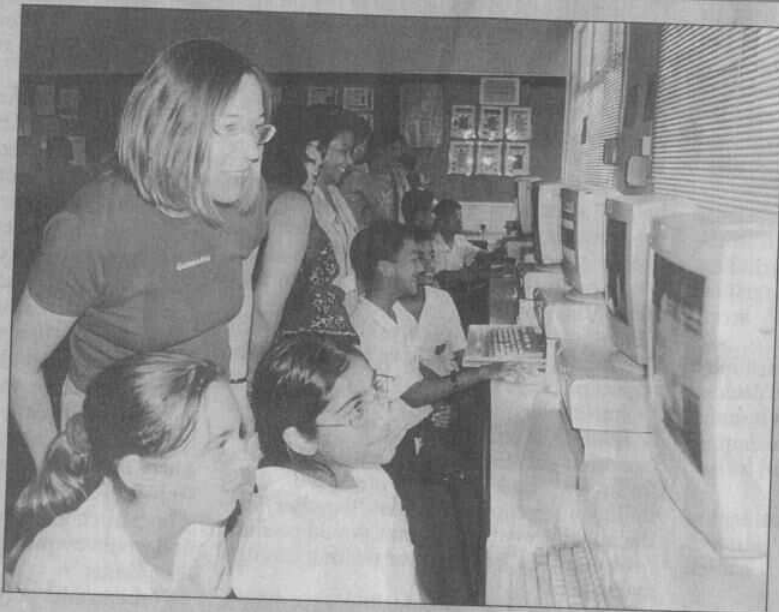


ROUND THE BLOCK



GOING GLOBAL: Parents learning from the children how the "Handshakes Around The World" project works

■ GARDEN International School (GIS) Kuala Lumpur, recently launched a virtual homestay project called *Handshakes Around The World*.

Aimed at encouraging students to share cultural, educational and other experiences with one another, the programme also commenced simultaneously in schools in Singapore, Germany and Finland.

For eight weeks, Year Eight students at GIS worked in their multinational subgroups over the Internet to plan a six-day "virtual" homestay itinerary.

On the day of the launch, GIS students chatted online with their peers from Singapore, Germany and Finland, uploaded video clips and updated their homepages.

Teacher and AEC coordinator Leonora Gunasekera said the students had done an excellent job on the information and communications platform and had paved the way for real homestay opportunities in the future.

The venture is one of nine which