

THE HUNTLEY FARMSIDE

Huntley, IL

'JIM VALLEY WAS HERE!'

A pied piper of the "pint sized" visits Huntley elementary schools

"Jim Valley is coming! Jim Valley is coming!" rang the cry of elementary school children throughout Huntley over the past couple weeks. Musician Jim Valley is probably known to adults as a member of the '60s band "Paul Revere and the Raiders." But to children, Valley is more like a big kid himself.

Last week, Valley brought his Rainbow Planet Workshop to entertain and educate children at Kathy Leggee Elementary. The week before, he had been at May Chesak Elementary. Valley spent a week at each school using music to teach children about a wide variety of subjects. Upbeat, energetic songs accompanied by hand movements and dancing inspired the children to get actively involved with issues from self-esteem to saving the environment.

Prior to his arrival, children in each class worked with their teachers to write a poem. When Valley met with the children, he set the poems to music; the children were thrilled to create and perform their own songs. The week culminated with a concert in which the parents joined in singing and dancing alongside their children.

Leggee Elementary students, Jenna Marsh 7, and her sister, Jessica 5, said that they really enjoyed working with Valley. Their mother, Pat Marsh, said, "They were singing his songs all week. I knew a lot of the songs before I got there."