

Board honors 'Reflections' winners

BY TIM SMITH
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Young artists, photographers and writers who attend Farmington Public Schools were honored during a special reception at the Tuesday, March 27, regular school board meeting.

All winners of the Farmington Area Council PTA Reflections contest were introduced during the meeting held at the Farmington Training Center.

Students won in the categories of literature, photography and visual arts. Only those schools with PTAs were eligible to enter the contest, which had the theme "It Would Really Be Strange!"

Janet Holm, president of the area council, and PTA co-chair Aimee Ergas presented the medals and certificates to students. Meanwhile, out of 96 Michigan students who were recognized at the recent state Reflections program, 15 are from the Farmington district.

Of those 15, four will have their works entered into the national contest. Those four are Eagle Elementary School student Jordan Berman, visual arts; Kenbrook Elementary School student Ryo Namiki, visual arts; Kenbrook Elementary School student Makayla McCloskey, literature; and Wood Creek Elementary School student Michael Minkus, photography.

The local Reflections entrants had their works displayed

throughout the conference room during the school board meeting. They also will be displayed during the annual Festival of the Arts, slated for late April at the William Costick Activities Center.

Board Secretary Gary Sharp applauded the students' efforts. "It truly is amazing the wealth of talent that exists with our kids," Sharp said. "Tonight is a congratulations, not just to the winners but to all the participants."

"It's a recognition of how strongly we all feel about the arts and ... about the total education of our children."

Galileo leaders lauded

Also during the board meeting, the 1999 Galileo Leadership Academy team discussed their two-year "journey" toward taking education to a new, progressive plateau.

"Our two-year Galileo experience was truly a voyage and discovery, working with some of the brightest stars in education reform," said team member Laura Sparrow, a teacher at Harrison High School. "We gained experience and expertise. We traveled to learn about our strengths. We discovered how to get there and take others with us on the journey."

Partially funded by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation, the leadership academy worked on collaborative initiatives such as bringing an all-day kindergarten program to the district

and launching the Mosaic Club at East Middle School, where students pledged that "kindness counts" and follow that up with action. The latter was spearheaded by East teacher Marilyn Greenstein.

"It is the spirit of the heart that made me choose my project," said Greenstein, about the Mosaic Club. "It is to spread the message of peace, love and humanity."

Superintendent Bob Maxfield thanked the Galileo team for contributing to "something truly transformational."

The 1999 team followed the district's inaugural Galileo team, which was from 1997-99. A new group is being organized for the next two years.

Healthy Living clinic provides free, low-cost screening, tests for adults

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging and Botsford General Hospital are co-sponsoring Healthy Living (formerly known as Health-O-Rama) from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 6, at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

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There is a nominal fee for the following optional tests and services:

■ Blood panel - tests for diabetes, thyroid, liver, bone or kidney problems, cholesterol and more.

■ Bone density

■ Stroke screening

■ H. Pylori - screens for ulcers and gastritis

■ Prostate Specific Antigen blood test for men

■ CA-125 - Cancer Antigen blood test for women

■ Colorectal cancer screening kit (take home)

Dermatologist Dr. Steven Forche will be available to answer questions and the Deaf & Hearing Impaired Services will provide free hearing tests.

All participants must be 18 years or older. For further information, call the Project Healthy Living hotline at 424-8600.

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