

Eagle students honor 'hometown heroes'

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"We want to fix the Twin Towers," said one colorful placemat drawn by an Eagle Elementary student in honor of the school's own "hometown heroes" with the West Bloomfield Fire and Police Departments.

About 40 emergency personnel enjoyed the Hometown Heroes program the children prepared for them and then ate breakfast provided by about 30 businesses in area.

The unsigned placemat was among other similar ones on tables prepared for the Friday ceremony held at the school, which is located in West Bloomfield but is part of the Farmington Public School District. The picture showed a man holding a huge bottle of glue while another man stood on a ladder reaching up to place a bandage over one of the World Trade Center towers.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER

Remembrance: West Bloomfield police and firefighters join the students and staff at Eagle Elementary in a moment of silence for those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Eagle parent Nancy Henahan persuaded the school to do something special after her own husband, Pat, a Livonia police officer was honored along with his colleagues by Hull Elementary in Livonia. Pat was also present at the Eagle program Friday and recalled how he felt at the October event.

"It was a wonderful experience," Pat said. "And it gave the kids a chance to meet those who stand ready to protect them when they need it."

Among the reflections of the Sept. 11 tragedy is the image of firefighters walking into the burning building as groups of people ran out.

"One group going down to safety while the other went up to danger for the safety of others," said Cindy Kacin, an Eagle teacher.

The children turned to face the emergency

workers as everyone observed a moment of silence at the close of the program.

"We are honored that you have come," Kacin said. "We honor those who serve so faithfully. There is not one child who is not touched your service to our community."

Those who were honored were very touched by the experience.

Firefighter paramedic Kathy McCormick said, "It's nice to have them put on a program like this. We don't usually get this kind of recognition."

"This is fabulous," said West Bloomfield Township Police Capt. Tim Sheridan. "I'm sure the guys appreciate it."

"I'm flattered they did this," said West Bloomfield Township Supervisor David Flasher. "This is real nice. I never expected anything like this."



Honor: As part of their Hometown Heroes Breakfast program, the Eagle Choir perform "sing a song of peace" for the police and fire department.

Royal Treatment



Birthday treat: Edna Keating (right), 103, eldest resident of Botsford Commons, was given a royal birthday celebration by the staff of this Farmington Hills assisted living facility. Surprise arrangements were made to whisk Keating and six staff members in a stretch limousine to a local restaurant for dinner. Kings & Queens Limousine of Livonia, with driver Robert Brazelton, provided complimentary professional limousine service.

Holocaust expert to speak

Dr. Anton Pelinka, recognized internationally as the leading authority on Austrian history, will speak on *Austria and Its Nazi History* at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

Dr. Pelinka was born in Vienna in 1941. He earned his Ph.D. in political science and his doctor of law degree in Vienna in 1964. He has taught at numerous universities throughout Austria and Germany and has served as visiting professor at many universi-

ties here in the U.S. including Stanford, Harvard and the University of Chicago.

Presently Dr. Pelinka holds the position of professor of political science at the University of Innsbruck, and is the director of the Institute of Conflict Research in Vienna. He is currently a visiting professor in the Department of Germanic Language and Literature as well as in the political science department at the U-M.

For more information on the free lecture, call (248) 661-0840.

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I've also heard the converse, people who are happy with the letter grade system.

Bucholz said schools grade kids every day; grades are also used with cars and other consumer products. He said the goal is to present information about the quality of schools the way a car engine is structured - with complicated machinery hidden by a smooth hood.

"The question I have is why shouldn't we use this kind of system for grading schools?" he

said. Clarenceville Superintendent Tom Tattan has an answer for him.

"What we're looking at is we could probably already give letter grades to the districts," he said. "It's pointing out what we already know."

Tattan said poorer performing schools are generally those with troubling socio-economic conditions. High levels of poverty have been directly tied to low MEAP scores, which are three-

quarters of the letter grade's value, he added.

Tattan worries about the political aspects of classifying some schools as failing and believes the state should be more concerned with giving those schools the resources to succeed.

"What good does it do to a community to tell them 'your school is failing'?" he said. "And if you start closing failing schools, where do the kids go?"

Do you know a Farmington school student who has turned his or her life around?

Students age 7 - 12, who have made positive changes in their lives will be honored at a luncheon in Farmington Hills Manor on March 5, 2002.

Students will be judged on the basis of significant improvements in a broad range of areas—from behavior to school work to community service.

Nomination forms are available in all Farmington Middle and High Schools and must be submitted by Friday, December 14, 2001.

The program is sponsored by Farmington Public Schools, Farmington Observer, Farmington Public Safety Department and the Farmington Hills Police Department.

If your company would like to sponsor this new program of encouragement, call Cathy Young,

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