

Storyteller Entertains Parents And Children At Nursery Rhyme Night



Karen Shelly ,dressed as Mother Goose, greeted parents and children when they entered the school that night.

by Crystal Reed

The Itsy Bitsy Spider, Mary Had A Little Lamb and Hickory Dickory Dock all have one thing in common: they are nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes took the spotlight last week at McGaughey when they hosted Parent Nursery Rhyme Night.

The Nursery Rhyme theme came to life as soon as families entered the school as the school librarian Karen Shelly was dressed as Mother Goose with a goose puppet. Activities included story time in the library with guest readers, a storyteller in the gym and the book fair in the cafeteria.

In the library students could listen to stories such as Thumbkin, and a variety of nursery rhymes. Guest readers included: Mrs. Osbourne, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Houser, Mrs. Buckley, Mr./Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Ornberg, Mrs. Koslofski, and Mrs. Penn.

In the gym the book fair catered to children with reading levels ranging from easy reader to chapter books. Students could also complete a coloring activity.

In the gymnasium Dr. Michael Lockett, "the Normal Storyteller" did two performances for parents and children. Lockett has done over 3,000 presentations in the United States and abroad. Lockett spent 20 years as a classroom teacher and 12 + years as an administrator. Overall he's been telling stories for 40 years but

finally made it his full time career in 2005 when he was invited to tell stories in Taiwan, Korea and other countries.

He has written a total of six children's books and all are bilingual with English on one side and Chinese on the other. His publisher is located in Taiwan and he does many presentations over there as well.

His presentation last Wednesday included stories and songs that appealed to the young audience members but also gave parents tips about how reading and telling stories can help their child learn. Each story contained sound effects and movements, that brought the story alive.

Lockett started the presentation singing "Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly" his accompaniment was provided by playing the dulcimer. He followed the song by telling parents that telling children stories will make them better readers and writers as well as helping them in all subjects.

He then told a story called the Squeaky Door about a boy that



Dr. Michael Lockett tells a story to students in the gymnasium during Nursery Rhyme Night activities. (Dan Sutton photos)

was scared of a creaking door. Each night his grandmother put him to bed and he promised not to be scared and each night his grandmother let him sleep with an additional animal. First the dog, then the cat, goat and horse.

Each night the door would creak and the boy would scream and the animals would make their respective noises of displeasure. Finally after the horse was added all the animals raced out of the house and house collapsed. After it was all fixed grandma made sure the doors never creaked. Lockett followed the story by telling parents if they read 15 minutes a day to their child that abilities such as reading comprehension, vocabulary and listening comprehension will be better.

Another story was his take on the popular poem Mary Had A Little Lamb. Lockett wrote the story because he always wondered why it was the Mary had a lamb as a pet.

The story involved Mary going to the pet store with her father to

pick out a pet. The stipulation was that the pet could not wake the baby. Each time she got a new pet, Mary tried to sit down and read a good book, that's when the trouble began. The first pet was a dog that barked, then a cat that meowed, a fish that coughed when taken out of the bowl, a bird that flew away and a turtle that ducked into its shell.

All of these were taken back to the pet store because they were not the right pets. Finally one day she went outside to read a book and a lamb kept bothering her as she was reading. She kept the lamb as a pet because it did not make her sneeze, it did not fly away, it could live outside of water and it like to read good books.

He encouraged parents to use pictures and sounds to excite children about reading. At the end of the presentation his books were available for purchase. For more information on Mike Lockett visit his website at www.mikelockett.com.