



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMEAND

Slugging it out: Eleven-year-old Nick Fucinari (left) demonstrates a Joe Louis-like left hook to Zach Cornwell, 12.



Kim Struble, as Augustus, can speak no evil.

Student wax museum

East kids make history come alive

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

History came alive at East Middle School last week, as sixth graders dressed as prominent figures who came alive during a school-sponsored "Night of the Wax Museum."

More than 200 participated in the program on three different evenings, with historic figures ranging from current people like Arthur Ashe and Rich-

ard Lenkey to those historic in nature like Pericles and Aristotle. Students spread throughout the school hallways, awaiting visitors who could "push a button" and learn firsthand about the lives of the famous figures.

Student Angela Holton, who played genetic scientist Gregor Mendel, said she researched her part in the school and local libraries and used a Bible as a prop because Mendel also was a priest.

"It was fun," she said of the all-class event.

Holton and friends Meghan Black, Carrie Burkart, Jennifer Shank and Tina Kaloj greeted people at the door on the Wax Museum's second night. Black, who played agricultural chemist and educator George Washington Carver on the first night of the event, said she used peanuts and peanut butter as her props.

Sixth grade teachers went through social studies, math, science, and black history textbooks and drew on current events to select the approximately 80 famous people whom students then selected and individually researched for their project. Students did biographies, timelines about their famous person, and had to memorize a three-minute speech which they used during the Wax Museum.

"This was a real hands-on unit — really putting themselves in the people's shoes," said sixth grade social studies teacher Susan Vestre. "It was a whole body learning experience."

"They've been working their brains out and now they're seeing it all come together."

Vestre said the research project took about six weeks to complete and would be used throughout the year as various people are studied. Students can now be "classroom experts" on their historic figures, she added.

In addition to integrating a number of subjects, the project also taught students skills in research and public speaking.

Not only the famous, but the infamous were represented on this year's list, Vestre said. Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini and Nazi leader Adolf Hitler were sandwiched among others including Nobel Prize-winning chemist Marie Curie and civil rights activist Rosa Parks.

This is the first year the entire sixth grade of nine classrooms participated in the project. Last year, three classrooms of sixth graders launched the idea.

The Wax Museum was arranged in a chronological timeline of famous people's birthdates.



Daren Lemanski, a 12-year-old sixth-grader, is Julius Caesar right down to the sword and headgear.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

■ STRING OF DAMAGE
At least 15 reported instances of vandalism in the Farmington Meadows subdivision had been reported to Farmington public safety officials as of Friday morning.

According to deputy director of the department, Gary Goss, upwards of \$2,000 in damage was done to garage doors, cars and houses in the area by vandals wielding spray paint. He said the figure could go higher, depending on whether cars have to be repainted and whether other incidents are reported.

The incidents all occurred on Thursday night, Oct. 29.

■ TEEN REPORTS MOTHER
A 15-year-old student reported to Farmington High School officials that she had discovered a vial in her mother's purse which may have contained cocaine residue, according to a recent Farmington Hills police report.

As of Oct. 27, the school official had not interviewed the student and no action had been taken.

■ VANDALISM REPORTED
McCabe Funeral Home on 12 Mile Road reported \$500 worth of damage to outdoor flood lights Oct. 27. The five lights had been smashed with rocks.

In an unrelated incident, vandals carved a swastika and cross into the front door of the Jehovah's Witnesses church on 10

Mile. Damage was estimated at \$1,000.

■ EMPLOYEE INJURED
A 63-year-old employee of Kmart on Orchard Lake reported being punched "six or seven times in the stomach" Oct. 27 by a shoplifter taking a microwave oven, according to police reports. The suspect had placed the \$99 microwave on the bottom of a shopping cart and was pushing the cart out of the store when the employee asked to see a receipt. The suspect presented two receipts, one for \$1.50 and another for \$1.98. The employee tried to stop the suspect from leaving when she was punched.

The suspect had brown hair, blue eyes and was about 30 years old, and drove off in a 1992 blue Saturn.

■ ARRESTS MADE
Two Redford men were arrested Oct. 27 after police stopped the driver of the car for a traffic violation, a police report said. The 35-year-old driver was wanted on four misdemeanor warrants out of Redford and the 38-year-old passenger on one misdemeanor warrant out of Redford. Both men were turned over to Redford authorities.

Also, a 31-year-old Southfield man was arrested Oct. 29 on Northwestern Highway for possession of stolen property, according to a police report. The license plate on the 1983 GMC he was driving belonged to another car registered in Birmingham.

■ AUTO THEFTS

A 1992 Chevy Blazer parked at United Artists on Grand River was reported stolen on Oct. 27. The car was recovered later that day at Grand River and Westbrook roads. The steering column was damaged.

In another incident, a 1992 GMC Jimmy parked on 12 Mile Road was stolen Oct. 29. Earlier that day, a woman reported seeing two men driving a late '70s white Chevy Monte Carlo park next to the stolen car. About a minute later, both cars left the lot.

■ THEFT REPORTED

Discount Tires on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake reported \$800 worth of damage Oct. 27 to two rear doors, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Police suspect that the doors had been rammed by a truck. An indentation about 5 feet, 4 inches long and about two feet above the ground was imprinted on the doors. Gray and red paint chips, as well as pieces of tail lights, were also found at the scene.

Also that night, police responded to a burglary at Miami Pools on 12 Mile and Halsted roads. The front doors and aluminum frame of the store were smashed and police believe the doors also had been rammed by a truck. Damage was estimated at \$5,000.

Paint chips similar to those at Discount Tires were found. Police suspect the two incidents are related, the report said.

Items stolen from Miami Pools include a VCR valued at \$250; a cash register worth \$250; and a color television worth about \$250.

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