



School begins



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. 26, a little later than many of the schools in the area. As of Monday, there were 304 students in the St. Francis schools. There are seven students more than last year but, Scott Carmichael, principal, said there could be some changes before the official enrollment on Sept. 20.

Shirley Swihart, kindergarten teacher, had 17 students attending the first day of school. This is the second year for all-day kindergarten. The change to all-day kindergarten helps cutting expenses since there is not the need for a noon bus and driver.

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.

The fourth, fifth and sixth grades are departmentalized. Each of the three teachers have strengths in certain areas and Rob Schiltz, superintendent, 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 the fourth year 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 sixth graders. She is still teaching business in the junior-senior high school.

Mr. Schiltz said the goal is to have all students know computer basics including power point by the time they leave the sixth grade. When they enter high school, they will be able to implement other more complicated computer uses.

Mrs. Dinkel has 22 new computers in the computer room at the high school. The old computers were moved to the technology room.

Changes in the schools

During the summer, the biology room was renovated at the high school and there were new computers installed in the computer room. The junior high lockers

were refurbished and new windows were installed on the east side of the high school and the large windows over the gym entryway.

Grade school students have a great stand of buffalo grass to play on. The grass replaces the stickers and dirt. Trees were planted to the north of the sidewalk and they will eventually give some shade and are a pleasant addition to the playground area.

Fall sports

With all the academics worked out for the time being, the students and staff are looking forward to the fall sports season. An open house was held on Friday, giving fans a chance to see the teams in action.

The Lady Indians' first volleyball meet was held on Tuesday in Golden Plains. The Saintry football team will play Colby on Greene Field on Friday evening. Game time is 7 p.m.

Homecoming week

Homecoming week will start on Monday, Sept. 20, with the seniors painting the streets. The Homecoming queen and king will be crowned at a special assembly Friday afternoon, Sept. 24.

Students, coaches and staff appreciate community support and look forward to seeing lots of people in the bleachers.

Parents, students meet teachers at PTA open house

The St. Francis PTA hosted a "meet the teachers" night on Monday at the grade school.

Stacy Kaup, PTA president, welcomed the students, parents and teachers.

The teachers were introduced and then went to the classrooms to prepare for the parents' visits. Members of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, Ruth Milliken and Gloria Bracelin were dishing up ice cream sundaes.

Mrs. Kaup reported that the activities PTA provided last year included the Fall Festival, the Olympics and the Penny Carnival. The organization provided prizes at these events.

They held a Scholastic Book Fair in the fall as well as the Christmas Shop for kids, class pictures and a Christmas Tea.

They sponsored the Spring Talent Show, helped with the end-of-school movies as well as provided the essay and spelling bee winners with prizes. The organization also helps with playground equipment.

Membership fees are \$5 but there are other ways people can help out. Collected are "Box Tops," Sunny D labels, grocery store receipts, Land of Lakes milk caps and Campbell soup labels.

Each classroom has a collection box and kids can drop these labels, caps and receipts off at their rooms.

"Everything PTA makes or earns is returned back to the school," said Mrs. Kaup. "Some rewards are cash and others are supplies but it all comes back to the grade school!"



KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, Shirley Swihart was convincing Javier Yanez that school is great. His mother, Esther Yanez, looks on. There are 17 students in kindergarten.

Herald staff photo by Stacy Kaup



DO I REALLY HAVE TO GO is the look Jason Caldart, right, has on his face. A kindergartner, he had come to the PTA open house with his dad, Joe, and brother, Ethan.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Fun for kids and horses on Sunday

Riders will be ready to have a great time on Sunday when the Cheyenne County 4-H Horse Club hosts the annual Horse Fun Day at the fairgrounds in St. Francis. Registration starts at 1 p.m. with the action starting at 1:30 p.m.

The fun day is open to all people who want to ride, compete and just have fun. There are kids and adults expected from other towns in the area as well as those from the county.

Events will include barrels, poles, keyhole, relay race, flags and goat ties. There is a small fee for each event entered but there will be prizes awarded.

If the event is canceled because of inclement weather, it will not be rescheduled.

"There are just too many things going on including state fair and school events to reschedule it," said Linda Elfers, agent assistant.



LAST FREE E-WASTE pick up day was held on Tuesday, Aug. 24. People took advantage of the pick-up and brought up everything from televisions and microwaves to small electronic parts. The county commissioners are concerned about the number of items filling up the landfill when they can be recycled.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Dove season opens Wednesday

By Karen Krien

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Dove season opened Wednesday in Kansas.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks reports the dove harvest in Kansas is among the top five in the United States. Last year, about a half-million doves were bagged by hunters in Kansas. It is a split season with the first opening on Wednesday through Sunday, Oct. 31; then it will close for a couple of weeks and reopen Nov. 6 through 14.

Hunters can buy licenses at the clerk's office in the courthouse, at K-Store, Majestic Service, and Mobe's Archery, all in St. Francis. The licenses can also be bought online at www.kdwp.state.ks.us.

Mourning doves and white-winged doves are migratory game birds and are federally regulated. The season for the exotic doves, Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves, is open during this time but, also runs Nov. 20 through Feb. 28.

Rules require that shotguns be plugged to hold no more than three shells and the daily bag limit for mourning and white-winged dove is 15. No more than 30 can be possessed. There is no bag limit for Eurasian collared and ringed

turtle doves.

A Kansas hunting license and Harvest Information Stamp are required to hunt doves except for those Kansas residents younger than 16 or older than 65.

According to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, mourning doves are one of the most common bird species in North America. Kansas typically is noted for having one of the highest breeding numbers for mourning doves in the U.S.

Mourning doves nest in trees, shrubs, and on the ground in crop fields and grasslands. A mourning dove pair can produce up to three to four broods of two young per year in Kansas.

Although most mourning doves migrate south by October, many remain in Kansas throughout the fall and some throughout the winter. Kansas' dove harvest is in the top five in the U.S.

Doves in Kansas are primarily hunted in harvested grain fields (particularly sunflowers and millet) and small water holes or windmill ponds in pastures.

Dove banding

Hunters are asked to look for leg bands on the mourning doves they shoot. The purpose of banding is to track the birds.

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