

At East Middle School, 'Kindness Counts'

At East Middle School, April will be the kindest. That is when the 31 members of East's Mosaic Club will introduce a new, successful program called "Kindness Counts."

The Mosaic Club is a group of students from all grades who promote peace, love and harmony in the school community.

"Kindness Counts," which the students have been developing since September, represents a shared vision of these students to create a learning environment that fosters understanding and positive acts of kindness. It also to make everyone in East community aware of how even small acts of kindness - from picking up someone's dropped pencil to showing support for a troubled friend - can make a big difference.

"We want to have a school of people who do kind things for each other and watch out for each other," says Mosaic Club member Maya Shwayder.

MOSAIC CLUB

After the Columbus shootings and other recent school tragedies, these students are determined to take action so that no tragedy happens in their school, Greenstein explained. "They don't want anyone to feel like an outsider in this school. They feel they can make a difference by taking action to create a caring community."

"Kindness Counts" will be introduced to the entire school community beginning at the Tuesday, April 4th meeting for East staff members and on that same evening to parents at the PTSA meeting. Students will explain their goals and share their vision of how their program will work.

During the month of April, Mosaic Club members will meet with other students during their "Tutor Time" homerooms to sign "Kindness Counts" pledges and explain the nomination system for weekly awards.

A "Kindness Pledge," which the group wrote, will be read over the PA system each week, and each morning will begin with a "Kindness Quote."

Mosaic Club members will work with teachers to encourage classroom activities based on the quote. "Kindness Counts" will continue as a school theme at East in upcoming years, with more activities planned.

"Kindness Counts" presentations will be 2:15 p.m. Tuesday to school staff and 7 p.m. Tuesday to parents.

East Middle School is at 25300 Middlebelt (south of 11 Mile), in Farmington Hills.

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she died about 30 years ago; said Ed Buatti, who donated the money for Cholvadova's mural. It will be officially dedicated following Sunday's 11 a.m. Mass at St. Fabian. A plaque will be placed next to the mural, in honor of the Nichols and Buatti families.

"She did just a beautiful job with it," said Buatti, about the work done by Cholvadova. "It was something we wanted for our school."

Buatti noted that Cholvadova started with 500 pounds of clay and an armful of drawings done last August and September about the family's concept for the mural. She then went on to design and produce the project.

Work on putting up the colorful, spiritual mural took place from Friday through Sunday. Several workers - including Cholvadova, Buatti and a trade laborer who accompanied the artist - used a numbered drawing laid on the floor as a template, or guide, for completion of what really was like a ceramic puzzle.

Corresponding pieces were put onto the proper space; from there, the pieces were affixed to the wall.

"We told her what we wanted," Buatti explained. "We wanted Jesus with kids around, and the outdoors. It's a school atmosphere."

St. Fabian is at 32200 W. 12 Mile Road, on the north side, between Orchard Lake-Farmington roads in Farmington Hills.



Taking a look: Artist Svetlana Cholvadova steps back to assess the progress on the mural.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Hans Automation Inc., the largest machine tool builder in America, has opened a Hans Factory Outlet at 23900 Freeway Park Drive in Farmington Hills to provide sales and service to

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