



RANDY DORST/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fourth and fifth grade teachers learn some hands-on mathematics games during a workshop last Thursday at Wood Creek Elementary. Pictured, from left, are Wood Creek fifth grade

teacher Annie Crudginton, math/computer coordinator Richard Strauss, Eagle learning center teacher Patricia Foster and Wood Creek fourth grade teacher Darlene Egbert.

## Making math fun

### Teacher 'mathletes' try out games for kids

By Casey Hens  
staff writer

"Let the best team win" was the cry, as the Math Pentathlon Games were under way.

Teams of teachers, calling themselves "mathletes," competing against each other, used geometry, thinking skills and other mathematical ideas as they were introduced to educational board games they are considering for their classrooms. Some 22 teachers at a Wood Creek Elementary workshop Thursday learned about the hands-on Math Pentathlon program designed to let students have fun while they learn. The program also teaches students how to make decisions while working in teams.

"It's a way to put thinking skills into math," explained Joette Kunse, a gifted coordinator for Farmington schools, who was one of the presenters at the in-service, done at the request of Wood Creek teachers. The games were developed by John del Regato, who does summer workshops for teachers to

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Kunse, the district's math/computer coordinator Richard Strauss, and Wooddale Elementary teacher Betty London presented the 15 board games, for which Wood Creek has been given a budget of \$900 to purchase sets for school-wide use. London said teachers at Wooddale have already gone through training and are using the Pentathlon Games program, not only in the classroom, but as a

treat during the lunch hour as well.

"How refreshing to witness the same value and respect bestowed upon intellectual endeavor, as is usually awarded to participation in sports," London said in her presentation to teachers. She suggested to Wood Creek teachers that they purchase the games as a schoolwide activity and share them from a central area of the school, so all the games can be tried in many rooms.

Games are rated in three categories: Kindergarten and first grade; second and third grade; and fourth and fifth grade. But London and Kunse suggested that the levels could be interchanged, depending on what students enjoyed.

One of the games for the younger set is "Hex," which has six different shapes for students to use. It encourages shape recognition, fractions, counting and addition, how shapes relate to each other and other thinking and observation skills.

Students in grades two or three can play a game called "Par 55," which deals with shape recognition at a higher level.

Fourth and fifth grade teachers became engrossed with a game called "FAB" or Fraction Adding Bars, which tested their knowledge of fractions, used reasoning skills and encouraged team competition. London said she is encouraging the introduction of the Pentathlon Games into all Farmington Public Schools, so there can eventually be a districtwide competition.

## Schools deny any link to cover ads

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with Bennett and that she had not ordered them. He refused to take delivery.

"You tell Longacre Elementary I have a legal contract with them," Heady said. But he said he would not try to enforce it.

"Whatever they want, they get. We do whatever it takes to keep them happy."

"We struggle to make a living. We do have pride."

A COMPANY in Kentucky filed a complaint against Parrish & Associates of Livonia on Jan. 24 with the Kentucky Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division for what company officials believe was a misrepresentation in Parrish's sales approach.

Farmington police say they will seek criminal charges against the company if they affiliate themselves with Longacre in their sales pitch again.

"We assume as of yesterday, there would be no soliciting," commander Chuck Lee said Thursday after speaking to Heady. "But if they (Longacre officials) continue to get complaints, we'll go after somebody." By representing themselves on behalf of Longacre, the company was committing fraud, Lee said.

Heady said he had 50 independent contractors working for him around the country, and they sell book covers, coloring books and anti-drug pamphlets to 3,000 school districts each year. He said each office is independent.

Contemporary Awards and Trophy was a Farmington company approached twice by different Parrish representatives, once last fall and again in the past two weeks. Manager and owner Ray Boujoulian said his company regularly participate in school-related promotions but was skeptical of this one. "It's hard to

know who to believe," he said.

Boujoulian said he had offered to give a 10-percent downpayment on the advertisement, with the balance to be paid when the covers were received. That was not acceptable, he was told.

The Kentucky company, Logan Aluminum of Russellville, has filed to get its \$259 back from Parrish through the state attorney general. Spokeswoman Nancy Boggs said it's not the money but the principal of the matter.

"It's not the money, it's a very small amount. I think it makes it really hard when a legitimate business comes in."

She said Parrish sold the book covers by saying they would have a drug-free message, would be given to their local Logan County High School, and that they would be delivered at the beginning of the 1989-90 school year. After realizing they weren't delivered last fall, she said the company requested their money back, and left numerous messages for Heady, which he did not return.

An assistant principal at the Logan County High School said Friday the covers were recently received. A copy of the book cover shows no drug-free message, only advertisements and the high school name.

Heady said he could not find a company file on the Logan County school but did call and confirm that the product was received. He also said he responds to all complaints filed against the company and that if he finds sales representatives lying, they are terminated.

Although Heady would not confirm that Livonia was the headquarters of the company, he said all accounting functions are done out of that office. A Parrish & Associates spokesman in a Nashville, Tenn., office said he did not know where the company's main office was, but that "most of the checks go into Livonia."

## State DNR nixes funding request for Pioneer Park

News briefs from the Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls will appear regularly in this column.

### FARMINGTON HILLS

• Application denied — The state Department of Natural Resources has denied Farmington Hills' application for financing a comfort station-concession stand in Pioneer Park, an athletic park on Farmington Road, north of 13 Mile.

Special services director Dan Potter said no reason has been given yet for the denial.

Picnic tables, however, have been bought for the park. Anticipating the park and recreation commission is exploring the idea of building an ice rink in Pioneer Park's parking lot for use in the winter.

• Officers elected — The Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills has elected 1990 officers.

The new officers are: president, Marty Krohn; first vice president, Cal Haynes; second vice president, Steven Helfman; secretary, Jim At-

## CITY HALL news beat

kinson, treasurer, Jim Vandenberg; trustees, Jack Rajkovich (former president) and Barry Stulberg.

• Opinion shared — Farmington Community Library Director Beverly Papal said she believes library trustees would be receptive to ideas developed by a three-member Farmington Hills city council ad hoc committee charged with studying major financial issues, such as a new, larger main library.

"I think the library board certainly would be receptive to ideas regarding the resolution of our spatial problems," Papal said. "The board must examine ideas (from the ad hoc committee) in terms of what it wants to do."

• Clarifies position — Farmington Hills city councilman Jonathan Grant said he has no intention of

"conducting city business behind closed doors" as a member of the city council's three-member ad hoc committee that will study major financial issues facing the city.

Grant said he has every intention of bringing a report back to the council on any findings the ad hoc group has on major needs, such as a community activities center, larger library and the need for more parks and recreation land. "I am accountable to the public for the next four years," he said.

As a three-member committee, members Grant, Terry Sever and Lawrence Lichtman, are not required to have meetings open to the public. Four council members, a quorum, requires a public meeting.

Grant said he supported a three-member task force because with even one more council member, the study group would come back to the seven-member council with a report that "is basically a mandate. The task force shouldn't be a quorum because its power when it comes back to the city council is too strong."

## Flying in B-52 was Hills man's ride of a lifetime

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At high altitudes, during pressurization loss, fittings and crowns have been known to liberate themselves from the mouths of unwary victims.

The 5,000-mile round trip, which lasted 11 hours, began at Wurtsmith AFB in Oscoda and went as far south as New Mexico.

"It's an uncomfortable, big, tight beast, but you fall for this airplane very rapidly. When you're over a target there is no air conditioning because everything is directed toward the radar."

"You've got your parachute on, your helmet flight suit, combat boots, long underwear, gloves at certain times."

"That's part of the reason why the Air Force is losing these guys, because they sit there for five, six, seven hours and get battered around. At the end of that time, these guys are really wrung out. These are kids doing a man's job, and they are doing it well."

On Vinikour's flight, the navigator, the oldest crew member, was 30.

Vinikour sat in the inspector pilot's seat behind the pilot and co-pilot. He got sick three times while aboard.

THE B-52 dropped bombs over a range in Utah. "You can't feel the vibration. We were one mile and one minute behind and 500 feet above our leader."

Ironically, for as much defense writing work as Vinikour does now, he was never in the military. During the Vietnam War, he was classified 1A for seven years, took

### people

two physicals but never got called.

He had applied in Miami, and many Cuban refugees there enlisted to become instant citizens, he said.

Vinikour believes there is a misconception that if a person can't make it in the outside world, he goes into the military.

"Some of the most professional people I have ever seen are in the military."

VINIKOUR is a former president of Derus Media Service Inc. in Chicago, one of the oldest filler companies in the country.

Currently, Vinikour delivers news features to suburban and rural newspapers across the United States. He is affiliated with North American Press Syndicate in New York. He deals primarily with aerospace, automotive and defense industries.

Vinikour grew up in Valparaiso, Ind., where his family owned junkyards. He became interested in aviation by living across the street from a small airport.

For the April conference, Vinikour is arranging four separate panels. He has lined up U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and Tom Clancy, author of "The Hunt for Red October."

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