Been there: Chelsea Johnson speaks with ome author ity on Africa. She has visited Zim-babwe with her family.



## Fourth-graders ride techno-highway to an East Africa tour

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

If students cannot go to East Africa, the continent can come to them.



forth. A segment focuses on how a hunting tribe, the Massi, are trying to adapt their ancient customs in a modern world.

"That's a Cobe," said one student as a mitter takes a swift from a bottle on TV.

A phone number flashes on the screen. Children rush to the back of the classroom where a phone sits. Blackman motions them back to their desks as Megan

Loch tries to get through.

A TV moderator answers several questions from school children across the country. A collective sigh goes up when she announces there's no more time for inquiries.

The television excursion is one of two Blackman's class will take. An electronic field trip is planned to CNN newsroom in Atlanta March 22-24.

Metro Vision provided the hookup. District modia director Peggy Schmidt also helped make the field trip a reality.

The modia program was made possible through a grant Blackman received from the Farmington Public Schools' Technology Advisory Committee. Teachers can apply for up to \$1,500 to bring innovative projects to their classrooms.

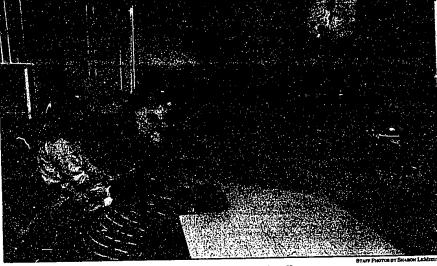
Not all requests have to center

an apply to their classrooms.

Not all requests have to center
around computers either, and
Kathy Jones, director of information Management. They can include voice and video technology.

"It introduces kids to the possibilities of global technology."
Blackman and "It makes them
familiar with other places they
may or may not ever have a
chance to go. They get a global
perspective."

After the morning broadcast,
students reflect on what they saw
with a terrent of facts and obser-



Out of Africa: Eagle Elementary School students watch a live program from Kenya.

vations.

Rachel Kahan mentions how the Massis are trying to adapt. Meghan Cooper recalls how all the diverse ethnic groups speak Swahili in order to communicate with one another.

"Today, they talked about the drought that was so bad the lakes were almost dry," said Megan Loch, who was unsuccessful getting through with her question on the phone. "It was hard for pelicant to get food, and they had to migrate and they found it very Students watched a half-hour preparatory video before the live broadcast. A photographer also visited the classroom to display photos he's taken in the region.

Some researched facts on East Africa using Grolier's Encyclopedia on CD-ROM in the school's computer lab.

A computer and modem in the classroom allows students to ast Turner Adventure Learning questions on American On-Line about East Africa. Since the field trip aired two weeks ago, students have centining facts on geography and geology they have looked up. "There's a lot of incidental learning going on," Blackman said.



Line busy: Megan Loch looks disappointed after calling the show only to find the line busy.

## Parking overflow plagues sub

By Larry O'Connor Staff Writes

BY LABRY O'CONNOR
STATY WRITE'S
Students are parking on side streets, as residents can't find any streets, as residents can't find any lottering and littering.

Some Bel-Aire subdivision residents are now complaining about students from nearby Farmington High parking on their streets.

Binilar complaints led the city of Farmington to creste a parking by permit-only district on Lakeway, volley View and Prospect Streets in September. As a result, Loomis Street residents have indicated the success parking.

We all here 'they would just move once they put up the (permit-only parking) signs," Loomis resident Craig Andreak! said. "We were raking leaves and all of a

sudden kids started parking there. That's the first time we noticed it."

Kids have shown no respect for the property, Andreak said. They file cigarettes on lawns and leave McDonald's wrappers behind.

Farmington High Assistant
Principal Ken Dean said he's spoken to Andreak about the problems. Students are encouraged to be "good citizens" in such situations.

Otherwise, the school doesn't have much authority, Dean said. It's not lilegal for them to park thers.

"You can't tell them they can't park there unless you put up the signs like they did on Lakeway," Dean said.

"I told the gentleman when you by a house in the area of a high school, you're going to have kids

walking past your house," Dean said later. "You're going to have kids parking next to your house.

Sometimes they walk on your Compounding the problem is the school parking lot's lack of space — or reluctance by students to use it. High has 255 park. Farmington High has 255 park.

dents to use it.

Farmington High has 265 parkling spaces for students, plus six
handicap spots. The school sold
300 one-year permits at \$20 each
and has since quit selling daily

permits.
An average of 12 to 14 spaces are going empty every day, Doan said.

said.

Permit-only parking is not option, Andreski said. It would deny residents a chance to park freely, and Andreski added, "Who's to say that won't move up another block?"

## Hills businesses to get breathing room

Fran warra Farmington Hills and other southeastern Michigan communi-ties will resp a reward for taking care of the area's air quality. The U.S. Environmental Pro-tection Agency announced that seven southeastern Michigan counties, including Oakland, now meet federal air quality stand-series.

achievement of 'attain-"The achievement of 'attainment status' is important to businesses in Farmington Hills," said Hills Director of Public Sewicss Tom Blazzil. "As a 'mon-stainment area' a business would have to show it could improve air qualing before it could improve air qualing before it could improve air qualing before it could improve air businesses was most evident in this area of the state where industrial concerns are concentrated."

"It meant they had to retrofit or they couldn't expand," he said. But the EPA restrictions also affected government projects, such as new or resurfacing of reads.

siticated government participal of reads.

"Road improvements are something everyone wanta," he said. "But unless you could show how sir quality would be improved, you couldn't have it."

The new status won't mean motorists won't have to get their required emissions tests, but should the area remain within EPA air quality guidelines, further measures are not likely. It means that businesses do not have to adopt more expensive emission control procedures including the purchases and installation of mechanisms, to control more strickly the scene of emissions from amokestacks and gas pumps, Blassil said.

"That makes starting a new business or expanding an existing business more feasible and that's good for the economic growth of this community," Hisself said.

Throughout the summer, Farmington Hills and communities throughout the metropolitan area participate in Ozone Action Days. On very hot days, residents are saked not to fill gasoline tanks during the day, not to mow their lawns and not to barbecus on charcoal grills. The goal is to reduce air pollution.

Ground-level come can cause breathing problems, reduced ung function, arithma, eye irritation, stuffy nose, reduced resistance to colds and other infactions and may speed up aging of lung tissue, according to the EPA. Ground-level cosone can also damage plants and trees, and reduce visibility.

