



With the program: Dana Nuccitelli and Johannah Scarlet work on a computer program at Hillside Elementary in Farmington Hills.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX



Trouble shooters: Hillside Elementary students (from left) Bryce Robbins, Courtney Heap and Mark Simpson are considered the fifth-grade trouble shooters when it comes to computers.

## Macintosh Mona apple of kids' eyes

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

Leonardo da Vinci didn't have a Macintosh, but a Hillside Elementary fourth-grade class does. Mona Lisa couldn't look happier.

The kids have "Modern Mona's" smiling face playing football on one screen and racing a car in the next.

Their four-slide creation won an award at the 1994 Michigan Student Film and Video Festival. Kids got a kick out of using technology.

"Sometimes, we do pictures for fun," said Danny Zeles, one of four who worked on "Modern Mona."

"They're learning, too. That has teachers and parents abuzz at Hillside, which is using a district grant to develop multimedia projects such as "Modern Mona."

Students use scanners, CD-ROM, laserdiscs and video to create their own reports. The projects are developed on computer and transferred to videotape, which can be viewed by

other classes or at home.

Tapes are so popular they're on one-day checkout at the school's library.

"They learn, relearn, and then they share it," said Jean Warner, a teacher who is on the peer coordinating multimedia team at Hillside. "They have a chance to reflect on the information."

Students are becoming familiar with technology at an earlier age.

Jim Anderson's first-grade class did a living book on penguins. Kids scanned photos and drawings and used laserdiscs while adding their voices to the report.

The First Grade Penguin Fact Book also garnered a prize in the student film and video festival.

"The big thing is, first-graders are starting to think how to access information," Anderson said. "If they want to do a report, instead of using pencil and paper, they can could do it on the computer."

Some projects are quite in-

olved.

Third-graders put together a report on Farmington-area historical sites. Included on the computerized tour are the Botsford Inn, the Civic Theatre, Utley Cemetery, and Warner Mansion.

A group of fifth-graders compiled a computer program on the National Park System. Digitized photos and maps as well as voice-overs describe the features of each park.

"Instead of taping ourselves and watching ourselves, we decided to do it on computer," said fifth-grader Mark Simpson. "... because other students would have a chance to use the technology before they left Hillside."

When it comes to computers, children are lead in front of a magnet. They're not intimidated by technology, unlike some adults.

"They learn much faster than we do," Warner said. "They have Nintendo and they watch interactive videos, and some of them have computers at home."

## Wolf's at commission's door in bid for fourth term in office

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County Commissioner Donn Wolf, backed by a who's who of area Republicans, is running for a fourth term.

The three-term commissioner, whose 27th District includes Farmington and part of Farmington Hills, said he has worked hard to get on the finance committee and likes the way the county has handled a financial shortfall while lowering the tax rate.

"We consolidated departments, sold 80 vehicles and made nonprofits accountable," Wolf, 69, said.

Wolf, who is married with five grown children, works as a governmental executive with Detroit Edison, primarily with Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

"I've stolen a few of their ideas," he quipped.

Although he believes the county is on solid ground financially after trimming its budget, Wolf said the county has to be vigilant.

As a president of the Michigan Association of Counties and a board member of the National

Association of Counties, Wolf said he sees unfunded mandates, whether they be from the state or federal governments, as a fight the county and local governments must make.

And the county has pressing issues in the coming years as well.

Wolf said he's optimistic the county's OCOMS hospital communications system will continue to operate. The county is negotiating with the hospitals affected.

The county is also talking over management of the Community Mental Health Department, a \$110 million operation. Solid waste is also an issue, he said.

"We've got landfills all over Oakland County," he said. "We have garbage coming in from Canada and other states. We need to get control of that, and we're working with the DNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)."

A Farmington Hills councilman for eight years and the city's former mayor, Wolf said he's proud of the job Oakland County has done to preserve a high quality of life at a reasonable cost.

"Everywhere I go, people know about our county and its



Donn Wolf

reputation," he said.

Members of Wolf's re-election committee include Congressman Joe Knollenberg, state Rep. Jan Dolan, Richard Headlee, Hills Mayor Larry Lichtman, Farmington Mayor Arnold Campbell, Farmington Hills City Council members Jon Grant, Cheryl Oliverio, Nancy Bates and Joanne Smith, and Farmington City Council members JoAnne McShane, Mary Bush, William Hartsock and Richard Tupper.

## Administrators out of running as schools' chiefs

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

Three Farmington Public Schools administrators are no longer in the running for superintendent's jobs in other districts.

Ferndale school board offered Royal Oak schools assistant superintendent Marcee Martin the job as its new superintendent, bypassing Farmington schools director of Employee Relations Sue Zurvalec, who was one of

three finalists.

"I'm still happy to be in Farmington," Zurvalec said. "It was a real learning experience."

Zurvalec had never applied for a superintendent's position before, but was selected out of 30 applicants to the final round. She was interviewed by the board and visited the district.

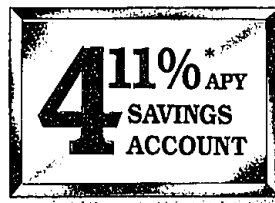
Farmington High principal Jim Myers was not selected for a second round of interviews in the search for a new schools

chief in Chelsea.

Myers was interviewed by the board and was the only high school principal who made it to the semifinal round. The rest were superintendents in other districts.

Chelsea will interview three finalists this week to find a replacement for Joseph Piasecki, who was fatally shot Dec. 16 in his office. A high school science teacher is charged in Piasecki's murder.

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