



Mitchell Mustang

Volume 31 Issue 5

January 2007

From the Principal's Desk...

Important Dates

- Jan. 8: PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
- Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Day, No School
- Jan. 18: Class/ Group Photos
- Jan. 26: Family Movie Night: "Cars"

Dear Parents,

I was reading a biography on President Kennedy recently. When his son, John Jr., was born newsmen asked the president if he wanted his son to grow up to be president. John Kennedy thought for a while and said, "I just want him to be happy." One of the elements of happiness is a feeling of fulfillment. A person is fulfilled when he feels that he has achieved all that he can educationally, emotionally, and personally. There are no "what ifs" in the life of a happy fulfilled person.

So, what does it mean when 497 parents attend their children's Parent-Teacher Conference? It means that learning at Mitchell is a team effort and education is a priority for Mitchell parents. The communication does not stop at conference week. Mitchell is dedicated to establishing a productive partnership with our parent community. Communication is an essential ingredient to educational success and fulfillment for our students and we will strive to always keep those vital channels open.

Informed parents who are knowledgeable about what is going on in the classroom are all the more effective when working with their children at home. The same applies to teachers who are in close contact with their students' families.

Never hesitate to contact your child's teacher, principal or counselor should you have a question, concern or comment. Sometimes that can make all the difference in positively affecting your children's educational experience and ultimately helping them become happy fulfilled adults.

We all want our children to be happy. And towards that end, remember that we are a team. Together we can make a life better for our children.

Raquel Reedy

Principal



Yearbook Cover Contest

Congratulations to the winners!!

1st Place: Brittany Cooper	Mrs. Kuebler
2nd Place: Ryan Schalip	Mrs. Kuebler
3rd Place: Malia Ryan	Mrs. Baca

Basketball Referee

Referee needed for boy's and girl's basketball games at Mitchell every Wednesday at 2:45 p.m. (games last about an hour). Exciting and fun opportunity! Contact Laurie Aragon at 299-1937.

M I T C H E L L

From the PTO President's Desk...

Welcome back to the start of the 2nd half of the year. Can you believe how fast this year is flying by? I want to thank all the volunteers who hosted the Staff Appreciation Luncheon in December. We appreciate the teachers and staff for all they do and the time and commitment they put into each of our children. I appreciate all the parents who volunteer their precious time to help our school be a FANTABULOUS home away from home for our kids! A big shout out to Toucanos for donating gift certificates for the teachers and Flying Star also!

We have planned another family night for January 26. We will be showing "Cars" the movie in the cafeteria (aka The Mitchell Cinema)! We have done this in the past and it is always a fun time. The movie is free and there will be popcorn and sodas available for a nominal charge. We hope to see you there.

Remember, we meet the first Monday of the month (unless the first Monday is a holiday and then we meet the 2nd Monday) at 6:30 in the admin office. We would love to see you there. Our group is expanding and is filled with very fun and delightful people!

Eddie Guess
President

For additional info on Mitchell PTO check out: www.mitchellpto.org



Health and Wellness News

Exciting things are happening at the Mitchell Gym and in your child's Health and Wellness classes. Hopefully, the children are coming home full of stories about their climbing adventures! The Mitchell traverse climbing wall was installed in November and we did not waste any time putting it to use. From kindergarten to fifth grade, the students are all climbing!

Our wall is 40 feet long and 8 feet high. It is called a traverse climbing wall, which means that the objective is to climb as far horizontally as possible, not vertical. We are able to move the holds around on the wall and create problems that make the wall easier or more challenging, depending on the level of the climber. Our students are gaining strength and confidence quickly, so the games and challenges are becoming more difficult already!

Our climbing unit is also inclusive of the rope climb and a balance course. We have so many strong students that can climb to the top of the rope and are now challenging themselves with time! Our quickest time to the top is 11.5 seconds, achieved by a fifth grade student.

The students have been so excited about our climbing unit and our new wall. Be sure and ask your student about their experience. The wall will be utilized in our climbing club this winter, and the Outdoor Adventure Club this spring. We hope to inspire some lifelong activities and passions with our students!



Class and group photos will be taken on Thursday, January 18th. More information will be sent home with your student.

From The January Library Bookshelf:

Our next Fundraiser Book Fair is just around the corner. Our last one provided us with many books and furniture for our library. In our Feb. Newsletter we will once again be requesting our valuable volunteers to help with the Book Fair.

Over the last few months our students have learned:

- Care of Books
- Parts of any Library
- Expected Behavior in any Library
- Beginning Search Methods
- Beginning Dewey Decimal System
- Parts of a Book: Title Page, Dedication, Copyright
- Author, Illustrator, Title
- Fiction and Non-Fiction



We will be continuing with Parts of a Story, Table of Contents, Index and more. Most of our students have done a wonderful job of showing Respect and Responsibility Traits during their library times. The organizational skill of keeping track of and returning books each week is being demonstrated by a majority of our students. I am very proud of them.

Please encourage your student to choose one book during their library times that they can personally read alone. In our Library we have:

- A Beginner Readers section
- An Everybody book section for sharing reading with others
- A Beginning Chapter book section
- An Advanced Chapter Book section
- A Beginning Non-Fiction section and
- The Non-Fiction section for more advanced readers.

Thank you all for your support of our library.

(Correction in Dec. Newsletter: Mariah Madrid donated \$3.00)

Family Movie Night

Mark your calendar for Friday, January 26th! We will be showing "CARS" in the cafeteria. The movie is free. Popcorn and drinks will be sold for a nominal amount. Join us for a fun time!

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MITCHELL MUSTANG

Mitchell's After School Programs

The after school clubs at Mitchell are off and running! Here is a short description of each of the programs offered. We appreciate the teachers and staff who make these possible!

Mitchell Tutoring Club

Based on our research for "getting the best bang for our buck," Mitchell Instructional Council decided to use part of the Middle School Initiative funding from the city for reading intervention instruction in first through third grades. Students were recommended for the club by their teachers, based on fall reading test scores. The clubs are being taught this year by certified staff. Students receive instruction in a sequential phonics program and work on reading comprehension and fluency. Reading tutoring clubs meet twice a week so that students enrolled can get a double dose of fun while they improve reading skills.



Mitchell Stitchers

The "Mitchell Stitchers" are sewing up a storm! Students in fourth and fifth grade meet each Monday afternoon to complete hand and machine sewn projects. We will continue the club in January, working to create baby quilts for the preemie wards at the hospitals. Students have made fleece hats, scarves and a sewing kit for their supplies. What does sewing teach a student? Measuring skills, problem solving, creativity, and patience! Completion of projects fosters a sense of accomplishment and team work. Students who sew develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. We are teaching students a life-long skill, stitched into a lot of fun!

Keep your eyes open for the fall enrollment into this club. At this time, our club is at capacity.

Mitchell Climbing Club

Thanks to all the students who signed up for the Climbing Club. We had such a big turnout that we will have another pilot session in January so everyone who signed up will get a chance to participate. This session we climbed blindfolded, played tag, and climbed with one foot as well as learned lots of good warm-up stretches. A big thank you to Stone Age Climbing Gym for donating carabiner key chains for each participant.

Don't forget to sign up in the spring for Mitchell's Outdoor Adventure Club!



Bicycle Club

The Bicycle Club was piloted in the fall by 8 eager 5th graders. During the two week program students learned about bike safety, bike mechanics and safe places to ride in the neighborhood. The PTO and Sportz Outdoor provided all bicycles and equipment for the program. The bicycle club will eventually be one third of The Outdoor Adventure Club beginning in March. Along with climbing and hiking, the bike club will provide 30 students at a time the opportunity to participate in good life long outdoor activities.

MITCHELL MUSTANG

Chess Club

Chess Club meets on Tuesday and Thursday after school in the gym from September to the beginning of March. Currently, there are 65 students registered for the club and we average about 40 students each day.

Chess helps students concentrate, problem solve, and think logically and abstractly. However, besides playing chess, students also socialize, eat snacks, finish homework, relax and have fun. The top 15 students in the program represent Mitchell in a city league that meets once a month around town in the evenings. With three months to go, our Chess team is currently in first place in the city league (Albuquerque Schools' Chess League).


Chorus

Approximately 50 fourth and fifth graders joined the Chorus first semester, coming to school on Wednesday mornings at 8:00. They gave two performances in December, one in the evening for their families, and one during the day for the school. They sang a variety of songs, including patriotic and holiday music.

Chorus will begin again on January 31 at 8:00 in the green kindergarten room. New fourth and fifth grade members are welcome to join at that time.

Boy's and Girl's Basketball

Basketball tryouts were held in late October for all interested fourth and fifth grade boys and girls. Games are already underway for the boy's team and the girl's games will start in January.

Mitchell Elementary Girl's Basketball Schedule 2007				
<u>Game Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>	
1/10/07	2:45 pm	Bye	Bye	
1/17/07	2:45 pm	Gov. Bent	Home	
1/24/07	2:45 pm	Bye	Bye	
1/31/07	2:45 pm	Armijo	Armijo	
2/7/07	2:45 pm	Armijo	Armijo	
2/14/07	2:45 pm	Gov. Bent	Home	
2/21/07	2:45 pm	Alamosa	Alamosa	
2/28/07	2:45 pm	Bel Air	Bel Air	
3/7/07	2:45 pm	Alamosa	Home	
3/14/07	2:45 pm	Bye	Bye	

pto.org, www.mitchellpto.org, www.mitchellpto.org, www.mitchellpto.org, www.mitchellpt

**ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAID SCHOOL BASED SERVICES**



**Stronghurst Complex
120 Woodland NW**

FREE OR LOW COST HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN

Many families in New Mexico qualify for **FREE** health insurance for their children from birth to age 19. Even more families can qualify for low cost insurance, consisting of minimal co-pay at the time of your child's visit. In many cases, your child may qualify for an emergency card that would entitle them to obtain care while you wait for the application to be processed. To qualify for Medicaid, your child must be a U. S. citizen or legal resident and your family's gross monthly income must meet the following criteria:

Household Size	Federal Poverty Income Guidelines	
	185%	235%
1	\$1,511	\$1,920*
2	\$2,035	\$2,585*
3	\$2,560	\$3,253*
4	\$3,084	\$3,918*
5	\$3,608	\$4,583*
6	\$4,132	\$5,250*
7	\$4,656	\$5,915*
8	\$5,180	\$6,580*
	For each additional person add:	
	\$524	\$665*

Guidelines effective April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007.

**Do not have existing health insurance or have not voluntarily dropped insurance within the last 6 months.*

AVAILABLE BENEFITS:

- Doctor and Dental Visits
- School and Sport Physicals
- Vision and Hearing Exams
- Medicine Prescriptions
- Eyeglasses
- Hospital Care
- Mental Health Counseling
- Well Child Check-Up
- Immunizations

Call for an Appointment

**DORA PACIAS
342-7411**

Rio Grande, West Mesa, Cibola Clusters

**VIRGINIA BURGESS
342-7292**

Albuquerque High, Valley, Highland, Del Norte Clusters

**JUDY SCANNELL
342-7410**

Manzano, El Dorado, Sandia, LaCueva Clusters

INCOME SUPPORT DIVISION REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING TO REGISTER FOR MEDICAID:

- If one or both parents are working, proof of last 4 weeks income. If parents are not working, proof of how rent and utilities are paid.
- Proof of birth for each applicant. This may include:
 - Birth Certificate
 - Baptismal Certificate
 - Letter from hospital of birth
- Picture ID of parent/guardian
- Child's Social Security Number
- Proof of other medical insurance, if applicable
- Proof of childcare expense, if applicable