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FIRST GRADERS were attentive as Scott Carmichael, school principal, welcomed the students to school and told about school rules. Pictured, left to right, are Christina Stafford, Seth Mills, Brady Dinkel and Isaiah Lee.

Students begin first day of school

By Karen Krien

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The school bell rang and doors to the St. Francis schools were open to students on Wednesday, Aug. 20. There are a few changes including 14 less students. At the beginning of school, there were 305 students compared to 319 at the official Sept. 20 enrollment last year.

This year, there were 20 kindergarten students attending the first day of school. Because the administration were concerned about too many students in one class, they established two classes: a morning and an afternoon class. Their teacher is Shirley Swihart.

Interestingly, there are only six girls in the entire kindergarten class. In Becky McAtee's fourth grade class, out of 16 students, only four are girls.

First graders are taught by Joyce Faulkender; second grade, Ramona Raile; and third grade, Cindy Wiley. Assisting in those grades are Gloria Cassidy, Jennifer Krien and Sandy Smull.

"We are so fortunate to be able to bring in this experience and expertise to the students," Scott Carmichael, principal, said.

Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Krien and Mrs. Smull assist children in the lower grades with reading and math.

"Last year, we were very successful in Kansas State Assessments. We were recognized in 2006-2007 for placing



JACK LUKE and Audrey Meyer were busy on the first day of school.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

in the top 5 percent in the state of Kansas," said Rob Schiltz, superintendent.

"We think it is important to focus on reading because it is so important throughout life."

Last year was the first year for departmentalizing fourth, fifth and sixth grades. Each of the three

teachers had strengths in certain areas and Mr. Schiltz said it worked out extremely well.

Mrs. McAtee, fourth grade instructor, will be teaching reading to the students in the top three grades. Lynnette Nolan, fifth, will be teaching science; and Julie Wolters, sixth grade, will be

teaching math.

This is also the second year that Susan Dinkel, who has taught business in the junior-senior high school, is spending the mornings at the grade school teaching computer classes to the fourth, fifth and

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Council told of positive kids' program

By Margaret Bucholtz

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Wendy Wellmann was at the Aug. 19 St. Francis City Council meeting to present the program of Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Historically it has had a positive reputation as, "a nice program to help kids without a mom or dad."

Statistically, she said, the program has been shown to be a potential weapon in the battle against juvenile crime and related problems. Kids that participate in this program are 70 percent less likely to be arrested, 55 percent less likely to skip school. They are 33 percent less likely to engage in violent confrontations, 46 percent less likely to initiate drug use and 27 percent less likely to start drinking alcohol.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters are named in one of 10 programs of the "Blue Print Model Programs for prevention. It is the only men-

toring program that is included in the Blue Print Model.

They are working with the schools in Cheyenne County. They mentor children between the ages of 5 to 17.

Presently there are three "Bigs" that are awaiting a child in both Bird City and St. Francis. There is one "Big" that is ready to match in St. Francis.

Pool Report

Bruce Swihart gave the swimming pool report. The pool was closed on Aug. 17. The sixth graders will use the pool for a few weeks. Sandy Smull will be the teacher. Julie Wolters will help supervise the children and Mr. Swihart will be present to help.

Mr. Swihart reported that they had another good year this summer and will be anxious to open the pool again next year.

Band shell

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Enrollment begins for Story Hour

Story Hour enrollment is being held at the St. Francis Public library. This is a free program for children ages 3 to 5 and not in kindergarten. You must enroll to attend.

The sessions, which last one hour, are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. The first week of Story Hour will be on Tuesday, Sept. 9, and Wednesday, Sept. 10. The Story Hour program

will follow the school schedule throughout the school year.

Story Hour consists of a time to play and participate in stories, circle games and songs, finger plays, flannel graphs and filmstrips.

There are sign-up sheets if you would like to help with a holiday party.

If you have any questions, call the library at 332-3292.



MARLIN QUEEN climbs the ladder to adjust the wind turbine at the Reeser building. He, along with Ron Wieck and Tanner and Ben Lacy installed the wind power equipment.

Sainty man sells wind power generator systems

By Karen Krien

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Wind powered energy is becoming more common throughout the country. Near Lincoln, there are huge wind-powered towers and, that is what many people think of when they think about wind-powered energy.

However, St. Francis man, Rick Reeser, has now become the distributor for an E2D all-wind generator systems, a small wind turbine, and has one installed on his land.

He has been studying wind-powered energy for a number of years. But he found it to be so expensive. He could see that, with the demand for electric cars, there would eventually be a big demand on the electricity produced in the country. Neither Kansas nor Colorado have built new energy plants for years but the population continues to increase in both states.

Then he discovered Freertricity.com. He found that he could beat

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New teacher is hired

By Karen Krien

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A new teacher will be found in the industrial technology department in the St. Francis Community High School.

Dennis Friedrichs has taken the position of teaching wood working, drafting and tech lab as well as a physics class.

Mr. Friedrichs taught in the Goodland schools for 32 years. He had reached a point where he could retire so he did. He said he was ready for a change and St. Francis needed an industrial arts teacher. He applied and was offered the job.

He and his wife, LeAnn, have purchased a house in St. Francis and they will become permanent residents.

He has not taught wood classes for a number of years but said he enjoyed working in that area. He is teaching three classes of woods



DENNIS FRIEDRICHS is the new instructor of industrial technology. He is pictured with students (l to r) Tilyn Bell, Trista Orth and Lexi Hilt.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

with a total of 37 students. His drafting class has four students, the tech lab which is for junior high students, has 15. The physics class has six students.

Mr. Friedrichs was born and raised in Colorado Springs, where he graduated from high school. He earned a bachelor's degree at the

University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. He received his master's degree from the University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo.

He said that his high school experience was not good. He thought there should be more offered to student and felt that he could do just that.

He taught two years in Colorado before accepting the job in Goodland.

"I like kids," he said. "And I like being a part of their lives."

He and Mrs. Friedrichs have five children. His hobbies include camping, fishing and traveling.