

Back-to-Back

French kids sample city life

BY TIM EARTH
STAFF WRITER
tearth@ecce.com

Middle school students from France "invaded" Farmington City Hall Tuesday morning to see how government takes place in the Oakland County municipality.

According to Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff, it was an experience worth smiling about.

"They were here to learn about government," Lauhoff said. "They talked with me, to learn about my position as city manager. They talked with Public Safety Director Gary Goes, and did a tour of the city offices."

"One of the few things they understood was when I said 'jail cells,' they smiled," said Lauhoff with a grin.

Following the visit to city hall, the French visitors went to

lunch and then returned to Power Middle School, the local school involved in the "Back-to-Back" student exchange program, sponsored by the Association of French-American Class-

"They told us that what they like about food in America is Burger King," Lauhoff added.

Power parent Nora Escott said the program gives local students a chance to live for three weeks with families in France, "and in turn (have) the student from that French family spend a similar amount of time living with us."

The purpose of the program is "to expose our students to the French culture and lifestyle by actually living as part of a French family," continued Escott. "Then it is the French student's turn to come here and experience the American way of

life." Students from Power and the French school spent several months corresponding with each other.

"Our students have also spent time studying the French culture and some basic language to prepare for their trip," said Escott, adding that Power had a dozen sixth and seventh graders and two teachers who stayed near Paris.

The 14 students and one teacher from France, meanwhile, will stay here until April 16. The tour of Farmington City Hall was only one of the scheduled stops.

Other planned field trips include the Henry Ford Museum, the Motown Museum, the University of Michigan, Pewabic Pottery, the Chrysler Museum and a Detroit Pistons basketball game.



Inside look: French student Lheureux Macoteen checks out the inside of a Farmington Public Safety Department police car. At right is Joe Schornack, fire marshal for the department.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL SCHLES

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

The following is a listing of what's happening at the Farmington Community Library. For information about the Hills branch, call 553-0300. For the Farmington branch, call 474-7770.

National Library Week

The library is celebrating National Library Week April 9-15. Visit the Farmington Community Library and complete a fun scavenger hunt, learn something new and earn a special National Library Week prize. Ask for more information at the Children's Information Desk during this special week.

Youth Braille Books

The Tri-County Braille Transcribers have donated more than 40 youth books in Braille to the main library in memory of Frances M. Hoetger, a volunteer who worked at the Library for more than 20 years.

These books will be in the Children's Department, listed in our library catalog, and circulate free of charge, both in our community and through interlibrary loan. The collection includes a variety of titles, including picture books, fiction and biography. Braille readers can enjoy Ty Cobb, Fish Face, or Sarah Plain & Tall.

READY. Kits Available

The Michigan Department of Education has developed reading readiness kits to distribute to parents and other caregivers of children from birth through age four. The R.E.A.D.Y. (Read, Educate And Develop Youth) initiative is an effort to help children begin school with the skills necessary for learning to read by building partnerships with parents as their children's first and most important teachers.

R.E.A.D.Y. kits include information and resources for three different age groups, infants (under 1 year), toddlers (1 1/2 - 2 years) and preschoolers (2 1/2 - 4 years). Each kit contains:

- Cards suggesting parent/child activities.
- Child development chart.
- Children's book.
- Folder with a list of other age-appropriate children's books.
- Booklet and videotape describing brain development research and ways to promote healthy child development.
- R.E.A.D.Y. membership

Hills Beautification Commission seeks award candidates

The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission seeks to recognize all property owners who invest extra time and effort in improving the appearance of their buildings and grounds.

Eligible for awards are commercial, industrial and office properties, places of worship, shopping centers, organizations and schools, and subdivisions, condominium and apartment entrances.

Each landscape will be judged on design, originality, maintenance, and appropriateness to its location and purpose. Participants will be honored at a breakfast in October, which will include a video presentation of the award-winning landscapes.

To be considered, call Marie Donigan at (248) 473-9643, or e-mail mdonigan@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us

card.

■ Children's music cassette. These free kits are being distributed through the Farmington Community Library and are available for all parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Saturday storytime

■ Children of all ages can enjoy stories, songs and crafts with guests from the Hill and Dale Garden Club at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 8, at the main library.

■ The Michigan Handspinners will be special guests at the

Farmington branch at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 15.

■ The Farmington Friends of the Library will sponsor a discussion of Barbara Williams' Titanic Crossing at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 15, at the main library. Reservations are requested for this fourth- and fifth-grade discussion group. Parents are welcome to attend.

Library Quidditch

Get sorted by the "sorting hat" and play our new, improved version of Library Quidditch at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 25. Team prizes and a door prize will be

awarded. Registration is required.

Harry Potter Jeopardy

Compete with fellow Harry Potter lovers in a game of "Harry Potter Jeopardy." Draw from the "sorting hat" and determine which team you will play in - Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff or Slytherin. You'll answer specific questions involving the plots of all three Harry Potter books. Door prizes and a team prize will be awarded. This program, recommended for ages 9 and up, will take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at the

main library. Registration is required.

Art in the Afternoon

Art activities for ages 4 and up are scheduled at the main library from 2-4 p.m. April 25 at the main library and April 27 at the Farmington branch.

CPR for Baby-sitting

Local EMS employees will provide instruction on CPR for infants and children at the Farmington Branch noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 8, at the Farmington branch. Registration is required.

Genealogy on the Internet

This session, geared for beginning and experienced genealogists who want to learn how to track down ancestors by developing effective research strategies using the Web, e-mail, and Usenet, will take place at the Farmington branch at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 13, and Monday, May 8. Instructor Mike Curilis is a member of the Farmington Genealogical Society and the webmaster for the society's home page. Basic computer skills and previous exposure to the Internet would be helpful. Registration is required.

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