



Home on wheels: Ron Petzel, co-chair for acquisition, with motor home to be auctioned for one week lease.



Bountiful baskets: From left, co-chairs Nancy Moeller, Carole Mihalo, and Lorraine Sher, students Andrea Meier and Molly Bosco (with black Lab puppy to be auctioned) amidst theme baskets for auction.

Auction from page B1

areas of responsibility include accounting and invitations. "The girls get to help, too. They will act as servers, greeters, coat checkers, whatever they can do. Mercy has such diversity. The girls come from every walk of life. So many graduates stay involved. It's like a family."

Faculty, staff and students are preparing elegant theme baskets, which are always popular with bidders, according to Marilyn Corbett, coordinator of special events.

"There's a going off to college basket, an Irish basket, a Winnie the Pooh basket, one with a year's supply of gift wrap and ribbons, a gardening basket," she said.

The baskets are displayed in the school halls a week prior to the auction and there's a vote for the best one. The winning class gets a

pizza party.

Another parent, Carol George, is cataloging all the hundreds of items for the auction.

"There are more items and an increase in the total value of goods in all ranges this year," she said. "There is everything from a gift certificate for tanning sessions, to the use of a Cadillac Seville for a week."

Don Massey Cadillac, Les Stanford Chevrolet, and Eberhard BMW are offering vehicles for lease.

Channel 50 news anchor Amyr Makupson, a Mercy parent, will serve as honorary chair Saturday night and is offering an opportunity for one bidder to be her guest at the local tv station for an evening. Tom Ryan, a local radio personality, is offering time in his studio to a

bidder.

Joseph DuMouchelle, of Detroit's venerable DuMouchelle Galleries, is offering his professional services as auctioneer Saturday night, which includes a formal dinner and entertainment by the Mercyairens. Detroit area sportscenter Steve Garagiola (also a Mercy parent) will serve as emcee on Saturday.

Admission for Friday is \$20 per person, which includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, soft drinks, dessert and coffee. Saturday night costs \$75 per person and includes silent and live auctions, a full course meal, and full open bar. For reservations, call 476-8020.

Literacy from page B1

approach is widely embraced not only by Farmington teachers, but also by classroom teachers across the country because their experience tells them that it works.

Progressing through the grades, the students sharpen their literacy skills as they interact with increasingly challenging classic and contemporary literature. These literacy behaviors,

and others, are more fully discussed in the ten English Language Arts Content Standards adopted by the district.

What role does the home play in the literacy of children? The National Assessment of Educational Progress which annually publishes the nation's report

cards conducted a study which correlates four home factors with reading proficiency.

The first factor is home literacy materials. Does the student's home have magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias and at least 25 books?

The second factor is reading

for fun. Does the family choose to read in leisure time?

Parent child literacy discussions are the third factor. Does the family talk about what its members are reading? And finally, many studies, including this one, conclude that a negative relationship exists between tele-

vision viewing and reading proficiency.

As always, what adults do conveys more than what is said. If we think that literacy is important, we must model good reading habits. We must value books by doing things like giving them as gifts, browsing in a bookstore with our children, discussing our reading with our children and inviting them to share their reading with us. And even by keeping our library cards as active as our Blockbuster cards.

Classroom teachers have considerable influence on the literacy skills of their students; similarly, parents have considerable influence on the literacy habits of their children. Combined, sustained efforts on the parts of schools and homes can't fail to produce literate, well schooled adults prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

(Kathy Nyberg is language arts coordinator of the Farmington Public Schools.)

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THE "GOODS" ON REAL ESTATE

by Randal Goodson

HIRING A MARKETING AGENT

The best Realtors in today's marketplace are becoming even better about marketing the homes they list to the public, as well as to other agents who have potential buyers.

When you are interviewing prospective Realtors to help you sell your home, ask how they find buyers. In the past, a "For Sale" sign would go into the ground, the basic information went into the Multiple Listing Service, and then there was an occasional Sunday classified ad and an "open house". If the house did not sell right away, the agent might recommend a price reduction. Agents today are becoming much more sophisticated and proactive about getting people into their homes. They rely on computers, direct mail, telemarketing, and just plain clever ideas that no one else has tried. Ask prospective listing agents for two things - a written analysis of what is happening with housing prices in your area and a marketing plan which outlines how they would get your home from "For Sale" to "Sold".

For solid advice on buying or selling real estate, consult Randal Goodson, Vice-President, The Prudential Great Lakes Realty. Please call him at 810-539-3445 or visit his office at 31000 Northwestern Highway, Suite 101, Farmington Hills.

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