Peace from page A1

in New York and Washington, D.
C., the kindergarten teacher sat
the kids down in a circle on the,
floor to talk about what
occurred. "One of the kids said
she thought it was really sad
because the bad guy didn't use
she thought it was really sad
because the bad guy didn't use
his solutions, 'Ravitz said.' This year's "Lifesaver" skills
were brought under one big
umbrella. "We don't assume
sveryone comes with the same
perspective." Ravitz said. "Culture is really related to the world
and how we solve problems."
Children are taught to use

peaceful solutions, rather than harmful words or actions, to solve conflict. Every Friday during a peace assembly, students learn which classes were successful in using solutions. Those who have fly a flag outside their classrooms. "If they haven't and somebody in the class used unkind words or hit somebody, they have to take the flag down, Tavitz said. For the younger children, the flag goes down for the rest of the day, for the older students, it's for the rest of the week.

"It makes them feel that what they have done has impacted their class," Ravitz said. "We believe each individual child can have an impact on their world." When there's peace throughout the school, a special flag outside flies at full-staff. Unberwise, it's lowered to half-staff. Interested fourth and fifth graders can go through pear mediation training, to help kept the peace in their school.
"They are available out on the playground and in the building to resolve conflicts," Bachrouche

said. "I have had several kids say they have tried this on their sisters, they have tried this on their parents. They wish their parents would come in for train-ing so they wouldn't fight so much."

ing so they wouldn't right so much."
Ravitz said the mediators never ask, "Who started it?"
"The truth is if we look at the world, if you look at one country lighting with another, if you ask who started it, you could go back yesterday, the day before, 100 years ago, what the Bible says," Ravitz said.

Veteran returning fifth grade peer mediators this year are: Lucy Fricker, Anne-Marie Pop, Anna Karana, Erin Cahill, Lor-rine Zoma and Dana Harper. Their thoughts: m*During the younger kids' recess, we go out and they come up to us with problems and we help them solve them, "Cahill said.

said.

"I like to be a peer mediator because I like to help them solve problems," Karana said. "But sometimes one person wants to have a peer mediation but the

other person doesn't. Sometimes they both say they want to but one of them acts up and they

one of them acts up and they rent listening."

"Sometimes it gets confusing and hard because they tell different stories," Pop said.

"It's good to help somebody else, Fricker said.

"I foel good after a pear mediation because I holped somebody and stuff," Harper said.

"I like solving problems and helping people be friends again," Zoma said.

Mediationprocess could be adapted

Warra warra successions and the succession of th

pant.
"One of the things that peer mediation does is kids listen to each other," said Wood Creek Principal Berna Ravitz. "It's facilitating the process of being heard and kids saying what they need to say and how they feel."
The program has several components:

ponents:

Introductions - Do you want us to help you solve this problem? Let's move to a different

us to holp you solve this problem? Let's move to a different area to talk.

If the issue of privace, Everything here needs to be private. Whatever is said here is to be between us and is not to be discussed with other people. The exception is if anyone is in danger of being hurt.

If the problem with other people, the exception is if anyone is in danger of being hurt.

If the keep everything private, don't interrupt, be as honest as you can. Both agree to work to solve this problem with no put downs.

If Describe the problem with no put downs.

If the for understanding.

Why do you think the other person is upset? How do you think he or she feels?

If prind solutions — What can you do now to help solve this problem? If this problem happens again, what can you do?

If the problem isn't resolved, the mediation process starts over again. If it is resolved, children shake hands to show their agreement.

Hills slates awards ceremony

The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission will hold its annual awards recoption from 5 to 6:30 pm. Thursday, Oct. 25 at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

The annual event will recognize more than 200 business, offices, industries, and organizations, along with subdivision, condominiums and apartment entrances that make Farmington Hills a more beautiful place to live and work.

The winning landscapes were selected for their outstanding design, originality, maintenance, and appropriated by Mayor Nancy Bates, City Manger State Prock, City Manger State Prock, City Staff, and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The Beautification Com-

merce. The Beautification Commission will also present a Commissioner's Award to one outstanding location, and the Chamber of Commerce will present a special award honoring a Chamber

member.
For more information, contact Marie Danigan of the Farmington Hills Plan-

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