

Paperwork at Middle School

paperwork has begun to take a toll on the efficiency of the school, and the classroom teachers.

A lot more paperwork is re-

quired now compared to two years ago, he said. "Compared to five years ago, I probably am doing 50 percent more paperwork."

The reason is two-fold: House Bill 72, that massive piece of legislation that forever changed Texas education, and new rules from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

The requirement for "documentation is tremendous — it's hard to comprehend," Abel said. "It is at a point where you are supposed to write down and document almost anything you say or do — I should even be documenting this conversation right now, according to TEA," he said while being interviewed for this story.

That comment spurred him to say: "I do have some doubts about the leadership being provided at the state level. I have some qualms there and wonder what direction we are heading."

"I'm concerned about the teacher's job since every time we have more paperwork it gets filtered down through to the teachers," saying that dilutes the teacher's ability to teach, he also said. "I hope sincerely the legislature does not pass any more bills on paper reduction — the last one increased my load by about 10 percent. So, if there is anything I can say to the voters it is: don't have any more paperwork reduction acts."

To help with the load, a lot more items will be computerized in the ELMS school office. All word processing is being done on an IBM computer. Scheduling, grade reporting and report cards now are computerized.

In talking about the increased paperwork problem, Abel said the school office also is in need of more space "in the worst way." If anyone has been in the school office in the

morning, Abel said, and more than two people were in there, they would understand. However, that space is not available this year.

New looks

When students return to the campus, they won't find much changed but they will find new teachers and a fresh new look in areas that have been painted.

Guy Beane, vocational counselor at the high school, has been responsible for about a half-dozen students employed in the summer CETA employment program. They have touched up the Middle School lockers and painted in hallways. Instead of one color, students will find two-tone walls in various corridors. Abel said it was not just "slapping on paint" either. Surfaces were scraped, properly primed, then painted to make a more lasting surface.

ELMS teacher Ray Sykowski was working with the group too, providing some educational training. He works with the CETA students to help them learn, among other things, how to properly apply for a job, and complete the associated paperwork.

Abel said three other students were hired for the summer program to work under the maintenance supervisor. In the gymnasium, students will find a fresh look to the basketball court.

New teachers

Abel said he spent most of his time this summer trying to hire teachers, although he did go back to the classroom for some update training, and some training on learning to use the IBM computer in the school office.

As school closed last year, he knew he would have openings due

to staff changes and the need to create two more third grade sections. Other vacancies also occurred over the summer.

Mrs. Bea Scott who taught 6th grade English, retired; Dorothy Gerraghty, a special education teacher, retired for medical reasons, and special ed teacher James Sneed left the district. Over the summer, Diane Schneider, fifth grade teacher, and Linda Newman, third grade teacher also resigned. Schneider moved to California and Newman returned to Wyoming. Also, Mary Ann Thornton, who was teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) and reading left the school to teach at Wharton Junior College.

The two new third grade teachers are Corrie Blyth and Mary Albright. The new fifth grade teachers are Lynda Grunwald and Gwen Knight. Kathy Dreisher has been hired as the ESL and reading teacher, and Debra Cummings is the special education resource teacher.

Continued from Page 1

Another special education resource teacher and a 6th grade teacher were hired this week.

Traffic reminder

Abel also wants to remind parents who will be bringing their student to school, especially those new to the school this year, to take special care while driving to the campus. Because of the split schedule implemented last year, where classes are dismissed at different times, traffic congestion has been alleviated somewhat.

A passage way should be left on the street so buses can get through, Abel said. Also parking is prohibited in front of the building where the curb is painted yellow. In the afternoon, buses load in the cafeteria area, so that driveway should not be blocked either.

Ray Sykowski is responsible for the school safety patrol, which also helps traffic and students.



Pictured are, back row from left, Jennifer Matthews, Lynn Brzozowski and Kim Garrett; front row from left, Traci Klein, Suzanne Corman and Danna Fudge.

Rice High School cheerleaders attend camp

During the week of July 7-11 the Rice Varsity Cheerleaders attended NCA camp at the Sam Houston State University campus. Cheerleaders attending the camp were Kim Garrett, Suzanne Corman, Traci Klein, Danna Fudge, Jennifer Matthews, and Lynn Brzozowski.

They attended classes from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday and had an evaluation every night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cheerleaders worked very hard this year and it all paid off. They received three superior, nine excellent, one excellent, red ribbon and won the Spirit Stick

three out of four days. The cheerleaders put on an excellent show for their final competition. They received a superior ribbon and a Squad Achievement Award. They also brought home a well deserved Spirit Stick.

Many new cheers and chants were learned at camp and the cheerleaders urge everyone to come out and help support the Mighty Raiders. The cheerleaders are selling football boosters for the back of the program. The cost is \$5. If you are interested please contact any RHS cheerleader.



Welcome, Teachers

We All Welcome You to the Rice School District and the Communities It Serves So Well!

Royal Cleaners
Eagle Lake

M&M Western Store
Eagle Lake

Gifts of Distinction
Eagle Lake

Lake Lumber Company
Eagle Lake

Eagle Trailer Parts
Eagle Lake

Wilcox Minimax
Eagle Lake

Larry's Super Service
Garwood

The Snack Center
Eagle Lake

The Furniture Shoppe
Eagle Lake

Main Parts Supply
Eagle Lake

Laker Printing
Eagle Lake

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

Mascheck-Marx Gulf Station
Eagle Lake

Eagle Lake Headlight
Your Hometown Newspaper

WCL Builders & Sons, WCL Muffler Shop
Eagle Lake

Schindler LPG
Highway 90-A, Eagle Lake

Welcome back, Students!

