

Suburban Life

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1994



HOLLY STOCKTON

Student sees parents' power

Parents. When you hear that word, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Rules? Regulations? How about love and support? Parents are amazing. They can single-handedly shape our future.

"How?" you ask. Well, think about it, a parent who is loving, supportive and encouraging can raise a child with the belief that he or she can do anything.

But the sad part is, not all parents realize the power that they hold.

When a child shows an interest in something, it often takes a parent to give that child a little extra push, to ensure that the child lives up to his or her potential.

Ruins of ridicule

If a parent repeatedly laughs at or bashes that child's dream, not only does the child come out with a scarred ego, but the dream has drowned in a pool of criticism.

Eventually, the child begins to accept the idea that the parent has put into his or her mind.

On the other hand, if you take an encouraging, supportive parent, who sees the child as having no limits, the child begins to develop a positive ego from a very young age, which skyrockets through his or her youth.

They begin to see themselves as their parents do, and see life as having no limits.

Let's take Kristi Yamaguchi's parents for instance. At a very young age, Kristi developed a relish for the ice.

Her parents saw her dedication, determination and talent, and bought Kristi her very first pair of ice skates.

Opening doors

Of course Kristi, being so young, didn't say, "Um, mom, dad, I think in about 15 years I could win a gold medal so maybe you should get me some skates." Her parents weren't prompted by their daughter, but they saw her potential and wanted to open every door possible for her.

Ever since, Kristi's parents have been right behind her in the stands watching Kristi go for the gold, or in the locker room giving a pep talk before the big meet, the Yamaguchis have always been there for Kristi and, in my opinion, will continue to be there forever.

Even though parents don't always realize it, they are the biggest influence in their child's life. Everything they do can leave a deep impression on their child.

Following parents

Most children want to be just like mommy or daddy when they grow up, but what if mommy is a drug addict, and daddy an alcoholic? What are that child's chances of turning out to live a productive life?

They begin to think if mommy and daddy are doing it, it must be OK for them to do it too, but sadly enough that isn't always the case.

If you grow up in a positive, loving environment, the better chance you have of being able to do something worthwhile with your life.

The child is a mere image of the parent, waiting to shine through; the better the parent, the better the image that is left.

It doesn't matter how much money the family earns, where they live, what they look like, the clothes they wear, the cars they drive; all that matters is love.

A family can get through anything if love is present. If you raise your kids to love, chances are they'll teach their kids to love, and their kids will teach their kids to love and so on.

Parents have power

Parents are more powerful than the government, more powerful than police, and even more powerful than the president of the United States, because they can decide what our world is to be like in the future, and it's up to them not to misuse this power.

Whether you're a doctor, a lawyer or a teacher, there is no job more important than a parent, and it is by far the most complicated, demanding and rewarding job available.

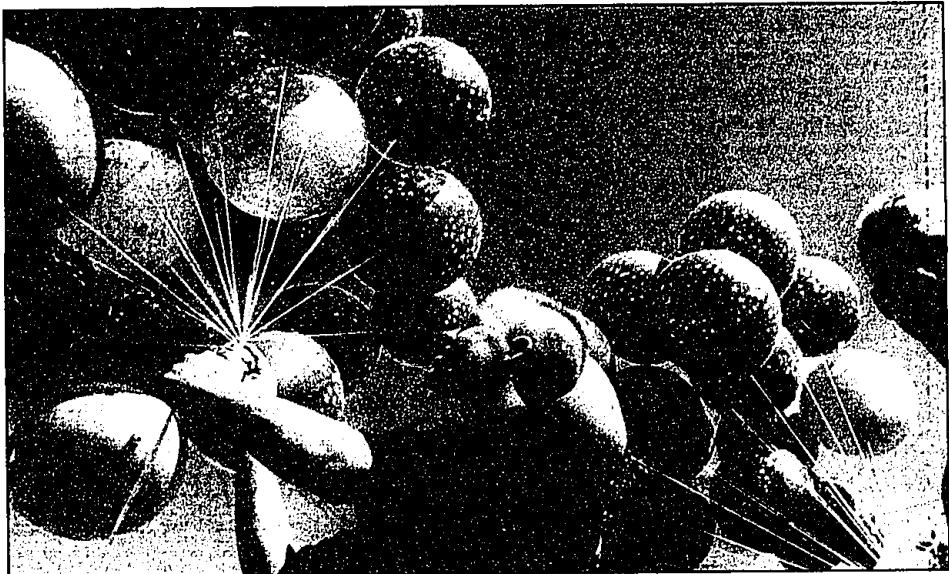
I truly believe that the parents of today, tomorrow and yesterday hold the power to mold the future.

Stockton is in the sixth grade and an all-A student at Warner Middle School.

This essay won first place at her school and third place in a state competition, "Michigan Social Studies Olympiad Essay Competition." The theme of the competition was, "People who change the world then and now."

Stockton, who is on the forensics team at Warner, also used the essay during a competition recently at the University of Michigan. She won fourth place for original oratory.

Her mother, Linda, said, "I cried so hard when I first read it. For her to pick that subject, my husband (Bill) and I were floored."



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Young businessman: Bill Floyd, 15, (left) and John Shannon, 16, peddled balloons to onlookers along the Farmington Founders Festival parade last year.

Ways to beat the summertime blues

Parents looking to cure a child's nothing-to-do blues this summer should look into the programs offered at The Community Center, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Farmington Hills Special Services.

Before you browse through the varied list of events, mark your calendar for Kids Day from noon to 5 p.m. today, July 12, at Farmington's Shiawassee Park, on Shiawassee Road between Power and Farmington roads.

Look for a moonwalk, sportsmobiles, art tent, clowns, petting zoo, magic, pet show, stage show, rides, face painting, police and fire displays, music, food booths, pony rides, games and more.

And you can have a good time and teach your children about different cultures at the Exotic Evenings program featuring various cultures at 7 p.m. every Wednesday from July 20 through Aug. 17 at the The Community Center, Farmington, Farmington Hills, on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads.

The programs open at 6:15 p.m. and the program is free compliments of a grant from Target stores.

The program kicks off July 20 with Japanese Koto Harp Soloist Tomoyo Koohler. July 27 will be Jewish storyteller Corinne Stavish. Aug. 3 is Middle Eastern dancer Giselle Fobbs. Aug. 10 features African-American storyteller LaRon Williams. And Aug. 17 will be the Dancers of India Troupe.

Here are some other programs to look out for this summer:

DISCOVERING SCIENCE

Community Center, Farmington, Farmington Hills

■ June 20, Go Fish, 6- to 12-year-olds, noon to 5 p.m.

■ June 21, Race Car Rally, 6- to 12-year-olds, noon to 5 p.m.

■ June 22, Travel Bugs, 4- to 7-year-olds, 9 a.m. to noon.

■ June 23, Around the World, 7- to 12-year-olds, noon to 5 p.m.

■ June 23, First Discoveries, 6- to 12-year-olds, noon to 5 p.m.

■ June 27, Sports Bowl, 7- to 12-year-olds, noon to 5 p.m.

■ June 28, Slippery Sleuths, 7- to 12-year-olds, noon to 5 p.m.

■ June 29, Zany Zoo Critters, 4- to 6-year-olds, 9 a.m. to noon.

■ June 29, Flying Machines & Things, 7- to 12-year-olds, noon to 5 p.m.

■ June 30, Have a Koochy Day, 6- to 12-year-olds, noon to 5 p.m.

■ June 20-30, Creative Camp I: dance, drama, music and fine arts; 4- to 7-year-olds, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon, \$60.

■ July 5-8, Living Science Foundation Science Sampler: Astronomy, Physics, Dinosaurs, Marine Biology; 6- to 12-year-olds, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$195.

■ July 8-11, Motion & Ms. Build coordination, balance, social skills using

music, art, physical fitness; 4- to 6-year-olds; 9 a.m. to noon, \$30.

■ July 11-15, Howell Nature Center Camp at the Community Center; nature activities and live animals; 9- to 12-year-olds, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$95.

■ July 18-22 Creative Camp II, 4- to 6-year-olds, 9 a.m. to noon, \$60.

CALL THE CENTER AT 477-8404 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS.

ART: CLOWNS, MUSIC AND MORE

■ July 18-22, Art Sampler, fine and creative arts projects in several media; 7- to 12-year-olds, noon to 5 p.m., \$50.

■ July 22, Puppy Tails & Fairy Tales, 4- to 7-year-olds, 9 a.m. to noon.

■ July 25-29, Board Game Bonanza, age 7 and older, noon to 5 p.m., \$35.

■ July 29, Circus Clowns, 3- to 6-year-olds, 9 a.m. to noon.

■ Aug. 1-6, Howell Nature Center Camp, 6- to 9-year-olds, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$95.

■ Aug. 8, Bubbles, Balls & Hoops, 3- to 6-year-olds, 9 a.m. to noon.

■ Aug. 10-11, Etiquette & Charm Camp; manners, posture, hygiene, hair styling, 9- to 12-year-olds, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., \$70.

■ Aug. 11, Fun on the Farm, ages 3-5, 9 a.m. to noon.

■ Aug. 12, Music Makers, musical games, activities and projects; 7- to 12-year-olds, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$60.

■ Aug. 15-18, Cheerleading Camp, jumps, floor practice, voice, crowd motivation, 6- to 9-year-olds, 9 a.m. to noon.

■ Aug. 22-26, The Olympic Games, Almost, games geared for age groups, 6- to 8-year-olds and 9- to 12-year-olds, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$65.

■ Aug. 29-30, The Olympic Games, Almost, games geared for age groups, 6- to 8-year-olds and 9- to 12-year-olds, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$65.

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SAFETY, BABYSITTING, FIRST AID AND HOME ALONE

■ Safety Town, 4- to 6-year-olds, June, July and August sessions.

■ Learn Babysitting Skills, grades five and older, 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday, June 9, and Wednesday, Aug. 10, at Mercy Center. The fee is \$5 per person, per session.

■ Summer Fun Center, 6- to 12-year-olds. Join other children of Farmington and Farmington Hills at a Summer Fun Center near you. There will be sports activities, arts and crafts, special events and more.

■ First Aid for Little People, ages 5-7. Sessions held at Beechview, The fee is \$80 for all sessions except one shorter one, which is \$64.

Wooddale, Hillside, Longacres, Kenbrook and Eagle elementary schools. Sessions run from June 20 through Aug. 6.

CALL SPECIAL SERVICES AT 473-9570 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS.

MUSIC, TEAS, OLYMPICS

■ Travel to Michigan's hot spots, like the state Capitol, Detroit Zoo and more. Separate outings for children ages 6-8 and 9-12.

■ Tea Party for little ladies ages 4-8, 10-11:15 a.m. Saturday, July 9, Heritage Park, north shelter. The fee is \$7.

■ Children ages 6-8 can test their skills in various track and field events and possibly qualify for the Metro Youth Fitness Championships.

CALL SPECIAL SERVICES AT 473-9570 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS.

SPORTS, TOURS

■ Team volleyball mini-camp for boys and girls ages 12-15 who will learn the fundamentals of outdoor volleyball, 4:30-6 p.m. Monday, July 11, and Wednesday, Aug. 3, Heritage Park, north picnic area-and courts. The fee is \$30. Pre-registration is \$25.

■ Tennis lessons will be held in separate sessions for ages 8-12, 13-17 and students 18 and older. The fee is \$30 per person.

CALL SPECIAL SERVICES AT 473-9570 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS.

CAMP TILL YOU DROP

■ Camp All-U-Wonna is for young stars ages 6-8 and will concentrate on introducing campers to the outdoors at Heritage Park Day Camp Center, July 5-8, July 18-22, July 25-29, Aug. 1-5 and Aug. 8-12. The fee is \$70 for all the dates, except the July 8-9 session, which is \$65.

■ Camp Com-On-A-Wonna will give kids ages 9-12 an educational and recreational setting to explore animal and plant life, insects and geology at Heritage Park Day Camp Center, June 20-24, June 27 to July 1, July 5-8, July 11-15, July 18-22, July 25-29, Aug. 1-5 and Aug. 8-12. The fee is \$70, except the July 6-8 program, which is \$65.

■ Nature's Way Day Camp for kids ages 6-12 who get hands-on experience stocking an aquarium, identifying trees and flowers and more at the Heritage Park Camp Center.

There are no fees for the program and all concerts are at 8 p.m. Thursdays.

■ June 9, Sweet Adelines, Spirit of Detroit,

■ June 16, Novi Community Band,

■ June 23, Farmington Community Jazz/Dance Band,

■ July 7, Farmington Community Chorus,

■ July 21, Farmington Community Concert Band,

■ July 28, Ben-Jones of Michigan,

■ Aug. 4, Jim "Knight" Nuckles,

■ Aug. 11, Birmingham Straw Hat Band.

■ Camp Wee-Wonna is for preschoolers ages 3-5 offering adventures in learning, skill development and social interaction through arts and crafts, music, storytelling, nature exploration, games and outdoor fun at Heritage Park Day Camp Center, June, July and August sessions are held and depending on the number of days the fees range from \$28 to \$70.

■ Rockers Soccer Camp for children ages 6-16 to improve soccer skills. The camp includes 1994-95 Detroit Rockers season ticket, soccer ball, camp T-shirt, two tickets to a 1994 Detroit Red Wings pre-season game and two tickets to a 1994 Detroit Tigers game. The soccer lessons, June 27 to July 1 and Aug. 8-12, will be held at Mercy Center and the fee is \$99.

■ Camp When-A-Wonna is for children ages 6-10 and is held at the Mercy Center. Various sessions are in June, July and August and the fee is \$70.

■ Camp Wonna-Bee is for children ages 6-12 and is held at the Mercy Center during various sessions in June, July and August. The fee is \$70.

CALL SPECIAL SERVICES AT 473-9570 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CAMPS.

THERE ARE BATS IN OUR BELLY

Learn all about this misunderstood flying mammal and other flying creatures of the night 8:30-10 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, at City Park, Shiawassee and Power roads.

HORSEBACK RIDING INSTRUCTION

Learn basic riding skills for both English and Western styles. Classes are available for beginners, advanced beginners, intermediate and jumping. Call the Recreation Office at 473-9570 for more information.

And don't forget to mark your calendar for Stars in the Park. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy the shows.

The sound of big bands, jazz and contemporary music will fill the air at Heritage Park as the Department of Special Services presents a musical series emphasizing local talent.

There is no fee for the program and all concerts are at 8 p.m. Thursdays.

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