

The school bells toll despite summer heat

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By Casey Hans
staff writer

OPENING DAY for the Farmington schools Tuesday was hot and humid, but it didn't dampen spirits at Wood Creek Elementary.

The physical education teacher Linda Perkins was preparing a beach party for her students, complete with blow-up pool, was decorating the school and fish and a King-Soccer game with beach balls.

"Summer fun continues," she said, wiping her brow from the 90-degree temperatures. "It's just too hot. I can't make them do anything too strenuous."

Perkins, the district's elementary level teacher of the year for 1990-91, said she used part of her \$300 stipend/award to buy paint and liven up the gym.

"You've got to make it a place kids want to come to," she added.

Throughout Wood Creek and the district's other 25 school buildings

Tuesday, students were getting acquainted with teachers, books and the realization that they were back to school.

"Things are going extremely well," said Don Cowan, director of building and student services for the district.

AT GILL Elementary, a renovation project was ahead of schedule allowing students to begin their year there without problems, Cowan said. State fire inspectors gave the go-ahead at Gill Monday. Meanwhile contractors continue work on the school's media center and six new classrooms in a new wing.

At the Farmington Training Center, a proposed new building originally planned to be moved to a location on Research Drive in Farmington Hills.

The new program will be called Visions Unlimited. The change makes room for an alternative high school program at FTC for 35 students.

Other projects completed for the new year, include:

- Three portable classrooms from Longacre and Flanders elementary schools were moved to Beechview and Larkshire elementary and Power Middle School.

An excited Lindsay Levine leaps off her bus to begin her first day in first grade at Wood Creek Elementary Tuesday.

Highmeadow students Jillian Trefilek, (left) a fourth grader, and second grader Sarah Capina waited patiently for their bus Tuesday with Rosita Benavidez,

Sarah's grandmother and other adults. The students are first bused to Wood Creek, where a Highmeadow bus is to pick them up.



Mary Niedzwiecki checks the time at her daughters' Power Road school bus stop Tuesday, where the first day bus was running about 20 minutes late. Normally, the bus will pick up

photos by Sharon Lemieux



Gerri Trefilek kisses her daughter, Jillian, goodbye Tuesday, where she waited with classmates for a bus to Highmeadow Common Campus. After waiting one and a half hours, Trefilek eventually gave Jillian and friends a ride to school.



Wood Creek Elementary teacher Darlene Egbert welcomes fifth graders Kaelin Volpini and Kristen Sawicki (right) into her combined fourth/fifth grade classroom Tuesday. Students had half a day Tuesday and began full days of school on Wednesday.

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