

50 Year Time Capsule Buried At Montessori School Dedication

By Aline Shulman

The Montessori School on Ascot Place in the Village of Lansing was formally dedicated last Tuesday morning (Apr. 29) with speeches, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, certificates of appreciation to volunteers and the interment of a time capsule that will carry the love, wishes and enthusiasm of this generation to our as-yet-unborn successors who will examine its contents 50 years from now.

Before cutting a ribbon to mark the official dedication of the new Montessori School, Board President Dave Fernandez thanked everyone who'd been involved in realizing the dream of a modern facility and who'd helped make the move from the former downtown Willow Avenue site. The long five year transition to Ascot Place, "reflects parents' utter dedication, sometimes even after their own children had graduated," said Fernandez.

Certificates of appreciation to people "who went the extra mile" in the school's building project were presented to Beth Brennan, Rob Colbert, Randy Marcus, David Lee, Janet Marler, David Fernandez, Pat Remkus, Bruce Howlett and Gail Siminowsky.

Hoping that equally bright, sunny skies will favor the April 29, 2047 opening of the time capsule, 1997's children, parents and community supporters gently filled a clear plexiglas time capsule with mementos, photos, coins, a map, local newspapers and hopeful messages about what they dream the future will hold inside. A copy of Maria Montessori's book The Absorbent Mind, stressing the individual child's social, emotional and physical development, topped off the contents. If time confirms the children's aspirations, Lansing will still have farmers, cookie makers, a ballet dancer and even a judge ready to wield his gavel.

As School Director Pat Remkus buried the time capsule and each child received a commemorative invitation to attend the 2047



GIFTS FOR THE FUTURE - Flamira McCobb, Don Montague and Chuck Paulson look for 1997 coins to put in the Montessori time capsule.

opening ceremony, 15-year teacher Kathy Howlett expressed her hope that most of her students would see their drawings again at "reunion time" 50 years hence. "One of the little boys is battling cancer," she said. "I hope that he'll be at the opening ceremony and that a cure will be found."

Who knows what emotions little William Hurley's basketball drawing and contemporary images of the other 63 students will evoke 50 years from now? Perhaps basketball will be an intergalactic sport. Then again, things that are popular today could go the way of marbles, knickers and ring-a-levio.

In addition to last Tuesday's ceremony, a special donors' reception is scheduled for this Friday evening at the school. Between 100 and 125 Montessori School supporters are expected.

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