



Allison Shepherd, 5, watches as her friend Jenny Panush hands in her student emergency card, one of the formalities of the first day of school.

Allison and her mother, Susan, take a break under a welcome sign on the way to her kindergarten classroom.



staff photo by JERRY ZOLYNSKY

First day

Eager kindergartner eases into new school

By Lisa Simon
staff writer

PREPARED IN a new pink pantsuit, pony-tailed Allison Shepherd, 5, could hardly wait for her first day of afternoon kindergarten at Forest Elementary school in Farmington Hills.

She energetically swung a new purple backpack housing a PAC-MAN folder, and a plastic pouch filled with pens, pencils, crayons, scissors and an eraser onto her shoulders as she made the short trek from her Rolling Oaks subdivision home to the nearby Farmington district school.

Accompanied by mother, Susan, grandmother, Evelyn, and dog, Cotton, Allison opened the school doors without hesitation and headed straight for the kindergarten room. She already knew the exact location.

After five minutes of picture-taking and good-luck kissing by the mothers, supplementary family members left the class room and Fran Copp, Forest kindergarten teacher for 18 years, started the first day of kindergarten rolling.

SMILING reassuringly and making friendly conversation, Copp conducted several activities within the first 20 minutes of class. A variety of short,

stimulating activities are necessary for beginning kindergarten attention spans, she explained.

Allison appeared right at home, as she chatted with several friends from her nursery school days.

A red, green and yellow traffic light game led to the introduction of two service-squad fifth graders who will help the class at the beginning of each afternoon session.

A bulletin board with a friendly, waving gingerbread boy and the words, "Meet a smart batch of little cookies," spurred the next activity. Each student received his own smaller gingerbread person with his or her name on it to

color and staple to the board. The three-minute activity produced some 20 "smart little cookies."

A SHORT MOVE from the work tables to a circle on the floor led into a pertinent discussion prompted by a poster of a young boy with his father, meeting a teacher. Feelings about going to school — the fear and excitement — were presented by Copp and reinforced by the class.

The munching Mr. M., a kindergarten-size inflatable character, was the next attraction. A recorded, mellow rock ballad about Mr. M. munching



Fran Copp, kindergarten teacher at Forest Elementary, encourages students to be "smart cookies." She helps Allison staple her decorated gingerbread cookie to the bulletin board.

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Farmington FOCUS

THOMAS KRUPKA, a teacher at Farmington High School, returned from an intensive honors seminar in laser physics. The seminar was part of a special National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) industry-education workshop program funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Krupka is one of 90 teachers nationwide who participated in NSTA summer on-site industry workshops.

JB COMMUNICATIONS, a full-service advertising/public relations firm in Farmington Hills, has been chosen as the agency for Hydronic Corp. Hydronic Corp. manufactures self-contained remote control systems.

PAMELA HUTCHISON of Farmington Hills is the new assistant manager of the florist department at English Gardens' West Bloomfield store. English Gardens is a nursery and garden center featuring gardening products and house plants.

PAUL INMAN ASSOCIATES, Farmington Hills, has won a Silver Penguin Award for the company's program to promote frozen foods during March 1985 National Frozen Food Month. The award was the top prize in the "Retail Broker or Direct Sales" category for the Central Region of the United States.

CONGRATULATIONS to residents from Farmington Hills who won cash prizes in the MannWay cash sweepstakes sponsored by Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit. They are: Janice Altschberg, Shirley Anne, Allen Coffey, Anne Edelman, S. Goldberg, Randy Jackson, Daniel Kimm, Gilbert Kinsler, J. Lepat, Ellen Mabry, Jeffrey Mason, Patricia Soma, Jules Spoon and Phillip Yriart.

SCOTT LARSON of Farmington Hills has been named to the dean's list at North Park College, Chicago, Ill. Larson is majoring in microbiology and computer science.

LAURA GABEL of Farmington Hills graduated in May from the University of Michigan. She worked for General Motors during the summer

and started classes last week at Wayne State University Law School.

JULIE WRIGHT, daughter of Edward and Patricia Wright and an eighth grader at East Middle School, is captain of the state of Michigan's All-State Prep Girls Bowling Team.

PHYLLIS SULLIVAN returned from Toastmasters International Convention with the President's Circle Award for "unsurpassed contribution to membership groups in 1984." Last year she was named "Toastmaster of the Year" by her district. Sullivan was chapter developer of The Wind Buggers chapter, which meets at Sweden House in Farmington, and, more recently, the Jewish Community Center Toastmasters Club.

STEVEN E. CORDEN, R.Ph., of Farmington Hills is the new assistant director-pharmacy operations at Providence Hospital. He has primary responsibility for the daily operation of the hospital's inpatient pharmacy. Corden received his B.S. degree in pharmacy from Wayne State University and is completing an M.S. degree in hospital pharmacy administration at Wayne.

MICHAEL S. ZONDER, DDS, practicing in Farmington since 1979, received the Academy of General Dentistry's prestigious Fellowship Award during a special ceremony in July. Zonder graduated from the University of Detroit dental school in 1968. He is on the staff at Sinai Hospital and is a member of the American Dental Association, the Oakland County Dental Association, Alpha Omega dental fraternity, the Francis Vedder Crown and Bridge Society, the Cranio-Facial Pain Center Association and other dental organizations.

MICHAEL DAUTERMANN of Farmington Hills attended a Student Athletic Training Workshop at Grand Valley State College. The workshop is designed to teach such subjects as taping and care of ankle, knee and upper extremity injuries to high school and junior high school student athletic trainers.

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