

## FPS' Day for Strings celebrates partnerships

The Farmington Public Schools' tenth annual "Day for Strings" program, a celebration of school/community/business partnerships, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2 throughout North Farmington High School beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The school is located on Thirteen Mile Rd just east of Farmington Road. More than 400 strings students will participate.

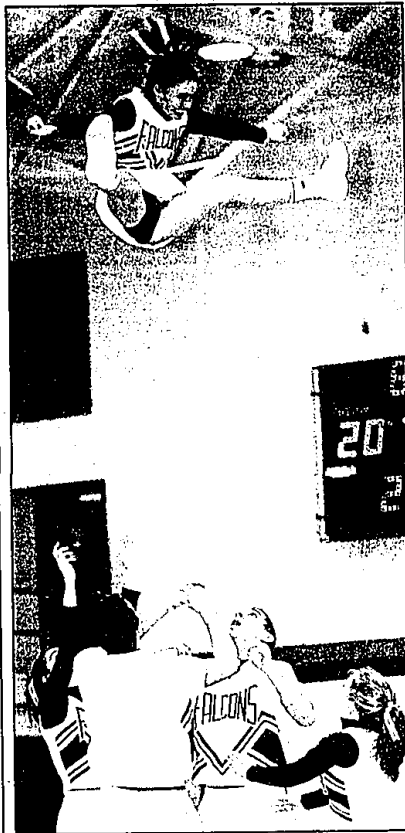
Guest artists include: Robin Bloomberg (freelance professional) - Conductor, 7th/8th Grade Cello Choir; Kay DeLuca (Farmington Schools - retired) - Conductor, Cadet Orchestra; Larry Dittmar (Ann Arbor Schools) - Conductor, Honors High School Orchestra; Larry Hutchinson (DSO resident) - Clinician Coordinator & String Bass Clinician; Nancy Koski (Bloomfield Hills Schools - retired) - Conductor, Elementary Orchestra; John Madison (freelance professional) - Viola Clinician; Crystal Plohm (Freelance professional) - Conductor, 7th/8th Grade Fiddlers; Larry Pye (Dearborn Schools) - Conductor, High School Orchestra; Marla Smith (MOT resident) - Violin Clinician; Jui-Chao Wang (resident freelance professional) - Cello Clinician; James Waring (DSO - retired professional) - Violin Clinician; Derek Weller (MOT professional) - Conductor, 7th/8th Grade String Bass Ensemble.

Students will participate in rehearsals, clinics, section rehearsals and a special "Informance" for parents and friends at 2:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. Admission is complimentary.

The program will include performances by the 5th Grade Orchestra (beginners this fall), 6th Grade Cadet Orchestra, 7th/8th Grade Fiddlers, Cello Choir, String Bass Ensemble, High School Orchestra (9-10) and High School Honors Orchestra.

District music director Paul Barber said, "We hope to show the developmental stages of our program in particular and strings playing in general as well as the fact that this is indeed a life-long learning and participating opportunity."

## Soaring



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

**High Flier:** Farmington Falcon cheerleaders Lauren Brantley, Tom and Pat English and Dani Lance toss Jami Green sky high. The strength, agility and timing necessary to perform modern cheerleading routines are the result of hours of practice. This stunt was performed during half-time festivities at the Farmington vs. Livonia Franklin basketball game, held at Franklin last Thursday.

## Last year's MEAP scandal has officials tightening security

By JONI HUBRED  
STAFF WRITER

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The echo of last year's statewide test scandal has school officials in Clarenceville taking extra care to ensure no one but those who should get a look at the Michigan Educational Assessment Program documents.

MEAP tests are administered Jan. 21 through Feb. 8 to students in 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th grades. Although no Clarenceville Schools were among the 71 investigated for possible cheating, officials are doing all they can to prevent even the hint of temptation. Having seen the tests, executive director of curriculum and instruction Barbara Church said she understood how a teacher might want to just nudge students in a certain direction.

"There's one part that, if students forget the meaning of one word, they'd lose six or seven points," she said. "I would be so

tempted to help my kids out by saying 'Remember what this means,' but we can't do that."

Church told school board members she had reviewed the tests.

"The science test is for real life applications," she said. "A lot of the questions are good, real-life questions."

A memo to board members outlined major changes in this year's tests, which are designed to prevent a repeat of last year's problems. Once test booklets arrived in the district, all test preparation was to stop. Teachers will be allowed to use the test booklets to "debrief" students, but only after all of the completed tests have left the school.

All test booklets must be destroyed by March 1, and each building's MEAP coordinator is only allowed to keep one copy of each test. Church said the district is working with Oakland Schools to make arrangements for removal of the test booklets

for shredding.

MEAP results will be distributed in late May for social studies, reading and writing; science results won't be available until August.

Superintendent Tom Tattan noted that because of a \$540 million cut from the state's testing budget, the MEAP has fewer essay questions. He explained that grading those could be labor-intensive.

How the tests would be graded and by whom concerned board member Bryan Bentley.

"That's what scares me is the people who are grading the tests. There's been case after case where there was no training," he said, referring specifically to a case in Minnesota.

"I haven't heard much in Michigan about bad training," Church said. A friend of hers who had trained to grade tests told her the process was quite rigorous.

## Local blood drives scheduled

By KEVIN BROWN  
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Blood donors have two chances this month to replenish traditionally low post-holidays Red Cross blood supplies.

From 2-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, blood will be collected at North Congregational Church, 36520 W. 12 Mile west of Drake. This drive is part of the new Blood of Martyrs series of blood donations scheduled around southeast Michigan and the Lansing area to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

A second blood drive is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, at the Costick Center. Joann Lindquist, Red Cross donor services representative, said this annual drive has been moved from its former site, the Farmington Hills City Hall.

"It was just too tight over there. There wasn't enough parking. We've got a great big room over in the Costick Center," Lindquist explained.

Red Cross staff encourage donors to make appointments by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. Walk-ins are accepted. "We're not going to turn anybody away," Lindquist said.

Donors should expect that giving blood will take about an hour. "First they meet with a volunteer," said Amy Neale, Red Cross spokesperson. Donors fill out health history forms and give them to volunteers, who follow up with questions.

The purpose of the screening is to keep the donated blood supply pure. Donors are not allowed

to give blood 56 days from their last blood donation, to safeguard the donor's health.

"They then move on to the donation site. Another nurse reviews your chart, you lay down and are given the choice of what arm to draw blood from," Neale said. A cotton ball dabbed in iodine is applied to the skin to disinfect, and the needle is inserted, producing "a quick little pinch," she said. One unit of blood is drawn, nearly a pint.

Donors typically feel no ill effects. "If they're dehydrated they can be a little fuzzy. It goes away after a few seconds," Neale said. All donors are offered juice and cookies, and asked to sit a spell so Red Cross staff can see that they're OK.

The four-day King Jr. drives opened Friday. These statewide drives involve a range of faiths including Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and Muslim.

"Donating blood is a living, active witness to King's dream and the legacy that he left," said Ronald Landfair, director of the Black Catholic Ministry of Lansing, who helped found the Blood of Martyrs drives.

Neale said the need for blood donations is constant, as donations have a 42-day shelf life. Donated blood is broken into three components -- red blood cells, plasma and platelets -- to target particular needs.

Neale said that while a platelet shortage was announced Jan. 3, donations made in response have eased the shortage.

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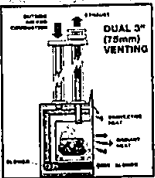
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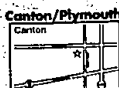


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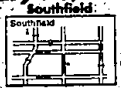
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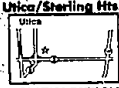
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