

Farmington Observer



hallways

A page of Farmington-area school news

Putting Halloween into focus

Don't ignore rhythm, rhyme

THE SIXTH graders at O. E. Duackel Middle School, under the direction of their teacher, Karen L. Tomlin, have written these Halloween poems in response to my poem, "WARNING: WITCHES ABOUT."

The keys to this poem are rhythm and rhyme. More than that, there is a technique to learn which any writer may use.

First, write a string of words you think are scary, then write a separate list of words which sound scary or describe scary sounds. Keep in mind that you wish to excite the reader so that she or he will feel the power of the poem. You are telling a short story.

Do you see the line, "standing hunch-backed"? This is preferable to telling the reader that the witches looked ugly. Let the reader pick up the cue and realize that the witch is not a sweet witch! Description without telling is the key. You are painting a picture in the mind of the reader.

Let your imagination go: play with words. Select a few words from your scary word list and try to work them into an idea; you need to see a movie in your mind of what you are trying to describe. The poet must day dream.

One thing that is great fun is creating words. For example, hismopap-poo, it's not in the dictionary. Make up a word that sounds scary and use it. Your reader will understand from the context, the words around the word, exactly what you mean. One easy way to make up a word is to take a part of a word from two different words and put them together.

Warning: Witches About

c-r-i-n-k-l-e
c-r-a-c-k-l-e
witches cackle
standing hunch-backed
stirring caldrons — BLACK!!
GET BACK!
STAY FAR AWAY —
FOR THEY MAY SEE YOU —
THEY MAY TRAP YOU —
ZIP YOU!
ZAP YOU!
HISMOPAPYU!
and then, what will you do?
he, he, he, he, he, he,
c-r-i-n-k-l-e
c-r-a-c-k-l-e

— Victoria Day Najjar

The word rancane is created from the two words rancid and hurricane. Remember, if you wish to create scary words — think scary words.

Take a look at your sound list. Find your favorite sound, separate each letter with dashes for accent and plug the sound anywhere you like into the poem.

Lastly, remember, good writing is rewriting. A good poet writes and rewrites often. It is work, but it is fun work.

— Victoria Day Najjar

October

On a spooky night in October,
All the ghosts and goblins are out,
They'll eat your brain,
And won't complain,
And then you'll be dead
Just like Fred.

— Jim Davidson

Fright Night

It's Halloween,
So you better beware,
Say trick-or-treat, only if you dare
The witches are up, high in the air
OOBAs can give you a big scare
It's Halloween — ghouls everywhere.

— Carrie Wolocko

Ghosts, Ghosts and Goblins

Ghosts, ghosts and goblins,
And what's over there? A witch!
Wow! She's giving her nose a twitch,
Maybe she's turning a dog into a frog
Or maybe she's trying to eat,
Forget that... Let's trick-or-treat!

— Hope Hoffman

Things in the Dark

Vampires, goblins in the night,
People dressed alike,
Ghosts and Z-O-M-B-I-E-S, pumpkins
Jack-o-lanterns with evil faces,
The witches' broomsticks in the sky,
Things in the DARK.

— Gregg Mummert

Monsters in My House

Gremlins in my attic,
Ghosts flying in the basement,
Monsters fighting in the closet,
Goblins coming by my bed,
To bite off my head,
For tonight BOLONOKO is out to bite.

— Adam Kammer

The Monster

The monster is coming,
I hear him humming,
I can smell his stumfootie feet,
and PHEW! They don't smell sweet,
I know he won't greet us,
But will he eat us?

— Christy VanZandt

The Night of Halloween

I saw something with five tails,
It could have been a bat or vampire,
It almost hit me with its fire,
Luckily to move for me was handy,
So I ran to get it some candy.

— Chris Ward

The Ghost Story

Rinkle, D-I-N-K-I-E, tanging too,
How about some scare just for you?
Thunder banging, howling too,
Come on friends — WHOOPY-DO,
Gremlins, cats, skeletons clean,
It's a spooky night on Halloween.

— Tamika Abram

What's That C-R-E-E-P-Y Thing?

Ghosts and goblins reappear,
At this SPOOKY time of year,
EKK-EGAD! What do I see?
What's that floating in that TREE?
Quick home I run to Mom and Dad, Before the
thing gets REALLY MAD!

— Nicole Aratari

Zombies

One night they started to come,
From every coffin in the graveyard,
And this ain't no joke,
They'll eat you alive,
You should watch out on the street,
Or you'll be dead without a beat.

— Justin Miller



inkwell

Inkwell provides news and information about Farmington-area primary and secondary schools. The column appears monthly throughout the year as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

REACH SEMIFINALS

Twelve Farmington high school students, four from each of the three public schools, have been named as semifinalists in the 1987 National Merit Scholarship competition. They are just several of 15,000 students being honored who will advance in the competition for 6,000 Merit Scholarships worth more than \$21 million.

Local students include:

• Farmington High School — David Noles, LeeAnne Richardson, Thomas Robinson and Alexis Wilhingsanz.

• Harrison High School — Michael Happold, Todd Lowy, Mark Schiefsky and Marc Tenenbaum.

• North Farmington High School — Angie Chen, Robert Lewis, Todd Roshak and Jeffrey Zondor.

To be considered, the students must document high academic performance, be endorsed and recommended by their respective schools, and achieve acceptable scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Initiated in 1955, the National Merit Scholarship program is financed independently by more than 600 sponsors.

2 PARTICIPATE

Two North Farmington students were part of a group of 29 students participating in Seminar '88 at Western Michigan University — the school's 35th annual high school summer music camp. The two participated in the area of music vocals.

Area residents Peter Day, a bass, and tenor Dan Roselli also participated in a convocation series recital Sept. 17 as part of the program. The recital was presented to 400 music majors and music faculty from the university.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Hiring of 17 new employees for Farmington Public Schools was approved Sept. 9 by the school board.

Teachers include: Kathleen Chlason, mathematics teacher at Harrison High School; Ron Corgolongo, industrial arts teacher for the emotionally impaired; Pamela Ellis, kindergarten teacher at Flanders Elementary; Dorene Finer, first grade teacher at Kenbrook Elementary; Jean Hudkins, third grade teacher at Forest Elementary; Barbara Kahl, second grade teacher at Larkshire Elementary; Jacqueline Parisi, teacher for the emotionally impaired at Farmington Training Center; Geraldine Pugh, kindergarten teacher at Eagle and Wood Creek elementary; Marian Rettray, sixth grade teacher at Warner Middle School; Linda Sigga, business teacher at North Farmington High School; and Nancy Tessler, early intervention teacher at Fairview Early Childhood Center.

Also hired were Nancy Cowan as gifted/reading aide at Forest Elementary; Margaret Culver as resource room teacher consultant at Harrison High School; Patricia Foster as reading specialist at Larkshire and Forest elementary; Joette Kusse as gifted coordinator at Larkshire Elementary and Power Middle School and Olive Lush as teacher aide at Longacre Elementary.

BACON RESIGNS

Central office administrative assistant Scott Bacon resigned his position with Farmington Public Schools recently to become assistant superintendent another Michigan school district.

His resignation, effective Aug. 22, was accepted by the Farmington school board on Sept. 9. Also resigning in August was Carol Hanner, industrial arts teacher for the emotionally impaired at Farmington Training Center.

BELLUCI RETIRES

Data processing supervisor for Farmington Public Schools Marie Belluci will retire effective Nov. 28. Belluci works in the district's central office.

LONE APPLICANT

Gary Gaffner, the only person applying for the alternative education position of administrative assistant at Shawnee Center, was hired by the Farmington Board of Education on Sept. 9.

His appointment was made effective immediately. Gaffner will work

in the specialized program in the former elementary school for residents of Boys Republic in Farmington Hills.

Although his position was newly created, he effectively replaces Charles Autry, a former teacher who was recently promoted to supervisor of special education under assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Eva Swenarton was selected from 31 applicants as the new administrative assistant for staff development under assistant superintendent Judith White.

Her appointment, effective Sept. 15, was approved by the school board on Sept. 9. She was one of 10 applicants interviewed and one of two finalists.

Harris is a support position to the new curriculum and staff development department. Swenarton has designed and implemented professional development programs. Is a certified kindergarten through 12 teacher, and has experience in staff training at all levels, according to school officials.

She has also served at both state and local levels on curriculum projects and has taught reading courses to graduate students at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

HONORS NOTED

David Hoffman was one of 85 graduates of Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills to earn honors during the past summer.

The Farmington Hills resident won the Margaret Avery Auger Pin of the Cum Laude Society.

VAN ADDED

Low bid of \$12,440 for a van was awarded to Marty Feldman Chevrolet of Novi by Farmington Public Schools Oct. 7.

The district purchased the eight-passenger window van as a fleet supplement to be used for orthopedic transportation.

Four vendors bid on the project with prices ranging upwards to \$13,582 for an eight-passenger van to \$15,277 for an 11-passenger van.

DIPLOMAS ISSUED

Five local residents recently received their high school diplomas from Farmington Public Schools.

They include: David Meisner, Diane Belanger, Jodi Schaeffer, Todd Cline and Mary Williams.

The diplomas were approved Sept. 9.

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