Students may see robotics this fall

When Kathy Guntzviller became Clarenceville Middle School's principal, she realized some changes might be needed in the school's technology edu-

in the school's trchnology edu-cation area.

Now, instead of making spice racks in wood shop, students will learn how to program small, robotic machines they'll make out of Legos. That won't be the sum and substance of the new science tech classes, Guntroiller said.

"We will do bridge building with the text books approved this fall," she said.

But the Lego Robotics pro-gram is likely to be the real draw for students. Guntzviller

said she observed classes in Grosse Point schools where kids were so engrossed in prob-lem-solving and teamwork, they hardly spoke with their teacher during the entire class period.

A programmable Lego brick

teacher during the entire class period.

A programmable Lego brick is used to control the robots. Students will use computer software that takes them step by step through the programming process. Teacher Patty Green, who is expected to head up the class this fall, put together a small machine she directed to move backward for one second. She demonstrated her work at Thursday evening's board meeting – but it was tough to see.

Cost for the new class is expected to be about \$26,000;

however, the district should be able to save some money because computer networking won't be required. Included in the price are the Legos, computers and monitors and furniture.

Sixth-graders won't be doing any programming; they'll be

Sixth-graders wort be doing any programming; they'll be introduced to simple and motorized machines. Their curriculum will include study of structural elements, forces, levers, wheels and asles, gears and pulleys.

Seventhe and eighth-graders are expected to build robots, gain and use computer programming skills.

Supt. Cheryl Leach said the school's Durant settlement funds will got toward funding the program for the first year.

Back where they belong

Helio Dolly is the ninth-annual combined school district/community musical at North Farmington High School's Hunt Auditorium. The musical, in past years scheduled in early fail, opens June 26-28 for three evening per-formances, with a malines Sunday, June 29 at 2 pm. M terming up for rebersuls are the characters; (strading, left to right) Ernestina Money (Joan Ginsberg), Horace Yandergelder (Duane Foxt), Ambrose Remper (Paul Luoma), Ermengarde Yandergelder (Jillian Wallach), (foreground) Dolly Levy (Shelley Boykin), Barnaby Tucker (Rob Feldman), Cornelius Hackl (John Sloan III) and Irene Molloy (Usa Levick).

Youth sentenced for Trillium arson

Farmington Hills Police reported late Friday afternoon that a 17-year-old Farmington Hills youth responsible for the May 27, 2002 arson of a home on Trillium has been sentenced.

The boy, who was 16 at the time of the fire, pled no contest before Oakland County Probate Judge Dan O'Brien.

O'Brien sentenced the youth to a locked-down facility at Children's Village in Pontiae, where he will attend school and receive therapy for an undetermined amount of time. A second youth recently received probation for commit-ting a theft before the fire. A restitution hearing will be scheduled to discuss responsi-

bility for reimbursement of \$1.3 million in damages, caused when the home was trashed, looted and burned during a teenage party without adult supervision.

Chief Bill Dwyer said he was pleased with the verdiet and hoped the community lessons learned from the Trillium fire will not soon be forgotten.





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