

Children make their custodian queen for a day

By Susan Buck
staff writer

The Fairview Early Childhood Center staff paid tribute to their head custodian Friday, a woman who cleans up after impish whirlwinds who are masters of childhood spills, crayon stains and fingerprints.

Shirley McIntosh has been a Farmington Public Schools custodian since 1967.

She's been head custodian at Fairview since 1981. The center has 420 students.

For a few hours on Friday, McIntosh was queen for a day when she was feted at a surprise celebration.

"The Fairview staff feels very fortunate to have Shirley as their custodian," said Ellen Becker, acting principal. "She's very conscientious and keeps a well-maintained building. Parents often comment on the shiny floors and cleanliness of the school."

McIntosh's dedication and concern for the safety of the students and staff is obvious to the students and staff of Fairview, said Becker.

HAVING A special day to honor

her was a way of saying, "Thank You."

Everyone sported "I Love Shirley" buttons. The lunch menu was pizza and salad. Dessert was a cake decorated with a custodian figure, complete with mops and buckets.

A banner read "Queen of Our Hearts," with the custodian wearing a necklace of gold adorned with tools of her trade.

For entertainment, Becker, ordinarily a kindergarten teacher, Audrey Shurgin, a community education teacher, Nadine Pollak, a kindergarten paraprofessional filling in for Becker, and Cheryl Appel, a substitute teacher, performed a disco rap song.

McIntosh was speechless. "I didn't know what to say and what to do," she said. "We're like a family here. We care for one another and for each other's feelings."

McIntosh, 49, and a West Bloomfield Township resident, has four children: June Marie Lloyd, a Florida resident; Cynthia Mae Cook, Auburn Hills; Mitchell of Troy; and Marvin of Lake Orion.

McIntosh, a widow, has 10 grandchildren.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Shirley McIntosh (left) listens as Barbara Humphries, a teacher at Alameda Early Childhood Center, reads a poem commemorating McIntosh's service as a school custodian at Fairview Early Childhood Center, where McIntosh has worked since 1981.

Children and stress to be explored Nov. 29

Stress and your child will be discussed at the Farmington Public Schools Early Childhood Town Hall Series Tuesday, Nov. 29.

The program will run 7:30-9 p.m. at Fairview Childhood Center, 28500 Oak Crest, Farmington Hills.

Karen Mikus, a child and family psychologist at Hawthorne Center,

will be the presenter.

The workshop will examine the stresses children experience and some the ways parents can help them cope and become more resilient.

Call Fairview, 626-8335, for reservations.

Thursday's auction aids Paris-bound students

A Farmington High School Class, which will take a trip to Paris during the February winter break, will hold a public auction at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, at Farmington High, 32000 Shilawassee.

The money will be used to help

pay for the trip.

Donations from local merchants to be auctioned will include jewelry, crafts, foods and seafood dinners.

Karen Gearhart, foreign language teacher, is overseeing the program.

Lawyers charged in fake will scheme

AP — Two Detroit-area lawyers are accused of creating a fake will for a man who died with a \$200,000 estate and no family, officials said.

Wesley Roberts, 59, of Bloomfield Hills and Andrew Kozyna, 30, of Farmington Hills were indicted Nov. 7 on conspiracy, forgery and perjury charges.

The Wayne County citizens grand jury charged Roberts' wife, Jean, 60, with perjury.

The alleged main beneficiary of the will, former funeral home worker Ronald Vannoy, awaits trial on charges of embezzlement and perjury brought by the grand jury in August, said assistant Wayne County prosecutor Patrick Foley.

The will of Lawrence Jones provided \$1,000 to the Children's Hospital of Michigan and the balance to Vannoy, 31, of Troy court records show.

Jones, a retired postal worker, died Nov. 15, 1986. According to records, he met Vannoy earlier that year when his wife died. Vannoy then worked at David J. Wysocki Funeral Home and helped with arrangements for Ann Jones.

Roberts and Kozyna are accused of swearing in notarized documents that they were with Jones in a hospital room when he approved the will, court records say. Case documents do not indicate what the lawyers might have gained.

The Roberts and Kozyna were arraigned Nov. 7 before 36th District Court Magistrate Vesta Svenson, who entered innocent pleas for the trio and released them on \$10,000 bonds pending a Dec. 16 preliminary examination.

If convicted as charged, the defendants face up to 15 years in prison.

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WHEN DOES JOINT INJECTION SUFFICE TO TREAT ARTHRITIS?

The therapy of arthritis involves heat, rest, medicine and joint injection. However, in the treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee, circumstances may arise in which joint injection alone is sufficient therapy.

One instance is when the patient is very old. Often the individual has other conditions such as heart failure or breathing problems that restrict activity. In this case, a joint injection every 3-4 months may be enough to keep the patient free of pain for the limited walking he or she undertakes.

Another instance arises when the person has mild arthritis and a number of other conditions that require medications. By treating with intermittent injection, the physician is both simplifying the patient's daily medication schedule and decreasing the risk of untoward drug interactions.

Finally, there are times when knee osteoarthritis is limited to a small area of the joint. In such a case, and joint injection alone may give prolonged relief.

Intermittent joint injection therapy, when applicable, offers the patient effective treatment and minimal risk.

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