



Photos by SHARON LAMMUN/Staff photographer

Kenbrook fourth graders Danny Jeloo (left), Danya Clements, Angie Ahmad and Jimmy Robertson (not pictured) work on a project in Yvonne Moylan's class in which they weigh

and measure items. The large mix of different cultures in the school is one of its strengths, according to staff members.

## Kenbrook is 1st Farmington school to win 'exemplary' title

Continued from Page 1

felt more comfortable nominating one school for the process to avoid any negative competition among the schools here.

"Overall, it gives the community something to be proud of," White said. "And it's very good for the staff. The process forces professionals to put on paper what they're all about."

Two principals from other districts visited Kenbrook for a full

day, making a stop in every classroom and evaluating the entire program. They learned that the school has 354 students, sits on three acres, has 55 staff members and was built in 1957 and renovated in 1989.

But they also learned some unique features of the school, which is located in central Farmington Hills north of 12 Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

A special buddy program which links general education youngsters with those in the special education

program has helped to unify the school, and the building's strong cultural diversity gives students a special way of "living and learning together," Plsek said.

The buddy program involves students who are in the school's Trainable Mentally Impaired program and students in a variety of grades who spend part of their day working and learning with the special ed students.

"I do not go out to recess — I come in here," explained fourth grader Brandon Nelson who has been in the program since he was in the second grade. "I've always liked coming in."

TEACHER JULIE Grodin said the sharing and caring is special. "It's like they don't see the differences any more," she said. "There is no more teasing. When the kids are playing, there are no labels."

Seven-year-old Kathleen Stevens works at getting glitter off her hands in a class at Kenbrook last week. She is one of 354 students attending the central Farmington Hills elementary school, which was recently named one of 19 exemplary schools in the state.



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**KUFFS (PG-13)**  
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**JFK (R)**  
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**THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE (R)**  
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**LAST BOY OUT (R)**  
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**BUGGY (R)**  
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## Fire death ruled suicide

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

The Oakland County Medical Examiner has ruled that the death of a 35-year-old Farmington Hills man in a fire Wednesday afternoon in his apartment was suicide.

Chief deputy medical examiner Dr. Nana Virani said Friday morning that Mark Gerard Masalin died from smoke inhalation. The fire in Masalin's ground floor apartment at Maple Ridge Apartments, 23076 Middlebelt, was set by Masalin, according to police officials and the medical examiner.

Masalin was pronounced dead at Beaumont General Hospital, Farmington Hills, after he was discovered in the bedroom of his one-bedroom apartment. The autopsy was per-

formed Thursday.

One of Masalin's neighbors contacted the apartment's management, who called 911, said deputy fire Chief Peter Baldwin.

The fire at about 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, was believed to have started with an accelerator of some type. It was confined to the living room and kitchen of the apartment. This was the first fatal fire in Farmington Hills in many years.

WHEN FIREFIGHTERS arrived at the apartment the fire had already extinguished itself, preventing further damage or injuries in the apartment complex on the east side of Middlebelt, between 9 and 10 Mile roads.

Furniture and carpeting in the apartment were burned and the

apartment had severe smoke damage, according to police and fire officials.

Arson Investigator Det. Darnel Krause of the Farmington Hills Police Department and Farmington Hills fire marshal Steve Hume are close to concluding the investigation. Toxicology test results from the autopsy won't be completed for a couple of weeks, police officials said.

Masalin is the son of Osimo (Ozile) Masalin and the late Margaret. He is also survived by brothers, Michael, Marty and Maury, and sister, Mary Masalin Cooper.

Funeral services were Saturday at Our Lady of Loretto Church, Redford. Fr. Ronald Easman officiated. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington Hills police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

### • TRIAL SCHEDULED

Trial will begin 9 a.m. Tuesday in Detroit Recorder's Court for William Doll, 36, formerly of Detroit, who faces an open murder charge in the death of his girlfriend, Kristine Albert of Livonia.

Albert's partially nude body was found in a Farmington Hills field Feb. 7, 1991.

A quarrel is believed to have led to Albert's suffocation death. Doll was arrested as he arrived home to his apartment in Delta Township near Lansing on May 28.

Albert was reported missing Dec. 21, 1990, by her father. She was last seen Dec. 15, as she left the Toy Box Bar on Six Mile and Telegraph, according to police.

Police believe Albert was killed in

a house on Wormer Street in Detroit. Her body remained in the house 6-7 weeks before she was dumped in a field on Goldsmith, north of Eight Mile.

### • CARDS TAKEN

An entire set of 1990 collectible baseball cards was stolen Jan. 14 during a break-in at All American Sports, 32566 Grand River, Farmington.

The cards were valued at \$8,000. Also taken was an undetermined amount of money from the store's cash register, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report. The front door was pried open to gain entry, causing \$600 in damage.

### • OTHER THEFTS

A stereo valued at \$500 was reported stolen from a 1987 Oldsmobile on Northwestern Highway, Jan. 15.

A cassette stereo system valued at \$300 was reported stolen from a 1990 Pontiac at Stark & Co., 30301 Northwestern Highway, Jan. 15.

A 1991 Chevrolet Blazer valued at \$20,000 was reported stolen from the parking lot of Speedy Printing, 32619 Grand River, Jan. 16. After an employee had been away from the vehicle for only one hour. It was later recovered in Detroit, and had been stripped of valuables.

### • DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$600 when someone slashed the tires of a car parked at Clarenceville Trailer Park on Tuck Road, Jan. 14-15.

Damage was estimated at \$500 when someone tried to steal a 1991 GMC Jimmy on Barfield, Jan. 16. The driver's door lock was punched.

## Women's group to meet

The School for Government Inc. will hold its next meeting beginning with a social hour at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. and the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The meeting will be held at the Kingsley Inn, 1475 Woodward in

Bloomfield Hills.

The organization was founded in 1940 with the aim of keeping women informed on important, local, state and national issues.

For reservations call Wanda Szepanski at 822-1474 or Frances Wisner at 471-0473.

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