



PHOTOS BY BILL BREYER / OBSERVER

Kim Wu talks with her mentor, Berna Ravitz during a break in the floor hockey action in Phys Ed class.

MENTORS

FROM PAGE A1

morning classes. Farmington Hills city planner Dale Countegan got involved with the program after hearing about other city employees' experiences during the last school year. Paired with sixth grader Raja Sulaiman, he attended computer and music classes Thursday morning.

"It was interesting to me to see the level they operate at," he said of the middle-school students. "I was thinking back to my sixth grade year... It seems so much more advanced."

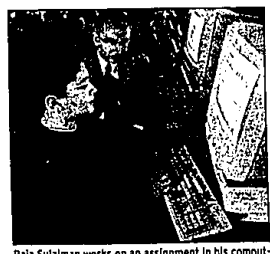
Early next year, the tables will be

turned and students will visit their mentors' workplaces, where they'll receive hands-on lessons about the business world. Many students and their mentors have volunteered to work with the Farmington Area Goodfellows, packing boxes and delivering them to needy families over the holidays.

The teams continue to meet 10 or 12 times before the end of the school year; a program celebration is held in May. Countegan praised the school staff members who organized activities that helped mentors and the students get to know each other.

"It's been a very positive experience," he said.

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Raja Sulaiman works on an assignment in his computer class. His mentor is Dale Countegan.

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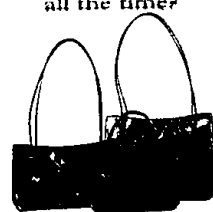
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