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Letting it fly: The multiage classroom at Beechview, taught by Michele Meyers, raised more than \$1,000 during the course of the 1997-98 school year for the "Save the Flags" adoption program.

Beechview students champion effort to save stars and stripes

Preserving Michigan history is so important to a class at Beechview Elementary School that they put their money where their mouths are.

The multiage classroom at Beechview, taught by Michele Meyers, raised over \$1,000 over the course of the 1997-98 school year for the "Save the Flags" adoption program. The class, along with Meyers, Principal Norma Jean Sass and parents, presented the money during a June 4 visit to the state Capitol in Lansing.

For their efforts, the class received a photograph of the flag they adopted — one used in 33 Civil War battles by the Second Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment. In addition, state Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, presented a legislative tribute.

The money donated by the class will help "preserve Michigan's historic battle flags and the history of the men who fought and died to preserve the Union," according to the special tribute proclamation.

Spearheading the project at the Farmington district school was student Christopher Britten, the youngest member of a local Civil War Round Table group. Under his leadership, the rest of the class became enthusiastic about preserving a Civil War

flag. Meyers' class then looked at the "Civil War Flags of Michigan" poster and began researching those depleted battle flags, subsequently deciding on which one to try to help preserve.

The class decided on the flag that was carried by the Second Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the infamous war between the Union and Confederacy. Only a tattered fragment of that flag survives today.

Several fund-raising endeavors helped them raise the money, including sales of the school's monthly newsletter, the Beechview Buzz.

Money also was generated by a schoolwide penny drive and a read-a-thon, held during the annual Book Parade.

"Save the Flags" is an effort by the Michigan Capitol Committee and the Michigan Historical Museum to preserve Civil War battle flags of Michigan that have been damaged over the years due to constant exposure to light, dirt, humidity and crowding when they were on display in the Capitol rotunda.

Raczowski took an active interest in the project, visiting students several times at the school and teaching a lesson on government.

St. Paul kids graduate to grand operetta

A musical operetta, student speeches, skits and a cap and gown ceremony comprised June 5 graduation exercises for 21 kindergartners at St. Paul Lutheran School in Farmington Hills.

Graduating were the following youngsters in kindergarten teacher Irene Sutter's class: Michelle Angel, Rachael Asher, Jacob Bailey, Cara Dielman, Jessie Harper, Austin Jackson, Gera Kandt, Arturo Klisowski, Michele LaMontagne, Benjamin Lauseng, Joanna Licata, Milan Lockhart, Lauren Marks, Mark McMurdie, Matthew Mitchell, Bobby Nielsen, Chelsea Parrish, Samantha Rice, Danielle Sheppard, William Smith and Ashley Welch.

The kindergarten teacher aide was Lindsey Lapworth, while Rhonda Harper, Paula Jackson, Laurie LaMontagne, Carla Dielman, Linda Nielsen, Jennie Williams and Susan Marks were



Story line: Mark McMurdie plays the spider and Gera Kandt is "Little Miss Muffet" in the St. Paul school operetta.

kindergarten room mothers this year.

The program featured a number of performances, including solos, readings, Bible songs and the awarding of diplomas by Principal Dan Wiersig.

A reception, organized and served by parents of the first grade, immediately followed the program.



Big paw: Austin Jackson was more than up to the challenge of being the lion in a "Lion King" sketch.

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