

GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Model-building project helps classes put knowledge to use

Two fifth grade classes from Gill Elementary School recently learned about the architectural career field, then applied their knowledge to create model houses and create a community.

Michelle Kerns, architect and project manager with URS Greiner, spoke to the classes about architecture as a career. She also talked about constructing a building from beginning plans to completed structure, including supplies, tools, finishes, and construction.



Model behavior: Gill Elementary fifth graders work on their model houses.

After her presentation, students from the classes were given plans to create a model house. Students designed the exterior, created a floor plan for their house, and assembled their plans into a three-dimensional structure.

This project began to take shape last summer, when Stephanie Kessler, art teacher at Gill, worked at URS Greiner in a

school-to-work externship.

URS Greiner is the architectural firm hired for all of the new construction and renovations in the Farmington Public Schools. Kerns, architect and project manager, was Kessler's mentor during her externship.

After all the planning and work, students completed their house models and they were

placed together in a community.

Plans for the community were created by Kerns.

This project is one of the first completed in the brand-new Large Group Instruction room located at Gill. Teachers and students alike are grateful to the community for providing this new room to complete interesting projects for learning.



Bear-y good: More than 150 teddy bears were collected at Gill Elementary School and delivered to children at Henry Ford Hospital. Pictured with the bears are Gill student council members (from left) Allison Matthews, Janelle Lindman, Danielle Lalli, Chad Baranik and Andy Vargas.

Students cheer up hospitalized

It began in early December, when Henry Ford Hospital's Allison Patterson, and husband Jim, visited Gill Elementary School to talk about how they started a holiday teddy bear drive about six years ago and about what hospital visitations are like. It ended two weeks ago, when Gill student council leaders visited the Detroit hospital and delivered 158 teddy bears to young patients.

HUGS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Dubbed "Hugs for the Holidays," sponsored by the student council, pupils brought in the squeezable bears between Dec. 7-collection received a chocolate candy "Hug."

Leading the charitable effort and delivering the toys were five members of the student council:

Chad Baranik, president; Andy Vargas, vice president; Allison Matthews, treasurer; Janelle Lindman, secretary; and Danielle Lalli, member. Student council advisors are Gill teachers Molly Gray and Tracey Williams. The Farmington district school's principal is Gayle Zimmerer.

A beautiful thing



Awarded: Gill Elementary recently received a "Keep Michigan Beautiful" award for a collaborative 1997-98 project with the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Through the Kids Intergenerational Community Service program, Gill students and senior citizens created a landscape design and courtyard garden at the center. Pictured at the award presentation, from left, are Dale Huggler, president of Keep Michigan Beautiful; Aldo Vagnozzi, mayor of the city of Farmington Hills; Mike Duff, former principal at Gill Elementary; and Sam Izzat, of Delphi-GM in Saginaw.

Hospital physiologist warns about serious winter strain

While new-fallen snow is beautiful, shoveling it off the sidewalk can pose a serious threat if your body isn't "winterized," says a Botsford General Hospital exercise physiologist. "If your body is not prepared for or used to this type of exer-

strain is put on the muscles," says Monica Pagels of Botsford's Total Rehabilitation and Athletic Conditioning Center. Muscle soreness is the result of repeatedly lifting and tossing wet, heavy snow. "Shoveling is much easier if you get outside early - before a

lot of snow has fallen," notes Pagels. "It will be lighter and easier to move. Be sure to stretch out the muscle groups in the arms, chest, shoulders, and back before you start." But don't shovel after a heavy meal. Wait an hour or two after eating to shovel.

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