Music festival strums kids’ interest

Sipping school will be a musical, if not educational experience for 206 Lyons youths when they come to Kirksville to perform for area children Friday.

Misty Lippens, a women’s music instructor, invited a tour group of Suzuki violin players, ages 13 to 15, to be part of Midwest StringFest, an all-day event that will teach children about string instruments, music appreciation and musicianship.

Senior Carol Carlson, SAI sergeant at arms and co-chairwoman of StringFest, said she hopes the tour group will help inspire the younger musicians.

“We want [the kids] to realize how much they really can do,” she said. “That’s why we want to go up to kids and say, ‘Hey, you are looking for strings, we have a program for you.’”

Forrest said she was a part of a string program when she was younger.

The tour group employs the Suzuki method, which teaches children to play by ear and to “offer a very freeing influence and an inspiration.”

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The tour group, which is organized out of Webster University (St. Louis), will perform two shows Friday, one at Missouri Southern School and another at Ray Miller Honors Library School.

The nine-hour Saturday event at Ophelia Parrish Arts Center will feature string demonstrations and sessions on topics such as music composition, string, visuals, calls and songs.

Carlson said StringFest will include other types of music, like singing and percussion, but most of the activities will focus on string instruction because of the lack of string programs in the Kirksville area.

Hadwiger said he already is energized and enthusiastic about teaching experience at Kirksville.

Tenets like seventh-grader Paul Hadwiger have realized the importance of speaking another language.

When you first started speaking another language, you didn’t know if you would like it or not, but now you know it’s kind of a freedom and my family. In Spanish, there’s no limits. You can express what you want to say.

People have to consider the expanding current of water as students watch the surprise.

The west entryway of the Student Union Building received an unexpected surprise Tuesday evening as heating pipes in the wall burst, spewing out water and steam. A Student Union Building facility employees (left) tries to contain the unexpected current of water as students watch the surprise.