

East side, west side kids build understanding

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.com

Two sisters, both in education, are reaching out to each other's students to achieve better communication and understanding. This was the third year Kelly Vogelheim, an occupational therapist at Cloverdale Developmental Center in Farmington, and her sister, Becky Kley, a fifth grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary in Fraser were involved with the "Circle of Friends" program. Cloverdale serves about 100 severely disabled students from area school districts including Farmington, Southfield, Walled

Lake, South Lyon, West Bloomfield, Huron Valley, Novi, Troy and Clawsonville. Kley's students are in regular education. "One day we were just talking and some kids were making fun of them," Vogelheim said. "We started brainstorming." Helping to make the inequalities and limitations disappear is a continuing goal. "Exceptional children get teased, pointed at and ridiculed," said Cloverdale Principal Roger Martin. Vogelheim has been the "spark plug" for the program, Martin said. Fraser parents brought their

children. This year Fraser Schools Superintendent Gary Matsche also visited. A total of 52 Cloverdale and Eisenhower Elementary students participated. Jack Demmer Ford, Inc. sponsored the program. "The way the program is structured is that each regular education student from Fraser is paired with a student from Cloverdale who has special needs," Vogelheim said. "The students correspond monthly by exchanging pictures, videotapes as well as a number of other creative projects." Because Cloverdale students aren't able to read or write, at

Christmas time, for example, the Eisenhower students adapted books for their pen pals by adding textures to each page of a book. The Cloverdale students packaged bags of dirt and sent seeds for the Eisenhower students to plant. Fraser students learned how to adapt things they use in their own daily lives and utilize tech-

nology so that children with disabilities could have similar experiences. A June 7 field day held at Cloverdale featured an interactive music presentation, lunch, bubbles, parachute games and adapted bowling. Flutterby, a face painting clown also entertained the children.

The program also helps children and parents understand their own feelings about disabilities. They learn to appreciate their similarities and differences. "The results continue to be phenomenal," Vogelheim said. "Many of the families involved have become a major part of the program in both schools."

Holiday Inn hosts critical blood drive

On Tuesday, July 2, the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn will be the site of the Red Cross Critical Summer Blood Drive. The drive runs 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and is open to businesses in the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park and the general

public. The goal is 45 units of blood for area hospital patients. One pint of blood can help three patients. To make an appointment call Joann Lindquist at (517) 545-7712.

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Hills approves AED purchase

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER
ppace@oe.com

Farmington Hills' many community buildings will soon be equipped with something that could one day save your life or that of a loved one. The city council Monday approved the purchase of 10

machines that a layman can use to help treat sudden heart-attack victims. Known as automatic external defibrillators, the machines can hook a few sensor pads on a person's body and detect his or her EKG and automatically administer the right amount of electric shocks to return a person's heart

to a normal rhythm, said Hills Fire Chief Rich Marinucci. The units plan to be placed in all of the city's public buildings such as the library, court house, city hall, police department, the Costick Activities Center and ice arena.



Shocking: Inspector Kevin Bersche displays a defibrillator.

"We like to think of them as fire extinguishers for heart attack victims," said Marinucci. "It's pretty idiot proof," he said of operating the units. He noted that many public places, such as casinos, now have the defibrillators on hand. Timing is vital to keep the person alive until medical professionals can arrive, the fire chief said. "Once the heart stops, it can cause irreversible brain damage if it isn't treated in a certain amount of time," he said. City Manager Steve Brock said Mayor Nancy Bates was instrumental in requesting the machines for the city's public buildings. "She's concerned about people's well being, and when she asked if we could get them, I said I would do one better and ask each department to come up with the \$2,500 or so in their budget to buy one and each was able to do so," Brock said. The machines are a vital, first step to saving a person's life if he or she has a heart attack, the fire chief said. "Pretty much anybody can use it. The instructions are simple and it offers a much higher chance of survival than just doing CPR," Marinucci said. The council approved the purchase of 10 of the machines from Phillips Medical Systems for \$27,740. Brock said delivery is expected in the next couple of weeks.

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