# goodland\_ Star-News / Friday, September 23, 2005 3aAll-day Kindergarten program a success

## By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News Going from half-day to all-day classes this fall, kindergarten students at West Elementary are getting twice the education offered in previous years.

The Goodland School Board approved the switch to a full-day program in July after determining they had enough state money to support it. Superintendent Marvin Selby told board members the idea has been on the table for years, but the district couldn't afford it until now.

The new program required the district to hire two teachers. Rooms in West had to be updated with new carpet, chairs, white boards, tables, teacher desks and computers.

The full-day program has placed about 22 students each in four classroom. Before the program was extended, the school would have needed only two teachers for two shifts each of kindergartners, morning and afternoon.

The school hired four aides to help out the four kindergarten teachers.

"Thank you to the board for the aides," said Shelly Angelos, West principal, at a board meeting last month. "They are critical to smooth transitions."

The extra students means other classes at West had to make schedule adjustments for lunch and re-

Angelos told school board members the program is going well so far. The positive response is echoed by the teachers, who say everything is running smoothly.

Angelos said the longer days give information. That helps prepare stu-



Kindergarten teacher Denise White kneeled down to answer a question from student Felipe Olivas. Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

school.

She said the teachers are explor- sharing ideas. ing the new program and learning planning period once a week and teachers assigned to the kindergar- new program.

dents for the following years of have daily planning periods in pairs ten classes at West this year, three so they can spend time every day are new to the district.

The new program is being broken at West is doing a great job and stuteachers more time to cover more as they go. They get together for a in by new teachers. Of the four dents and parents seem to like the

Angelos told the board everyone

# Tiny students confused by familiar face

## By Kathryn Burke

dergarten students still have trouble remembering that she is Mrs. Dautel not Mrs. Julie, the Headstart transfer is happy to be a kindergarten teacher.

Dautel worked at the headstart program in Goodland last year and taught some of the students she has in her classroom

this year. Headstarst children call tions from one activity to another Mathematics program their teachers by their first name, are key.

Dautel said switching from first few years can be. The Goodland Star-News Headstart to kindergarten wasn't a While some of Julie Dautel's kin- huge challenge. Both are full-day classroom full of 23 5- and 6-yearprograms now.

'It's a lot the same," Headstart had to adhere to are similar to the state standards for kindergar-

olds, an aide named Jennifer Reidell. Dautel's day starts when she ar-

she said, adding that the rives at West at about 7 a.m. every national guidelines morning. She starts her day with a 45-minute planning period. "I plan for the week," she said.

She likes the Animated Literacy program and started the year by The small students teaching students the letter A. She have short attention works with students to teach them spans, she said, so transi- numbers and uses the Everyday

She is originally from St. Francis. She graduated from school there in 1992 and went on to Pratt Commu- a great year.

After school she taught at Sacred Dautel has some help with her Heart School in Colby for one year. She went from there to substitute teach in St. Francis and later to work for head start there.

Three years ago, she started working for head start in Goodland and applied for a position in kindergarten as soon as she heard about the opening.

Dautel has lived in Goodland for the past four years with her husband Justin, who works for Coca-Cola. The pair has two children Drew, 10, and Dexter, 16 months.

So far, her time at West has been **Corrections** 

## New teacher not-so-new to town

White

### By Kathryn Burke

ten teachers at West Elementary is no newcomer to Goodland or the school

district. Denise White has lived in town for 12 years and has watched her children go through Goodland schools. She even worked for Headstart at Central Elementary for a year and a half.

twins Berkley and Brianna, now 10. She continued to stay at home until their little sister Kelsev, now 7. started preschool at West with Nona Mason.

White went to work for headstart through the Northwest Kansas Education Center in St. Francis for three vears.

former kindergarten teacher, was moving, she applied and got the job. She was hired before she knew the program was going to extend to allday kindergarten.

With 22 little bodies in her classroom right now, White said, the atmosphere isn't much different from Headstart. Even so, she said there has been a difference in the work.

"It takes a lot more prep time," she said, adding the older students are more advanced.

A majority of her students, White said, have all gone through Headstart or another preschool class.

As for curriculum, she said the new math program, Everyday Math, is fun for the kids and they like the Animated Literacy reading program, too.

and unit review sections that teachunderstand the lesson, she said. White has to make sure to teach state standards for each lesson, too.

For fun, she said, lessons sometimes include cutting and pasting projects.

White said so far school has been The Goodland Star-News fairly uneventful except for the first One of the three new kindergar- few days, when she had all of the

students to herself. Since then each teacher has gotten an aide and she says hers, Katie Bulinski, has helped a lot.

"I've never lost a student," she said, adding that losing track of a student on the playground won't be hard.

She said keeping

younger students inter-She quit when she gave birth to ested in lessons is a challenge, but a lot of fun.

White thinks of her position as being a guide, helping students along in different parts of their lives.

The hardest part of her job, she said, is keeping items organized and moving from one thing to another smoothly.

The Headstart program she When she heard Pat Stindt, a taught was only half-day, but she thinks full-day kindergarten is the way to go.

"I think we can cover a lot more material," she said of having all day kindergarten.

The students, she said, have more academics and time to develop more social skills.

"I'm looking forward to getting the first 9 weeks done, the first semester," she said about tracking student progress. "I have a vision of where I want to end up."

White is a native of Osawatomie, a small town southwest of Kansas

She went to college at Kansas State University, where she started out in early childhood education and switched to elementary education before she graduated.

Living in Goodland for so long, The programs have guideposts White knows many of her students and their parents. Her husband ers can use to make sure the students Brandon is a fifth-generation farmer in Sherman County.

White said the other teachers have welcomed the newcomers and offered to share materials or games.

"It's been wonderful," she said. "It's been really, really amazing."

City.

she said, and the switch has been a little confusing.

"What will you name be tomorrow," she said one particularly confused student asked. "It was crazy."

Her favorite part of the job is her students.

"I love coming in every morn- nity College. ing," she said.

Other than the name mix-up, has taught her how important those State University in 1997.

good and she is looking forward to

Dautel earned a degree in el- tem," she said. "They're very welprincipal) is just amazing.'

The Goodland Star-News will should be fair and factual. We want "It's nice to be part of the sys- correct any mistake or misunder- to keep an accurate record and apstanding in a news story. Please call preciate you calling to our attention Working with the kids, she said, ementary education from Fort Hays coming. Shelly (Angelos, West our office at (785) 899-2338 to re- any failure to live up to this stanport errors. We believe that news dard.

## Former substitute settles in to teach kindergarten

#### By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News "I love them, they're great," new

teacher Stephanie Grippin said of the 23 tiny tots who fill her classroom each day.

Grippin is one of three new teacher in the all-day kindergarten program at West Elementary this year.

Originally from Leavenworth, where she

graduated from high school, she went on to Fort Hays State University, where she earned a degree in elementary education in 2002.

Last year, Grippin filled in for Lynette McClain at West, teaching her first grade class while she was out on maternity leave.

She is no stranger to all-day kindergarten, as she did an internship in an all-day program.

"I think that all day is a good thing for the kids," she said. "I think it helps them better prepare for first grade.'

a.m., which gives her 15 minutes to don't even realize they are learn-

prepare before students file in at ing. "They love it," she said.

Dautel

They start by looking at the calpledge of allegiance.

Next, Grippin said, she finds out who brought a lunch and who needs to eat at school.

straight into learning with a book that introduces her students to the letter of the day.

the letter and what sound the letter stands for.

For math, Grippin said, she likes to incorporate items like blocks, cubes or coins into the lesson.

The students learn better when they can touch the lesson, she said

"We've started a new math program," she said, explaining that all of the kindergarten teachers are working with Everyday Mathmatics

She said the program incorpo-These days her job starts at 7:30 rates math into games so students

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Students at West didn't score as endar and saying the high on reading assessments as administrators hoped, so the school is focusing on reading.

Grippin said her students are involved in an animated reading program.

The students, she said, are doing well in every subject.

"I do see progress already," she said

Working with young kids, The students learn how to write Grippin said, they need regular breaks and different things to keep them interested.

She said they have a regular rest time, recess and try to move from task to task pretty quickly.

The kindergartners, she said, coaching-the middle school foot-

education, music and library les-

Grippin said taking care of 23 little ones is sometimes hard, but each teacher has an aid.

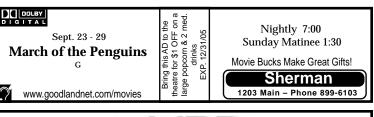
Her aide, Brandy Ray, is a big help, she said.

'She's really, really good," Grippin said.

Grippin has her routine worked out, dropping her 8-month-old son Miles off at daycare in town so she can spend time with him on the commute to and from her home in Bird City.

Her husband Morgan is a physical education teacher at the Cheylin Schools

She said with his after-school





The AARP Driver Safety Program and Mr. Good Rinse of Goodland are sponsoring the AARP Driver Safety Program class, to be held at 2431 Walnut, Goodland on September 27 and 28, 2005, 1 to 5 p.m. AARP developed this 8-hour classroom refresher to help drivers to improve their skills and prevent crashes. It covers age-related physical changes in perception and reaction time, rules of the road and local driving problems. AARP volunteer instructor, Don Kiehl will be presenting this course through a combination of group discussion and videotape. For more information or to register, please call either Marie Edwards, 785-899-3323 or Don Kiehl, 785-890-6638.

leave the classroom for physical ballteam—and her commute, they arrive home at the same time every night.

She said she is settling into life in the school district.

"I love the district," she said, "I love the school."

She has only nice things to say about the other teachers and Shelly Angelos, West principal.

"Our principal is awesome," she said.







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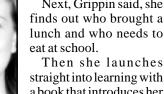
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Grippin