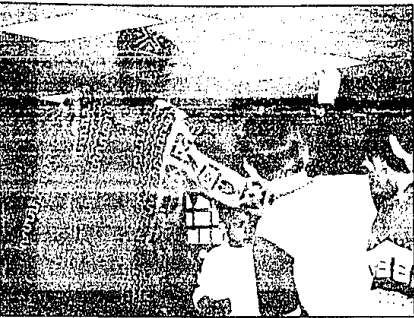


FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWS



Stories: Jacqueline Galloway-Blake incorporated storytelling and children's literature into her program.

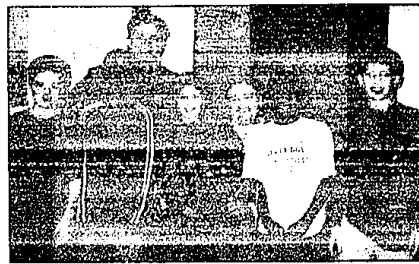
Celebration of winter thrills families

Gill Elementary School students last month entertained their families with two "Let's Celebrate Winter" musical programs. Students sang in the holidays under the direction of Brenda Gold-Sloan, vocal music teacher.

The Gill Echoes, fourth- and fifth-grade students, presented a lively musical celebration. Highlights included: a hand chime ensemble of "Carol of the Bells"; vocal ensembles; a speaking chorus (which is now known as rap music); and a finale of all students singing "Winter's in the Air."

The audience particularly enjoyed "Snack Attack," which featured students dressed up as M&M's and other snack foods. "Snow Day" featured Justin Marcus, dressed up as a snowman.

Teacher Stephanie Kessler and students created art backdrops for the program and teacher Lori Cleland accompanied the chorus.



Talking about it: Ron Bachman (third from right) was born with a defect that resulted in childhood leg amputation. Now he visits schools to talk to kids about handicaps and stereotypes.

'Walk This Way'

His school tour inspires, motivates

Motivational speaker Ron Bachman recently spoke to students in the Farmington area school district. Bachman's engagements at Longacre Elementary, Kenbrook Elementary, Gill Elementary, and Lanigan Elementary are part of his "Walk This Way" tour and were sponsored by Bob Saks Motor Mall.

Bachman, 42, is an extraordinary individual. Born with a congenital birth defect, his legs were amputated at age 4. He has overcome his handicap and now has a 19-year-old daughter, an autobiographical film and the admiration of thousands, not to mention a successful career.

Due in part to his ability to help others realize the power of believing in themselves, Bachman has spoken to more than 100,000 elementary, junior high and high school students during the past year alone. It's no wonder Bob Saks Motor

Mall General Manager Mark Mechigan jumped at the chance to bring Bachman to the area's schools.

Please see WALK, A4



Ron Bachman

Visual program teaches about MLK

Gill Elementary School students celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by hosting a multicultural assembly to learn about his life and legacy.

Jacqueline Galloway-Blake, consultant for Brown Sugar & Spice Book Service, Monday presented a dynamic educational program. Students actively participated in the program, answering questions she posed, such as King's occupation (min-

ister) and his age (15) when he graduated from high school.

The program featured visual aids, recordings (including part of the "I Have a Dream" speech), storytelling and children's literature. The message included King's legacy of non-violence, importance of family, reading of quality books, how he worked to get rid of segregation and how he helped others, especially poor people.

All students in the school attended one of the assemblies. Second grader Carli Balogh explained after the assembly that King "was a good man and I liked his 'I Have a Dream' speech."

Carli and other students were inspired by King's message and non-violent approach to problem solving.

School board toasted at meeting

Following is a recap of the Farmington Board of Education's Jan. 11 meeting

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Frank Reid, board vice president and legislative liaison, announced that the Kids First! Yes! organization was reported to have obtained enough petition signatures to place the voucher proposal on the November 2000 ballot.

Reid confirmed that Gov. John Engler signed SB-276, making it illegal to possess or consume alcoholic beverages on school property.

EVIDENCE OF EXCELLENCE

With January as National Board Recognition Month, much is taking place throughout the state to recognize Michigan's 4,200 board members for their dedication and commitment to service and public education.

In Farmington, for the second year in a row, student representatives were joined by administrators at a dinner held at the Farmington Training Center in honor of the board of education.

Students talked with board members and administrators about what they liked best about school, their favorite subjects, career choices (which range from neurosurgeon to psychotherapist to actor to teacher), and what they would like people to know about their schools, their fellow classmates and other topics.

The representatives included: Dan Bruder, Beechview Elementary; Rachel Gruetzner, Dunekel Middle; Amanda Laberge, Eagle Elementary; Rui Wang, East Middle; Brianne Silberschein, Farmington Alternative Academy; Matt Webb, Farmington High; Matt Schultz, Forest Elementary; Nick Bringardner, Gill Elementary; Nadia Rynskey, Harrison High; Sara Lebovic, Highmeadow; Natalie Lichtman, Highmeadow; Liz Potosky, Hillside; Marco Finch, Kenbrook Elementary; Meagan Pouch, Kenbrook Elementary; Dan

Smith, Lanigan Elementary; Spencer Schroer, Longacre Elementary; Nina Bianchi, North Farmington High; Bob Forte, Power Middle; Samadhi Liyanage, William Grace; Kristen Gee, Flanders Elementary; Krystal Wise, Warner Middle; Kendra Colbert, Wood Creek; and Gupta Kamayani, Wooddale Elementary.

Many students, teachers and administrators helped honor the school board. Following are some of the groups who were publicly thanked for their efforts:

■ The North Farmington High School Jazz Band, under the direction of Jason Lowe, which performed during the recognition dinner;

■ Farmington High School Madrigal Choir, under the direction of Evelyn Schuette, which performed during the board meeting;

■ William Grace Elementary School teachers Heather Harrington and Denise Gundle-White, and their second- and third-grade students from William Grace for personalized notepads;

■ Forest Elementary School first-grade teachers Nancy Keegan, Meagan Morris, Kathy Simpson and their students for the "We Are Lucky To Have You" card;

■ Forest second-grade teacher Linda Korpinski and her class for the "Hooray, Hooray, Hooray" thank-you booklet;

■ Central district administrators, for expressions of gratitude to the board for their support, guidance and leadership, and for the presentation of certificates of recognition on behalf of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS/TECHNOLOGY

Peggy Schmidt, director of instructional technology and media services, and Dan Sutton, director of information technology, gave a video presentation on

Many students, teachers and administrators helped honor the Farmington Board of Education.

the district's technology program.

Specifically, they defined the role of technology, reported on progress and accomplishments over the past two years, reviewed staff and student support, and discussed the home and community connection.

NEW FARMINGTON YOUTH ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Sue Hoffman was officially welcomed to the district and introduced to the school board. Hoffman replaces Deb McAleer, who was transferred to FYA's Madison Heights' office.

Hoffman brings an extensive background and has served two years on the Farmington Advisory Council.

She is employed by the state of Michigan county of Oakland Probate Court/Circuit Court Family Division.

Her office is at the Farmington Training Center.

PTA COUNCIL MID-YEAR REPORT

Janet Holm, PTA Council president, provided a summary of council activities and defined the purpose of the council for the benefit of the audience.

She highlighted Parent Summits I and II, the council's involvement with the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council, the recent PTA-sponsored event "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About MEAP Tests But Were Afraid to Ask" and more.

The balance of the year's activities will focus on diversity, the bilingual education program and legislative issues impacting education, particularly the school voucher/tax credit proposal.

Holm announced upcoming events including the PTA Reflections awards ceremony, which is

scheduled for the Jan. 25 school board meeting; the PTA Founders Day Celebration on Feb. 24; and the School Board Candidate Forum on May 25.

Source: Farmington Public Schools



GREAT LAKES CROSSING

FUR CLEARANCE FOUR DAYS ONLY

For four days only, we're taking **50% to 70%** off original prices on over 400 of our most fabulous furs. You'll find an outstanding selection including sable, mink, beaver, fur-trimmed cloth coats, and selections from top designers. Sale ends January 30.

Store Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 am to 9 pm, Sunday 11 am to 6 pm.

Prior season's merchandise may be included. All furs subject to prior sale and labeled to show country of origin. All sales are final.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Editor's note: Community Voice answers from the other four members of Longacre Cub Scout Den No. 1 were included in the Thursday, Jan. 20, edition of the Farmington Observer. All seven members could not run at the same time, due to lack of space. We apologize for any inconvenience.

QUESTION:

Why do you like Cub Scouts? (Pt. 2)

We asked this question of Longacre Elementary Cub Scout Den No. 1 as they toured the Farmington Observer office.



"Because we get to do a lot of fun stuff, see interesting things. It's lots of fun."
William Morrison



"Cause I like bonfires. We roast marshmallows and I like to do archery."
Chris Gosman



"Cause I get to be with my friends and I like the activities we do."
Michael Danielson