



To the tune of the Olympic theme, students at Wood Creek Elementary carry their homemade flags high as part of opening ceremonies at the school Monday. Pictured (left-right) are: third grader Peter Dabish, third grader Scott Warheit, kindergarten Dayna Warheit and third grader Jeffrey Granat.



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Wood Creek kindergarten Kristin McErlon makes her face a target as third grader Scott Johnson holds the hula hoop in the school's biathlon competition this week. Students from the two grades teamed up at the west side school this week to host their own Winter Olympics, mimicking several winter sports as part of the fun.



Tae Kim, a Wood Creek third grader in Vicki Shaw's class, holds a South Korean flag during the opening ceremonies of the simulated Winter Olympic games.

Classroom culture

Students simulate a trip to Olympics

CULTURE, HISTORY, physical fitness, travel and teamwork were all lessons learned this week as third-graders and kindergartners at Wood Creek Elementary took a special simulated trip to the Winter Olympic games in France.

Third-graders from classes taught by Diane Frank and Vicki Shaw and kindergartners from Gerrie Pugh's two classrooms participated in the events, which included learning about France and its culture, making needed items for the trip — such as passports and luggage — and hosting a mini-Olympics for the school that included opening ceremonies, a simulated bobsled race and a biathlon.

Physical education teacher Linda Perkins told

students the Olympics are a symbol of "peace, brotherhood and friendship" and "excellence in performance" by the athletes.

The precursor to modern Olympic Games were games in Athens in 1896 with several hundred athletes, principal Barbara Novatis told students. Today, she said, about 10,000 athletes participate in the world athletic competition, which was organized in 1924.

PUGH CONSIDERS the cultural awareness part of the project important because, she said, it offers students a chance to look at various countries around the world.

"It's a Small World" was sung by the students as part of Monday's opening ceremonies, after which white balloons and doves were released to

the sky as a message of world peace. Third-graders will perform a play of the same name in February.

Prior to the start of the Wood Creek games, third-graders researched and taught kindergartners about France and the Olympics. They prepared scenery, flags of participating countries, and a plane area complete with a cockpit, a movie and snacks for the trip. They also helped kindergartners write a postcard "home."

Both grade levels learned about other countries as well.

After the Olympic games were held, the students were scheduled to enjoy a French cafe, complete with French food, poetry, painters and slides of France.

Their "return flight" will be on Friday.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

ARMED ROBBERY

Two employees were handcuffed to a potato chip rack but not hurt when an armed gunman ushered them into a bathroom and walked away with an undisclosed amount of cash from a Speedway gas station, 2250 Eight Mile, early Saturday morning, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

At about 5:45 a.m., one of two employees was outside the station setting up a display rack when an unidentified man walked up brandishing a chrome handgun. The gunman ushered the employee back into the station where he made him get down on his hands and knees in a hallway.

The gunman then made the other employee get cash for lint and put it in a duffle bag the gunman took from one of the employees.

The gunman then ordered both employees to a bathroom in the hallway where he handcuffed both to a display. He shut the door and went into the station's office and then left the building.

When the employees saw the gunman leave, they dragged the display to the station's holdup alarm button. When police arrived, the two employees were still handcuffed to the display. The employees believe the gunman carried a .38-caliber handgun. They also believe the man walked away from the gas station.

Another witness told police he saw two men sitting in a car near the gas station before the robbery.

The gunman is described as a black man, about 5-feet-10, 180 pounds. At the time of the robbery he was wearing a black ski mask and beige denim jacket.

BUILDING FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$500 after fire broke out in an air duct on the west side of one of the cottages

at Boys Republic, 26000 Nine Mile Monday, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

When firefighters arrived at the scene they found the small fire and extinguished it. Fire investigators Walter Kurzeja also was on the scene to determine the cause of the incendiary fire. It's believed fabric was ignited by some type of open flame, according to the report.

HOUSE FIRE

Fire officials are investigating the cause of a house fire on Malden Saturday that caused more than \$100,000 damage, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

The cause of the fire is still undetermined. When firefighters arrived they found heavy smoke coming from around the front windows and door of the one-story house. Crews extinguished the fire in the basement through a hole in the living room floor that had been caused by the fire.

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Driver hurt in crash

A 33-year-old Farmington man was taken to St. Mary Hospital with unspecified injuries Tuesday when the pickup truck he was driving collided broadside with a semi tractor-trailer at Levan and the I-98 Expressway service drive. Police said the driver of the semi, a Maryland man, was ticketed for running a

red light on southbound Levan. The semi driver wasn't injured in the 10:30 a.m. accident, police said. Police and EMS crews spread dirt over a portion of Levan after one of the semi's gas tanks was apparently punctured by the crash.

CAREER REQUIREMENTS



From Requirements' Summer catcher collection, we show the piped jacket.

\$64, paired with a pleated skirt, \$42, a great career combination for sales. These crisp linen-look jackets, skirts and pants are perfect for the office. Mix and match patterns and solids in black, red and taupe. Selection varies by store. Not available at our New Center, Wildwood or First locations. The collection, priced from \$36-\$64.

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