

Cooper appointed Flanders principal

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Sharon Cooper, assistant principal of Dunckel Middle School, was named the Flanders Elementary School principal Tuesday by the Farmington Public School Board.

She will replace Principal Mary Joyce Reader, who will retire. Cooper said her work at Dunckel was a wonderful opportunity.

"I learned much from two outstanding administrators, Pam O'Malley and Dr. Jim Myers, who have taught, talented staff, supportive parents and, of course, the wonderful students at Dunckel," Cooper said. "My heart is with elementary school students, though."

Cooper has worked for the Farmington Public School District since 1999. She started in 1999 as a fifth grade teacher at Beechview Elementary School in Farmington Hills and worked there until 2000, when she was named assistant

principal at Dunckel.

"I look forward working with the students and those individuals who help guide their growth," Cooper said, expressing her thanks to the board. "I look forward to learning with and learning about the Flanders staff, the children and the entire community. I will do my best to keep Flanders a great place to learn."

While at Dunckel, Cooper managed student services, school safety, day-to-day operations and athletics.

She supervises, supports and evaluates teachers, office staff and para professionals and cultivates parental involvement. Cooper established the Dunckel Diversity Committee and is co-chair of the school's accreditation steering committee.

She established Peace Corps Pen Pals with seventh graders and students in Madagascar.

At Beechview, Cooper served on several committees, including Student Assistance, Diversity, Frameworks, Assessment and Leadership

Academy.

Before coming to Farmington, she taught second, third and fifth grades at Brookside Schools in Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield Hills from 1970-1999.

Cooper held specialist positions in grades first through sixth in math, reading, art, and visual studies media.

She co-chaired the district-wide Empty Bowls Hunger Relief Project.

From 1990-1991 Cooper did doctoral research at Wayne State University on school improvement planning and designed an assessment program for school improvement plans. She was a conference planner for the U. N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Cooper participated in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program, U.S. Information Agency, U.S. Department of State. She was an exchange teacher at Upminster Junior School, Essex, England from 1989-1990.

She worked for Detroit Public Schools from 1969-1970 and the National Teacher Corps grades K-6 in Pontiac from 1967-69.

Her awards include the Rainbow Recognition Award from the Farmington Farmington Hills Multicultural Multiracial Community Council, grants for Mathematics and Gender, was named an Outstanding Elementary Teacher, received the WJR Spirit of Achievement Award and participated in several Michigan art exhibitions. Her community involvement is with MCMR, Imagine/Reader, Art & Community Action and the West Oaks Civician.

She holds three degrees from Wayne State University: a doctorate of education in administration and curriculum, a Master of Arts in teaching, Instructional Technology and a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Social Sciences.

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Wayne County Parks sponsored its 19th Annual Marshmallow Drop Friday morning.

Marshmallow Drop kicks off Easter break

BY STEPHANIE CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

The 19th Annual Great Marshmallow Drop at Westland's Nankin Mills drew a giant crowd Friday morning, despite looming cloudy skies. Parents from across Wayne County and even some from neighboring Oakland County brought their children to see 20,000 marshmallows fall like fluffy, sweet snowflakes from a helicopter high above the park.

Children waved at the police officials and came up to pet the horses that accompanied them. Then, families headed to the pavilion to trade in marshmallows for a handful of goodies — a chocolate bunny, marshmallow Peeps and an Easter pinwheel.

"I ran and I ran," said Dillon Hess, a 4-year-old from Farmington Hills. "I liked it when we ran fast."

He was carrying a baseball hat full of marshmallows as his 2-year-old sister Gina smiled and stood nearby.

Randy Schroeder, a musician who lives in Redford, brought his 2-year-old daughter Bailey Ann. She was all smiles after gathering her marshmallows. The event is divided by age, so all children have an opportunity to collect the cheery treats.

"I think this is so cool," Schroeder said. "I think she liked it. I wish we could get this many people out for a benefit show." Wayne County Sheriff's Corp. Brian Ferris estimated the crowd was much larger than last year's group of 2,500. "It's something to do with the kids," said Jennifer Booth of Canton. "My stepson is from England. This is the first time



Dana Hess, 5, of Farmington Hills passes the time before the Marshmallow Drop with some coloring at one of the activity stations provided for the kids.

he's ever done anything like this."

Redford's Cheryl Caskey found out about the Marshmallow Drop by reading the Observer and decided to bring family and friends along. "We came to Mud Day, so I was kind of looking for it," she said. "I think it's wonderful."

The children scurried around, tempted and trying not to eat the dirt-speckled fluffy treats.

Five-year-old Laine Lindgren, of Livonia, grabbed only one marshmallow from the field. She said the best part was watching them fall.

Her friend Alexis McDonald, a 5-year-old from Redford, loved it "when we heard the helicopter and knew the marshmallows were coming." The raindrops wanted until most of the families had already gathered their marshmallows from the field.

"We put in a special order for that," said Ferris. He's worked at the Marshmallow Drop for a few years and never tires of seeing all the families. "I love the kids," said Ferris. "That's the best. They get to see us as good guys."

Charter becomes an asset in fight for survival

BY PAUL R. PAGE
STAFF WRITER

While William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills teeters on the brink of closure, few people know a college has a right to offer degrees and its charter holds value.

A Michigan government official who would only speak on the condition of anonymity said a college or university has "articles of incorporation" with the state.

A college can sell or give these articles to another college, in or out of state.

In Tyndale's case, selling its articles to another institution would save a new college from having to petition the state to offer degrees that Tyndale is already allowed to offer students.

The source declined to say how high a bid could go in Tyndale's case.

In nearby Walsh Business College, Vice President John

Young of Farmington Hills said competition in higher education has become national in scope for both profit and non-profit institutions.

A college's charter or articles becomes an asset, he said.

The competition can be good for consumers in the form of greater choices, but it also forces the institutions into a wider range of tactics to protect their market share, he said.

In the meantime, Tyndale officials say they are still in a holding pattern while the board of directors entertains offers and options from other schools.

The board ordered the school to close after May graduation unless a merger could be arranged.

Officials have said they would only merge with another school that supports Tyndale's Christian-based teachings.

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RECREATION NEWS

For more information on the following programs contact the City of Farmington Hills Recreation Division at (248) 473-1800.

■ **Amish Country**
Take a trip to the Amish flea market in Shipshewana, Ind. Travel by deluxe motor coach to browse and enjoy the sights and sounds of a different world.

Then at 4 p.m. it's on to Middletown for a family-style dinner of chicken and roast beef at Das Dutchman Essenhaus. Trip dates are Wednesday, June 18 and Wednesday, Aug. 6. Cost is \$55 per person per trip. No refund "articles" is canceled.

■ **Adult Softball, volleyball**
The City of Farmington Hills is accepting new adult team registration for men's, women's and co-ed softball and sand volleyball. Registration is based on a first-come, first serve basis.

Leagues will play one night a week. For fees and nights of play call (248) 473-1800.

■ **Potatoed Road Rally**
Bring the whole family and enjoy a night of fun and adventure 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 10. Each team of 3-6 members will take all in their vehicles to search for wild and crazy predetermined items to photograph. After the photo portion teams will

meet back at the Costco Center for pizza and salad. Entry teams should register on the same form. Teams must provide a Polaroid camera and film for at least 15 pictures. The cost is \$10 per person. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

■ **Boaters Safety**
Facing this class will allow youth ages 12-16 to operate a motor boat of six-horse power or more. In addition, all people born after Dec. 31, 1978 must pass this course to operate a personal watercraft. No one under the age of 14 may legally operate a PWC. A child 12 and over may ride a PWC with an adult if both have passed an approved boater safety class. Session choices are 6-9 p.m. April 22 and 24 or May 13 and 15. Cost is \$5 per person and you must register in advance.

■ **Fun in the Hills**
Before registering for any program, be sure to see what the Farmington Hills Special Services Fun in the Hills Passbook has to offer. Free passes, giveaways, huge savings, plus more. The passbook is valued at over \$150 and sells for \$15. Passbooks can be purchased at the Costco Center and participating businesses.

CAMPUS PIPELINE

U of M honors Drew Mokris, a 2002 graduate of Farmington High School, and son of Lynda and Mark Mokris of Farmington Hills, has been placed on the dean's honor list for the fall term 2002 at the University of Michigan, School of Engineering.

Student teachers Two Albion College students are taking a tough test of their education — this time as a teacher rather than a student. The students are in the process of completing the student teaching requirement for the Albion College education program.

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Youth Assistance offers summer activities center

Farmington Youth Assistance announces the opening of its Summer Activities Center, which runs from Monday, June 23 through Friday, Aug. 8.

The drop-in center, housed in William Grace Elementary School, 29040 Shilohwasse, serves youth ages 6-12, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The center will also offer field trips to such attractions as the Waterford Oaks Wave Pool, COSI Science Center, Tiger Stadium, Toledo Zoo,

Whitbyball, Greenfield Village/IMAX Theater, Zap Zone and more.

The Center Director will offer a variety of special activities, in addition to standard offerings, which include video games, basketball, billiards and food nights.

There is a \$75 registration fee which covers a summer t-shirt, lunch every Thursday, and use of the center for the whole summer.

For more information or to obtain a registration packet, call (248) 489-3434.



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