

Reading Exciting At Wooddale School



MAKING A POINT is one of the Wooddale students participating in the Great Books discussion program which includes 60 fourth, fifth and sixth graders. Taking part in this discussion are (from left) Diane McLean, Elizabeth Stasinos, Janet Meyers, Doris Hildebrand and Betty Lane. (Evert photo)

FARMINGTON The excitement of reading and talking about what's been read has come alive in a big way in Wooddale Elementary School, Farmington.

The Junior Great Books discussion program in Wooddale is one of Farmington's largest, serving 60 students from the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. These children volunteer their own time to take part in one of the four groups at Wooddale. Each group is led by two trained leaders.

Great Books discussions are based on a technique called "shared inquiry." This means the leaders discuss a reading selected from the classics and form questions to which they find more than one solution. From these questions the group searches for an answer.

Larry Freedman, assistant superintendent for elementary education, lauds the program, saying shared inquiry experience benefits all youngsters, regardless of

whether they are superior, average, or under-achieving students.

"This program turns on youngsters and directs their minds toward the enjoyment of learning," says Freedman. Specific benefits of the program that Freedman points out are: it makes students think for themselves, makes them read more carefully, shows them how to back up opinion with evidence, and teaches them how to listen and recognize the validity of other points of view.

"The process of creative thinking opens new doors for leaders and young people alike. No child who is interested should be turned away."

BA Degree

FARMINGTON Rick H. Knock, 2979 Valley-side, Farmington, completed requirements for a BA degree in political science from Albion College at the mid-year.

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