

FHS students build Shrek at Star

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People who go to Star Theatre in Southfield can see work created by students in Farmington High School teacher Gail Piepenburg's art class.

The students worked with the promotions department of the Star Theatres to design and build a huge promotion for the premier of "Shrek."

"This story is about an ogre who just wants to be left alone but finds the meaning of friendship," Piepenburg said. "Our class has designed and built two huge swamp trees and a giant storybook, which will be featured framing the red carpet when the public comes to view the movie."

She called the display "truly a sight to see," with 12-foot-tall trees. In addition to the satisfaction of seeing their art work in a public venue, students worked in a real-

life situation with a real client, Piepenburg added.

Payment will be a day at the movies for the whole class, plus treats, Piepenburg said. "A lot of students want to see 'Pearl Harbor'."

The artwork will later be moved to Star Fairlane in Dearborn. It's only part of the excitement in Piepenburg's class as their year draws to a close. Two talented students have won prestigious scholarships to art schools.

Heather Friedl won a \$48,000 scholarship to Maryland Institute of Art. Kristel Stricker received a \$30,000 scholarship to Savannah College of Art and Design.

"We have several going to the Center for Creative Studies on scholarship as well."



Detail work: Meghan Stewart paints the Storybook page of the Shrek display, now up at the Star Southfield movie theater. Students from Farmington High created the display for the movie's premiere.

C'ville sex ed program changes

■ District shifts from abstinence only to 'abstinence-based'

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Clarenceville has shifted its high school sex education program from abstinence only to abstinence-based.

Though the change sounds subtle, the move incorporates a section on contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases.

Also, teachers can now answer student questions about birth control, whereas they could not before. Under the abstinence-only program, teachers had to say abstaining from sex was the sole option.

At Thursday's board meeting, trustees approved the change to the reproductive health unit in a 6-1 vote. Trustee John Shaw dissented.

"I think we should stay with the abstinence-only program," Shaw said, "because I really feel it sends a double message."

Larger issues

The trustee compared talking to teens about birth control to teaching driver's ed students to obey the speed limit while also teaching them to use radar detectors.

Colleague Matthew Boettcher understood Shaw's concern, but believes there is a larger issue involved.

In situations where a student musters enough courage to ask such a question "only to be told they can't have the answer," Boettcher said, "it sends an even more troubling message."

Trustee Sharon Simpson served on the reproductive health committee that recommended the change. She informally canvassed those she thought might object to the changes.

"I did not have one person who said no," Simpson said.

The seven-member ad-hoc panel included a member of the clergy, health professionals, parents and two students. Many attended Thursday's meeting.

Abstinence at the core

School officials emphasized that abstinence will remain at the core of the curriculum.

"Are we saying, 'Go ahead and (have sex)?' Absolutely not," said Simpson, who is a registered nurse.

Parents will be informed when the reproductive health unit delves into birth control. They can opt to remove their child when that topic is discussed.

Abortion or the abortion pill will not be part of the unit, which is taught in Physical Education 1 during the first semester.

Most Oakland County districts have abstinence-based programs, committee members said. The panel contacted Farmington, Northville, Rochester and Plymouth-Canton districts in proposing changes.

Clarenceville, which is part of the Oakland County Intermediate School District, includes parts of Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford.

Trustees also approved the adoption of the book "Human Sexuality" by Scott Foresman and a video "Sexually Transmitted Diseases: The Silent Epidemic."

"I think it's good for the kids to have this information," Trustee Jennifer Carbonneau said.

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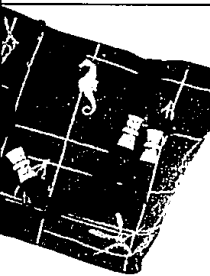


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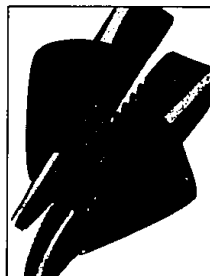
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