Students travel, learn via Electronic Field Trip



Remember how excited you were to go on school field trips? Mom would sign a per-mission slip to ride the bus and pack a bag junch.

ride the bus and pack a bag lunch. Well, my conversation this week with Pegro Schmidt, media director for Farmington Public Schools, brought a completely different meaning to the word "field trip." Do you think our children are just coing to the zoo and museum these days?

Would you be surmeded if I told Would you be surmeded if I told.

these days?

Would you be surprised if I told you certain classrooms in the Farmington Public School system visited the United Nations in New York and will be visiting a Costa Rican Tropical Rain Forest? And they don't even have to leave the school building. It's called the "Electronic Field Trip"

called the "Electronic Field Trip" brought to us by Turner Adventure Learning (a division of Turner Educational Services) via Time Warner Cable and Satellite. Understand the beauty of this. We're not talking about kids in a cleasroom watching a passive documentary. Students actually become part of the lesson. They are able to interact with actenitate, researchers, historians and other expert guides — while watching them work 'live' in the field. During the field trip (which is cable cast one hour per day for two conacclutive days) kids in the class-

FHSstages concert

Music of John Phillips Sousa will be featured at the "Late Win-ter/Early Spring" concert at 7:30 pm. Thursday, Feb. 29, in the au-ditorium of Farmington High School on Shiawasse west of Orchard Lake Road.

More than 70 musicians from the achool's concert, symphony and jazz band will perform. Tick-ots at \$2 per person and \$5 for a family can be purchased at the door.

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room may speak with instructors via telephone. They take as many calls as they can fit into the hour. The rest are answered within a couple of days by the use of E-mail on America On-libe.

To help the teacher plan the unit, CNN provides instructional sctivities, student bandouts background reading, computer data disks with primaray and secondary resources, maps, charts and more. Curriculum related

segments on CNN Newsroom that complement the upcoming event are also available. Imagine having CNN's news archives at the instructor's disposal as well. My, what an age wellive in. On Feb. 8th and 9th, instructor Vicki Shaw and fourth grade Gill Elementary students as well as instructors. Ray Naglik, Kristi Krupe, and the Global Village class at East Middle School celebrated the UN's 50th Anniver-

sary. Students toured the UN building, attended a General Assembly session, met with the U.S. Ambassach to discuss Security Council issues and spent the day with ambassdors from New Zesland, St. Lucia and Sweden.

A "tip" to the Costa Rican Tropical Rain Forest is coming up on April 16 and 17. Students will be walking thrugh the jungle with a scientist as they tear first hand about this natural habitat, the

unique species of mammals, reptiles, insects and blids that live there and the significance of each species to the ecosystem.

Electronic field trips have been part of the Farmington Public School system since last year. Once again, our school system has established itself at the forefront of using new technology to bring to our students real-time, real-life, real-learning experiences via cable and satellite. Do you think

The next SWOCC meeting will be held March 19 at 4 p.m. in Farmington City Hall. The next CAC meeting will be held March 12 at 7 p.m. in the SWOCC office.

Mary Linda Calderone is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Southwestern Oakland Commission.



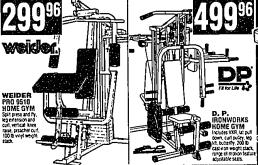
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