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NEWS RELEASE

Opening of Kinder Ranch Elementary will highlight Comal ISD's first day of school

AUGUST 9, 2011— The opening of new Kinder Ranch Elementary will highlight Comal ISD's first day of school August 22.

It is located in the Kinder Ranch subdivision near the intersection of Borgfeld and Bulverde roads in northern Bexar County. The school is part of the district's \$205.85 million Bond 2008 issue. Kinder Ranch Elementary will relieve overcrowding at Timberwood Park and Specht elementary schools.

Kinder Ranch will have many "green school" features such as a living roof, skylights which will provide natural lighting in the library, rainwater harvesting with on-site storage, an energy conservation system which automatically adjusts lighting in the classroom, water conservation fixtures and a geothermal heating and cooling system which uses a ground source well to heat and cool the building.

"We're excited and ready to open the doors of this beautiful new school to all of our students," said Dr. Judy Murray, Kinder Ranch Elementary principal. "We couldn't be more pleased with the way our campus is going to look on the first day."

Comal ISD, which is a Texas Education Agency “Recognized” district for the second straight year, is expecting more than 17,700 students at its 26 campuses by the late fall as the school year gets underway.

“We continue to grow at a fast rate,” said Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent. “Families are moving here for a reason and we believe it’s our quality schools. There is no denying it, though, we will have to look at building new schools soon to address this enrollment growth.”

Seven of those campuses will have new principals, including Kim Brann at Arlon Seay Elementary, Krista Moffatt at Hoffmann Lane Elementary, Murray at Kinder Ranch Elementary, Kevin Howell at Morningside Elementary, Janet Levine at Oak Creek Elementary, Teresa Rogers at Rahe Bulverde Elementary, and Jan Bettersworth at Startzville Elementary.

Other changes this school year include new meal prices of \$2.25 for elementary meals and \$2.50 for secondary meals, up five cents from 2010-11.

Immunization requirements, school supply lists and bus routing information can be found by visiting www.comalisd.org and clicking on the “Back to School” tab on the right hand side of the home page.

The 2011-12 Parent/Student Handbook, which includes the Code of Conduct, can be found by visiting www.comalisd.org, clicking on the “Parents” tab at the top of the home page, and scrolling down to “Parent/Student Handbook.”

Bell schedules at all campuses will remain the same as last school year: 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at elementary schools, and 8:30 a.m.-3:55 p.m. at all middle and high school campuses.

As always, Comal ISD and local law enforcement officers thank you for your cooperation using cautious driving skills around schools.

“The Comal County Sheriff’s Office wants to remind the citizens in our community to be aware, safe and cautious while operating a motor vehicle on public roads and more specifically while traveling through school zones during school hours,” said Adam Pastrano, Comal County Sheriff’s Officer. “We will make all efforts to make our public schools safer but we also need the cooperation of the community to be successful.”

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IN PHOTOS: Jacob Acosta is ready for the first day of school as he shows off a big smile on the Freiheit Elementary playground.

Mikaela Herrera and Brody Moravits can't contain their anticipation of the first day of school, which will take place on August 22 in Comal ISD.