

# Fantasy friends beckon...



It's quite a transformation. One minute Denver Styes (upper left), 3, was an outgoing toddler. The next minute, he's a creature from the Maurice Sendak children's story, "The Wild Things." See how he menacingly beckons. Krista Novak, 6, knew all along that it was Snoopy masquerading as the Red Baron. So, she joined him on a doghouse of her own (lower left) and found out what it was like to be in the driver's seat. Meanwhile, other children at the Farmington branch library played games that were inspired by their favorite stories and characters. When you're 3 years old, it's quite a distance between yourself and the ring toss but Sally Brenda McBride rose to the challenge. Sally toed the line at Character Carnival. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)



## ...as children come to play

By LYNN ORR

The scent of popcorn in the air was musky, but otherwise the Character Carnival at the downtown Farmington Branch Library had all the ingredients of a successful festival—happy kids, games, movies and a certain amount of silliness.

For about 35 preschoolers and the mothers, the event was a perfect way to celebrate National Library Week with favorite book characters as carnival guides.

After enjoying a Donald Duck cartoon, the little tykes competed for candy and puppet prizes at the Homer Price Doughnut Ring, the Matthew Looney Moon Toss, the Willy Wonka Candy Walk, and other events Tuesday afternoon.

"All the preschoolers win a prize," says librarian Denise Moll, who drew duty at the messiest event—Rescue Piglet from the Raging River.

Two-year-old Gary Giguere had a great time fishing a spongy piglet out of the water.

"You remember the story where Piglet (from "Winnie the Pooh") gets whooshed down the river," Ms. Moll told her young charges.

"Well, you have to try and fish him out, and you have to be neat—you can't get water all over the floor."

The rules didn't bother Gary, who won a Piglet puppet for his efforts. The library's staff made the color-and-cut-out puppets for the game's prizes, but candy was the mainstay in

the prize category for most games.

Gary's friend, Denver Styes, age 3, was more than willing to pose behind a cardboard front of the "Wild Thing," a beastly character from the pen of children's author Maurice Sendak.

And Stacy Orrelle, 5, shared her prizes with her one-year-old brother Scott.

"I won the sucker at the ring toss and the gum at the bean toss," Stacy said, although golfing more her thing than throwing.

"I take golf lessons," she added proudly.

THE FARMINGTON HILLS Library, on Twelve Mile, scheduled the same event for Thursday morning, while both libraries will hold Character Carnivals for older children this coming Saturday.

"The older kids will have things a little harder," says Ms. Moll, with the contests slightly more related to book characters.

Children from kindergarten through sixth grade will engage in the same activities, slightly altered for older children at 10:30 a.m. at the downtown library and 2 p.m. at the Hills library.

Pippi Longstocking, Paul Bunyan, Violet from the "Chocolate Factory" and Snoopy will be the hosts for the K-6 crowd and continuous movies will be scheduled for both the morning and afternoon sessions.

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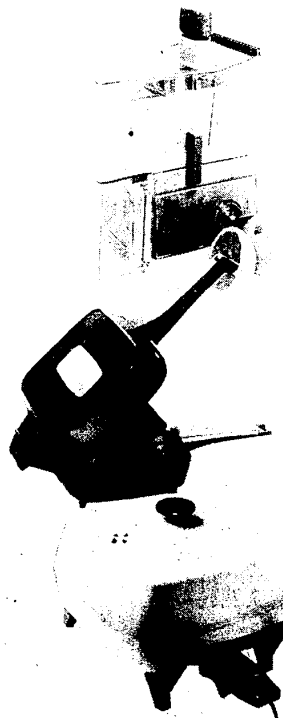
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Gary Giguere, 2, (top) fights a current to fish Piglet out of a raging river in the Farmington Library; Meanwhile (bottom) moms and tots enjoy a candy walk.

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