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Natural Bridges Is 10 Years Old

Natural Bridges School celebrated its 10th anniversary Wednesday with a new flag-raising, the launching of 570 balloons, and other ceremonies.

The event, planned for months by the students themselves with the aid of teachers and parents, also served to mark the nation's Bicentennial and the balloons are part of a science experiment to check wind currents.

The balloons carry messages asking finders to write back to the school, telling their location.

A new set of U.S. 50-star flags went up the flagpole to mark the event.

Natural Bridges was completed in 1965, and was considered a leader in "flexible" school design, with interconnected, open classroom spaces.

Over the years, this new design has been used to put more than one grade together, more than one class together, or to

run such special programs as ECE — Early Childhood Education.

By and large, it has worked out well, much as it was planned, said Principal Hal Kolbe, who was there when the school first opened.

Many other original members of the staff still teach or work at the school as well. They include Bobbie Bailey, Gloria Bishop, Lorraine Clifton, Sandi Coburn, Lorraine Latendresse, Jo Resteigen, and Phil Bryan.

The P-TA presented the students with a large "birthday cake" in afternoon ceremonies, and made school secretary Jean Taft an honorary life member of the school P-TA.

Natural Bridges was built at a cost of about \$650,000, including land. "You sure couldn't even begin to build a school for that money today," Kolbe said.