth- and fifth-grade photography winners were: Ryan Dadey, first place, fourth grade, Wood Creek; Jillian Helisek, second place, fourth grade, Gill; Elizabeth Mayslaert, third place, fourth grade, Longacre; and Jared Beek, honorable mention, fourth grade, Hillside.

For music, kindergarten through third-grade winners were: Aaron Cole, first place, Kenbrook; Caleb John-Evan Vits, second place, first grade, Wood Creek; David DeVries, third place, third grade, Hillside; and Rachel Miller, honorable mention, third grade, Gill.

Music winners in grades four and five were: Kristi Peterson, first place, fifth grade, Kenbrook; Erika Cole, second grade, fifth grade, Kenbrook; and Lynn Zwinck, third place, fifth grade, Highmeadow Common Campus.

In literature, kindergarten through third-grade winners were: Michael McIntosh, first place, third grade, Engle; Sofia Chayura, second place, third grade, Wood Creek; and Michelle Roucek, third place, first grade, Hillside.

Highmeadow Common Campus.

The literature winners in grades four and five were: Sowkya Ranganjan, first place, fourth grade, Longacre; Joshua Lovell, second place, fifth grade, Gill; Aaron Kennedy, third place, fourth grade, Wood Creek; and Sarah Stewart, honorable mention, fifth grade, Highmeadow.

In visual art, winners in kindergarten through third grade were: Isaku Yamaguchi, first place, third grade, Kenbrook; Robin Baessler, second place, second grade, Flanders; Bradley Holm, third place, first grade, Highmeadow; Ashley Singer, honorable mention, kindergarten, Longacre; and Jennifer Hall, honorable mention, second grade, Flanders.

Fourth- and fifth-grade winners in visual art were: Andrus Baker, first place, fifth grade, Hillside; Marc Hassell, second place, fourth grade, Longacre; Scott Johnson, third place, fifth grade, Wood Creek; Kristel Stricker, honorable mention, fifth grade, Highmeadow; and Kelly Kato, honorable mention, fourth grade, Wood Creek.

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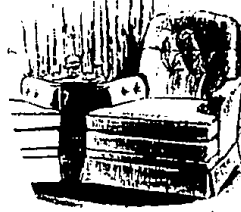
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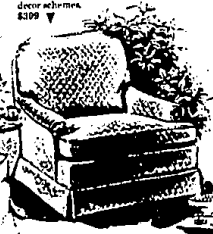
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