

# Farmington Observer



## hallways

A page of Farmington-area school news

# Scary sonnets mark Halloween

## THE NIGHT

It was a chilling, damp, and dark'ning night.  
In uniform I walked in a good tune;  
Some other trick-or-treaters gave me fright!  
I also feared the brightness of the moon,  
From house to house begged candy from my hosts.  
Now some were dressed with hanging lifelike bats  
And others tried to scare me, dressed as ghosts.  
I tried my best not to cross a black cat.  
I ended up at the old haunted house.  
I heard an eerie sound of squeaking tires.  
I entered in, the door scared a small mouse.  
So soon I recognized the many vampires  
That met me at the door (To kill me dead?)  
They were my friends just playing with my head!

— Jennifer C. Sears  
Grade 11

## ALL HALLOW'S EVE

All Hallow's Eve, the dreaded night of witches!  
Amid the eerie dampness of the air  
Do rodents' scarlet eyes glow in the ditches  
And screams of agony can no one bear.  
Non dare defy the spirits on this night.  
If they've the urge, then clear is your dark fate.  
As lurid skies are lit by spheres of night.  
Through the dense fog a haunted house is seen;  
It's here where all the ghosts and ghouls reside.  
Midst shouts in darkness, wicked and so mean.  
Despite such warnings, no one seeks to hide.  
Thus curiosity can blind our terror;  
Our plans backfire, all can end in horror.

— Dawn Perry  
Grade 12

## RIDER OF THE NIGHT

Upon the bristling broom this witch does stream  
With one leg high, the other leg so low.  
All twisted, black against the crescent's gleam  
With cats upon their backs, soon off they go.

'Neath brightest moon, she'll twitter and she'll tweet;  
A hoop and flutter, she will swing and sway.  
Away she swarms beneath the dragon's feet;  
She slowly surges down the Milky Way.

She hovers, squeaking in the empty air.  
Then 'round she swoops past nighttime's glimm'ring  
birds  
To a dark place that no one yet has dared,  
To where life is so totally absurd.

One last sweep in the misty night air then  
Under the silver sky and home again.

## Sonnets — lyric form of poetry

**W**E CONTINUE our literary journey (begun a year ago) into the sonnet form of poetry.

In Italian, sonnet means little song. It is a lyric form of poetry, which means that it is short and expresses the thoughts and feelings of one speaker, not necessarily the writer.

A sonnet is composed of 14 lines and written in an elaborate rhyme scheme. One form of the sonnet is the Petrarchan sonnet, named after the 14th-century Italian poet Petrarch, the Renaissance model of a poet. Sixteenth-century English experimentation led to the birth of the English or Shakespearean sonnet, in which the rhyme scheme falls into three quatrains (four-line stanzas) and a concluding couplet (two-line stanza): abba cdcd efef.

The sonnet has remained a popular form for several reasons: The sonnet is complex enough to be a challenge to the writer and short enough, yet delivering high impact, to the reader. Rigid rhyme structure is its secret. Sometimes, the sonnet follows a formulaic statement of a problem with a final resolution in the closing line of the sonnet. The English form follows this division frequently.

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**PETARCH'S EXAMPLE** of the sonnet sequence has been followed closely by English poets. That is to say, that a group of sonnets itself may form a theme. The theme would be further developed with each succeeding sonnet in the sequence. Unrequited love was often the subject of the sonnet sequence.

Shakespearean sonnets, of course, are among the most beautiful written. Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "Sonnets from the Portuguese" are among the most famous of sonnets in the history of literature. These 44 sonnets were love poems written for her husband, poet Robert Browning. Edna St. Vincent Millay is the best-known recent American poet to write in the sonnet form.

Students at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, under the direction of their teacher, Jan Mordenski, have written the following scary sonnets for your Halloween season pleasure. Enjoy.

Victoria Day Najjar is a Farmington resident, teaches journalism at Bloomfield Hills Andover High School, and is a nationally published poet.

## MOONLIGHT & TOMBSTONES

This dreary night I walk the street below,  
Look up to see a shining silver moon.  
Fire-visions of the moon that is a glow  
Prepares the end of life so very soon.  
So frightened by the horrifying sights,

Strange noises, cackles boggling my mind,  
Appearances bothered by the lack of lights —  
My only wish is that they will be kind.

The whistling wind whips through my tired spine.  
O're tombstones, low fog weightlessly does drift.  
I'm being followed by a thin red line;  
The line made by my blood, that is their gift!

I hope to see the light of the next day,  
I beg you Lord! For my dear life I pray!

— Amy Jonas  
Grade 11

## THE HALLOWEEN LESSON

I promised Mom that I'd be home by twelve  
And grabbing my huge bag, made up more lies.  
With my best friends, went off alone, ourselves  
To steal some candy from kids we despised.

And after taking short cuts through the park,  
We watched as something walked across the street.  
Our eyes must have betrayed us in the dark  
We heard its footsteps, but it had no feet!

It stopped and saw us with our mouths agape.  
It seemed surprised, a little bit disturbed.  
It chased us so, I thought we'd never escape.  
Sure telling of this tale would sound absurd!

The lesson learned: don't venture on our own.  
I sighed to myself, "It's good to be back home."

— Susan King  
Grade 12



Illustration by MARVIN TEEPLES

## 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, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

## BOUNDARY MEETINGS

Parents and residents concerned about overcrowding in Farmington Public Schools should take note of community meetings scheduled for next week.

Three community meetings will be held for those interested elementary, middle school and high school enrollments and possible boundary changes around the district.

Information from these meetings will be used by a committee studying boundaries and use of current school buildings for the 1988-89 school year.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:  
• Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m., Harrison High School Auditorium for discussion of high school issues.

• Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m., East Middle School for discussion of middle school issues.

• Thursday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m., Larkshire Elementary for discussion of elementary issues.

## TUITION UPPEP

Tuition was increased this year for out-of-district students attending Farmington Public Schools, according to action taken shortly before the beginning of the new school year.

Rates jumped from \$700 per year to \$750 for elementary students and from \$1,150 to \$1,230 for secondary students.

Tuition students are allowed if one of the following conditions are met:

- the student is the child of a district employee,
- the student is the child of any person moving into the district,
- the student is the child of any person building a home in the district,
- a senior student who has completed his or her junior year in the Farmington schools, and whose parents or guardians have moved from the district.

## NEW EMPLOYEES

The hiring of several new employees at Farmington Public Schools

was approved during the summer and fall months.

New teachers in the district include: Kathleen Eley, early intervention teacher at Fairview Early Childhood Center; David Tyler, resource room teacher at Warner Middle School; Ruth Wrosc, teacher at Cloverdale Training Center; Barbara Bennett, kindergarten teacher at Fairview; Carol Hachinski, fifth grade teacher at Kenbrook Elementary; Lori Hay, second grade teacher at Larkshire Elementary; Richard Jones, English and physical education teacher at North Farmington High School; Mary Beth Ledford, third and fourth grade teacher at Longacre Elementary; Joyce McColl, fifth grade teacher at Beechview Elementary; Lydia Ranieri, third grade teacher at Forest Elementary; Karen Seltz, fourth grade teacher at Kenbrook Elementary; Dorothy Sundek, fourth grade teacher at Longacre; and Kimberly Wisla, first grade teacher at William Grace Elementary.

Other appointments include: Barbara Langan, media specialist at Beechview Elementary; Nancy Morris, elementary science consultant; Violet Addis, secretary at East Middle School; Joseph Chisano, administrative assistant at North Farmington High School; Dianna Bishop, paraprofessional at North Farmington; Brenda Payne, aide at Flanders Elementary; Dara Lynn Prescop, reading specialist aide at East Middle School; Joan Spafford, secretary at the District Media Center; Pat Tadjewski, a paraprofessional at Harrison High; Patricia Timocki, a special education aide at O'Connell School at the Sarah Fisher Center; and Mary Ann Wilson, an aide at Wood Creek Elementary.

Two Farmington school employees have taken leaves of absence. They are Karyn Posner, a teacher of learning disabled students at Flanders and Denise Thompson, a second and third grade teacher at Wooddale Elementary.

## THEY RETIRE

Two North Farmington High School teachers announced their retirements during the summer months.

They include Kenneth Haycock, an English teacher, and Gerald Heine, a social studies teacher. Haycock had worked for the district since 1963, Heine since 1968.

Also, Fumiko Takeda, a Japanese bilingual aide at East Middle School, and Luanne Gabler, an aide at Cloverdale, resigned.

## WARMING UP

Two Farmington elementary schools will stay warm this winter, due to the installation of new heating pipes throughout the schools.

Detroit heating contractor Comb & Groves, Inc. will replace heating pipes at Wooddale and Kenbrook schools. The company had the lowest bid of \$19,400 for both schools. Only one other bid was received.

## POMPON STAR

A North Farmington High School student, Dawn Kotowski, was selected as a member of the 1987-88 Mid-American Pompon All-Star Team. She is one of 80 members representing 33 high schools from the Midwest.

Kotowski was selected from more than 1,000 young high school women as one of the most outstanding performers. Judging criteria included form, showmanship, appearance and overall performance.

## STATE CHIEF

Barbara Rebbeck, new gifted coordinator with Farmington schools this year, acted as statewide coordinator for the 1987 Promising Young Writers Program sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Students in this year's contest submitted an impromptu piece on "If I could live one day over" and a sample of their best work for the competition.

## MEDAL AWARDED

Katherine Kretler, Farmington Hills resident and student at Farmington High School, was recently awarded the Rensselaer Medal.

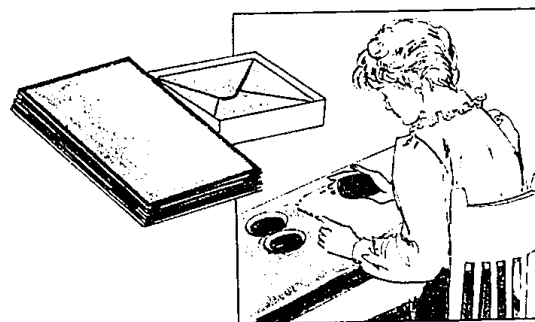
The medal is given from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York for outstanding achievements in math and science during the junior year. Kretler was one of about 1,700 high school students selected to receive the award.

## ACADEMIC STANDOUT

Joel Jackson, a senior at North Farmington High School, was one of 1,500 semifinalists named in the 1988 National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students.

The students are competing for nearly 700 scholarships worth more than \$2 million that will be awarded next spring.

Achievement scholarships are financed by grants from 180 sponsor organizations and contributions from a large group of program donors.



## HAND BORDERED STATIONERY

Available 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

November 13, Birmingham

November 14, Livonia

With the purchase of twenty Crane envelopes, Ms. Anne Zaccari will border 25 matching sheets of quality writing paper. Choose ecru, white, pink or blue; and have it edged with navy, white or geranium pink. Envelopes, 4.50

## Jacobson's

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday  
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday