

Determined Dunckel student wins award, praise from board

Yes he can. Anyone who knows Jared Stoeffert, an eighth grader at Dunckel Middle School, is already aware of his determination to excel despite not having his eyesight.

For example, Jared astounded many by being the center of his school's football team. He intends to participate in the sport in high school.

That accomplishment was only one reason why he won the "Yes I Can" award from the Michigan Federated Chapters of the Council for Exceptional Children. Jared was one of many students to be honored Tuesday, Feb. 29, by the board during its Evidence of Excellence segment.

Jared was chosen from among many outstanding candidates throughout Michigan, and was one of several winners honored at the Michigan CEC annual convention on March 3 in Grand Rapids.

"I'd just like to thank the school for allowing me to participate in these programs," said Jared after receiving a certificate of commendation from school board President Priscilla Brouillette. "And, for being patient enough with me to try these sports."

Top scholar athletes

North Farmington students Charles Stamboulis and Brian Horvath have been selected recipients of the Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award.

Stamboulis and Horvath were honored for their efforts in boys cross country and boys soccer, respectively. The students and their families have been invited to attend the MHSAA boys basketball finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 25, where

FARMINGTON SCHOOLS

they will receive plaques symbolizing their awards.

Academic All-State winners

Farmington High School's varsity football team won an Academic All-State honorable mention award from the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. Twelve players were honored for compiling a cumulative grade-point-average of 3.00.

Following are the students, who also received certificates of commendation from the school board:

Brett Brown, junior quarterback; Scott Cave, junior linebacker/tight end; Rory Crittenden, senior linebacker; Mark Green, senior defensive back; Patrick Klein, senior center; Ian Kosopinski, junior guard; James Koursaris, senior offensive tackle; Benjamin Lukas, senior linebacker; Anthony Moran, junior center/defensive tackle; Nathan Pacer, junior wide receiver/defensive back; Stephen Wayne, junior kicker; Grant Weber, senior quarterback, defensive back.

Weber was also singled out, as the Academic All-State Player.

Top golf coach

Hillside Elementary School physical education teacher Ann Marie Sopha was selected Regional Golf Coach of the Year by the Michigan Golf Association. Sopha was presented with a certificate of commendation from board president Brouillette.



Showing their colors: Students Alexandra Dixon (front left) and Alison Lum display their costumes, representing Poland and China, respectively.



All smiles: Eagle Elementary School student Joshua Hedgecock and his mom, Laura, pose in front of the Germany booth.

International Night features worldly flavor

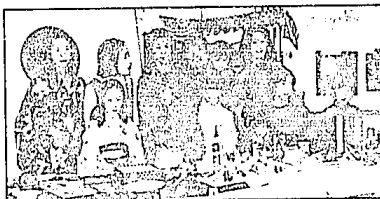
Seventeen cultures and nationalities were represented during the recent International Night at Wooddale Elementary School.

Approximately 300 students, family members and staff members attended the PTA-sponsored event. Wooddale, in the Farmington district, is known for being a school rich in diversity with students from many different backgrounds.

Wooddale parents, children and exhibitors displayed art, artifacts, flags, cultural and historical information and many other native items. Many children were in native dress and costume, representing countries such as Ireland, Armenia, India, Japan, Poland and France.

Students also performed Indian, Irish and Armenian dances and recitations.

Other highlights included the following:
 ■ Performing was the Detroit Kendo Dog troupe, which practices the traditional Japanese martial art of Kendo.



Japan booth: Front (from left) are Jun Usuba, Eriko Mori, Hiata Kishi, Ayumi Ina and Hiroshi Ina. Back (from left) are Rei Usuba, Eiko Mori, Fuchiko Kishi, Yumi Mizuta and Yukari Ina. All are Japanese natives.

■ Students also were given passports that were stamped or stickered by each country as they passed from booth to booth.

■ In addition, the exhibitors served native foods. The American booth served hot dogs, cookies, pop and punch, as well as crafts and an exciting game of "Who Wants To Be A USA Mil-

lionaire?" Children answered American trivia and received fake \$100,000 bills.

■ Wooddale enrichment classes performed African songs and games and demonstrated American line dances.

Area businesses who donated to the event, included Meijer's,



Costumes: Wearing native Indian dress are Nihaar Patwardhan and Nina Bihani.

Kroger's, Pine Land Restaurant, McDonald's, Farmington Bakery, Giuseppe's Deli & Bakery, Butcher Block and Dearborn Snuggles.

24-hour district telethon starts 3 p.m. Friday

Farmington Public Schools' first ever live district-wide telethon is set from 3 p.m. Friday to 3 p.m. Saturday, at North

Farmington High School. The telethon will raise money for the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation.



Celebrating the harvest: Performing a tea harvesting song during the program at Eagle were students (from left) Jordan Leitson, Tommy Doherty, Andrew Heidecker, Eric Steingold, Thomas Green and Jeremy Konicki.

Japanese culture is program focus

The Eagle Elementary School music department recently presented "Bamboo Hats for Rice Cakes," a program by fourth grade students.

During the program - among those celebrating multi-cultural month in Farmington Public Schools - students in the classroom of Eagle bilingual teacher Yoshiko Gingerich narrated, acted, played instruments, sang and danced about the Japanese folk story. Concluding the program was a chopstick dance.

"Bamboo Hats for Rice Cakes" also is known as "Kanzjizo," a story about kindness and mercy.

According to Eagle music teacher Sheri Jaffura, who worked with students for the program, the story reinforced the school concept that "at Eagle we are kind to each other, we treat each other with respect."

Lending kimonos and traditional costumes for the event was the Detroit Ringu Kai Japanese School of Detroit.

Meanwhile, Gingerich organized parents to assist with putting on the costumes in the



Helping hand: Eagle student Kristen Clarahan is assisted by parent Emiko Higurashi.

correct way.

Parent volunteers were Nami Gondo, Sumiko Takeyama, Emiko Higurashi, Kyoko Sakurai, Yumi Ikeda, Yumiko

Takeguchi, Etsuko Sakurai and Masako Irie.

Assisting Gingerich for the program was music teacher Jaffura.



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