

# WL adds buses to answer growth

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO  
STAFF WRITER

The buses are coming and parents of students who want to know when and where to meet them on the first day of school need only look in the mail this week.

In preparation for the 1997-98 school year which starts Monday, Aug. 25, district officials have sent out postcards with the route schedules, which Director of Operations Chuck Kisanaw said, is subject to change.

Due to growth in the district, three new buses are already planned to be added to the roster. And bus schedules may be changing because of last minute enrollments.

"We're growing every year," Kisanaw said.

If there are changes, Kisanaw said, a follow-up card will be

sent out to parents.

Some 109 buses are planned to make the trek to and from school buildings daily. Approximately 12,500 students of the district's 13,250 are expected to be transported by bus.

And while getting children ready for school, parents preparing to send their children to school with lunch may want to give the school lunch program a second look, said Kathy Yesh, supervisor of food services.

"Parents think that... meals are expensive," Yesh said. "They're less than you would spend for a comparable meal at a fast food restaurant."

She advises parents to compare costs by checking their grocery bills.

Breakfast is offered at Dublin, Holly Woods and Walled Lake elementary free to students

who qualify or for a reduced price of \$.30. Students do not need to arrive early for breakfast, which is regularly \$1 and consists of a variety of cereals, juice, milk, muffins and bagels.

Breakfast is not offered at other schools in the district. Yesh said, because pilot programs determined there wasn't enough of a need. "Unfortunately, there we got really low participation," Yesh said. "It was not really effective to continue operating it."

Free lunch is available at all schools as well as the \$.40 reduced price lunches. Regular lunch prices in the elementary is \$1.65 and ranges from \$2 to \$2.10 in the middle schools. High school specialty meals can cost up to \$3.

Parents who would like to apply for free or reduced price breakfasts or lunches for their

children can pick up applications at the school office.

One misconception parents may have, Yesh added, is that the food served is high in fat, sugar and sodium. Not so, Yesh said.

"We have tried for years and continue to make changes in the items we purchase and the foods we prepare from scratch to make them healthier for kids," Yesh said. "I think for the well-balanced meals the students do receive, it's a real value."

"We've made a lot of changes in the way we prepare the food and the choices we offer." But, Yesh said, "sometimes if you tell the kids it's good for them, they're not going to eat it."

Instead the menu items are listed in a general manner, like hot dog, instead of turkey hot dog. "It's a healthier version of what you read on the menu," she

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Each week the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For further information regarding programs, contact the recreation office at 473-9570. Pre-registration is required for most activities. For matters regarding Farmington Hills City Council agenda items,

## RECREATION NEWS

call the news line at 473-9532.

### RECREATION EQUIPMENT RENTALS

An assortment of recreation equipment is ready for your picnic, party or special event. Equipment is available until September. A separate \$20 deposit is required. Equipment available for rental are picnic packs, volleyball sets, tug-of-war rope, parachute, baseball set and dunk tank. Reservations must be made in advance by calling 473-9570.

### OPEN GYM OFFERINGS

The William Costick Activities Center gym is open, with locker rooms and showers available. Please bring correct change and locks for lockers. Days and hours are:

■ Thursday - Adult Basketball — 7-9 p.m.;

■ Sunday - Adult Basketball — 9-11 a.m.; Adult Volleyball — 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Teen Basketball — 1-3 p.m.

The fee for two-hour session residents is \$2 for 17 and under, and \$3 for 18 and over. Fee is \$2 more for non-residents.


### OPEN SKATE

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena offers open skating year-round. Fee is \$3 for Farmington Hills residents and \$5 for non-residents. Skate rental is \$2 per person. For specific days and hours call 478-8800.

### AMUSEMENT PARK

If you are going to visit your favorite amusement park this summer, stop by the rec office to buy discounted tickets. Some participating parks: Cedar Point, Detroit Zoo, Sea World.

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