



Strings attached: Takeshi Suzuki teaches a Japanese string game, "Ayatori," to some Eagle Elementary students during the school's first-ever "International Day" Jan. 31. Suzuki's presentation was one of three focusing on Japanese culture during the program.

Diversity displays: St. Fabian students jump through a make-believe Amazon River as part of the Brazilian presentation. Students also got a taste of different cultures through a variety of food dishes.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER

## Global warming

Eagle, St. Fabian events promote world perspective

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Students at two Farmington Hills schools — one public and one private — became globetrotters without stepping away from the classroom.

Eagle Elementary conducted its first-ever "International Day," which featured 26 presentations on different cultures Jan. 31. St. Fabian Catholic School celebrated a similar international event — also on Jan. 31 — highlighting nine countries.

At Eagle, students were given passports as they were allowed to attend three presentations given by guests. Presentations included everything from a Scottish bagpiper to Russian stacking dolls to Middle Eastern belly dancing.

"It was one of those goose bump days when you feel like crying because you are so proud," Eagle Principal Sue Johnson said. "The whole staff felt that way."

Students gain a global perspective from such events, Johnson said. Flags from various nations were hanging in the school's hallways, leading some kids to look up where those countries are on a map.

An international day also gets bilingual parents involved in the schools, Johnson said. Some 68 different languages are spoken in the Farmington Public School District.

The array of presenters tended to reflect the make up of the Farmington area's diverse population.

Japanese culture was featured in the three presentations, covering food to origami. Three Iraqi programs included cookie making, calligraphy and traditional

■ **It was one of those goose bump days when you feel like crying because you are so proud.**

Sue Johnson  
—Eagle principal

Chaldean costumes and dolls while two people provided insights into Albanian culture.

International Day is tradition at St. Fabian, which features teachers turning their classrooms into mini nations.

St. Fabian students in grades one through six could visit Brazil, Ireland, France, Mexico, Africa, Australia, Italy, Denmark and Poland. The school's student council sponsors the annual event, which is in its fifth year.

Presentations varied from converting a classroom into a rain forest with a mock river and papier mache piranhas to having a Danish exchange student speak to students. Afterward, student and staff sampled shrimp, rock cookies, Standish cheese, Polish sausage, French pastries, Irish soda bread, Danish open face sandwiches, and tacos with cheese sauce.

"Just from working and studying another culture, they learn about cultures other than their own," said Carol Balash, who teaches fifth grade at the parochial school. "I think it promotes cultural diversity and global awareness."

Eagle's principal agreed. Schools are preparing children to live in a global society, Johnson said.

"And our kids certainly got a taste of it," she said.

## Farmington tops at keeping its waste out of landfills

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to composting and recycling, Farmington rules.

City residents lead all eight communities in the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County when it comes to keeping waste out of landfills, according to consortium's annual report.

Only 69.9 percent of waste from Farmington ended up in landfills. The rest was recycled (12.54 percent) or composted (17.52 percent).

Farmington Hills residents were second in diverting waste from landfills, the report said. In the Hills, some 11.3 percent of waste was recycled and another 17.7 percent composted.

RRRASOC includes Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, Wixom and Lyon Town-

ship.

"It says a couple of things," said Michael Caspo, authority general manager. "One thing is that there are good programs in place."

"Secondly, it indicates good compliance and good conscientious behavior on the part of the residents."

Caspo gave the annual report during a Farmington City Council meeting Monday. The goal is to reach 25 percent in recycling, Caspo said.

"We're halfway there," Caspo said.

RRRASOC expanded curbside recycling to include aerosol cans and cardboard. A drop-off site recently opened in Novi on Dahval Drive, north of 11 Mile and east of the Town Center.

The authority also conducts workshops with apartment and

condominium owners and residents, touting the benefits of recycling.

Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils promote recycling, City Manager Frank Lauhoff said. The city of Farmington also notifies residents about recycling through its newsletter and municipal cable Channel 15.

Karen Birkholz serves as recycling coordinator for both cities.

Lauhoff also credited Waste Management, which tells residents what type of items can be picked up for recycling.

But the loudest applause should go to those putting the stuff at the curb, he said.

"That's a credit to the residents because they are the ones who make recycling work."

## City banks on tri-party money to smooth costs for road repairs

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington is stowing away money now to pay costs expected down the road.

Farmington City Council members voted Monday to put \$5,769 into the Oakland County Tri-Party Program, which will be used to offset a much larger cost to widen Farmington Road.

Cities and townships along with Oakland County and Road Commission for Oakland County each contribute one-third — or \$1 million — to create a \$3 million fund.

The program allows cities and townships to pool money for ongoing or future road improvements. Of that, \$1.5 million is designated to cities and \$1.5 million to townships.

Farmington's share of Tri-Party money — based on road miles and accidents — is \$17,307 a year.

Construction to widen Farmington Road from Eight Mile to Slocum is not expected to start until 1999 or 2000, but engineering will start soon.

The city's share of \$4 million project is estimated at \$300,000 to \$400,000. The expansion will allow for a left-turn lane on the four-lane county road. By putting into the Tri-Party fund each year, the

city will have \$50,000 of that bill by the time construction starts.

Federal money will pay for 80 percent of the cost widening Farmington Road with the county picking up another 10 percent. Farmington pays 7.5 percent while Farmington Hills handles 2.5 percent of the costs.

"It's a great program," City Manager Frank Lauhoff said. "What we can do is build that fund up through the years and, when we do a large project, we have the money saved up."

Tri-Party money helped pay for the Orchard Lake Road project and upcoming signal improvements at Grand River and Farmington roads.

The Tri-Party Program was started by the road commission in the early 1980s. Before then, the commission offered a matching funds program to townships.

Only two Oakland County communities — Pleasant Ridge and Southfield Township — do not take part, said a road commission spokeswoman.

"It's a good program and the cities like it," said Therese A. Gillis, a road commission supervisor. "There's a larger list of things to do than dollars to go around."



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## CAMPUS PIPELINE

### ALBION DEAN'S LIST

The following Farmington and Farmington Hills residents were named to the Dean's List at

Albion College for the fall 1996 semester.

Anjali Thakur, Amishi Doshi, Nicole Ciaramitaro,

Lara Lenzotti, Elizabeth Graham, Jacob Livermore, Kathleen Surowiec, Barbara Utterback, and Carolyn Tomporelli.