

Japanese culture a treat for students

By Casey Hans
Staff writer

YUMI HASEGAWA has learned an American tradition — the value of playing and relaxing — since arriving in West Bloomfield last April for a six-month visit.

The 21-year-old Japanese student saved for eight years for her trip to the United States through the International Internship Program in Tokyo.

She shares her life disciplines, a special touch in the art of origami paper-folding, and her skill in teaching young children to Julie Hawlik's first grade class at Farmington's Kenbrook Elementary.

Since joining the Hawliks in their West Bloomfield home, she has gained 10 pounds by sampling American cooking and eating her favorite American food, ice cream.

Relaxing and learning a new culture is an important part of her experience, and she has settled right in to enjoy it.

Hasegawa said she loves many parts of American culture, and is currently taking driver's training.

"SHE SPENT the first two weeks at the window, watching squirrels, birds, raccoons — all the things we take for granted," Hawlik said. When she wasn't at the window, she was "closer than a shadow" — following Hawlik around the house to learn about flush toilets, American beds and pillows, and some of the things so new to her experience.

So far in America, her experiences have been shared throughout Kenbrook's classrooms. In other Farmington elementary schools and on a recent visit to West Hills Junior High in the Bloomfield Hills school system.

Hasegawa plans to teach deaf children and wants to learn American sign language before she returns to Japan in September. She attended Osaka University of Education.

Hawlik's first graders received a special education in Japanese culture, and love the small young woman from the ancient city called Takada City. They practice their Japanese words daily, and each student can spell his or her name, in Japanese.

"They can count very well, and play games," the young visitor said about the 6- and 7-year-olds. "They tried Japanese tea and can use chopsticks."

Hasegawa's first glimpse of the Detroit area was an expressway trip from Detroit Metropolitan Airport to the Hawlik's West Bloomfield Township house.

IN ONE word, everything in America is "big." Most people are taller than the petite exchange student, and the houses, yards and buildings are all extremely large compared to what surrounds her in Japan.

"Ours is an old, small Japanese house," she said. "There is no bed, no yard — one big room with a lot of sliding doors."

Her disciplined Japanese life began at the age of 3 when she began studying traditional classic Japanese dance. This began a life of very traditional, disciplined Japanese culture, where roles are well-defined.

Her delicate hands work constantly making origami animals, fish, snakes and cranes — which are very important in Japanese culture.

EACH SIXTH grader in Japan visits the city of Hiroshima to place a chain of 1,000 origami cranes at the base of a memorial. In Japanese culture, the crane means "peace, good health and good luck."

This summer, Hasegawa will travel with the Hawliks to New York, to Florida to deep sea fish, and will then travel to California with a friend for a two-week trip.

"It has been an education for me," Hawlik said. "To actually live with someone everyday. She's very talented and bright."

"When she goes home, it will be very hard," she added. "She has learned to play."



Japanese exchange student Yumi Hasegawa teaches Japanese words and her culture to first graders at Kenbrook Elementary.

At right: First grader Kristen Schott (left) works with Yumi Hasegawa learning the ancient art of Japanese paper folding called Origami. Hasegawa taught Kenbrook Elementary students to make fish, snakes, hats and other items.



police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police and fire calls received during the past week.

CAR THEFT

A Detroit man faces felony charges after he allegedly stole a car from a Farmington Hills apartment complex early Thursday.

Arraigned Thursday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, the 26-year-old man stood mute to one count of unlawfully driving away an automobile. Bond was set at \$5,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court. Conviction could bring a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison. Officer Daniel Luoma spotted a car matching the description of the stolen car eastbound on Eight Mile about 3:45 a.m. He pursued the car into Detroit, where the driver bailed out after losing control and driving onto a lawn. He was apprehended after a short foot chase. The recovered pickup was determined stolen from the Garden Court Apartments in Farmington Hills, according to the police report.

KITCHEN FIRE

A pan of cooking oil left unattended on the stove overheated and ignited in the kitchen of a house on Clamendown Wednesday night. Flame damage was confined to the kitchen counter and cabinets, but there was smoke damage throughout the 1½-story house. Lt. Peter Baldwin of the Farmington Hills Fire Department said.

Damage was estimated at \$7,000. The occupants extinguished the fire, using baking soda. Firefighters

ventilated the house on their arrival about 7:50 p.m.

ROOF FIRE

A welder cutting metal underneath the roof deck of a Farmington Hills building inadvertently ignited tar paper and the fire spread to several sheets of insulation Wednesday afternoon.

Flame damage was confined to roofing materials at Medar Inc., 38700 Grand River. The loss was estimated at \$2,500, said Lt. Peter Baldwin of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

CASH TAKEN

Farmington Hills detectives are trying to determine if there's a connection between three cases of cash-snatching June 3 from Orchard Lake Road office buildings. About \$155 was reported taken.

About noon, a woman described as in her 40s poked her head in the door at 25882 Orchard Lake, then left. A short time after, a receptionist went to the water fountain. On her return, she found money missing from her wallet. A secretary told police she had seen a woman standing in the hall nod her head as if motioning for someone to come. An older man was at the opposite end of the hall at the time, according to a police report.

At 12:15 p.m., a woman entered the office area of 27850 Orchard Lake and asked to see a certain person. When told no one by that name worked there, the woman left. Soon after, two employees returned to their work stations to find money missing from their purses. At 12:30 p.m., money was discovered missing from the purse of a receptionist at

29226 Orchard Lake, according to police reports.

DAMAGE REPORTED

Listed below are some of the damage reports filed with local police agencies during the past week.

Two tires were slashed on a car parked on Gramercy Court May 30-31. Damage was estimated at \$450. Two tires were slashed on a 1986 Mustang parked at Tom Holzer Ford, 39300 10 Mile, June 3-4. Damage was estimated at \$700.

Two tires were slashed on a car parked at Short's Auto Parts, 29440 Grand River, June 5. Damage was estimated at \$80.

THEFTS REPORTED

Listed below are some of the thefts reported to local police agencies during the past week.

A CB valued at \$150 was reported stolen from a van at Tom Holzer Ford, 39300 10 Mile, May 15-June 4. Four spoked hubcaps valued at \$115 were reported stolen from a car parked at Kmart, 30800 Orchard Lake, May 31.

A bicycle valued at \$150 was reported stolen from the bicycle rack at Wooddale Elementary School, 28600 Peppermill, May 31.

A 1986 Chevrolet Camaro valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from Quality Inn, 31525 12 Mile, June 2-3.

A stern drive valued at \$3,200 was reported stolen from the motor of a boat parked in the lot at National Boatland, 28400 Grand River, June 2-4.

A 1985 Ford Escort valued at \$8,000 and reported stolen out of Detroit was recovered from the Echo Valley Condos June 3.

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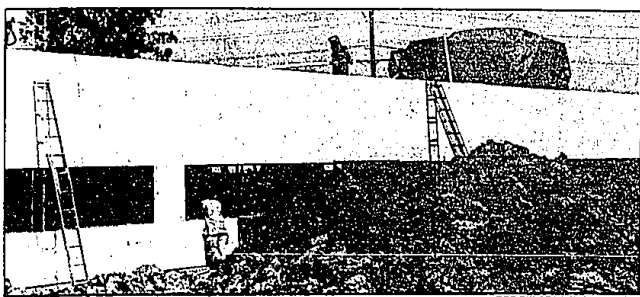
SPORTCOATS

AND SLACKS

We planned our spring clearance now so you'll still get months of wear from our collection of lightweight suits, sportcoats and slacks. Save 25% off the original prices from famous makers including Cricketer, Bill Blass, Daniel Hechter, Evan Picone, Austin Reed, Hart, Schaffner & Marx, Arthur Winer, Raphael and more. Suits, reg. \$225 to \$375, sale \$168.75 to \$279.37, 5000! Sportcoats, reg. \$195 to \$265, sale \$146.25 to \$198.75, 5000! Slacks, reg. \$35 to \$80, sale \$26.25 to \$59.37, 1500! Does not include basic, year-round or Value Plus items. Selection will vary by store. Nominal charge for alterations. Men's Clothing. Suits available at all Metro stores plus Flint, Toledo, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, and Fort Wayne. *Total units at all Hudson's stores.

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Farmington Hills firefighters douse a roof fire at Medar Inc.'s building addition Wednesday afternoon.