

Kindergarten students to attend all-day classes

By Karen Krien

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This year, for the first time, St. Francis kindergarten students will be attending school for a full day.

Shirley Swihart, kindergarten teacher, said she is looking forward to the first day of school on Wednesday when the 21 students arrive.

There are several reasons for going to all-day kindergarten. Of course budgets are tight and it would eliminate a noon kindergarten bus. Mrs. Swihart has always taught a whole day so there will be no additional cost to the budget in that area.

However, there is a real benefit to having the students in the classroom all day.

There has been considerable research done on all-day kindergarten and the benefits outweigh half-day classes, Mrs. Swihart said.

Kindergarten today, she said, is very different than it was 20 years ago.

Academic standards are expecting more and more from students. Having more hours

to instruct, she said, will give additional time to expose them to more concepts and broaden their skills.

Throughout the day, they will be able to have more hands-on experiences with different types of materials, more technology and more socialization.

The tentative schedule each day will include reading and math instruction in the morning and then it will be repeated in the afternoon.

Mrs. Swihart will be incorporating more science, social studies, character development and, even a simple cooking class which will help students with math, reading and science, as well as social studies.

Each week, they will go to the high school for art class. Everyday, they will have music and physical education and, of course, there will be recess time and a rest period.

The children will be eating lunch in the cafeteria with other students. However, kindergartners will know older children as the fifth and sixth graders come to their room periodically where

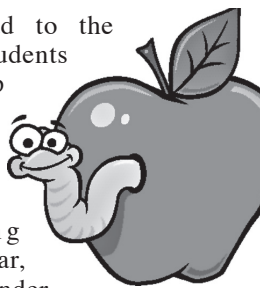
they read to the young students and help them make projects.

During the year, the kindergartners participate in music programs and perform on stage, most for the first time, as well as going on a few field trips. The year ends with the graduation ceremony where they are in their white robes and hats.

"I don't really see a lot of negatives or problems with all-day classes," Mrs. Swihart said, adding that, at first, the students may have a few problems with attention and being alert but, that will lessen as the weeks progress.

To help with the class, she will have a paraprofessional.

"It is going to be a fun year for both me as well as the students," she said.



MARILYN RAILE, high school secretary, helps Renee Guggenmos register new student, Luke Guggenmos, in the St. Francis school system. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Board of education accepts three gifts at recent meeting

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Board of Education accepted three gifts when they met on Thursday.

Nex-Tech Wireless phone service, through Keller Auto Supply, gave \$1,829 since June 2008. When someone new signs on to the company, a certain amount is donated to the school.

Mike and Renee Walker donated another \$100 for the school to use as desired. Mr. Walker is a former graduate of St. Francis. In his letter accompanying the check, he said he had received a promotion and giving the money was a small way to pay back all the school had done for him. Earlier, he had donated \$1,000 to the new gym building project. That money is still reserved for the project, Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said.

The third gift was from the St. Francis Recreation Commission. The commission board had donated \$4,350 to purchase a volleyball net system. The school also purchased the net system and Mr. Schiltz said it is extremely nice.

Paraprofessional positions

Superintendent Schiltz said the administration had interviewed candidates for three paraprofessional positions that will need to be filled. They will be paras in the junior-senior high school to replace Teri Morris who resigned at the end of the school year; to help in the kindergarten room and one in the Title I department. Mr. Schiltz said the applicants were very qualified and it will be a difficult job to decide which ones to hire.

The contracts will be ready for the board to sign at the September board meeting.

Bus routes

The school bus routes were reviewed. Several routes were discussed, looking at how students would not have to be on the bus any longer than absolutely necessary. However, after considering miles, stops and students who would not be riding, the routes were left the same. The routes will be looked at again after the final enrollment is known and there could be some changes or additions.

Mr. Schiltz said, with the school implementing all-day kindergarten, there will be no kindergarten bus needed this year. This is estimated to be a savings of around \$11,000.

Bus drivers include: Melvin

Confer, Edie Walters, Ralph Lebow, Ben Leibbrandt and Connie Williams.

In other business

In other business:

• There were no patrons present to oppose the budget for the 2009-2010 year as published in *The Saint Francis Herald* so the board voted to approve the budget.

• The board agreed to continue with the 1,116-hour school year but will make every reasonable

attempt to attend all of the days scheduled.

• Three out-of-district students, Caleb, son of Cody and Susanne Todd, and McKayla and McKenzie Taylor, daughters of Trisha Taylor, were approved to attend St. Francis schools. Tuition charges will be waived.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the board will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, in the board room at the high school.

Director tells farmers of program deadline

Angie Berens, County Executive Director for the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency, reminds producers that Sept. 1, is the application closing date for certain crops under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Crops eligible for benefits under this program are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

Sept. 1 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage for triticale, barley, rye and wheat for hay. For 2010, Continuous Crop Wheat planted with the intention of harvesting as grain is not eligible for this program.

There is an administrative service fee per crop per administrative county. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form

CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop.

In the unfortunate event that a producer does suffer a loss on their particular crop, a form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, must be filed with Farm Service Agency within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence, or the date the loss becomes apparent to the producer.

Interested producers should contact the Farm Service Agency office at 785-332-2183 prior to the Sept. 1 application closing date to obtain Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage on the above crops.



Air Force Major receives sustained superior award

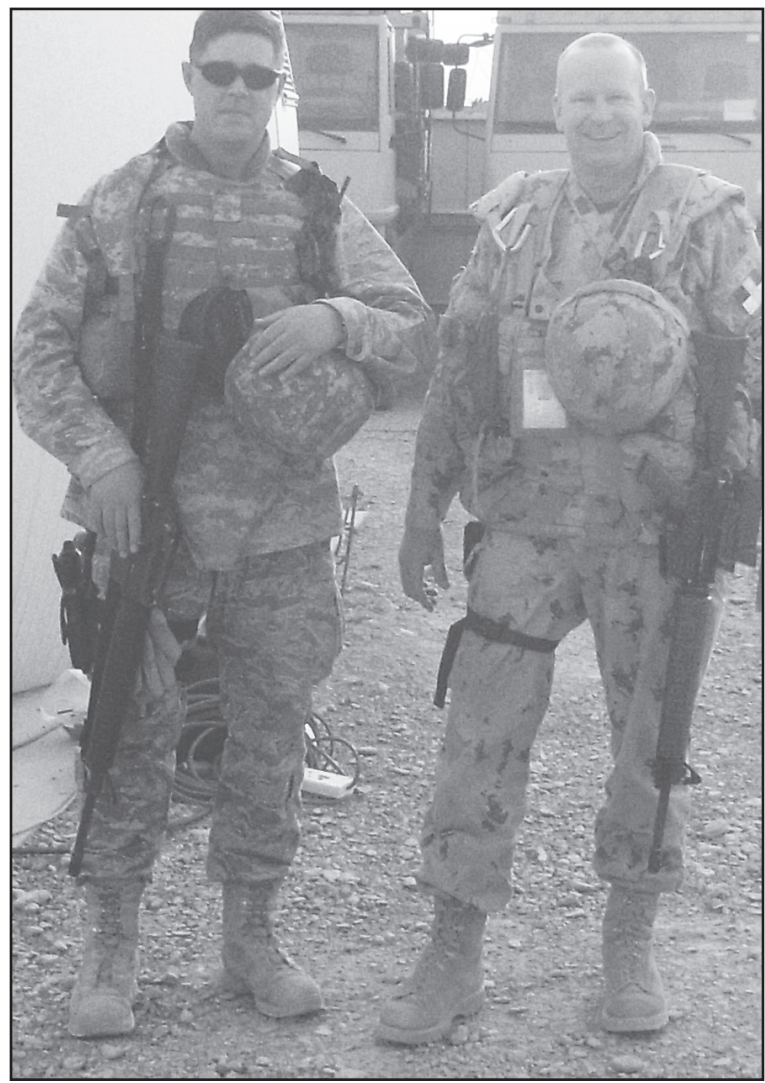
Lieutenant General William Shelton, United States Air Force Chief of War Fighting Integration and Chief Information Officer in the Pentagon, announced the selection of Major Ted Glasco as the Air Force's Field Grade Communications Officer of the Year for 2008.

The annual Air Force wide awards program recognizes communications personnel for sustained superior performance while providing communications and information services to Air Force and Department of Defense.

Selected from a pool of 1,055 Air Force communications officers, Major Glasco received the award based on his actions as the commanding officer of a 105-person unit in Afghanistan this past year.

A native of Bird City and son of Lynn and Candy Glasco, Major Glasco has served in the Air Force for 13 years to include assignments in Oklahoma, Korea, Belgium, New Jersey, Washington D.C. and multiple deployments to the Middle East.

Currently, he was selected to serve as an exchange officer with the United States Army and is attending Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.



Major Ted Glasco, left, with another officer

Ladies enjoy attending activities

Eighteen participants took part recently in a six-day program given by Elderhostel at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Aug. 4 through Aug. 9. Two local ladies who participated were ErvaGene DeAragon and Wilma Lampe.

The group was housed in a local motel and bussed back and forth to the campus for sessions and to various ethnic restaurants each day.

Since this was the week Greeley hosts their annual Chautauqua each year, the Elderhostelers got to attend those very enjoyable sessions each evening in the "big tent" on Aim's Campus. There were 600 to 800 people attend-

ing from all over each evening. Some of the characters portrayed by professional presenters were: Theodore Roosevelt, Albert Einstein, Ernest Hemingway, Woodrow Wilson, Amelia Earhart, General Douglas MacArthur, Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., artist Georgian O'Keeffe and others.

The Elderhostel group was given a change of pace on Thursday and were taken to Loveland to tour a beautiful sculpture garden and on to Estes Park to the Rocky Mountain National Park for a picnic lunch and sightseeing. They returned in time to enjoy the evening's Chautauqua programs, portrayed by Ernest Hemingway and General

Douglas MacArthur, with question and answer sessions after.

An entertaining program on Saturday afternoon was a ragtime dance program with lessons and music by Irving Berlin and others. This was given by a dance group from Boulder dressed in 1920s apparel.

The Elderhostel's session ended on Sunday morning with a breakfast at the Fox Run Village, where they were greeted by the manager, Paul Rainbolt, a former St. Francis resident.

Four of the Chautauqua scholars joined them also, for photo ops and visitations. Some of these were from Canada as well as all parts of the United States.

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