

Puppets, stories to pull strings for drug awareness program

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

Puppets and stories will be used in January to teach third graders in the Clarenceville School District about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Clarenceville includes a southeast portion of Farmington Hills. The Clarenceville Board of Education Thursday approved presenting the free seven-week drug education program, BABES, in each third-grade classroom at both Batsford and Grandview elementaries sometime during the next semester. BABES (Beginning Alcohol and Addictions Basic Education Studies) will be presented by Gina Schafer of the Farmington Area Counseling Center, a division of Oakland Family Services. Schafer uses animal puppets to steer youngsters away from substance abuse and self-defeat-

ing behavior. Youngsters watch the antics of the puppets while listening to the stories Schafer tells. Puppets include:

- Buttons and Bowa McKitty, brother and sister kittens who show youngsters how to cope with real Myth Mary, a squirrel who repeats everything she hears without knowing if it is factual.
- Early Bird, who honks when she sees self-defeating behavior.
- Donovan Dignity, a wise owl who corrects Myth Mary's misconceptions.
- Recovering Reggie, a dog who is a recovering alcoholic.
- Rhonda Rabbit, an abused child who lives with two alcoholics.

Each week, Schafer and her puppets will visit each of the six third grade classrooms in the two schools to present her one-hour program.

"Each week has a theme," said Cheryl Leach, Clarenceville's director of special services. The themes are:

- Self-image and feelings.
- Decision making and peer pressure.
- Coping skills.
- Alcohol and other drug information.
- Getting help.
- Helping children from chemically dependent homes.

The final, wrap-up week includes a review of the information presented.

Program developers believe third graders will benefit because health-related attitudes, beliefs and behaviors are formed at an early age.

Clarenceville fifth graders learn about substance abuse from Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE).

Name of new Walled Lake school could mimic moniker of old one

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

How does Meadow Brook Elementary School sound? That very well could be the moniker for the Walled Lake district's next elementary school, which will open in 1996-97 and be the destination of the current Meadow Lake Elementary School.

"It would be an easy transition," said Meadow Lake secretary Virginia Donn. "It's on Meadowbrook Street." She noted that most of the district's elementary schools are named after the roads they are located on.

Decker, Keith, Loon Lake, Maple, Oakley Park and Wixom

elementaries are so named. But other school names will be considered in the coming months as Meadow Lake prepares to move into one of the schools being built as part of the \$114 million bond issue that was overwhelmingly approved on Sept. 28.

Two middle schools, to open in 1998, also will be built, one at Wixom and Charns roads in Wixom; the other probably on a 44.9-acre parcel near Pontiac Trail and Walnut Lake Road. To secure land for the latter, the district last week entered into a preliminary agreement that likely will be approved at the Thursday, Dec. 5 school board meeting.

In a press release issued Thursday, "The agreement calls for the district to receive the 44.9-acre parcel in exchange for a district-owned parcel on Maple Road in West Bloomfield and \$1.21 million."

Officials and parents alike are eager to move the Meadow Lake student body back to within the district boundaries. Meadow Lake is a Birmingham district school being leased to Walled Lake as a temporary solution to space problems.

An official ground breaking ceremony for the new school at Meadowbrook-13 Mile roads is being planned for sometime in December. Donn added that a committee also has been formed to facilitate the name selection process, among other details pertaining to the move.

Critter collection



Insects aside: Wayne State University student and Farmington Hills resident Susan Cook and Jeff Duda of Canton Township collect insects as part of a study of population size. The study was made during a Wayne State University field ecology course held at Fish Lake Biological Station, which is near Lapeer.

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