A St. Ignatius student rings in the school's new era.

St. Ignatius celebrates 100 years

GRAND COTEAU - St. Ignatius School has grown with the century's dramatic changes and rapid events, but the venerable school's mission remains the same as the day it started in 1890.

April 7 marks the school's centennial anniversary of educating children in religious tradition as well as new academic traditions. Students, faculty, administrators, parents, and community members are celebrating 100 years of "ministry to God's children" with a slate of events honoring the birthday.

Bishop Harry Flynn will preside over special Mass Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Charles Church. This will be followed by a reception in the St. Ignatius grounds.

A Saturday night celebration called Pete Champagne will be the culmination of the year-long centennial celebration. The fair will double as the PTC's annual fundraiser. The St. Ignatius school Alumni Association is sponsoring the event, held at St. Thomas More in Lafayette at 7 p.m.

Participants will be eligible for numerous door prizes, including a $1,000 grand prize.

Later in the spring, students will have a time capsule on the school grounds to show students in the future what St. Ignatius was like in the past.

Thirty-seven students started school on Easter Monday, April 7, 1890, under the name of Sacred Heart Parish, which was the name of the parish church at that time.

The original building served the community for 40 years before youngsters crowded the school and were made for adding and renovating. Children sold candy to raise the $20 needed in the early 30s.

The renovated building remained in operation until 1941, but again St. Ignatius was getting overcrowded. Cleophus Quebeaux built a new school building on another site and the old school closed its doors.

The new location solved two problems. It moved noisy, playful children away from Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House with its neat, mediating visitors, and provided more classrooms for the church. The old school was sold to Father Yettinger, who used the money to build St. Patrick's Church.