

C'ville MEAP results show student learning patterns

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Clarenceville fourth graders are more likely to succeed on math and reading state exams the earlier they enter the district.

That trend could be gleaned from the latest Michigan Educational Assessment Program results, which show an increase in reading scores and a slight decrease in math among district fourth graders.

Some 146 fourth graders took the MEAP math and reading tests Jan. 22-Feb. 9. Statewide averages are not available yet.

For the first time, fourth graders had to indicate on the MEAP at what level they entered Clarenceville, which tends to have a transient student population. The district includes parts of Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford.

A district spokeswoman urged against drawing broad conclusions based on the small numbers involved. A majority — 72 percent or 104 students — have been in the district since first grade.

■ 'I don't think it tells us much yet. I think we need to look at more data.'

Barb Church, curriculum director
—Clarenceville schools

"I don't think it tells us much yet. I think we need to look at more data," said Barb Church, director of curriculum and instruction.

"We can say at the fourth grade math and reading levels, kids that have been with us longer scored better on those tests."

Of those who have been in the district since first and second grade, 85 percent scored satisfactory on the MEAP math test. That compares to only 46 percent among those who joined as third and fourth graders.

The numbers are similar in reading: 78 percent of those who entered as first or second graders received satisfactory scores compared to 60 percent of students who came aboard later.

If the trend holds up (other MEAP results are expected at month's end), staff members will know students entering later

need more attention. The pattern would also appear to validate the district's early elementary program.

At Thursday's meeting, Trustee Gary Garrison commended Church for monitoring such trends, noting that the media only focuses on the overall score.

"That's what gets into the paper: The bottom line," Garrison said.

In fourth grade reading, 67 percent scored satisfactory overall, which is up from 55 percent last year.

At least 73 percent of fourth graders scored satisfactory in math, which is down from 78 percent in 2000.

The state is revamping next year's MEAP math test, which will require students to use calculators.

"The test next year is going to like night and day," Church said.



On the march: Barney, Baby Bop and Mayfair Coop Preschool parent Ken Tucker lead a parade during the recent 50th anniversary picnic at Drake Sports Park in West Bloomfield.

Preschool celebrates 50th year

BY TIM SMITH
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Olympic spirit and good-old-fashioned excitement were suc-

cessfully combined for Mayfair Coop Preschool's recent "60 Years of Fun" celebration at Drake Sports Park in West Bloomfield.

Leading the way in whipping up some spirit were Barney the Dinosaur and Baby Bop, lip-synching favorite children's tunes such as "If All the Raindrops," "Mr. Knickerbocker" and "I Love You."

Then, the television favorites (actually parents Stacy Cryk and Kim Sowerby in costume) lit a torch and led current and past Mayfair students and their parents on a march to where everybody participated in games and activities.

Contributing to the atmosphere Saturday, May 5 were Farmington High School band students, performing the "Star Spangled Banner" and other songs. Among the musical students was 15-year-old Hillary Michalak, the oldest Mayfair alum at the event.

"This is really exciting," said director/head teacher Maxine Flagg, in her 23rd year at the preschool. "The parents have been working unbelievably hard to make this a really special event. And a lot of things have

been donated by businesses."

For kids and parents alike, the day was a winner if for no other reason than to sing "The Spirit Song" with Barney, Baby Bop and "Miss Maxine," as Flagg is known.

"They love Miss Maxine," noted Mayfair parent Julie Devine.

About 80 youngsters from Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and surrounding communities attend Mayfair Coop Preschool, located on Farmington Road between 13-14 Mile roads.

One of the parents who worked to make the event successful was Marianne Tucker, who along with husband Ken have two children at Mayfair. "Everyone's a winner, we really stress that."

All of the children received T-shirts and Olympic "medals," regardless of whether they finished first or last in the tug-of-war, paper plate discus or human wheelbarrow relay race.

In describing the longevity of the preschool, Flagg noted the triangular partnership including parents, teachers and children. "We all work together."



We can make it: Novi resident Robert Zalupski and his son, Mayfair Coop Preschool student Brian, team up during the human wheelbarrow race.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS - MAY

Farmington Community Library Happenings - May

■ How to start your own business

Patricia Salo of the Michigan Business Development Center will discuss how to start a small business at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, at the Farmington Hills Library. Call 553-0300 to register.

■ Great book discussion

Join other reading enthusiasts for a discussion of E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India* at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at the Farmington Hills Library.

■ Internet travel secrets

Instructor Bob Cowen, a seasoned traveler with excellent

advice on how to save on airlines, hotels, cruises and cars, will demonstrate how to quickly obtain travel information on the Web at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at the Farmington Hills Library.

■ Let's talk books

Join other fourth and fifth graders for a discussion of Lois Lowry's *Anastasia Krupnik* at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 19, at the Farmington Branch Library.

Books most in demand at the library:

1st to Die, James Patterson
On the Street Where You Live, Mary Higgins Clark

"P" is for Peril, Sue Grafton
The Villa, Nora Roberts
Scarlet Feather, Maeve Binchy
The Bonesetter's Daughter, Amy Tan
Lone Eagle, Danielle Steel
Looking Back, Belva Plain
A Common Life: The Wedding Story, Jan Karan
Sticks & Stones, Diane Mott Davidson
The Last Time They Met, Anita Shreve

Water's Edge, Judith McNaught
Mystic River, Dennis Lehane
Cold Paradise, Stuart Woods
The Vendetta Defense, Lisa Scottoline

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