



Mitchell Mustang

Volume 31 Issue 3

November 3, 2006

From the Principal's Desk...

Important Dates

- Nov. 6: PTO Meeting, 6:30pm
- Nov. 6-17: Book Fair
- Nov. 13-17: Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:00 pm Dismissal
- Nov. 15: Book Fair Family Night
- Nov. 18: Family Swim Night, 7-9 pm
- Nov. 23-24: Thanksgiving Break, No School



Congratulations to the Mitchell Chess Team! At the first meet of the season the team had 13 wins, 1 draw, and 1 loss. What a great start to the year!!

Dear Parents,

I'd like to remind everyone that we are making an extra effort to improve student pick-up and drop-off. For safety reasons we are lining children up at the far end of each pick-up zone where they are much safer. We ask that parents pull their cars all the way up to the end of the pick-up and drop-off areas. This makes for the much smoother and safer loading and unloading of students.

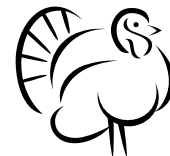
Sitting in a line of backed-up cars can be frustrating for drivers. We have found that parents who arrive a mere 4 or 5 minutes after the dismissal bell rings deal with no traffic lines. Try it. You'll see that it works!

We ask that kindergarten parents not stop or park their cars in the red zone. This is ticket territory for police. Also, please do not park your car at odd angles as this causes much confusion and traffic entanglement. Once again, arriving 4-5 minutes after school ends will alleviate the frenzy.

Now for a true story that I shared with parents at our Kindergarten Tea. I marvel at the insight my mother had as I was growing up. This was, of course, very long ago but what she did still holds true and I thank her every chance I get because she truly set me on the right path. My mother believed with all her heart that education was a key to personal fulfillment. She felt so strongly about it that she changed the endings to fairy tales. As she sat with me and told and retold the story of Cinderella or Snow White, she invariably ended the story with the prince showing up and heading off to college with the heroine. I smile now when I think about it. I even thought that if a person did not go to college they were breaking a truancy law. My mother never corrected my mistaken notion. I remember conversations that we had. If the future was being discussed, it was always WHEN you go to college, or AFTER you finish college, never IF. The message was consistent and constant. Today, I thank her for her strength in finding every way possible to pound the message into me. So next time you are reading a fairytale or having a discussion about the future with your children, you might want to throw in a bit of my mother's uncompromising stand on education. Who knows, they may end up writing about you in a newsletter fifty years later!

Raquel Reedy

Principal



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From the PTO President's Desk...

I want to say a HUGE thank you to all the people who made our Fall Festival a success this year. As always, Portia Purdue outdid herself. We thank you, Portia, for heading this enormous project. I also thank all the companies that donated items for the basket raffle. A special thanks to the Maes Family for donating their time and their hot air balloon for a unique experience this year. I hope you all got a chance to see the balloon and get a ride! Last but certainly not least - I thank each one of you who volunteered your time, without you we could not host this awesome event. On that note - congratulations to Carla Irwin for winning the Volunteer Drawing this year.

This month the PTO is hosting a Family Swim Night at Sandia Pool. We have rented the pool on Saturday, November 18th from 7- 9 pm. The one little glitch is that there is a 150 person capacity. If this event proves to be too big, we will host another one for those who didn't get to come. This is a free event for our school.

Don't forget about the PTO's new website: www.mitchellpto.org

Edie Guess

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Next week school will dismiss at 1:00 p.m. everyday due to Parent-Teacher Conferences. These conferences give parents and teachers the chance to meet face-to-face and learn more about each other than they do through brief conversations on the run, phone calls, or a report card. Most Mitchell parents attend conferences, and we appreciate this parental dedication to our students' education.

The following list of questions, taken from the National PTA website (www.pta.org), may provide guidance on how to get the most out of your student's conference:

Questions to ask during the conference

1. What subject does my student like most? Least?
2. What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
3. What can I do to help my student with subjects he finds difficult? How can I help my student study? Prepare for class? Improve his work? A good time to ask these questions is when the teacher gives you samples of your son or daughter's work.
4. Is my student trying as hard as he can? Does my child use time well? Does my child follow directions? How are my child's work habits?
5. Does my student participate in class discussions and activities?
6. How well does my student get along with others?
7. Have you noticed changes in the way my student acts? For example, have you noticed squinting, tiredness, or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?

More helpful information may be found on the PTA's Parent Resources page at www.pta.org/parent_resources.html. As always, please feel free to call us (299-1937) with questions and concerns.

Raquel Reedy, Principal
Debbie Garrison, Assistant Principal

From The November Library Bookshelf...



The Reading Rainforest Book Fair is here! Stop by on Family Night, Wednesday, November 15th, and meet Curious George! He will be here from 6:00 – 6:45 pm in the library. Books will be on sale and anyone who buys more than \$5.00 in books that night will be entered in a drawing for free books and other prizes! All are invited.

- The Book Fair will also be open everyday from 8:40 am to 3: 40 pm beginning November 6 – 17.
- Give the Gift of Reading with **Gift Certificates**—See Below
- Donations for the **ONE FOR BOOKS** program are greatly appreciated! Send in \$1.00 or more to help students who cannot afford books choose one for themselves. All children who donate will be entered in a separate drawing for prizes. They will also get their name placed in the Mitchell Mustang Newsletter.
- **Instead of sending cash** in your child's pocket please consider attaching it to a **Gift Certificate** and sending both to the office in an envelope. This helps to keep your child's money safe from loss. OR...
- Use the Gift Certificate to give a book (s) to your child's Classroom. A Bookplate will be placed inside the book with your child's name for your child to hand to their teacher.



GIFT CERTIFICATE

To: _____

From: _____

Amount: _____

Fill in amount and staple check or cash to the certificate. Send both to the Mitchell Office or Library.

ONE FOR BOOKS

To: Mitchell Elementary

From: _____

Amount: _____

Thank you for your contribution to our school and students.

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Mitchell Mustang

Thank You Mitchell Families !

A big thank you goes out to all the Mitchell families who so generously donated clothing to help support the BCCPTA (Bernalillo County Councils of PTA's) Clothing Bank. We would also like to thank Dan Heavner, Manager of Raley's on Juan Tabo and Candelaria for his generous donation of paper bags. Thank you Mrs. Zeter for requesting the bags and delivering them to Student Council. Student Council students and sponsors, Mrs. Aragon and Mrs. Strongin, worked hard getting the bags ready to send home. Mrs. Gagliano organized the Clothing Drive and, with the help of Mrs. Hoisington, delivered more than 120 bags of used clothing and shoes to the Clothing Bank. The Clothing Bank is a non-profit organization whose primary objective is to provide clothing to any student in kindergarten through twelfth grade who is in need. They serve Mitchell students as well as students from the entire district who could use assistance. Although APS donates the facility space, the Clothing Bank is not an APS program. They do not receive funding from APS or the government but are 100% supported by schools, individuals, and a few businesses. Your generosity was overwhelming.

The volunteers at the Clothing Bank were very excited and appreciative when receiving your donations. They know they can count on Mitchell families for your kind support. We are happy to accept clothing donations all year. Just send them in at any time and we will deliver your donations to the Clothing Bank. If you have any questions about the Clothing Bank, please call Ms. Glenn, Counselor, Mitchell Elementary, 299-1937.

Family Swim Night



Please join us at Sandia High School Pool on Saturday, November 18th from 7 to 9 pm for a free night of swimming*. Hope to see you there!

*First 150 people to show up get in! There is a 150 person capacity at the pool. If we need to have another swim night - WE Will!

Albq./Bernalillo County Libraries Offer Homework Help for Students

Live Homework Help is available to students with library cards in good standing. They can work one-on-one with a live tutor through a computer—either at a library or at home. The help is free and available every day from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. for students in grades 4-12 as well as those in introductory college classes. Students can get help in math, science, English and social studies. En espanol, tutoring is available in math and science Sundays through Thursdays 4 p.m. until midnight. Visit the library's website: www.cabq.gov/library or go to a library and the staff can give you more information. A library card is required to access this service at home. A SmartCard is required to access this service on the public computers at a library. All parents are encouraged to take their children to the library to get a library card. A library card is the most important school supply of all.

Additional information about PTO and our activities can be found at www.mitchellpto.org