

Creative thinking hallmark of student 'dress rehearsal'

The local showcase of events for Destination ImagiNation was held Saturday morning at Farmington High School.

Problem-solving student teams from schools across the entire Farmington district got an evaluation of their projects from appraisers.

The morning offered students a chance to have a "dress rehearsal" for projects/performances they had been working on since September, according to coordinator Diane Matous.

Teams of students from Farmington elementaries and one middle school demonstrated solutions to the ImagiNation program's challenges. The program teaches children cooperation, teamwork, communication and above all creativity, especially in problem solving. The students do eight-minute performances; within each performance are answers to a challenge.

"It's a wonderful program," says Highmeadow Common Campus Principal Bev Miller, who was at Saturday's event cheering her teams on.

Challenges and participating schools included: "Mystery Loves Company" (Dunckel/St. Fabian, Eagle, Hillside and Highmeadow); "Mystery" from primary grades (Eagle and two teams from Alameda); "Incredible Tech Effects" (St. Fabian, Hillside, Gill, Beechview and Longacre); "Tech Effects," primary (Wooddale); "Anonymously Yours" (Lanigan and Wooddale); and "Dynamic IMPROV" (Forest and Highmeadow).

Following the morning challenges the students met in the FHS gym and received medals from their "team managers" as recognition for participating.

The students proudly displayed the medals to their parents sitting in the bleachers.

Regional competition will be held in March at Howell High School, and state finals in April at Central Michigan University. State winners go to global finals in Tennessee in May.



Prepared: Sarah Van-Wambeke from Wooddale was Lucy the Cat in one performance.

Highmeadow takes on 'Kindness' challenge

Beginning on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, students at Highmeadow Common Campus in the Farmington district took on the National Do Something Kindness and Justice Challenge.

For the past two weeks, through tomorrow, they, well, performed acts of kindness (helping others) and justice (standing up for what is right).

Acts of kindness will be recorded in school and online. Students will be able to see what other young people across the country are doing for this event, and join in making the world a better place.

Participating students will receive a certificate signed by Martin Luther King, III.

Each class at Highmeadow set a goal for the number of acts they will try to perform.

"Our goal is to continue to help children respect others and to reach out to others with kindness," said Bev Miller, Highmeadow principal.

The Do Something Web site is located at www.dosomething.org, an interactive Web site for young people.

Pleased: Ian Van Tasel, Scott Yockey, Andrew Kim in front and Marilyn Van Tasel and principal Bev Miller were happy to be at the event. Far right, manager Rana Soubani hands out medals to her group.



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