

Magical night inspires memories



A dab: Jennie Shindler touches up her makeup during the North Farmington High School prom Tuesday at the Dearborn Inn. In photo at top, Eldridge Huntington, Evan Kaploe and Amy Carlini take a break from the formal activities.



Flash point: Above, Chris Brown checks his camera while his date, Krista Peckham, watches some friends during the Farmington High School senior prom held at the Roostertail Club in Detroit May 26. In photo at left, Calley Cerano and Ryan Kosutic take a moment out for a hug at the FHS prom.

Longtime educator chalks up career to the love of children

More than anything else, when Norm Luebke leaves his job as assistant principal at Power Middle School, he will have a tough time completely walking away from education — his career for 34 years.

"I'm going to miss the kids," said the 55-year-old Luebke, a longtime teacher for most of that span before assuming the assistant principalship at Power in 1989. "I want to do something to keep in contact with them, maybe volunteering to help kids with their math. Maybe I can tutor them closer to my home in Hartland."

All the same, Luebke is looking forward to his pending retirement. He'll have extra time to travel, read and do more things with his wife, Dale, who happens to also be retiring at the end of the 1997-98 school year. She is a veteran teacher in the Howell district.

According to Luebke, there "wasn't anything that pushed me over the edge" to retire.

"It's a tough job, a lot of time away from home," he said. "And my wife and I both have parents in this area who need our help now."

Luebke knows from past experience how much he'll miss the camaraderie with students.

In 1980, after about 22 years as a math and science teacher at three stops — what was then East Junior High School, O.E. Dunkel Middle School and Harrison High School — Luebke joined central administration. He toiled for 2 1/2 years in the brand-new staff development department.

"I missed the kids, big time," Luebke recalled. "I needed a way to get back. And then two positions opened up at the same time. Assistant principals were



Retiring: Norm Luebke is stepping down as assistant principal at Power Middle School, capping off a 34-year career in education.

retiring at Power and at East."

Luebke joined Power along with principal Laura Miner, working in tandem ever since.

"Something that pleases me at Power is Laura and I are a team," Luebke said. "I obviously do more of the nuts and bolts kinds of things, like with the kid just in here."

The assistant principal talked to a sixth-grader, clarifying his duties as a lunch-hour helper.

One of the top accomplishments at Power under the Miner-Luebke leadership team was how teachers of different subjects team up to collaborate and plan instruction.

"Others will also miss Luebke's humor, his penchant for being approachable, his humble nature."

"We hate to see him leave," said secretary Judy Schaeffer, who also joined the Power staff when Luebke did. "He's been a great asset to our building. I'm going to miss his humor."

Some of the humor is grounded in true stories picked up over his

years in education. For example, during the 1970s, while he was a math teacher at Harrison, Luebke found out that Channel 7 newscaster Von Marshall wanted to highlight pets who did some crazy things, for a regular feature.

Luebke called the station about his golden retriever, Gus, who barked out the answers to math problems. "Zero to 10, with barks. It was amazing."

Within 15 minutes, Marshall had a film crew at Luebke's front door, and Gus was immortalized on the news. The only problem was, "Gus didn't bark seven times for Channel 7, which he (Marshall) wanted him to do."

Power Middle School is hosting a retirement reception for Norm Luebke from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at the school. Alumni are welcome to attend. The school is located on Gitt Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads. For more information, call (248) 471-4475 or (248) 471-5993.

appropriate school district Voter Guides.

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Voter guides available for school election

Voter Guides prepared by the League of Women Voters Oakland Area are available for the school elections to be held on Tuesday, June 8.

Guides have been published for Oakland Community College (OCC) and 15 school districts with contested elections, including Farmington.

Copies of the Voter Guides for

each school district are available at their respective school buildings.

All public libraries in the county have copies of the OCC Voter Guide and, where the library serves a school district with a contested race, guides for that school district have also been provided. Some city and township halls also have OCC and