### **WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS**

## **Getting acquainted**

## New assistant schools chief settles in

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO STAFF WRITER

Michael Beauchamp has only Michael Beauchamp nas only been on the job a fow weeks, but the new Walled Lake schools assistant superintendent said he already feels a sense of pride in the district.

That feeling comes from seeing building construction and technology progress, including a fiber optics notwork which will link all the schools with voice, video and data technologies, he said.

This year the district has leased 1,300 additional personal computers and 272 laptops. The fiber optics area network will be on-line in all of the middle schools, except Clifford H. Smart, by the end of this year, said William Hamilton, assistant

Feeling at home: New reeing at nome: New assistant superintendent Michael Beauchamp has only been at Walled Lake for a few weeks, but says he's already developed a deep pride in the district. superintendent of curriculum.

superintendent of curriculum.
Beauchamp, a 50-year-old
Troy resident, replaced Stoven
Gaynor who took a job as Royal
Oak superintendent of schools in
July. Beauchamp left Royal Oak
schools to take the Walled Lake
position. Since 1993, Beauchamp
has been an elementary school
principal in Royal Oak. He was
also a junior high assistant principal and coordinator of Royal
Oak's alternative high school.

"I've worked at every level in public education," Beauchamp

That's a definite asset since his current position requires supervision of all the K-12 prin-cipals, said district spokeswom-an Lois Lange.

an Lois Lange.

With a bachelor degree in liberal science and arts from the University of Michigan, a master of arts degree in curriculum and instruction from Michigan State University and a dectorate in education from Wayne State University, Beauchamp will be paid \$97,000 annually.

Coming from a district with

declining enrollment, Beauchamp looks forward to the challenges of a rapidly growing district.

"I really have that K-12 perspective and Walled Lake is clearly a lightning district." Beauchamp said. "(Walled Lake) is doing great things in its growth cycle."

growth cycle."

He sees Walled Lake's greatest challenges as growth, integration of new technologies and meeting the needs of a very diverse population. Beauchamp is pleased all district employees will be educated in multi-cultural issues over the next couple of years.

"We're really training to become more aware of this issue of diversity," Beauchamp said.

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In the weeks and months to come, the new assistant superintendent will be working hard to become familiar with the district through a series of meetings and visits to each of the schools at least four times during the school year.

"They are building the future,"

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Michael Beauchamp Assistant superintendent

Beauchamp said. "My goal is to learn the culture - be able to understand all the programs and issues under way. The best way to find out about programs is to get out in the community."

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He particularly likes the district's style of teacher training and working with parents and community members before implementing new programs and approachings.

"I am very much seeing the benefits that including all the stake holders can have in build-ing a community of learners," Beauchamp said.

# World languages program expands to all elementaries

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO STAFF WRITER

As Teresa Fink of West Bloom-field watched Japanese students leave Pleasant Lake Elementary speaking fluent English, she became concerned about her own childrens' education.

"I think they're gaining an advantage," Fink said of the Japanese students.

Japanese students.
So this year she's making sure her children have the same opportunities. She enrolled her children, 6, 8 and 10, in a Japanese language and culture course offered through Walled Lake Schools community education.

She was one of several parents who, through a survey, told district officials that French and Spanish courses offered at a few district elementary schools just warren't ground

The district's world languages program coordinators decided to

expand the program to all the elementary schools and include Italian and Japanese instruction this year. And the number of students enrelled in the before and after school programs jumped from about 30 last year to over 670 this year, said Lori Harris, enrichment department coordinator with Walled Lake community education.

"We're really excited how

"We're really excited how quickly ... it's taken off with the parents," Harris said.

parents, 'Harras and.

Fink thinks the program will
give her children an advantage
in their careers since many technologies are developed in Japan.

But her eldest child, Alex, just
wants to know what the other
kids in school are talking about.

"I have lots of Japanese kids in my class and I want to be able to read Japanese cards and talk to kids," Alex Fink said.

The courses include books, audio and video tapes and instruction of the culture as well

as the language. Different language courses are offered at different schools.

reent schools.
Yvette Paletta of Orchard
Lake, who is teaching Italian
courses in Walled Lake and
West Bloomfield schools, said
the attraction for area children
to learn Italian goes back their family heritage. Children of
Italian families may have older
relatives who still speak the language. The children want to
learn not only to speak Italian,
but to learn about the culture,
Paletta said.
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"What a motivation for doing homework, for getting a child enthused about learning," Paletta said. "Why not give the children a language they can actively practice (at home.) What a wonderful gift to be able to hand down from generation to generation."

Evana Marson of Walled Lake enrolled her 7-year-old son, Enri-co, and 10-year-old daughter, Daniela, in the Italian program

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Yvette Paletta

so they could learn more about their heritage and improve their English skills. "I actively get my kids speak-ing in Italian," Paletta said. Learning Italian is also benefi-

English skills.

"They're thrilled they can learn a few words and talk to their grandfather who is from Italy," Marson said. "It's good they realize they have a history."

Paletta, who taught the course in West Bloomfield schools last year, said she keeps students interested by using games.

Learning Italian is also benefi-cial for enreers. "If you are work-ing for a business that does busi-ness in Italy, you are that much more valuable," she said.

more valuable," she said.

Paletta hopes the Italian language program will expand through the high schools in both districts. That's something Anthony Giglio of West Bloom-

field is hoping will happen

Giglio took the language pro-gram at as a fifth grader at Scotch Elementary. But now at Abbott Middle School, he doesn't have that option because it's not offered.

"I thought it was very informa-tive and I just wish they had the same program at Abbott," Giglio said.

His mother, Kim Giglio, said that although Anthony's imme-diate family doesn't speak Ital-ian, they practice Italian tradi-tions, such as sausage making. Anthony also would like to visit Italy some day.

#### FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

World Languages in Walled Lake schools is offered one hour per week starting Sept. 21 and concluding in May. There are still some openings for the \$175 courses. For information, call (248) 960-8371.

### Sober October kicks off with break fast

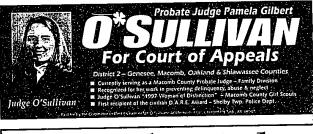
Formington Families in Action has designated October as alcohol and drug awareness month. A kick-off breakfast with about 400 Formington area community leaders and concerned citizons is planned for 7:15 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 13 Mile.
Former television anchor Mort Crim will be the keynote speaker, presenting, "An Upbeat Messeon for Hother properts Farming, "On Upbeat Messeon for Hother properts Farming, "On Examilies in Action takes in October is the projects Farming, "On Examilies in Action takes in Tickets for the breakfast are \$12 each and may be purchased by contacting Becky Dworkin, 611-1646.

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