

Crafts from page A3

embossed with holiday designs such as Santa Claus. Those sweet concoctions, plus banana and pumpkin breads and a motherlode of 30 apple pies made from scratch will be available at the 14th annual holiday craft sale. The sale is scheduled for 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at East, on Middlebelt between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills.

"It's neat that the community is aware of it (the sale)," said Pare. Anyone may stop in and browse.

Also neat is that the skills center students will work the cash boxes and sell to the public the items they prepared. Most of the proceeds will pay for enrichment opportunities for the kids, including field trips to the Detroit Zoo, video games and the like.

A portion of sales will go to East Middle School's Special Olympics program; Pare said many kids enrolled in the center also are pretty good Special Olympians, particularly in sports such as polo hockey, snow skiing and team handball.

Almost like Santa

The baked goods will result in steady sales. Pare predicted that

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Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield would come in and buy one of those raisin-and-nut-filled hermit cookies.

But also sure to draw some interest: house plants, poinsettias, miscellaneous crafts and, from Buller's wood shop, a variety of items put together by eighth graders. There were bookends, wall plaques and file card holders in various stages of completion. Band saws roared in the background.

"It's just like Santa's workshop," joked Pare. He really wasn't far off the mark.

On Thursday morning, for example, student Janette Baker slapped some red paint on a wooden sleigh, which can be used as a doll chair. Buller helped instruct student Jeremy Teddy about sanding the edge of a wall baseball cap rack.

Another youngster, Stephanie Meade, painted wood crafts. Down the hall, teacher Filbin was working with students Ramiz Mansour, Stephanie Yurkus and Lauren Ettinger as they completed Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer tree ornaments. They fashioned the nifty ornaments from tongue depressors, buttons and small, red pom-poms.

Buller said the skills center program is a stepping stone from sixth to seventh to eighth grades. Sixth graders are taught to learn independently; seventh graders work in small groups, while the oldest kids do mass production.

"These are job skills," Buller said. "We start them off early (about) being good workers. They follow directions, stay on task and learn to be productive. If they learn those things, they can be very good workers."

The many items to be available at the holiday craft sale are evidence they already are.



Getting ready: Students made all of the crafts for the sale.

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Community Chorus to deck the halls with sounds of music

■ DEC. 17-18

The Farmington Community Chorus will present its 20th annual winter concert "It Must Be the Holiday Season" at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 and Saturday, Dec. 18 at Mercy High School Auditorium in Farmington Hills.

Traditional holiday favorites, as well as rarely heard and contemporary seasonal selections, will be performed by the eighty-voice chorus under the direction of Steven SeGraves. Piano and keyboard accompaniment will

be provided by Susan Garr. The Perfect Blend, a select group made up of twelve voices, will also perform. Solos, duets, and small ensembles will complete the evening's program. Chorus members reside throughout southern Oakland County.

The winter concert always includes an audience caroling and a visit from Santa Claus for the younger members of the audience.

In past years, these concerts have been sold out. Tickets for either the Friday or Saturday performance are available from any chorus member or from the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services. For further information, or to order tickets and/or CDs and tapes, call Harry or Dixie Doerr at 788-6322.

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