

Steppingstone students sample the world

World awareness is more than an abstract concept for the middle school students of Steppingstone, Farmington Hills.

Instructor Mary Bayha does not intend for the four walls of the school building to limit the experiences of her class.

Since the Asian nations are this semester's current topic of study, one of their first encounters will be with the gamelan of Indonesia, a complete collection of brass and percus-

sion musical instruments, including gongs, which is equivalent to a complete set of symphony orchestra instruments.

Housed at the University of Michigan Burton Tower, students will travel to the campus the morning of Oct. 3 to participate in a workshop led by Susan Walton, a professional musician with an Indonesian repertoire.

She will also present an in-depth cultural introduction to Indonesia

and demonstrate Javanese shadow puppets. Slides and discussion of the culture, religion and peoples of this Eastern region of the world will enrich the students' knowledge gained in a variety of ways. Hands-on experiences will include learning to play a piece of Indonesian music.

While the gamelan would be comparable to an orchestra performance in a culturally rich, complex city, the musical instruments of the rural and isolated villages are sim-

ple but melodious and will also be demonstrated. These are frequently hand-crafted from bamboo and will be used to perform folk songs of the region.

Students have been studying and comparing the foods and nutrition of the American culture with their counterparts in Eastern nations. They will sample the dishes and spices of an Indian restaurant in Ann Arbor and visit the Hindu Temple.

A VISIT to the International Insti-

tute in Detroit will occur in early November and will focus on a detailed presentation of the Japanese culture and examine the influence of African culture on the Caribbean.

The Japan school, composed of wives of Mazda employees in Flint, will visit Steppingstone and re-create the tea ceremony and assist students in learning the appropriate brush strokes to write their names in Japanese. A martial arts demonstration is on the agenda, as

well as indigenous craft experiences.

Additional studies will examine the culture of India before and after British colonialism, the effect of dense populations, and China's culture and governmental structure.

Because the students have already finished a course in world history, the in-depth study of these countries is designed to facilitate the students' understanding of the dynamics of present-day culture and relationships with America.

Edison gives tips on safe kite flying

Watching the grace of a kite riding the wind or balloons floating through the air can sometimes lull you into forgetting about the dangers that can result if these objects come into contact with utility poles or equipment. So Detroit Edison has a few reminders.

Contrary to popular belief, October, not March, is the peak month for kite-flying. If you plan to enjoy this popular fall hobby, Detroit Edison suggests that you do it safely by following these tips:

- Select a good, level, open space. Wires, poles, trees, large

stones, runs and ditches can cause injury.

• If a kite becomes lodged in a high tree, utility pole or wires, don't try to get it down. If kites or other objects are caught on Detroit Edison poles or utility wires, please inform us of the location and circumstances.

• Don't fly kites in threatening weather. Lightning is electricity and wet string conducts electricity.

• Use light-weight wood for kite frames. Nails or pins left exposed may cause injury to arms or hands.

• Use strong, dry cord for kite string. Don't use kites containing

wire or metal parts. Wire or metal would serve as a conductor if it came in contact with electrical equipment or wires.

• Handle kites alertly to prevent being thrown off-balance by a sudden gust or high wind. This can cause burns as the cord slips through your hands.

• Avoid areas used by moving vehicles, such as streets, highways and railroad rights-of-way.

• Don't fly kites from rooftops or other elevated structures unless they are protected by enclosures high enough to prevent a fall.

• In raising or lowering a kite, always keep the cord compactly coiled so no one can trip over it.

AND WHILE we're on a subject that's "up in the air," you can ensure your safety and the reliability of electrical service by excluding the release of metallic-faced balloons from any celebrations you have planned, according to Detroit Edison.

If they become entangled with high-voltage utility lines or equipment, power outages could occur or your appliances could be damaged. Detroit Edison suggests that latex balloons only be used for launches.

Board positions open

Farmington city officials are, once again, seeking residents to fill vacancies on several city boards and commissions.

People are sought for the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Board of Review, which hears property tax appeals, and the Farmington Area Arts Commission.

Residents who have lived in the

city a minimum of three years are eligible to be appointed. Those interested should submit a letter of interest, with brief background about themselves indicating why they wish to serve.

Letters should be directed to the city manager's office at Farmington City Hall, 23500 Liberty, Farmington, 48024. Call 474-5500 for more information.

Nurse gets top Rehab Institute post

The Rehabilitation Institute in the Detroit Medical Center named Teresa Thompson of Farmington director of nursing.

Before joining the Institute, she served for more than 10 years in various nursing positions at Sinai Health Services and Sinai Hospital, most recently director of rehabilitation services.

Before that, she was director of nursing and program development for rehabilitation medicine, clinical nurse practitioner specializing in rehabilitation, and clinical nurse specialist in gerontology.

She has held nursing directorship

positions within the nursing home industry, and nursing in service education positions in both hospital and nursing-home settings.

Thompson is published and has been a guest lecturer at Wayne State University, Michigan State University and Madonna College. She has addressed the Michigan Nurses Association and other professional organizations.

SHE IS past chair of the division of gerontology of the Michigan Nurses Association; past president of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses, Michigan Chapter; president-elect of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses, taking office as

president in October 1988. She is also on the board of trustees of the commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Thompson holds a diploma in nursing from Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, a bachelor's degree in nursing from Wayne State University, a master's degree, certificate of specialization in aging from the Institute of Gerontology and certification of advanced administration from Wayne State University, where she is also a doctoral candidate.

She holds professional certification as an adult nurse practitioner by the American Nurses Association, Gerontological nurse practitioner by

the American Nurses Association and Rehabilitation Nursing by the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses.

The Rehabilitation Institute is the Midwest's largest specialty hospital for adult physical medicine and rehabilitation. The Institute serves as the designated rehabilitation facility for the Detroit Medical Center and Wayne State University and its School of Medicine.

The hospital is the rehabilitation facility for the federally designated Southeast Michigan Spinal Cord Injury System and Southeast Michigan Traumatic Brain Injury System.

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