

Middle school gets mixed review

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ments to be seen, too. Truancy, smoking and vandalism have all decreased, he said.

Residents mobilize for nuclear freeze

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war, Thomas G. Herrmann — whose name is affixed to the "Freeze the Nuclear Arms Race" petition — answers simply that, "there would be one, and that it would wipe out the world."

Herrmann, 43, of Farmington Hills said he also fears something unintentional could spark a nuclear war "and away we go."

"It could be one flare-up after another that could escalate the condition to the point of nuclear war," he said, adding that the situation in the Falkland Islands could be a case in point.

The Peace Center is dedicated to the idea that there are peaceful alternatives to conflict, Lent said. Although

Supervising the student body "is much easier now," he said.

"Another thing I feel good about is that we're giving sixth, seventh and eighth graders a much greater variety of choices now," Henderson said.

In addition to home economics, industrial arts, music, art and band, "most eighth graders take computer education," Henderson said. "So what we're doing, in terms of giving kids experiences, is offering them a much wider variety."

"I feel better about what we can do with sixth, seventh and eighth graders. They're getting more exposure at a time when they need the experience."

Survey results showed a majority of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students preferred the middle school switch over the junior high (seven through nine) structure. A majority of parents and administrators also preferred the present system.

"Another thing Farmington schools should get a pat on the back for," Henderson says, is "we came out with more teachers, so class size improved. And that allows all of us to do a better job."

Smaller class sized came about, Henderson said, when the school board decided to increase expenditures to middle schools. Before, there was one teacher for every 25 students; now there is one teacher per 22 students, he said.

The school board and the administration planned the change over three years in advance, Henderson said, adding the fact that foresight was another factor in the success of the new system. "This didn't come along as a 'one-year wonder'."

night. Discussion will follow, with guest speakers Dr. Eugene Perrin, professor of pathology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine, and Maurice W. Warren, political science professor at WSU.

Medical care threatened

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Some upcoming events:

- The film "The Last Epidemic" will be shown at the Birmingham Tennis Center, 28611 W. 12 Mile, at 8:30 p.m. to

Overall, sixth and seventh grade students liked having a mixture of academic and exploratory classes. Eighth graders liked having a separate class period for each academic subject, along with a mixture of exploratory classes.

In career guidance, Parrot says, "we can see we had really wide gains."

The random sampling of the survey — or the Middle School Assessment — consisted of responses from 241 parents, 371 students, 218 teachers, 20 counselors and 19 administrators. There were 42 questions to answer. The survey revealed top priorities for the future were:

- organizing classes so each student can learn at his or her own rate,
- utilizing the community's human resources (such as having volunteer parents and guest speakers), in the schools,
- varying the amount of time students had to complete activities, according to their individual learning needs,
- team teaching,
- providing opportunities for students to do community service projects,
- career awareness.

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