

Three Village resident takes Chauncey around the world

Visit far away places in this delightful children's book

BY ELLEN BARCEL
leisure@tbrnewspapers.com

Three Village resident Vincent Maggio has a part-time business installing basketball hoops. As he worked, inquisitive children would ask him questions. Soon he began turning the tables on the kids.

One question Maggio frequently posed was whether they liked cheese. Most said no, usually with some comment, like "yuck." Then he asked did they like pizza? Oh, yes. Macaroni and cheese? Oh, yes. So, kids do like cheese. In fact, they seem to love it even if they don't always realize it themselves.

Finally it occurred to him to write a children's book, one that had been percolating in his mind for a long time. He would tell the story of a trip to foreign places through cheese. One of the main characters would be Chauncey Cheese (a slice of American cheese) who

takes his human friend Billy and his dog to far away places, along the way introducing them to cheeses from other countries as well as famous landmarks.

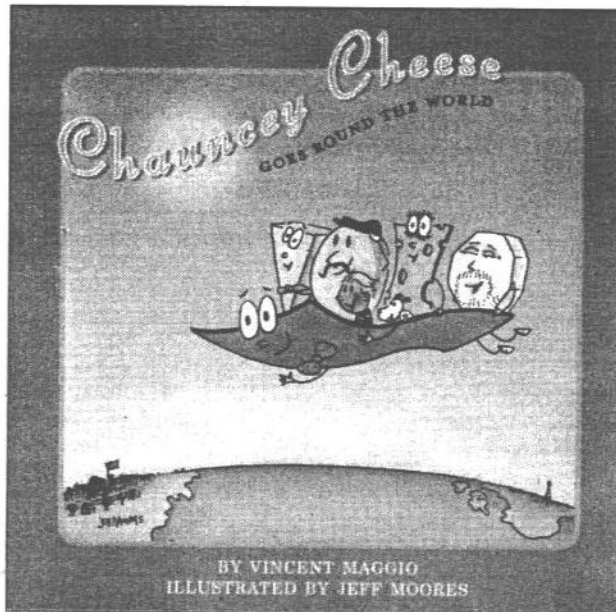
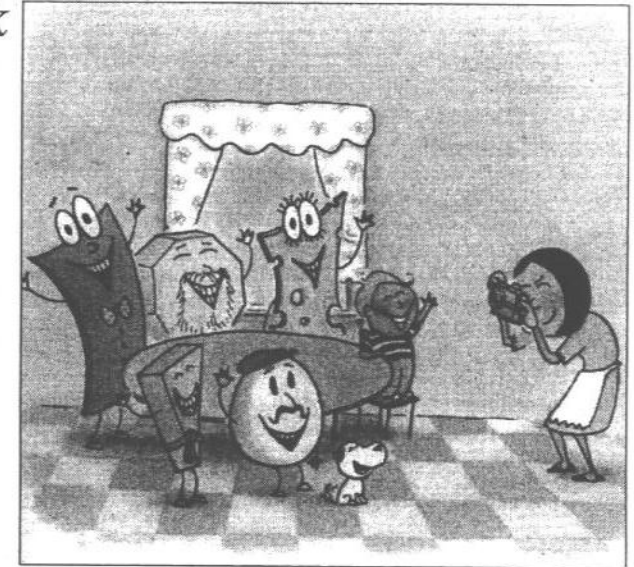
Reading the book, "Chauncey Cheese Goes Round the World," was a thorough delight. Meeting Suzy Swiss and Mario Mozzarella among others was an enjoyable experience.

Some of the plays on words will entertain the adults reading the book to their favorite little ones. There's Billy's home in Lactose, Wis. And there are the clever lines such as, "We're just grate," answers one of the cheeses as he's asked how he is.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Jeff Moores. The pictures are so well done, that while the book is meant for early readers, even those who haven't reached that stage can understand what's going on. When Billy sadly looks out the window at the rain, there's no question that he's unhappy and why. Even his dog looks sad. Later, when Billy travels (on Chauncey, of course, who turns into a kind of magic carpet), the joy is evident.

The book is absolutely charming and is sure to delight the little ones. It's also a painless way of learning a bit of geography. Not only do the pictures show the landmarks (Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Eiffel Tower, etc.) but a bit of geography and the countries' flags as well. Ancient Aristotle Feta does sort of look like a very old sage. And yes, the book does end with Billy's mother taking a picture of Billy and his friends, "Okay get ready everyone, smile and say, CHEESE!"

Maggio, who has another book in the works, has a website, chaunceycheese.com. There you can download a Chauncey Cheese coloring book to complement the story. The idea for the coloring book he credits to his 7-year-old daughter, Angela. The book is available on Amazon, but is also available through Maggio's website. Buying it from the website you can get a signed copy personalized by the author.



Ask the Veterinarian

Continued from page B3

antihistamines, but less effective than cortisone. It has few side effects and, because it does not interfere with the immune system, can be used safely long term. The biggest concern with cyclosporine is the cost. It is an expensive medication.

Ketoconazole is an antifungal medication when given with cyclosporine to reduce the amount of cyclosporine needed. This helps to reduce cost.

So, if your pet has a seasonal pattern to certain rashes or ear infections, discuss with your veterinarian proper testing and treatment.

Dr. Kearns is a veterinarian with a special interest in emergency and critical care. He has been in practice for eight years. Dr. Kearns is pictured here with his son Matthew and his cat, The One Eyed Guy.