Primary school principal optimistic

Time is a positive element to Eagle Lake Primary School principal Major Benge. His optimism seems to increase with every new school year.

"In my 17 years experience as principal at this school, it seems to me our staff is stronger than ever before," said Benge. "Children continue to leave this school better prepared and equipped than in past years."

Benge cited improvement in test scores, in achievement, and in overall student interest. From his contacts with other school principals around the state, he believes there is a common concern in the present economic situation: many good teachers would rather work in business, making the search for good teachers that much harder. But while most schools experience difficulties, the Eagle Lake primary gets its strength from the fine staff they have gathered over the years.

"Teacher quality is increasing steadily now," Benge said. "Colleges seem to be turning out better people all the time."

Language arts and mathematics are the most stressed subjects at the school. There is also an Early Childhood program to teach children with physical and/or speech handicaps. The staff includes a speech therapist and two full-time resource teachers to help children with learning disabilities from kindergarten through third grade.

The only additions to the staff this year include Mrs. Ruby Gasca, the new maid, and Mrs. Gertrude Mc Murrough, the new Rice District nurse, headquartered at the primary school. Mrs. McMurrough previously served as school nurse in the Houston district.

The school is well equipped, according to Benge. Aside from the addition of a new computer terminal to replace the old one, there are available three 16 mm projectors, an opaque projector, "2 or 3" language masters, four overhead projectors and a number of record players and cassette players. The new computer will also be used in English as a Second Language program (ESL).

One point that Major Benge expressed concern with was that children seem to be getting less home support toward school activities. He said that the economic situation may be partly to blame for the apparent increase in parental apathy.

But he is an optimist. "We are all becoming better trained, we are successfully dealing with the daily problems and are making progress," said Benge.

Major Benge urges parents of eligible children to register them before the first day of school. "It becomes a great problem when parents wait until the last day. It would all run much more smoothly if parents helped us out."

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BACK-TO SCHOOL

Kindergarten Students

The following is a list of students entering Kindergarten:

GERTSON (A.M.): Jessica Amos, Neil Broesche, Corey Brown, Lakessia Fry, Jennifer Estlinbaum, Will Frazer, Haydee Garcia, Jason Garcia, Tony Garcia, Kimberly Henske, Jason Lange, Clyde Roy Morales, Alicia Morehead, Christina Rodriguez, Derek Sosa, Lance Spears, Jill Stephens, Kristie Vargas;

APPELT (A.M.): Brandie Contreras, Brian Gonzales, Cynthia Gonzales, Berni Fry, Shawn Hurd, John Kaluza, Dominque Kimble, Kimberly Marsalia, Kevin Middleton, Donald Obenhaus, Ramiro Rico, Ricardo Roque, Paulette Stockman, Victor Tavera, Juanita Tillman, Urbana Vasquez, Rebecca Waddell;

APPELT (P.M.): Amanda Alaniz, Alesia Aldridge, Meredith Anderson, Caesar Buitrago, Adrian Carroll, Rosalinda Granillo, Esteban Hernandez, Noel Hernandez, Timothy Jones, Christal Lockett, Barbara Matura, Trinidy Parker, Wesley Perry, Gavriel Romo, Jonathan Taylor, Ginger Thorpe, Ramon Zarate;

GERTSON (P.M.): Sibyl Buffington, Ana Del Aire Castillo, Jessica Castrellon, Rose Clark, Joshua Danhour, Ralph Esparza, Narciso Godino, Roberto Hernandez, Libby McMurrough, Annette McTear, David Salinas, William Schmidt, Quintus Stovall, Kurt Sunderman, Regina Valdez, Breana Wood.

Major Benge

New Middle School Principal believes in fundamentals

"I'm real excited about being here," said Charles Abel, the new principal of Eagle Lake Middle School. "I've been looking for a community of this size to raise my family. From all I've heard about the school district, and what I've so far experienced, I am very favorably impressed."

Abel is an engaging man, enthusiastic about his new post and prepared to see it work out well. He is a disciplinarian, by his own admission, and believes in the fundamentals of schooling, like reading, writing, arithmetic. These are to be his priorities.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Angelo State University, a master's from the University of Southern California and an M. Ed. in educational administration from Angelo State. His last post was high school principal at West Hardin, Texas, and he has taught math, coached and acted as principal for 12 years.

His wife Jeanette will teach language arts at the Middle school this year, and his four children, Laurie, Heather, Brad and Rickie will attend schools in the district.

Abel says some changes have been made already, classes have been moved around to best provide for student needs. There is also the possibility of adding "a couple" of classes to the sixth grade. He plans more reading classes for the advanced grades.

"There is a wide diversity of needs to be addressed, a diversity of situations within the student groups," said Abel. "I want all students to leave here well prepared for high school without missing a step."

"I'm very impressed and pleased with the facilities, the campus is beautiful . . . we are very well equipped for a middle school. We have good reading programs, four new computers will be made available to help in teaching math, the migrant program, and to be used by students as learning tools."

He continued to point out all of the facilities: "The library is very well equipped, we have quite a bit of audio-visual equipment. . .the sports facilities are terrific. . .in short, we have a top-notch facility here."

According to Abel, the most important thing is to make available as many programs as possible to students, to give them a better opportunity to choose the field they can best orient themselves in. He is also very impressed with the faculty: "We have a crew of very dedicated teachers concerned with meeting students' needs."

About five new teachers have been hired this year at the Middle school, and an assistant principal remains to be hired.

Abel realizes it will be hard to improve on what he calls a "top-notch facility", but he is ready and willing to do what can, and must be done.

Charles Abel

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New personnel in Rice school district

Fourteen persons have been hired to join the staff of the schools comprising the Rice district. The following is a list of new personnel:

Mark E. Faldyn, 23, 1982 Texas Lutheran College graduate in health, physical education and history. Native of Columbus. Played football at Texas Lutheran. Will coach football and teach history at Rice High.

Marie S. Wards, 22, has a B.S. in life earth science and psychology from Southwest Texas State University. Will teach life science at the Eagle Lake Middle School.

Jerry Hajovsky, 35, B.S. degree from Texas A&I in industrial arts. Formerly taught in Rice school district. Will teach industrial arts (Industrial Cooperative Training) at the high school.

Frances Mayer Hajovsky, 38, B.A. and M.A. from Harding College in Arkansas. Nineteen years experience in physical education and music. Elementary certification. Will teach fourth grade at the Middle school.

Robert Zander, Jr., 24, B.S. from Texas Tech in health, physical education and history. Will teach history and coach at the Middle school.

Catherine T. Balusek, 23, B.S. from Sam Houston in science. One year teaching experience. Graduated from high school in El Campo. Will teach chemistry and physical science at the high school.

Gary Wrinkle, 24, holds a degree from Texas Tech in physical education and history. Will teach history and coach at Rice High.

William Atkins, 40, B.A. and M.A. in music from Sam Houston. Sixteen years public school experience. Formerly band director at College Station. Will lead Raider Band.

Albert Charles Abel, 33, B.S. from Angelo State University and M.A. from the University of Southern California in math, history and principalship. Nine years experience. Will be Eagle Lake Middle School principal.

Jeanette Abel, 31, B.S. from Angelo State. Master's from Stephen F. Austin. Six years experience. Will teach language arts at the Middle school.

Dorothy White, taught in the district before (left due to pregnancy). Lives in Garwood. Will teach homemaking at the high school.

Janis M. Harrell, 48, bachelor's in business administration from Sam Houston. Certified in business administration, English. Fifteen years experience. Will teach language arts at the Middle school.

Larry Varley, holds a B.S. from Southwest Texas. Will be Middle school head coach, and teach physical education.

Ethel McMurrough, 41, holds a B.S. in nursing from Dominican College. Three years experience as public school nurse in the Houston district. Will be district school nurse.

According to assistant superintendent C. W. DeShazo, four positions are yet to be filled. A business teacher and a mathematics teacher are needed at the high school, an assistant principal at the Middle school, and an early childhood teacher at the Primary school. All positions are expected to be filled soon.

School Calendars

Listed below are the calendars for the 1982-83 school year.

RICE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Aug. 17-20: Teachers Inservice.
August 23: School starts.
September 6: Labor Day Holiday.
November 15: Teachers Inservice.
November 25-26: Thanksgiving Holiday.
December 20-31: Christmas Holiday.
January 14: Teachers Inservice.
March 11: Countywide Teachers Inservice.
March 31-April 4: Easter Holiday.
May 19: Last day of School.
May 20: Teachers Inservice.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

August 17-20: Teachers Inservice.
August 23: School starts.
September 6: Labor Day Holiday.
September 17: Teachers Inservice.
November 1: Teachers Inservice.
November 25-26: Thanksgiving Holiday.
December 8: Teachers Inservice.
December 20-31: Christmas Holiday.
March 31-April 4: Easter Holiday.
May 11: Teachers Inservice.
May 19: Last day of School.
May 20: Teachers Inservice.

ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

August 17-20: Teachers Inservice.
August 24: School starts.
September 6: Labor Day Holiday.
September 17: Teachers Institute.
November 25-26: Thanksgiving Holiday.
December 17-31: Christmas Holiday.
April 1-5: Easter Holiday.
May 20: Last teaching day.
May 23: Teachers Inservice.

1982-83 Garwood school supply list

The Garwood School announces the following list of school supplies will be needed in grades K through 8 upon the opening of the 1982-83 school term:

Kindergarten: 2 pencils, small box of crayons, small bottle of Elmer's glue, small box of Kleenex.

First and Second Grade: 1 box of Kleenex, 1 pair blunt edge scissors, 1 box crayons (no more than 24), 2 No. 2 pencils, bottle of Elmer's glue, First grade writing tablet.

Third Grade: Loose-leaf notebook binder, loose-leaf notebook paper, eraser, 2 No. 2 pencils, ruler (12 inch), Elmer's school glue, crayons, scissors, small package Kleenex.

Fourth Grade: No. 2 pencils, notebook paper (no spirals), red ball point/blue ball point, ruler (12 inch), 6 pocket folders, glue, scissors, Kleenex (large box), crayons (pack of 16).

Fifth Grade: 2 pencils, 1 protractor, 1 ruler, 1 red pen or pencil, 1 notebook and paper, 2 erasers, 1 box Kleenex, 1 box crayons, 1 glue (small).

Sixth, Seventh, Eighth Grades: 2 hole notebook paper (not college ruled), 3 folders, 3 red grading pens, 2 pencils, 1 black or blue ball point pen, protractor, compass, twelve-inch ruler with centimeters and inches.

Betty Brown, Eagle Lake Primary School second grade teacher, is shown getting her classroom ready for the approaching school year.

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