

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS

■ National Library Week Celebration - Farmington Youth Theater

The Farmington Youth Theater will thrill the audience with a performance of *Doorway to Atlantis*, in which two young people stumble upon a doorway into the future where humans live underwater and the struggle for freedom continues. Performances are scheduled at the Main Library at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 3, and at the Farmington Branch at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 4.

■ Spring Break Fun/Art in the Afternoon

Children ages 5-12 are invited to try different art projects at the Main Library from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, and at the

Farmington Branch from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, April 18.

■ Super Saturday Storytimes

Children of all ages are invited to bring someone special to the Main Library at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21, for "Windy Weather" with wonderful stories of spring: make a kite, windsock and other "windy" projects. Kids can also enjoy stories and other animal fun in "Let's Get Animal" at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Farmington Branch.

■ Responsible Babysitting

Young adults, 10-17 years, can learn the ins and outs of working as a sitter from 4-6:30 p.m. April 16, 17 and 18 at the Farmington Branch Library; or 7-8:30 p.m. April 26, May 3 and May 10

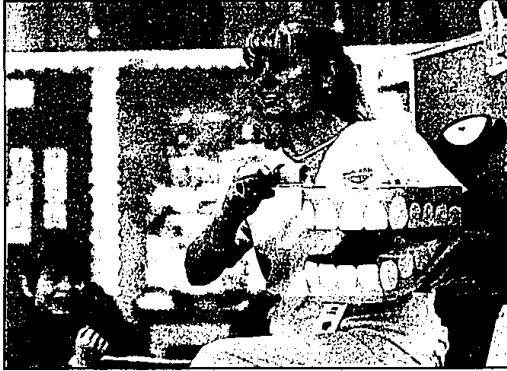
at the Main Library. A certificate is awarded to participants who complete: "Planning Babysitting/Emergency Situations," "Infant Care," and "Integrating with Children." Please call to register.

■ Jobs and Career Resources

Get expert information from Michael Evola, corporate recruiting officer, and Caren Moran, recruiting coordinator, and Farmington Hills Libraries to help you in your quest at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, at the Main Library. Call to register.

■ Great Books Discussion

Join other reading enthusiasts for a discussion of Derek Walcott's *Poetry* at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Main Library.



Up and down, side to side: Shelly Rabe demonstrates tooth care techniques at Longacre Elementary School. Rabe, who works for Livonia Village Dental, took her traveling tooth care show on the road to teach kids about nutrition and good habits to protect their teeth.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL KNAPP

Longacre kids learn good dental habits

BY TIM SMITH
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Colgate's *The Incredible Journey* video featuring an "acid monster that attacks your teeth," Rabe explained the focus of her talk.

The main emphasis today is on nutrition, good and bad snacks and how to take care of their teeth," said Rabe, whose son, Brett, attends first grade at Longacre.

Other revelations served up by "Miss Shelly" included: Too much juice can create plaque build-up and cavities; Tap water contains decay-fighting fluoride whereas commercially bottled water does not.

At the end of her third talk of the morning, she reminded youngsters to eat sweets in moderation.

"Cotton candy, candy bars and pop, they're all loaded with sugar. Save those for the special times, like going to the carnival."

But, noting that most kids probably won't avoid the sweet stuff, Rabe urged them to "brush extra hard" if they do partake.

Wearing Livonia Village Dental's trademark "Smiles Are Our Business" logo on her shirt, the Farmington resident then revealed her perfectly healthy smile and reason for visiting classrooms on a regular basis.

"It's my community work," she said with a glowing smile.



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Bottom line

"This is the toughest year financially we've had in the six years I've been on the board," said Vice President Linda Enberg.

Trustee Cathy Webb acknowledged the hard work of Gill Year-Round parent volunteers who helped recruit 35 new students for next year, a push that began after a November 2000 meeting with Maxfield. A March deadline was established and parents went to work.

Parent Lynn Halton outlined benefits of the year-round concept, citing research from the National Association of Year-Round Education. Since 1985, year-round education has grown nationwide from 411 to 3,059 schools, a 648-percent growth over 15 years.

She also reiterated their recent sales pitch.

■ The program, which includes the same number of instructional days (183) as in traditional schools, is touted for factors such as drawing families to the district who are looking for an optional school calendar.

■ It reduces teacher and student burnout, builds a close-knit community, provides families with vacation options (there are three two-week inter-session breaks during the school year), develops strong student friendships, features a great faculty staff and enhances learning retention due to the shorter gap between school years.