

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Comal Elementary to receive fond farewell**

When Comal Elementary first opened its doors, man had yet to walk on the Moon, the Beatles were still several years away from making their debut on the Ed Sullivan Show and Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House.

It was the fall of 1958 when the Solms, Davenport and Danville schoolhouses were combined to form Comal Elementary in far south New Braunfels.

The average price of a gallon of gas was 24 cents, a postage stamp was 4 cents, and you could send your son or daughter to Harvard for \$1,250 a year.

On May 28, more than 50 years after it opened, Comal Elementary will officially close its doors for good. Students in the CES attendance zone will attend the new Garden Ridge Elementary beginning this fall.

Comal Elementary will host a farewell ceremony that is open to the public on Saturday, April 10, beginning at 3 p.m. Current and former faculty are welcome to come early and meet in the library starting at 1 p.m.

"I remember the pride we all felt at the school," said Janice Rose, Comal ISD's senior associate for special programs, who was a first-grader at Comal Elementary in the fall of 1958. "You knew everyone in your classes, so we were a family. We were just good old country folks going to school and life was simple then. I enjoyed the time I spent there very much."

Lisa Batey was first a student at Comal Elementary, and has been a teacher at CES for the past 29 years. She will retire when the school closes in May.

"I have so many fond memories of this school," Batey said. "Don't get me started; you're going to make me cry. I really feel like this is my home."

Barbara Miller was a teacher at Comal Elementary before becoming the school's principal in 1973. She remained in that position until she retired in 1997.

“The great thing about Comal Elementary is that we were a small school that started to grow,” Miller said. “But when we did grow larger, we didn’t lose that small-school feel. We often had picnics and little parties and everyone there was so close. Another thing I loved about the school was the parents were very involved; we had a real child-centered environment, which was wonderful.”

Current principal Joni Coker said that family atmosphere at Comal Elementary, which will become a private high school beginning in the fall, continues today.

“Comal Elementary has always been about the teachers who teach here and the kids that go to school here,” Coker said. “When people leave, they always come back and tell us what we have here is special.”

Organizers of the farewell ceremony said it will be a great time for community members, as well as current and former faculty members and students, to mingle and talk about the 50-plus year history of Comal Elementary. A cookbook will be on sale for \$10 that will include favorite CES memories.

Speakers at the ceremony will include Comal ISD superintendent Dr. Marc Walker and school board immediate past-president Bill Swint.

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IN PHOTOS: Comal Elementary, which first opened its doors in the fall of 1958, will close this May. Students in the CES attendance zone will attend the new Garden Ridge Elementary beginning this fall.

Pictured are students from the Comal Elementary eighth-grade graduating class of 1966.