Celebrate a journey

Teachers learn how to keep students interested

More than 200 Farmington olementary school teachers swayed in their cushioned seats at the Civic Theatre, holding balloon animals in the air and singing a catchy tune titled 'Hands-On, Minds-On.'

They were onthusiastically interacting with David Bydlowski, Charles Kline and Fred Ribits, who performed 'Science Explosion: Brain-Based Instruction Through Music, Magic & Comedy' during the kickoff session for the district's olementary study summer academy, 'Gelebrating the Journey,' The academy took place Monday, June 12, through Wednesday, June 14. Their message was that teachers can increase the odds of reaching their students in the classroom if they do various projects and activities, including music and magic. Teachers listened to Kline's instructions on how to make salloon animals – demonstrat-

ing how air is matter that takes up space – and then the lower auditorium became filled with the sound of squeaking clastic.

"By the way," joked Kline to teachers, who voluntarily attended. "A quick way to lose control of your class is to hand out balloons."

Soon, he instructed the group to remember to leave room at the tip of the balloon. "Air takes up space," Kline explained, pinching and twisting another balloon into the shape of a dog. "Air needs a

Please see JOURNEY, A10





Yeah! Beverly Papai, library director, presents Laura Anne Mihalko and her mom, Patricia, with gifts that accompanied the 11-year-old's distinction for pushing the circulation over one million.

Library hits a million!

BY JONI HUBRED STAFF WRITER Jhubred@ce.hom

Laurn Anne Mihelko and her mother, Patricia, rode their bicy-cles to the Farmington Commu-nity Library Wednesday after-

cles to the Farmington Community Library Wednesday afternoon, never expecting they would leave with a lot more than just a few books.

The 11-year-old Dunckel Middle School student's five young adult novels – books by R.L. Stine and Christopher Pike – pushed the library's circulation over one million. She and her mother received a goodie bag packed with library memorabilia and a gift certificate to Borders Books and Music.

The celebration commemorated an important benchmark, according to Executive Director Bev Papai.

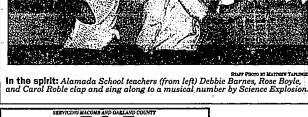
"Thero just aren't that many libraries with a million circulation," Papal said, naming Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Kent and Wayne Counties among the handful that

While library professionals have speculated about declining circulation in the wake of the Internet and electronic resources, Farmington's experience has been completely the opposite, Papal said. As the use of Internet-based resources has increased, by more than 50 percent from 1989/89 through 1999/2000, so has the number of items checked out.

Laura visits either the Farmington or Formington Hills branches about once a week, is a member of the summer reading club and participated in 'Battle of the Books,' a reading competition held during this year's Formington Area Arts Featival, Her favorite part of the library is the Young Adult Section.

"I like their books," she said. Tapai believes an investment to materials has contributed to the increase in circulation.

"We have doubled the monies spent for new books," she said.
The selection at both branches has dramatically improved, not



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