

# Thank you

## District recognizes top employees

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According to Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield, working in the education business sometimes can be a pretty thankless job.

Recently at Farmington Training Center was the big "thank you," with 47 employees honored during the annual Employee Recognition Reception.

"It's like bringing treasures into the village circle," said Maxfield about the program. "It's kind of what we do. Over the course of the year a lot of people do a lot of wonderful things."

"And ... the people who work

in this business you can never say 'thank you' enough."

The reception indicates that "hard work does tend to get recognized," said Maxfield, noting that some of the honored employees seemingly have back every year.

Each employee received a certificate and a trophy featuring a clear plastic star, and had a synopsis of their achievements publicly read. (Those synopses accompany this story and will continue in upcoming issues.)

Providing entertainment for the program was the Harrison High School String Ensemble, under the direction of Mark Phillips.



Well done: Forest Elementary School Principal Lloyd Lewis has a flower pinned onto his lapel during the recent Employee Recognition Awards program at the Farmington Training Center. Lewis was among 47 school district employees honored for their contributions during the just-concluded 1999-2000 school year.

## FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS - PART 1 OF 5

Following are profiles on some of the 47 Farmington Public Schools employees who recently earned the district's Employee Recognition Awards. The profiles were provided by the district. Due to space, the list will run over several issues.

### RAINBOW RECOGNITION AWARDS FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS MULTICULTURAL/MULTIRACIAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Rainbow Recognition Awards are given to community members making significant contributions to promoting awareness and acceptance of diversity in our community. This year, Farmington Public Schools employees received several Recognition Awards.

■ Sue Anker, social worker, Power Middle School  
■ Laura Miner, principal, Power Middle School

Sue and Laura were recognized for their efforts in establishing and implementing measures to promote racial and cultural understanding at Power Middle School. Sue formed a multicultural group at Power representing their diversity. They included students from special education, various ethnic populations, and varied family backgrounds. This has become a "think tank" for issues including living with our differences, Mar-

tin Luther King Day, and concerns regarding the problems of middle school students. Sue has been with the district since 1988 and Laura since 1971. Laura is retiring at the end of this school year.

■ Emily Cheung, paraprofessional, Ten Mile School

Emily Cheung is a member of Farmington Public Schools' Bilingual Department. Emily was honored for her understanding of bilingual students and their cultural differences and the difficulties they often face. She values the beauty of the diversity in the district. She encourages every student to receive a good education, in spite of the fact that studying a foreign language is not an easy task. She helps with any subject and never gives up until the student understands. She is a wonderful liaison between the teachers and the students. She holds a degree in pharmacy and is very knowledgeable in all subjects. Emily began working in the district in 1988.

■ Jeanine Clever, reading recovery instructor, Hillside Elementary School

Jeanine, a FPS employee since 1995, is a member of the Reading Recovery/Learning Center at Hillside Elementary School. She

was honored for her efforts in working hard to create a welcoming environment for all students at Hillside. She particularly felt a need to develop relationships with the bilingual students and parents, an increasing population at Hillside. Jeanine works tirelessly with classroom teachers and support staff to help them develop the knowledge and skills necessary to provide a quality education for bilingual students. She is known for making a difference in the lives of children.

■ Bridget Dean, teacher consultant, Ten Mile School

Bridget Dean is a bilingual teacher consultant for the district. Since joining the district in 1999, she has made a tremendous impact on the bilingual program. Her area of expertise is training teachers on how to ensure that bilingual children receive the best education given their linguistic and cultural backgrounds. She has joined in conducting a large number of training on a variety of aspects of language and diversity issues. Bridget is respectful of all people regardless of their backgrounds. More importantly she is an advocate of equity for all students.

■ Irina Elizavova, teacher, Longacre Elementary School

Irina Elizavova, a teacher at Longacre Elementary School, has demonstrated a determination to make the bilingual program at Longacre a success. Longacre's population is diverse and with Irina's support, the children gain both an academic and cultural understanding of our community. She has supported the students, parents and teaching staff as they strive to enrich their knowledge and understanding of diverse populations. Irina's positive attitude toward working with students at Longacre has permeated the entire staff.

■ Sharon Elvy, secretary, Ten Mile School

Sharon Elvy is the secretary for the bilingual program for the district. In her role, she handles all registrations for newly arrived immigrant families. She goes out of her way to insure that the students' first experiences with the district are positive. She always treats the families with sensitivity and respect.

Sharon always takes the time to familiarize the families with the district's schools, with the bilingual program and with all available options for them. She has been a part of the district since 1995.

■ Harvey Goldstein, teacher, Highmeadow Common Campus

Harvey Goldstein, department chair for the Elementary Art Consultants, has been with the district since 1972. He believes that the art staff, as a whole, has an opportunity to teach an appreciation for multiculturalism through art. He supplies student art work for district and state-wide exhibits which celebrate multiculturalism. For the past five years, he has supplied student art work for the Rainbow Recognition Breakfasts. He was Farmington's Elementary Teacher of the Year in 1994 and was the Michigan Art Educator of the Year in 1995. He serves on the executive board of the Michigan Art Education Association and was recently re-elected to serve a second two-year term as the National Art Association delegate from Michigan.

■ Marilyn Greenstein, teacher, East Middle School

Marilyn is being honored for her Rainbow Recognition Award and for also being given the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Metro Parent Publishing Group. Marilyn began working in the district in 1988 and has been an active member in the school community. Some of her accomplishments include earning her national board certification, being honored at the White House in 1995 and being chosen as the Michigan Elementary Science Teacher of the Year in 1991. Marilyn continues to grow as a current Galileo leader for the district. She earned this year's Rainbow Recognition Award because of her leadership role in promoting multicultural awareness and appreciation at East. In this role, she created the Mosaic Club three years ago.

## C'ville seventh graders miss the mark

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Clarenceville staff plan to spend the summer analyzing where seventh graders went wrong on the latest state standardized test.

Less than half of those students received satisfactory scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program math and reading tests.

Of 162 seventh graders, only 36.2 percent had satisfactory scores in reading. That is below the state average of 48 percent. Scores in math were slightly better with 48 percent getting satisfactory marks. The performance still falls behind the state average of 58 percent.

Reading results are troubling since the district is trying to identify and help students with problems.

"I'm not going to sit here in judgment of raw scores until we take a close look at all the factors that may have had an impact," said Trustee Matt Boettcher.

But the trustee added, "... We have to accept responsibility."

Superintendent Tom Tattan

agreed. Curriculum Director Barb Church said staff will go over each student's results and look for trends of where help is needed.

That didn't prevent trustees from doing their own analysis at Thursday's regular meeting.

Trustee John Shaw noted the seventh graders performed better as fourth graders in 1998. Fourth and seventh graders take the MEAP reading and math tests.

"When they were fourth graders, they were hanging in there," said Shaw, looking at a bar graph chart. "Then by the seventh grade, something happened."

Trustee Gary Garrison pointed out the district's student population is transient, which means the same group of youngsters might not have taken the test as seventh graders.

Another factor could be Clarenceville's small size, a trustee said. Some 1,850 students attend Clarenceville schools.

The district includes portions of Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford.

"What we're seeing ... is the

back-end benefit of being a small district," Boettcher said. "It only takes a few poor performers on the MEAP and that drags down the performance of the district percentage-wise."

Trustee Sharon Simpson registered her theory. Instead of reading passages or whole books, youngsters are digesting "snippets" while on computers, she said.

"I wonder if it isn't the technology push," Simpson said. "We're not reading like we should."

The MEAP's informational reading section appeared to trip up Clarenceville's seventh graders.

Some 95 seventh-graders, or 63 percent, scored 300 or better on the story selection portion whereas only 70 students, or 46 percent, hit the mark on the informational part.

While he was concerned, one trustee urged against measuring a district by one standardized test result.

"What crosses that (graduation) stage and what those students do after they leave here, that's the true judgment," Garrison said.

## Memorial from page A1

shaken by Christopher's unexpected death.

"It's the nicest thing anyone could do," said Horton, who graduated from FHS in 1981 along with Vogler. "That's all I can say."

Williams, a 1982 FHS grad, said she'll never get over losing her son. But, with the memorial, "something good can come out of it."

Another positive thing will be taking place on July 1, at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Belleville. Williams is hosting an

### TRIBUTE

all-day fund-raiser concert for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, in Christopher's honor. Afterward, she will produce a compact disc from those performances.

Christopher's grandmother, Diane Horton, also lauded the efforts of Vogler and his employees.

"He (Christopher) was a fabulous kid," Diane said. "And this is in his honor and his memory."



Christopher Horton

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