



Kim George (left) and Lori Litogot inspect their classmates' rendition of the animal characters from the children's book "Charlotte's Web." Meanwhile, Mike Tremonti (far right) browses in the media center while Peter Pan fights Captain Hook in the stitchery picture above him. Another character, Winnie the Pooh, smugly looks out at the children in the center (below left). Maybe he's happy he's found all that honey.

Staff photos by
Harry Mauthe



Beechview art students keep storybook heroes in stitches

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

In the Beechview Elementary School media center, Little Red Riding Hood rubs elbows with the pig from Charlotte's Web. Nearby, the Cat in the Hat and Winnie the Pooh are striking jaunty poses.

Thanks to the 30 students of a fourth grade class taught by Mrs. Mary Ellen Tolwin, patrons of the media center can gaze upon the needleworked likenesses of their favorite characters.

Their six masterpieces started out as a project in Beverly Ellis' art class but blossomed into an after-school activity.

"I didn't expect them to do such a

good job," said Mrs. Tolwin, who conducted the after school sessions. "They had such fun, we had stitch-ins. I'd bring in cookies and we'd order some milk and we'd stitch and drink milk."

Each of the six panels were designed on colorful burlap and stitched by a committee of five students. Some of the students became so excited by the work they felt possessive toward their portion of the three by three foot still tapestries, according to Mrs. Tolwin.

MIKE TREMONTI is especially proud of his part in stitching up Charlotte's Web. He worked on the pink

pig that is gazing up at the spider's web in the barn. While his classmates helped him with the fence posts and the web, Mike reserved the pig for himself.

"He's all boy but he really enjoyed the project. He wouldn't let anyone else take the pig," Mrs. Tolwin said.

"I'd do it again," said Mike, as he smiled at his masterpiece hanging over the easy-to-read section of the media center.

His classmates Kim George and Lori Litogot worked on two other stitched portraits. Kim worked to make Raggedy Ann an appealing little doll with red yarn hair cut in fringes around her face.

"All we did was pull the yarn

through the cloth and cut it," she explained.

Lori worked on the Little Red Riding Hood. Little Red's cloak is a pattern of long stitches as she stares at the students in the media center, unaware of the Big Bad Wolf skulking around behind her trying to reach a clump of trees in which to hide.

Embroidery stitches came easily for the students, according to Mrs. Tolwin.

AFTER AN INITIAL demonstration by Mrs. Ellis or Mrs. Tolwin, the children managed to stitch the pictures with little trouble, according to Mrs. Tolwin.

Cardwell opts for MIT stint

Susan Marie Fronczak Cardwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Fronczak of 26359 Dundalk, Farmington, earned her BS in engineering from Swarthmore College, recently.

Ms. Cardwell graduated with distinction and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Kids' crafts displayed

Festival features art-in

Children and their weary parents will find a haven on the lawn of the Farmington Training Center on Grand River during the Founders Fest val, July 21-23. That's the site of the Farmington Area Arts Commission sponsored Art-In designed to allow children to try their hand at painting or crafts.

Materials, a canopy and volunteers to supervise the activities are needed, according to Beverly Ellis, chairwoman of the project.

In addition to "surprise guests," teachers and artists who will share some of their expertise with the children, the Art-In needs volunteer supervisors.

"They don't have to be artists. We have high school child-care students who will be helpers. But we need adult volunteers," said Mrs. Ellis.

Plans for supervision indicate that the activity will have a Farmington

artist to start the individual projects, two adult supervisors and three helpers who will work in two hour shifts.

Parents will be able to rest on the lawn while their offspring exercise their creative urges between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

MATERIALS ARE NEEDED FOR the projects. Mrs. Ellis is asking for donations of yarn and small scraps of wood. Wallpaper books, pine cones and blocks of styrofoam packing material are being collected.

These odds and ends will be transformed into pictures, diamond-shaped straw hangings called god's eyes and monoprints. The prints are made by rubbing a sheet of paper over another one that has been covered with paint. It works on the same principle as rubbing coins, according to Mrs. Ellis.

"We're using a lot of found material," she said.

To protect the young artists from the sun, the Art-In coordinators are looking for someone to donate a 12-foot-long canopy.

Project coordinators include Barb Adler of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission; Sue Ingram, of Art Start; Monica Leaning of the Farmington Artists' Club; Jackie Melissas of the Farmington Community Center; Ellen Wallis of the Farmington Elementary Art Councilors; Lois Carey of St. John American Lutheran Church; Wooddale Elementary School teachers Anita Kurche and Nancy Randorf.

PERSONS INTERESTED in donating their time or art materials can contact Mrs. Leaning at 478-6742 or Mrs. Ellis at 474-0253.

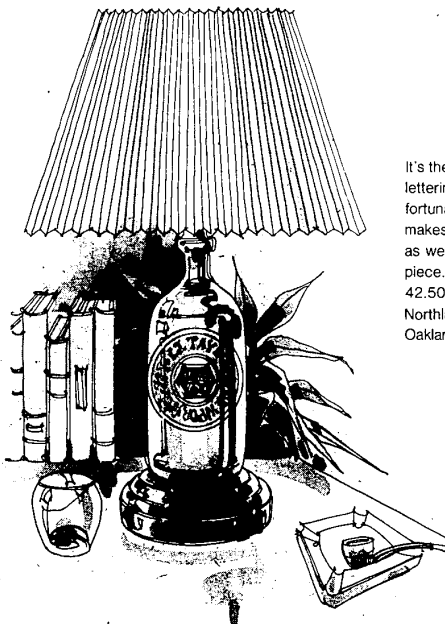
Festival committee holds public meeting

The Farmington Festival organizing committee invites the public to the June 13 meeting at 8 p.m. in the Farmington Holiday Inn, Grand River and Two Mile.

The committee will be discussing events to take place at July's Farmington Founders Festival.

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