



Welcome, Teachers

We All welcome you to the Rice School District and the Communities it serves

So Well!!

Royal Cleaners
Eagle Lake

F & W Food Store, Inc.
Garwood

The Snack Center
Eagle Lake

Miller's Grocery
Eagle Lake

Lake Lumber Co.
Eagle Lake

Larry's Super Service
Garwood

Thomas Clinic
Dr. Raymond Thomas & Dr. Russell Thomas
Eagle Lake

Mascheck-Marx Gulf Station
Eagle Lake

Laker Printing
Eagle Lake

C & B Shell Service Station
Bill Lawson, Owner
Sheridan

Nada Garage
Nada

M & M Western Store
Eagle Lake

Lipperdt Exxon
Eagle Lake

The Hair Place
Eagle Lake

Meitzen 66 Service Station
Eagle Lake

Laughlin Medical & Surgical Clinic
Eagle Lake

KULM 98.3 FM
Your Hometown Station
Offering you the Best in country music and More Ways to Win!

Welcome back, Students!



At St. Mary's, small classes allow for more personal teaching

Although the two Catholic schools in the area follow Texas Education Agency regulations concerning academics, both schools jumped into the 1985-86 school year a week earlier than public schools by opening their doors last Monday, August 26.

At St. Mary's Catholic School in Nada, about 50 students were expected for the first day, second-year principal Beatrice Schoellmann said last week. A year ago Mrs. Schoellmann explained she was taking on the principal's job for a year, and was fairly nervous about it. "I'd go to a principal's meeting last year and would hardly know what they were talking about."

This year, however, she is confident in her position, and looks forward to another year at the school.

She has made an impact on the small school, and it all appears for the better. Last year the six teachers began to departmentalize their teaching by subject areas, and they adopted a single textbook for

math classes when students in two grades are combined.

The effect of the changes appears to be good for the school, and this summer a group of parents in Houston interested in starting their own school visited Nada to see how it is done. They picked the St. Mary's school because of its small number of students.

Mrs. Schoellmann likes the idea of having only 50 students. "I think it is quite an advantage," she said. "You can be more personal with the teaching. The students at the school are all from the St. Mary's Parish that reaches north to Van Pugh and south into Wharton County, however, not all of the students are Catholic. While the local Nada-area school bus will run for the school, the school bus from Eagle Lake won't be running this year. Therefore, no Eagle Lake students are expected.

The combination math classes for the fifth and six grades use the sixth grade text. When teachers discussed how that

course should be taught, and went through the books and found the same material is covered in each, they decided on the higher text. This year, because the 6th grade book was used last year, they switched to another company's 6th grade text. Students now will have more instruction in that level of math, and it should help them with the grasp of math concepts. The same idea also was used in the 7th and 8th grade math combined classes.

Last year, Mrs. Schoellmann said, some parents questioned the idea, but the school found students liked it, and in testing, no problems were found.

The idea of using the higher grade book for two grade levels points to the academic standards of the school. Mrs. Schoellmann said, "We don't mean a student has to suffer lower educational standards. St. Mary's is accredited by the state education agency, and is one of the many Catholic schools under the supervision of the Diocese of Victoria. They inspect the school yearly, and occasionally, the state also will inspect. The school not only can draw on the services of the diocese, but takes advantage of services available from the Region III state Educational Service Center in Victoria."

"We follow the state guidelines right down the line," Mrs. Schoellmann said, adding that House Bill 72 affects their school as much as any other. This year new text books, compliments of the St. Mary's PTC, will be used in some math, social studies and science classes. The teachers use the Essential Elements program adopted by the state, and of course schedule tutoring for students failing a course.

However, tutoring at St. Mary's isn't just for the student or two who may be failing. If a teacher begins a new concept, and has a hard time grasping it, that student can seek out the help of the tutor. Sometimes, Mrs. Schoellmann said, a new teacher, taking a different approach, can help someone learn something they might be having difficulty with.

The Nada school day starts at 8:05 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m., as in the past. The first student Mass is scheduled this Friday morning. Students participate fully; they play the organ, make up the choir, read the biblical portions of the Mass, and compose their own Prayer of the Faithful. The student Masses are conducted each week at 8:05 a.m.

Music at the school is taught by Dr. Robert Cady, who is the band director. While it is not a

required course, many of the students participate. For those who don't, the school started a yearbook project last year. Also, they can use their art and communication talents by keeping the school's bulletin boards up to date.

Music doesn't stop with the band though. Bernice Popp is the library aide and singing teacher. She also teaches all third and fourth graders in a Flutophone Band, helping them develop musical skills that lead to other skill development even if a student doesn't continue music education.

The regular band and Flutophone Band also participate in the Christmas program which is on Sunday, December 15, starting at 6 p.m. During the last week of school, the bands will stage a public concert for everyone to enjoy.

Referring to the PTC, principal Schoellmann said, "We couldn't exist without the PTC—they are extremely active, and this year brought our new text books."

Mrs. Mary (Walter) Gold is the PTC president. The organization also painted three classrooms this summer, and helps with other things during the school year. They meet monthly on the third Tuesday. September and February meetings will be in the evening, and other meetings will be during the day, with no meeting scheduled in December when the Christmas program is presented.

Showing that the school and those involved are well organized, the PTC calendar

already has been set. November 3rd will be the date for the Fall Festival, a major PTC fund raising event. There will be a hamburger and chili supper ("The best in Texas," Mrs. Schoellmann boasts), as well as a raffle and bingo games. There will be other attractions as well, making it a fun, family event.

School Calendar:

As for the school calendar, it pretty much follows the public school calendar, with a few exceptions.

October 14th will be a teacher in-service day, with no classes scheduled. The last day of class for the first semester will be December 18, with the semester ending on December 20, also a teacher in-service day. Christmas holidays are scheduled from then until classes resume on Thursday, January 2, Diocesan testing is March 19 to 24, Easter vacation is March 27 through April 1, and the last day of classes for the second semester is May 22. Again, the next day, May 23, is the last day of the semester, and a teacher in-service day. Another teacher in-service day will be scheduled sometime during the second semester.

April 1 and April 15 are reserved as last-semester days, and if not needed, will be school holidays. April 21, as its public school, will be counted as one of the 175 teaching days in the year, but students will not attend. Instead, they will have that day off to help the state celebrate its 150th birthday, known as the Texas Sesquicentennial.

School Time

Is Here Again!

Please remember to:

- Observe speed limits in school areas.
- Obey traffic signs and signals.
- Slow up or stop at intersections to allow children to cross streets safely.
- Obey crossing guards.
- Be careful on car-lined streets. Children can suddenly appear from behind parked cars.
- Pass children on bikes carefully and slowly.

Our children's safety depends on your driving skills so please BE ALERT!

Eagle Lake Insurance Agency
Robert Griffith, Agent
403 E. Main
234-2509

Before Or After School

Stop at J&K's

To Fill Your Lunch Bag or for After-school Snacks

J&K's Corner
1600 E. Main 234-3690