

Steppingstone students have their own 'auction'

BY TOM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oea.homescomm.net

On Saturday night, Steppingstone School is holding its seventh annual benefit auction, an event that only adults — and eighth graders — are permitted to attend.

So the younger students at the private K-8 school in Farmington Hills were given an opportunity to experience what an auction is like.

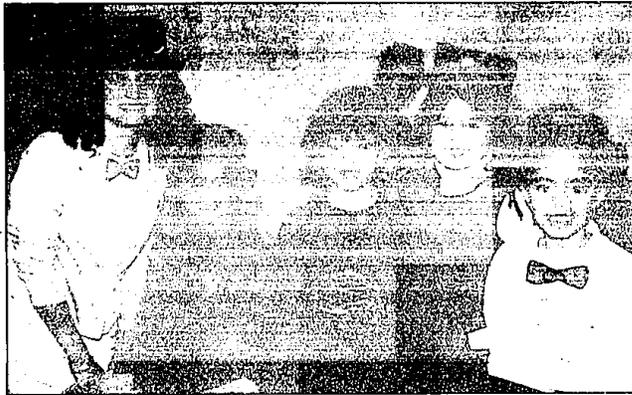
On Friday, March 17, the school hosted a "mini-auction," complete with such available prizes as lunch with Headmaster Kiyo Morse, a free homework assignment (as long as it isn't math) and Beanie Babies.

"The auction night is for adults only and they really wanted to participate," Morse said. "So we figured out this was a way to do that."

Wendy Festerling, director of development for Steppingstone, said a couple of other likely popular items for the youngsters to bid on at the mini-auction included a half-hour stint as a teacher and a ride in the parking lot in a 1901 Oldsmobile, donated by a parent.

During the mini-auction, students used fake Steppingstone money, featuring a photo of Morse, to bid on prizes.

All day Friday throughout the Middlebelt-Nine Mile area build-



Top hat time: Steppingstone students made their own construction paper top hats for last week's mini-auction schoolwide party. Pictured are (from left) intermediate teacher Kristine Fortier and students Shanti Madhavan, Joshua Kay, Breanne Hochstein and Blaire Chennault. The "real" auction is Saturday night.

ing, youngsters participated in a number of fun projects, including: making their own auction paddles out of paper plates; trying to guess how much money

was in the plastic "Auction Bear," doing the limbo; making top hats out of construction paper; and playing rounds of musical chairs.

As much fun as the mini-auction was, the real action is Saturday. Festerling estimated that 350 people (which would be the largest attendance for the annual auction) will come out to St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia for the festivities. The goal is for about \$30,000 to be generated at the event, with a list of 140 items available to bid on.

"It's been a really good year for people to donate items," Festerling said. "And for coming to the actual auction."

Morse said the money would be partially used to finish a 5,000 square-foot deck area outside the school, so it can be used throughout the year. About 60

students from metro Detroit attend Steppingstone.

Whatever is left over will be put into a building fund for future expansion, Morse said.

Steppingstone's benefit auction, with the theme "Swingin' in the New Millennium," is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at the St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman Road in Livonia. Items will be previewed from 6-7:30 p.m. followed by silent and live auctions, music and dancing.

Following are just a few of the items available for bids: Dinner and theater at Genetti's of Northville, with a horse and carriage ride; chocolate fantasy basket; autographed photograph of Detroit Red Wing Igor Larionov; movie passes; and a vacation package in a Ludington, Mich., rustic cabin.



Limbo: Amanda Hochstein ducks under the limbo bar, while schoolmates Julie Robinson, Jack Kramer and Jonathan Munger watch.

Having fun: Jasmine Dubauskas (far left), Ashley Austin (front left) and Natalie Imirzian (front right) enjoy the day.



STEPPINGSTONE BENEFIT AUCTION

WHAT: The seventh annual Steppingstone School benefit auction

WHEN: Begins 6 p.m. Saturday, March 25

WHERE: St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman Road, Livonia

WHY: To have fun — and generate money for school construction projects

THEME: "Swingin' in the New Millennium"

Tyndale elects new chairman, director

The William Tyndale College Board of Directors announced the election of a new chairman and director at its October meeting.

Kenneth Myers, retired president of the William Beaumont Hospital Corporation, Troy, was elected chairman of the William Tyndale College Board of Directors.

Myers was elected a director in 1992 and has served on the Executive and Development Committees. He holds a master of business administration degree from the University of Michigan.

James Lane, retired senior vice president and chief investment officer, NBD Bank, N.A., Detroit, is immediate past-chairman of the William Tyndale College Board of Directors.

He served as chairman for four years. He was elected a director in 1995. Lane holds a master of business administration degree from the University of Chicago.

Betty Overton-Adkins was elected to the board of directors. Overton-Adkins is director, higher education, and program director, W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She joined the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 1991.



Kenneth Myers



Betty Overton-Adkins

WILLIAM TYNDALE COLLEGE

Overton-Adkins holds a Ph.D. in English education from the George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and bachelor and master's degrees in English from Tennessee State University.

She also has studied at the University of Michigan, New Hope Creative Writing Center and the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University.



James Lane

RECREATION NEWS

DISC GOLF TRIPS

Ages 12 and up have a choice of playing disc golf at three different courses. Trips are scheduled from 4:30-8:30 p.m. April 13, 20 and 27, departing from and returning to the Costick Activities Center. The deadline to register is one week prior to the trip date. The cost is \$14 and includes a disc, transportation, 18 holes of disc golf and a snack. Call 473-9570.

SPRING SALE

It's time to sign up for the Spring Clean-up Sale being held on Saturday, April 29 at Heritage Park Day Camp Building. Call 473-9570.

OPEN GYM

The Costick Activities Center Gym in Farmington Hills offers the following activities and times: Adult Basketball, 7:30-9:03 p.m. Thursdays and 9-11

a.m. Sundays; Teen Basketball, 3-5 p.m. Saturdays and 1-3 p.m. Sundays; Adult Volleyball, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Family Gym and Swim, 12:03-3 p.m. Saturdays. The cost to participate for residents 17 and under is \$2 and \$4 for non-residents. For 18 and over residents pay \$3 and non-residents pay \$5. For more information contact the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services at 473-9570.

PARKY EASTER

The Parkey Easter Eggstravaganza will be held Saturday, April 15. Activities will include snacks, games, a craft project, storytelling and an Easter Egg Hunt. 3-5 year-olds are scheduled from 10:11-11:30 a.m. and 6-10 year-olds are scheduled from 12:30-2 p.m. Call 473-9570.

ROCK CLIMB TRIP

Ages 12 and up can learn how

to rock climb with knowledgeable instructors at Planet Rock on Tuesday, March 28. Vans will depart from the Costick Activities Center at 4:30 p.m. and return at 9:15 p.m. The deadline to register is March 17. The fee is \$35 per person. Call 473-9570.

SKATING TRIP

Ages 12 and up can take a trip to Airborne Skate Park on March 29, leaving the Costick Activities Center at 6 p.m. and returning at 10:30 p.m. The deadline to register is March 17. The fee is \$15 per person who has equipment (helmet, elbow, wrist, and kneepads). The cost is \$24 per person for those without equipment. For more information call the Recreation Division at 473-9570.

ADULT SOFTBALL

New team registration is currently under way. Call 473-9570.

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