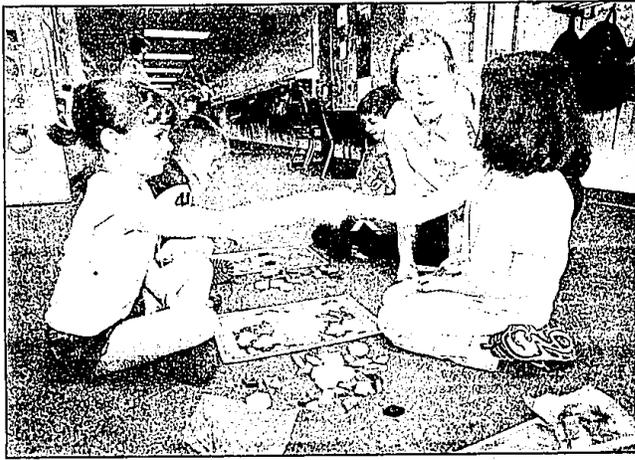


Eagle students put math skills to test



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRISLER

Math fun: "Let's have a good game!" is how students Michelle DeClercq and Rachel Hollander begin their game of Hex. Parent volunteer Veronique Gottlieb supervises the girls as well as Issac Fleck and Jeremy Kach.

BY SUZ BUCK
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Some Eagle Elementary School kindergartners and first graders who spend their lunch hour Tuesdays playing math games will put their skills to the test April 20.

They will participate in a national tournament from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at their school located in the Farmington Public School district.

They will compete with other children from the metro-Detroit area. Eagle is the only elementary school in the Farmington Public School District to participate.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRISLER

Game kids: Alex Lazar and Sharon Yousif-Dickow spend their lunch time practicing math games.

The program consists of an instructional phase and a national tournament phase.

The games integrate logical, scientific, computational, spatial and geometric reasoning as well as problem-solving strategies. They also focus on several strands of the K-7 mathematics curriculum.

"Our children have learned five different higher level thinking games," explained Eagle Principal Arnie Rubin.

Coaches are Marilyn Schipani and Lynn Zurawski.

The games are:

- n Star Track — This game helps children to practice counting as well as numeral recognition. The children use problem-solving skills to try to solve what number to use.
- n Calla — This is a version of ancient African and Asian counting games. The children will

count and use quantitative judgment skills. Players analyze the relationship of each "shield" as they play.

- n Kings and Quadrangles — Players receive practice in horizontal, vertical and diagonal movement basic to many mathematics and science concepts. Children need to use their accounting skills to move strategically across the board.
- n Shape Up — This game practices shape and size recognition. The addition principle is used in a natural context.
- n Hex! — This game uses geometric shapes to teach fractions. Aspects of number theory were used to design this game.

Twenty-four of the children who participate in the math club will go to the tournament.

The kindergartners are: Rebecca Berman, Morgan Giles, Sarah Kula, Bridget Race and David Tripp.

The first graders are: Brendon Arnhams, Brittany Baker, Jordan Berman, Jason Barnott, Michelle DeClercq, Isaac Fleck, Sam Gottlieb, Rachel Hollander, Jeremy Kach, Michael Kach, Alex Lazar, William Morris, Przemyslaw, Max Rottler, Jessica Sherbin, Marissa Siegel, Ali Smith and Justin Turner. Other children in the math club are:

- n Kindergartners — Emma Gell, Bilal Shah, Scott Stone, Jake Wascko, Joshua Worderman and Brian Yousif-Dickow
- n First graders — Aaron Radnor, Carly Rothenberg and Sharon Yousif-Dickow

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Gill has gold medal qualifier

Niharika Shastri, a fifth grader at Gill Elementary School is a gold medal qualifier in the Math Olympiad. To achieve this status, she scored in the top 2 percent nationally for this mathematics competition.

The Math Olympiad is a year-

long mathematics problem-solving competition, which conducts five "meets-by-mail."

Each meet provides students with five brain-teaser type math problems which must be solved in 20 minutes.

Six of Farmington's schools participate in Math Olympiads, run through the he DELTA Gifted Department. They are: Beechview, Gill, Longacre, and Wooddale elementary schools and Power and Warner middle schools.

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(Nothing will be sold at this class.)
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