



Imaginative squad: Members of Longacre Elementary School's "Destination Imagination" team, composed of both fourth and fifth graders, placed third in the elementary school division at the recent state tournament. Back row (from left) are Jenna Wallis, Kaitlin Smith, Ellen Fehl, Danielle Graessle and Clara Yoon. In the front row (from left) are Mark McGraw and Mark Cappo.



Good showing: The Wooddale Elementary School team included (back row, from left) Kevin Shureb, Tom Bence, Trevor Lamson and Ben Yelian and (front row, from left) Kyane Crane, Rachel Mueller and Marie Shureb. They were one of 21 local teams that competed in the Destination Imagination competition at Central Michigan University. The competition was formerly known as Odyssey of the Mind.

Just imagine ...

Kids reach their destination

Students from public and private schools in Farmington and Farmington Hills performed well at the recent Destination Imagination competition at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.

There were 21 local teams in this year's creative problem-solving program, formerly known as Odyssey of the Mind.

Longacre Elementary School students, under the direction of coaches Karen Fehl and Donna Wallis, placed third in the elementary school division for their presentation titled "Mixing Apples and Oranges."

According to Karen Fehl, the students "had to choose two species, and if the young baby of one species was left behind and raised by another species, what kinds of problems would they face?"

For example, in one skit, a polar bear was taught to waddle like a penguin.

The criteria used by judges included the creativity of costumes, scenery, design (involving technical elements) and the integration of facts.

Of participating elementary school teams from Farmington Public Schools, Longacre's scored the highest. Longacre students who participated were Mark Cappo, Ellen Fehl, Danielle Graessle, Mark McGraw, Kaitlin Smith, Jenna Wallis and Clara Yoon.

The team composed of students from St. Fabian Catholic

COMPETITION

School and O.E. Dunckel Middle School placed second at the state tournament in the middle school division.

Students on the team, coached by Diane Matous, performed a non-verbal musical titled "A Chess Match." According to a press release about the entry, "the team's original music fit the theme of a chess match in which the chess players stray from the traditional ways of a chess match and unite as one" by way of a treaty.

Team members were Chad Audette, Chrissy Audette, Savannah Gignac, Emily Hunter, Jimmy Matous, Anna Sklut and Anthony Suarez.

Finishing in fourth place in the elementary division was a team from Hillside Elementary School, coached by Jan Gray and Jim Anderson. "The Dark Fridge" skit was performed by students Chris Braz, Alex Burns, Patrick Kipper, Vipul Nayani, Anna Petoskey, Chris Winkler and Esther Yoon.

A second team from Hillside participated. That team's "Eggspiration" entry was coached by Debra Amos and Diane Hoelscher. Team members were Julianne Allemang, Meghan Carter, Alex Goldberg, Katie Hoelscher, Daniel Kipper, Laura Miller and Liz Petoskey.

Wooddale Elementary School's entry, "The Fruit Roller

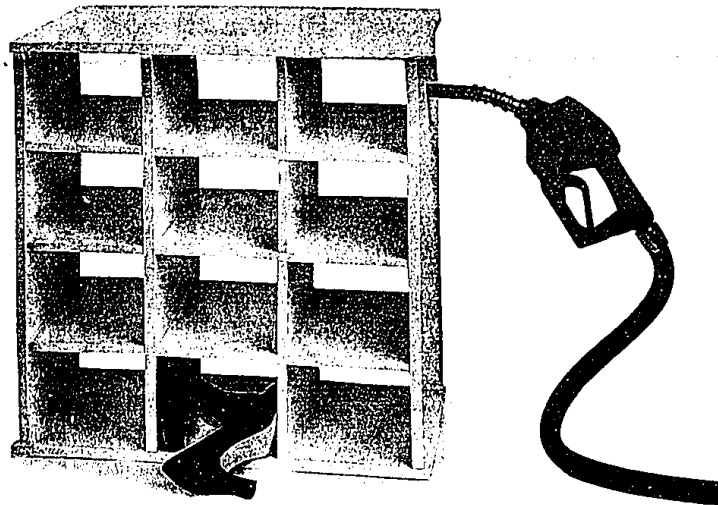
Coaster," was coached by Shari Bence and Katie Shureb and included students Tom Bence, Kyane Crane, Trevor Lamson, Rachel Mueller, Kevin Shureb, Marie Shureb and Ben Yelian. The roller coaster for tennis balls included the required loop, jump and corkscrew.

Teams qualified for the state competition by finishing either first or second at the Feb. 26 regional competition held at Waterford High School.



Teaming up: Students from St. Fabian Catholic School and O.E. Dunckel Middle School teamed up for a second place entry at the state tournament. Back row (from left) are students Chaz Audette, Emily Hunter, Savannah Gignac and Anthony Suarez. In the front row (from left) are students Jimmy Matous, Anna Sklut and Chrissy Audette.

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Representing their school: One of two Hillside Elementary School teams included (from left) Daniel Kipper, Meghan Carter, Laura Miller, Julianne Allemang, Liz Petoskey (crouching), coach Debra Amos, Katie Hoelscher, coach Diane Hoelscher and Alex Goldberg.



Near the top: Finishing fourth in their category at the state tourney was this team from Hillside Elementary School. Students (from left) are Anna Petoskey, Esther Yoon, Alex Burns, Chris Winkler, Patrick Kipper, Chris Braz and Vipul Nayani. Coaches (back row) are Jan Gray and Jim Anderson.