



Art Start, coordinator, and Mrs. Nancy Doule served snacks to the children and then coffee for visiting mothers.



Singing a little song about a sneeze and some misplaced meatballs is dramatics teacher, Sally Sawyer.



Looking for the mean troll are Greg Gentner, left and Shawn Matthews. Dramatics teacher Sally Sawyer plays the nasty troll.

Art Start builds identity

By CORINNE ABATT

The 17 pre-schoolers who attend the Art Start program at University Hills church are probably not aware of all the things happening to them. They just know it's a fun place where they do and experience all kinds of interesting things.

But, their parents and the staff of teachers know.

Former program director Nancy Bates says it well. "We're interested in preserving each child's uniqueness—not knocking off the bumps and fitting them into a square form. That won't happen here."

PRESENT COORDINATOR Nancy Doule comments, "Our program has a creative arts emphasis plus building a healthy self-concept through successful experiences. We tell mothers we are not product oriented."

The three-year-old pre-school program is held Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:45.

After a bit of free play time, the youngsters are ready to settle down for a story. One recent morning dramatics teacher, Sally Sawyer, was waiting with a puppet show when story time was over. The stage was set, the footlights on, and two puppets familiar to the youngsters, Aunt Sarah and Bunny, talked of many things—Indians, planting corn, how Indian Squanto helped the Pilgrims, and a 200th birthday party for the United States.

To the children, it was a puppet show. It wasn't necessary to tell them they were learning things from those two funny puppets.

Later in the morning the 17 youngsters were divided into three separate groups and each met with each teacher: Barbara Burgess, music; Mrs. Sawyer, dramatics; and Billie Jean Karhu, arts and crafts.

While Mrs. Burgess was playing the guitar for group singing, Mrs. Karhu's six youngsters were painting on

easels, and Mrs. Sawyer and company were doing an impromptu, but very vocal, version of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff."

Unanimously elected to the Troll role, the intrepid Mrs. Sawyer crawled under the small bridge (a mini card table) to loudly proclaim her rights of territorial imperative.

Before the session was over there were snacks and several more activities.

QUITE FREQUENTLY when a child is there for the first time mother will stay to watch.

"We've never had a child and mother visit that the mother wasn't pleased with the program," Mrs. Doule says.

Capacity for the program is 30, but when that figure is reached the staff will be increased to maintain the four and five-to-one ratio.

Photos by Harry Mauthe

Diverse talents valuable in being administrator

By SUSAN AVERILL

The years have seasoned Weldon Petz to a fine blend of educator, administrator, historian and musician.

A blend of talents is something he firmly believes in, not only for himself, but for the school he runs. Petz is principal of Farmington's Flanders Elementary School.

"As administrator, I feel I have to be responsible for the 'mix' of that building. Whatever that mix is determines the overall tone of the building. It's true that every building has a different personality," he said.

It's to the school's advantage to capitalize on a teacher's talents, whatever they may be, he said.

"We have needs, and the teacher has a need and we should bolster them. You wouldn't expect them to be as informed in all areas as they are in one or two."

"We're seeing a swing back to specializing in subjects in the elementary schools, rather than sticking to just self-contained classrooms."

TEACHERS NOW, he said, are teaching their specialty and allowing others to take the reins in fields in which they have more expertise.

At 53 Petz has been involved with teaching and administering for 31 years. During that time, he has mentally chronicled much of what has evolved educationally.

"We've seen a tremendous technical development. It's been good. For instance, with films and slides, what you see will stay in your mind more than what you hear," he said.

Petz doesn't believe the segregation between administrators and teachers, which some have observed since the advent of unions.

"I see myself as part of the staff, but I'm not sure I see the principal as the head teacher anymore. The job has changed."

"I think that instead of being directly responsible for the curriculum, our job has become more management. You have to be a business manager, at sorts."

Principals and teachers should have confidence in one another to do the job successfully and properly.



WELDON PETZ

"A principal hopes his staff has confidence enough to handle discipline in their own way, so that it can be a meaningful discipline."

The formality once ascribed to education and educators has melted.

"I've seen a relaxing of the formality of education. In Detroit, we always referred to each other as 'Mister' or 'Miss'. It's the sort of thing which changes as the old guard leaves," he smiled.

PETZ, AFTER getting his undergraduate degree from Wayne State University, taught instrumental music in the Detroit Public Schools. He became an administrator during those 17 years, and left in 1963 to become principal of Bond Elementary School here.

He became Forest Elementary's first principal in 1967 and is beginning his third year at Flanders.

While in Detroit, he taught both secondary and elementary school children. He has no plans to return to the secondary level.

"I enjoy elementary. There we see the child and work with the child and his growing pattern. In secondary, it's all subject oriented."

"It's enjoyable to realize that the things you're doing are growth oriented."

Petz takes a child's educational hunger seriously.

"It's our job to best meet the needs of every child. Therefore, you set up a great number of plans. We have to give them experiences that they will remember when they are 50. It's our responsibility to make it a meaningful thing."

Before making his move to education, Petz spent some time as a professional musician playing trombone. His band, he said, nearly made the big time during the Big Band era, but interest in that kind of music faded too fast.

Now he lectures on that era to interested groups. Most of his lecturing, however, is done on Abraham Lincoln.

"I'VE BEEN INTERESTED in Lincoln since I was a young boy, over 30 years. I have 67 talks scheduled through May of next year, and I expect a lot more because it's a bi-centennial year."

He does not let the lecturing interfere with his work in Farmington.

"I've tried to schedule so as not to interfere with my educational position. That comes first," he said, and explained that in the morning he would be leaving to lecture in Lexington and Concord—Massachusetts.

Teacher appointed, leaves are granted

In other action Tuesday night, the Farmington Board of Education appointed Barbara Koops of Farmington to the learning disabilities staff at North Farmington High School.

Board members approved a health leave for Linda Schafer, a first grade teacher at Wooderick Elementary, and a personal leave for Gerald Sklare, a counselor at Harrison High School.

One teacher, Fern Rott, refused pink slip recall because of other employment, and her resignation was approved.

Diplomas were granted to Margaret M. Gillette and Gary A. Frost for completing graduation requirements by attending adult education summer school.

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