



# Taiwanese students end 1st year in new country

By MIKE SCANLON

No one is saying it's been easy, but the enrollment nearly a year ago of three Chinese-speaking students in a Garden City elementary school is seen now by teachers and administrators as more delight than disaster.

"It's really been fantastic the way they grasp things," said Charles Deschamps, principal of Lathers Elementary School. "Of course, we're working with three youngsters who are right up there, mentally speaking."

Sui Chiao Sih, Sui Lih Sih and Wan Hsiang Sih arrived in the United States from Keelung, Taiwan, three days before their enrollment at Lathers last January.

If any of them knew a word of English at the time, they managed to keep it secret from classmates and school officials.

Sui Chiao is called Sue by her classmates at Cambridge Junior High School, where the 13-year-old enrolled in the seventh grade this year.

But changes since last year aren't limited to the trio's names.

"At first, I think she was a novelty in the room," said 8-year-old Sui Lin's teacher, Sandra Slack. "But now the other students have accepted her."

"She's very good at math, and I think that's because of the school system over there. She came here knowing her math. She strives for

excellence. She's only satisfied when she's got everything right—one wrong answer is one too many," said Mrs. Slack.

The children have encountered some difficulties in making the adjustment from one of the world's most difficult major languages. (Continued on page 11A)



Posing with Lathers Elementary School Principal Charles Deschamps are Wan Hsiang Sih, 7, and Sui Lin Sih, 9. Both students are performing well, a year after they arrived speaking only Mandarin Chinese. (Staff photos by Bob Woodring)

Sui Chiao Sih is a seventh-grade student at Cambridge Junior High School this year. Last year, when she enrolled in Lathers Elementary School, the Taiwan-born Sui could not speak English.

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