

Certified occupational therapist assistant Jo Johnson and occupational therapist Betty Bayne work with fifth graders (from left) Carly Moore, Susan Zack and Andy Rosenfeld on an exercise for balance and muscle control.

Changing places helps kids develop empathy

THE MORE students know, the better they understand. And at Eagle Elementary School, staff members pride themselves in making sure students in the general education program understand what their special education peers are experiencing.

"Our motto is empathy, not sympathy," explained Farmington Public Schools physical therapist Dan Schneider, who spends time working with handicapped students at Eagle. Schneider and other staff members hosts a special program each year called "Changing Places" which offers students in grades kindergarten through five a chance to understand disabilities, handicaps and other challenges.

Students went through this year's program Jan. 30-31, experiencing the feelings of being handicapped by using wheelchairs, physical therapy and communication devices, or by simulating a handicap.

Simulations involved having the students wear mittens to try and pick up small objects, having a band tied behind their backs or weights tied to their feet. Other students hold a spoon over one eye and tried to read.



Bobby Gumenick, a fifth grader at Eagle, experiences some of the feelings of being handicapped.



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Student Beth Nagoda is tested on her visual perception as she blocks the sight of one eye.

Dwyer denies rumors, won't go for sheriff job

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

For the record, Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer says he has no intentions of seeking the Oakland County sheriff's job.

"I am pleased with my position here. I find it rewarding and challenging," said Dwyer, who will mark his eighth year in Farmington Hills post on Feb. 11.

Rumors have abounded lately — Dwyer has even heard them — that the former Detroit Police Department commander plans to seek election to the sheriff's job. Reference to his plans even showed up in the Oakland Press newspaper the day Dwyer testified in the Detroit Police Chief William Hart trial in U.S. District Court, Friday, Jan. 24.

Dwyer, however, says he plans to continue supporting two-term Sheriff John Nichols, a former Farmington Hills police chief, including should he seek election to a third term.

"I'm very pleased," Dwyer said, of his position in Farmington Hills. "We have a professional police department that is well trained."

Dwyer said the Hills department has become well-known for its innovative programs, including the undercover liquor law crackdowns, the handicap parking enforcement program, and its new "police and seniors together," in which officers get to know and help senior adults.

William Dwyer
Hills chief

police/fire calls

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

THEFTS REPORTED

A resident of Chatham Hills Apartments reported \$3,625 in jewelry, furs and credit cards stolen from the apartment following a housewarming party Jan. 31. According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, the items were discovered missing from a bedroom after guests left the party at 3 a.m.

A car radio and radar detector valued at \$725 were reported stolen from a car parked on Vicary sometime over the weekend. An estimated \$75 in damage was done to the car window.

Cash totalling \$90 was reported stolen from a car parked at St. Ger-

old Church, 21300 Farmington Road Feb. 2. An estimated \$200 in damage was done to the car window because of the accident.

Two garage lights valued at \$400 were reported stolen from a house on Ilampstead, Jan. 31-Feb. 1.

A car stereo valued at \$700 was reported stolen from a 1991 Chevrolet at Max & Zima's, 31205 Orchard Lake Road, Feb. 1.

Tools, a snowblower and grass edger valued at \$2,000 were reported stolen from a garage on Ribbonswood, Jan. 18-19. Damage to the garage door was estimated at \$1,015.

Three desk-top computers, copy machine, answering machine, microwave, telefacsimile machine, file cabinet, transcriber, space heaters and office and kitchen supplies valued at \$12,700 were reported stolen from Data Comp, 39205 Country Club Drive, Feb. 2-3.

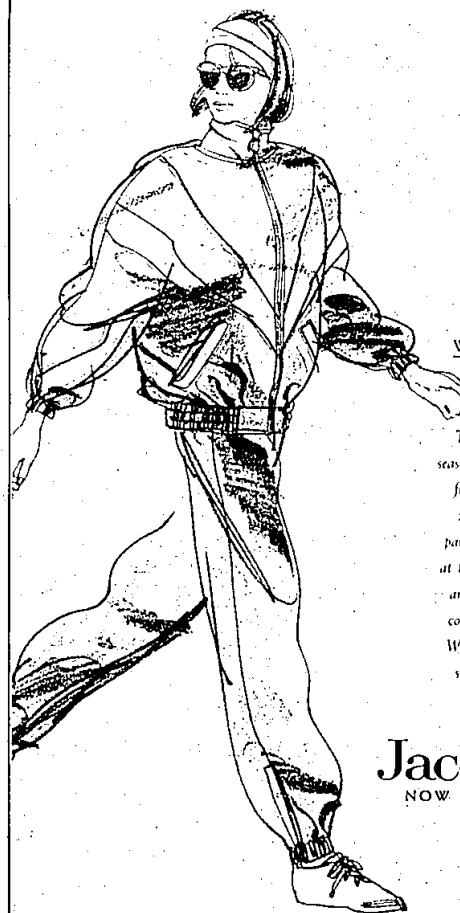
A car stereo valued at \$800 was reported stolen from a 1982 Pontiac on Ruth Street, Feb. 2-3.

A 1991 Oldsmobile valued at \$25,000 was reported stolen from Bob Soka auto dealership, 35300 Grand River, Jan. 31-Feb. 3.

WASHER FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$500 when fire broke out in a clothes washer in a condominium on Greensbrook Court Friday, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

The occupant saw smoke coming from the washer and flames under the machine. She contacted fire personnel from a neighbor's unit. Firefighters removed the washer from the wall and extinguished the flames. A problem with the electric drive motor was the probable cause of the fire.



TWO-PIECE

WARMUP SUIT

\$49

This is the sporting season, so be relaxed and fit for spring. Front zip jacket. Pull-on pants with zip closures at the ankle. Both pieces are nylon, lined with cotton-polyester jersey. White or purple, color spliced with pastels. Sizes S-M-L-XL

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