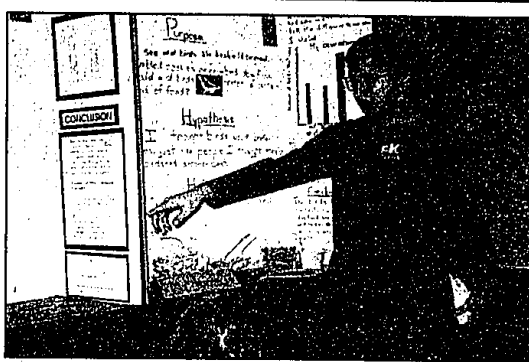




Dinomite: Above, Highmeadow Common Campus second-graders Brian Noble (left) and Bradley Chunn proudly display dinosaur dioramas they made as part of a classroom project.



Making a point: During the recent PTA-hosted Science Fair at Hillside Elementary School, fifth-grader Lauren Sarkesian presented her project, "What Birds Like," to schoolmates.

Pupils enjoy a variety of innovative activities

Students in Farmington Public Schools participated in a variety of recent activities, including:

■ **At Highmeadow Common Campus** earlier this month, the classes of teachers Kathleen Casterline and Mary Day created an interactive and instructional "Dinorama" museum, making the dioramas by incorporating pneumatics, hydraulics and electrical circuits.

The dioramas enabled students to take a hands-on approach to learning about the

mesozoic, triassic, jurassic and cretaceous periods.

Casterline said the "museum," which filled up the classrooms and took up hall space, was visited by other students in the school.

■ **At Hillside Elementary School** on Feb. 26, the PTA hosted its third annual student Science Fair. Fifty students in kindergarten through fifth grade entered projects in the voluntary event.

Some of the entrants included: Lauren Ellis, kindergarten, "How Do You Make a Tornado in a Tube?"; Deepak Bhandarkar, first grade, "How to Make an Electromagnet"; Anthony Goldman, second grade, "Conductors and Magnetic Attraction"; Kevin Marble, third grade, "How Much Air Can Your Lungs Hold?"; De Anna Kern, fourth grade, "How to Make a Water Filter"; Jessica Davis, fifth grade, "Balloons and Yeast"; and Johannah Scarlet, fifth grade, "Landfills: Manmade

vs. Natural Fibers."

Students gave up part of their winter school break to put the finishing touches on their various experiments and presentations.

■ **At Power Middle School** last month, students enjoyed a food extravaganza provided by La Shiah Restaurant in Farmington Hills.

Eddie Salame of La Shiah shared stories of Lebanon while serving the seventh grade Mighty Waves team dishes like chicken kebab, grape leaves, hummus and baklava. The food festival was the culminating activity in the students' study of North Africa and the Middle East.

Student Patricia Wade said: "It was enlightening to learn about the country while eating their food."

All of the food was donated by La Shiah.

If you have photos and tidbits about doings in Farmington schools, please send to Reporter Tim Smith, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, 48335. We will publish them according to available space.

Magazine gives schools Gold Medal ranking

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce announced that Farmington Public Schools has been ranked as a Gold Medal district by Expansion Management Magazine in its annual Education Quotient issue. This is the third consecutive year that the district has received this ranking.

Each year, Expansion ranks over 1,000 school districts across the country on how well the district is preparing its students for the work force after graduation. The special report is mailed to over 45,000 CEOs, vice presidents, directors and other officers of companies who have indicated they are considering expanding into new areas.

"We are extremely pleased and proud, although not totally surprised, that our local district performed well," said Steve Pope, general manager of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and chairman of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Robert Maxfield, Farmington schools' superintendent, stated "Since this is a community that expects and deserves the highest quality services, we are pleased to be recognized for the part we play."

To be ranked as a Gold Medal school, a district must score well in both the "graduate outcome" and "resource index" measurements. Gold Medal schools typically have very high academics, small class sizes and high spending per pupil on instruction, and well-paid teachers.

Farmington Public Schools and the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce work together on a number of programs geared toward producing students who are prepared for their work life.

If you are interested in being involved in one of these programs, please call the chamber at 474-3440, extension 23 or the district at 489-3349.

Interlochen scholarships open to area students

Farmington and Farmington Hills students are among those who are eligible for Skillman Foundation scholarships to attend the Interlochen Arts Academy in 1998-99.

Scholarships are awarded annually to minority youth from low-income families on the basis of outstanding academic performance.

Judges will consider grades, attendance records, teacher and counselor recommendations and testing results, along with their specific arts abilities.

"The Skillman Scholars Program is a wonderful opportunity for deserving students in any of the academic or arts areas at Interlochen," said Thomas Bewley, director of admissions for Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Students are eligible if they are entering at the high school

level for the first time or if they were Skillman Scholars in the preceding academic year. Scholarships are not awarded on the basis of athletic ability.

"This program is truly a once-in-a-lifetime chance for these kids," said Interlochen admissions counselor Janet Morris. "It allows them to excel in academics and the arts in a top-notch environment without the financial worries that usually go along with it."

The Skillman Foundation was founded in December 1960 by Rose Skillman, widow of Robert Skillman, vice president and director of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company.

For further information, contact the Interlochen Arts Academy, P.O. Box 199, Interlochen, MI 49643 or call (616) 276-7472. Interlochen's website is <http://www.interlochen.org>

Full plate: Eddie Salame of La Shiah Restaurant in Farmington Hills serves Middle Eastern food to Power Middle School student Ed Shamblin.



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- Win a Jackpot value of \$200 or more and receive a ticket for each hundred dollars you win (up to 25 tickets)
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