

Catholic school in S. Lake Tahoe not opening

By Kathryn Reed

There will be no Catholic grade school on the South Shore this fall.

“We had a hail Mary pass out there with a donor who came in with great support, but it was just short of the goal line,” Stella Roper, spokeswoman for what was to be Lake Tahoe Catholic Academy, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “We had to look at it with less passion and with more responsibility.”

The decision to not open the South Lake Tahoe school was made Aug. 12.

A group of parents, teachers and community members had rallied together since June to try to open the academy after the Catholic Diocese said St. Theresa School had to close because of declining enrollment and not enough money being generated from the K-8 school.

The academy had hoped to open Sept. 2.

Roper said funding, and commitment from parents and teachers could have sustained the school for a couple years, but not in the long term. The decision was that it would be better for all involved to not open rather than to have to close again in what could be a handful of years.

The corporation formed to run the school still exists, and may continue to. Supporters of faith-based education are not ruling out trying again to create a sustainable education model for the area.

Roper said organizers are not upset they tried to resurrect the school, and found a tremendous amount of community support

for such an education platform. But, ultimately, the numbers did not pan out.

Now those students, of which there were 50 last school year, need to find another place to be schooled this fall. Douglas County School District starts Aug. 18 and Lake Tahoe Unified's first day is Aug. 25.