

1st day

School bells ring at William Grace

By Casey Hane
staff writer

EVERYTHING WAS new, fresh and fantastic. Parents and grandparents, backpacks, shiny lunchboxes, many new friends, a few tears of fright and an occasional stomachache were all part of the first full day of school Thursday at Wil-

liam Grace Elementary in Farmington Hills.

School crossing guard Alice Heuwagen watched for signs of children needing help crossing the street and guided children to the proper doors as they hopped from buses.

The opening went smoothly and was "absolutely fantastic," Principal Richard Close said. "They (the children) couldn't wait to get back. It

was an easy opening."

"It's fun," Justin Thompson concurred from his front row seat in Nancy Stroh's first grade classroom.

TEACHERS READIED their rooms with last-minute touches, occasionally peeking into the hallway or out to the sidewalk for a glimpse of their new charges.

School bells rang at 8:55, and by 9:30 the school was humming with the business of learning. After taking time to learn names and routing students to proper classrooms, lessons began in earnest.

First grade teacher Rosalie Perry was busy tying pieces of felt to the feet of her classroom's tiny chairs in a quieting idea she attributed to Michelle Butcher, a second grade teacher new to the school and the district.

"It's simple little things that make life easier for teachers," she said.

Kindergarten teacher Ron Freudenburg greeted his morning session newcomers with their parents at the front door.

HE SPENT most of the morning learning names and faces, giving

first day hugs and comforting a few youngsters who just didn't want to be in school at all.

"We always have one or two" students who say they "want to go home," Close said as he personally took charge of one reluctant kindergarten.

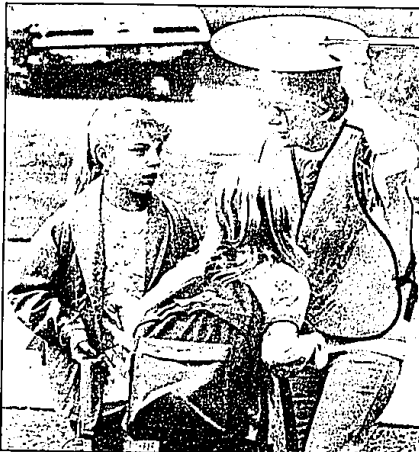
Signs reading "It's nice to have you back" graced the third, fourth and fifth grade hallway, where students were busy with the first day of lessons.

Students spent a half-day at school Wednesday, completing the preliminaries so work could begin immediately Thursday.

NEW TO the learning experience at William Grace this year is a different emphasis on mathematics. As with reading in years past, students will be grouped by ability levels, which has helped "a great deal" in the reading area, according to Close.

Also new to William Grace this year is a classroom with autistic children, which was moved from Flanders Elementary.

"This is going to be a fun year," Close added. "We want school to be



photos by RICK SMITH/staff photographer

Alice Heuwagen keeps dry helping Michello Jaffrey (left) and Shawn Halleck cross the street.



Jessica Myers has the answer during her first day of kindergarten at William Grace.



William Grace students arrive for the first full day of school.



First grader Lori Dawn Pierce, enroute to William Grace.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

NEW OFFICE COMPLEX

A \$4-million office complex is under construction and nearing completion on the southwest corner of Farmington and 14 Mile roads, Farmington Hills.

The 48,000-square-foot Farmington Office Park is being developed by Farberman/Stein and Co. of Troy.

"We see the location of the development as an attractive alternative to locating in the heavily developed areas," said Michael Bennett of Farberman/Stein and Co.

"Our intentions when we started this project was to create a quiet and aesthetically pleasing environment consistent with the strong surrounding residential base," Bennett said.

Based on these intentions, the landscaped earth-tone brick buildings will allow easy access and parking while maintaining a pastoral setting, he said.

The complex will feature four free-standing buildings, one of which will contain a commercial loan office of United Savings, whose main office is in Farmington Hills. There will be an automatic teller machine, which will be an added site amenity. Skylights over the building entries will provide natural lighting in the corridors.

"The initial response has been encouraging and we expect the first tenants to move in early October," Bennett said.

Farberman/Stein and Co. is the exclusive leasing agent. Any questions regarding the project should be directed to its Troy office.

NEW GM

Judith Lloyd-Smith has joined the Judith Lloyd of Farmington Hills as general manager.

The Pennsylvania State University graduate and 27-year veteran of the hotel industry has spent the past 12 years with Holiday Inn.

Now living in Novi, she most recently was sales director and assistant general manager of the Holiday Inn at Independence Mall, Philadelphia.

Moving to the Detroit area presents both a professional hotel management challenge and a refreshing alternative to the East Coast, where she was born and raised. The management challenge is to elevate the quality of the overall operation and the image of the Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills, she said.

PHONE SERVICE

Some long distance companies might give you the impression that when you pick a service to carry your plus calls, the decision is etched in stone and sealed forever.

"In fact, you can change long distance companies whenever you like, and it's likely the small fee for switching will be picked up by the new carrier," said Bill Maloney, vice president for marketing and sales for Allnet Communications Services Inc., Birmingham, the nation's fourth largest long distance company.

Each of the 250 small and large long distance carriers in the United States has been assigned a five digit code number, beginning with 10, that allows a caller to use the service without officially signing up. For example, Allnet's code is 1044.

The only requirement to use the service is that your community has already been assigned "1 plus" dialing.

To use the five digit code, you simply punch the numbers. Do not wait for a dial tone and proceed by punching 1 plus the area code and the phone number.

In most cases, the charge for the call will be billed by the local phone company per special arrangements with the long distance company.

Although the charge for this type of tryout (casual call) is billed at the long distance company's rates, the calls do not qualify for special discounts offered by many companies like Allnet.

To find out a company's digit code, Maloney suggests calling the information number most long distance companies list in the local yellow pages.

Allnet is a federally registered service mark of Allnet Communications Services Inc.

JOINS STAFF

William Joseph Millard of Farmington Hills has joined the staff of the United Foundation as a micro-computer analyst.

Millard will be buying, installing and supporting all microcomputers and related equipment. He will also train and support users of the equip-

ment.

Before joining the United Foundation, Millard was computer resources manager at H&J Inc., San Diego.

The United Foundation Torch Drive is conducted annually to raise operating funds for 148 charitable organizations in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

JOINS PRACTICE

Dr. Dean Gilbert is now an associate to the general dentistry practice of Dr. Thomas Cook, 31559 10 Mile, Farmington.

Gilbert is a 1979 University of Michigan School of Dentistry graduate. He has practiced in Dearborn for the past seven years.

He has taken graduate studies in cosmetic bonding, crown and bridge work and TMJ treatment.

WINS TRIP

Greg Laporte of Farmington was among 18 Domino's Pizza distributors employees nationwide honored with a trip to the company's world headquarters as gold medalists in the Domino's Pizza Distribution Olympics.

Laporte joined Don Vicek, president of Domino's Pizza Distribution Corp., and other executives in the owner's box for the Detroit Tigers' Aug. 18 doubleheader against the California Angels at Tiger Stadium.

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)

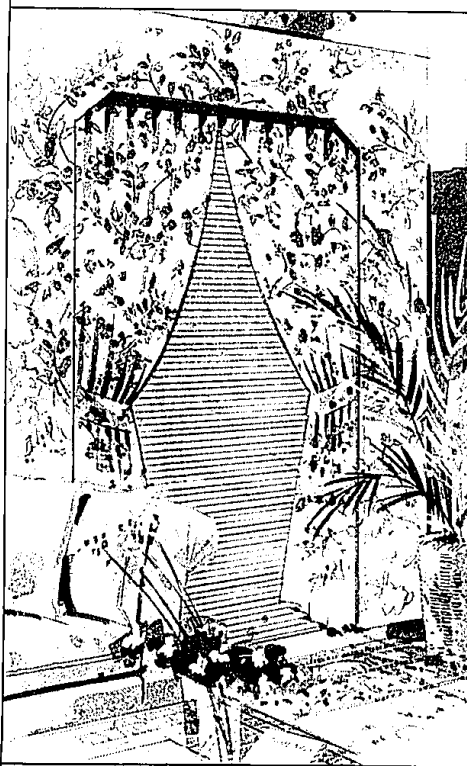
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, MI 48012. Second-class postage paid, Birmingham, MI 48012. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3569) to P.O. Box 2428, Farmington, MI 48161. Telephone 591-0500.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year (elsewhere in Michigan) \$24.20
Newsstand per copy 25¢
One year (elsewhere in U.S.A.) \$40.00

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, Farmington 33203 Grand River, Farmington, MI (313) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric ad-takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

30% to 40% off custom window fashions



40% off all decorative fabrics by Carole Ideal for custom draperies

30% off selected lining fabrics for custom draperies

40% off Carole's made to measure draperies and curtains

40% off Lovelox custom made blinds. Choose from over 250 colors. Includes valance and wand filter

40% off Lovelox vertical blinds made to your exact sizes

BONUS: receive a complimentary Lovelox channel valance with every vertical blind purchase

40% off Lovelox Pretty Peat shades. Choose from 16 decorative colors in sheer and opaque styles with permanently set in pleats

40% off Lovelox pleated Z-shades. Choose from 55 colors in sheer, semi opaque, privacy and fire retardant styles

Bring your rod or window measurements in to Custom Window Treatments at all metro Detroit stores, plus Ann Arbor, Flint and Toledo

Or take advantage of our convenient Shop At Home measuring and consultation service by calling 223-5770, day or night, 7 days a week. No charge or obligation. Expert installation services are also available for your convenience. For all of your decorating needs, visit or call our Interior Design Studio for residential or commercial designs. Sale ends September 27.

hudson's

USE YOUR HUDSON'S SHOPPING CARD. VISA® MasterCard® American Express® Card or Discover® Card