



# Mother Goose charms kids

By Chris Rizk  
staff writer

**M**OTHER GOOSE was there. So was Little Bo Peep — a couple of them. Sitting close by was Peter Piper and a whole range of characters in bows and ties and frilly things. Those assembled in the gymnasium at Fairview Early Childhood Center Oct. 2 in Farmington Hills were not rehearsing for an early Halloween. Rather, it was an exercise in learning for more than 200 youngsters. For the first time, teachers and

staff members organized a Mother Goose Day to help preschoolers and special education students learn their nursery rhymes, a method, according to principal Richard Ruitter, that teaches learning can be fun as well as educational.

All week long, teachers prepared their students for the grand finale, the Mother Goose Assembly, by practicing nursery rhymes in class. Children drew pictures of their favorite characters while reciting the words to the rhymes.

"We've already decided that we're going to do this again next year," Ruitter said. "I had a meeting with

the teachers after the assembly, and we all agreed that it went well."

**DURING THE** assembly, kids were entertained by Mother Goose who called on characters to stand before the crowd while nursery rhymes were recited.

Preschool teacher Audrey Schurigin, like other teachers at the center, conducted activities throughout the week that related to the Mother Goose theme. Art projects, ranging from Humpty Dumpty pictures to rhymes scrawled on construction paper, covered classroom walls.

Students at Fairview are not

unused to special programs. According to Ruitter, there is "always something or another" going on at the school that is open to pre-schoolers, special education and kindergarten students. Preaching a "hands on" policy to learning, teachers plan programs that will appeal to the youngsters in a way that schools teaching a wider range of students cannot, Ruitter said.

"We like to have different programs," he said. "We plan the kinds of assemblies geared toward the age of the kids here — something that they can relate to."



Hey diddle diddle, Charles Pinkerton III was the cat with the fiddle.

staff photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer



Mary Ann Sherwood, a teacher's aid at Fairview Early Childhood Center, played the lead role as Mother Goose.

## inkwell

*Inkwell provides primary and secondary school news and information about Farmington-area students. The column appears monthly throughout the year as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33223 Grand River, Farmington #6024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.*

**COLLEGE NIGHT**  
Farmington Public Schools College Night, held annually for all junior and senior high school students and their parents, is scheduled for this evening, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Farmington High School auditorium. Approximately 50 colleges and universities will be represented as well as different branches of the military and a financial aid speaker. The school is at 32000 Shawwassee, Farmington.

**YOUTH SYMPHONY**  
Megan Smith, an eighth grader at Power Middle School, was accepted into the string orchestra of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. She studies privately with Meyer Shapiro, a retired member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Smith is a member of the Power Concert Orchestra, under the direction of Donald Ross.

**STATE WINNERS**  
Kara Kurtz, a Farmington High School freshman, and Aaron Hamberger, a student at Hillside Day School in Farmington Hills, were two of 11 state winners in the 1987 Promising Young Writers Program. Kurtz won the contest while a student at Power Middle School last year. The program was sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English and was coordinated in Michigan by Barbara Rebeck, a coordinator in gifted programming at Farmington schools. She works with students at Power Middle School and Larkshire Elementary.

**MERIT SEMIFINALISTS**  
Several students from the Farmington area were named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program last month. They will compete in 1988 for 6,000 merit scholarships worth more than \$25 million. The top scorers, tested in each state during their junior year, represent about one half of 1 percent of the state's high school graduating class and are included in this pool.

Corporations, foundations and other businesses will underwrite 1,400 of the scholarships. About 2,800 4-year scholarships are offered through colleges and universities.

Semi-finalists from the Farmington area include:

- Detroit Country Day School — Fazlur Zahurullah of Farmington Hills.

- Farmington High School — Allison Frontier, Katherine Kretler, and Lara Sipola.

- Harrison High School — Patrick Callow, Deborah McKenney, and Wes Wood.

- Mercy High School — Syndal Las Baughman, Jennifer Burns, Anusha Hemachandra, Michelle Magee, Anna Lisa Raymundo, and Mary Strimel.

- North Farmington High School — Helene Bordman, Ronald Elkin, Steven Elkin, Christy Hicks, Hope Lubaway, Denise Shoup, and Brett Willis.

**BUS SAFETY**  
During the 1987-88 school year, one-half of the 1.7 million public school students in Michigan will ride school buses to and from classes every day for a total of more than 150 million miles, according to the State Board of Education. Interim state Superintendent of Public Instruction Gary Hawks said it is time once again for Michigan motorists to show caution around school buses and children.

"I want to remind motorists that state law requires that they come to a complete stop whenever red lights are flashing on a school bus," he said. "Remember, we can't count on young children to know safety rules as well as adults should."

Hawks also gives these suggestions for students riding school buses:

- Be alert on the way to the bus stop and always walk facing traffic.
- Stand at the bus stop in an orderly manner.

- Watch out for cars and other vehicles when boarding and when leaving the school bus.

"A tremendous amount of responsibility is placed in the hands of school bus drivers," Hawks said, "and we are fortunate in Michigan to have strict requirements governing them."

Hawks said Michigan school bus drivers have an excellent safety record.

**HALL OF FAME**  
Several Farmington High School students were honored for their work during the 1986-87 school year.

All were "Academic Hall of Fame" students earning a 4.0 grade point for that year, according to principal Gerald Potter.

Students honored included: Eric Crawford, David Karow, Robert Koning, Eric Miller, Thuy Duong Nguyen, Kimberly Nicholas, Sylvia Ackroyd, Ajay Arora, Heather Bayless, Joseph Crow, Roberto DeVos, Maureen O'Dell, Amy Rickenback, Jennifer Stumpo, Kimberly Colone, Alison Frontier, Katherine Kretler and Erin Kristoff.

Those who graduated in 1987, who were honored, included: Jennifer Berard, Jennifer Fleck, Jay Haas, Wendy Hoepner, William Koning, Mark Langdon, Mary Ellen Lorenz, Gianna Mason, David Mote, David Noles, Trudy Papler, Charles Petrof, Julianne Smith, Steven Thompson, Brian Tobin and Dan Woytowich.

**MUSIC CAMP**  
Tracie and Pamela Barr, 12-year-old Farmington Hills residents, attended viola classes at Interlochen's National Music Camp during the summer.

While at camp, the two learned to play the Sousaphone, an instrument built for John Philip Sousa in 1898.

The Sousaphone is part of a permanent collection at the Northern Michigan camp, where the youngsters spent eight weeks of their summer.

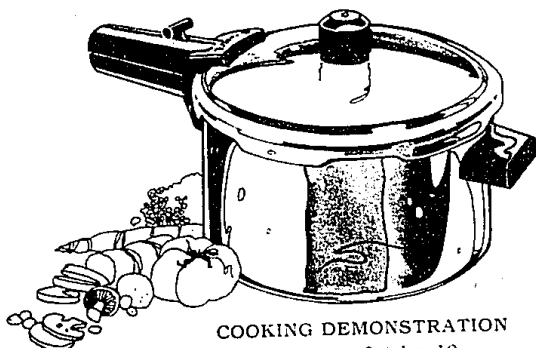
**SUMMER INSTITUTE**  
Robin Kowalkowski, a student at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, attended the state Board of Education's Summer Institute for the Arts and Sciences at Grand Valley State College in Allendale last July.

It was one of five such institutes being held on the campus of a Michigan college or university to give high school students a chance to explore in-depth either the sciences or develop their skill in an art form.

**FREEDOM ACADEMY**  
James Rhodes, a 17-year-old student at North Farmington High School, participated in the Fourth Annual Michigan Freedom Academy last July at Phelps Collins Air National Guard Base in Alpena.

The week-long program, sponsored by the Michigan Freedom Foundation, is designed to give a group of 100 selected high school students from throughout Michigan a better understanding of the importance of citizenship and freedom in American society.

Rhodes hopes to attend the U.S. Air Force or Naval Academy, or obtain an ROTC scholarship to attend Stanford.



## COOKING DEMONSTRATION

Saturday, October 10  
1 to 3 p.m.

Kitchen Shop, Birmingham

Learn the quick-cook method of food preparation using the Cuisinart® Quiet Pressure Cooker/Steamer. Reduces cooking time; preserves nutrients and moisture. 4 quart stainless steel cooker, \$120; 6 quart, \$132.

**Jacobson's**  
Kitchen Shop

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Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday