



Mitchell Mustang

March 2008

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www.aps.edu/aps/mitchell
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Important Dates

- Feb 25-Mar. 12: Testing
- March 3: PTO Meeting, 6:30pm
- March 21-28: Spring Break, No School

Upcoming Dates

- April 17: Family Math & Science Night
- April 26: Mitchell Community Day
- May 13: Fine Arts/Dessert Nt.



Mitchell Mustang Newsletter

Submission deadline for the April Issue is Friday, March 14. Send articles to:

newsletter@mitchellpto.org

or leave a hard copy in the newsletter box in the office. Mitchell Mustang is sponsored by the Mitchell PTO.

For more info go to: www.mitchellpto.org

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents,

Due to some events that have occurred here at Mitchell the past couple weeks, I would like to share some very important safety reminders with you. Please read the following carefully. If you have questions, please call the office.

1. Staff is on duty at 8:45 a.m. In order to assure your child's safety, please make sure that your student (s) do not come to school earlier than 8:45 a.m., unless they are enrolled in Parks & Rec.

2. Students who eat breakfast at school will be supervised and may arrive as early as 8:30 a.m.

3. Each Wednesday students are released at 1:00 p.m. Please arrange for prompt pick up.

4. The EAST parking lot is designated for Kindergarten and 1st grade student pick up and is supervised by the Kindergarten staff. Please do not park in the fire lane. The Fire Marshall can issue citations for up to \$200 for parking in an area where the curb is painted red and signs are posted.

5. The SOUTHEAST circle drive is designated for 2nd and 3rd grade student pick up and is supervised by duty teachers. Please pull all the way to the end of the drive before loading your child in your car.

6. The SOUTHWEST circle drive is designated for Day Care Vans only and students should NOT be picked up in this lot by parents.

7. The WEST parking lot is designated for 4th and 5th grade student pick up and is supervised by duty teachers. Please load students on the NORTH end only. Orange cones usually designate the circle drive in this area. However, if the cones are not present, please do not change the pick up procedure or park in this lot.

8. Please use the designated pick-up areas. Students will not be allowed to walk through the parking lot or cross the street in order to get to their parent's vehicle.

9. Parents, please do not pull through the staff parking lot on the NORTH side of the school and onto the playground in order to drop off or pick up students. Students are not expecting cars on the playground and will not be watching for you.

Thank you for your cooperation in following these rules and keeping our students safe!

Sincerely,

Debbie Garrison
Principal

Therapy Dogs on Campus

Beginning in March, Mitchell will be participating in a program called Book Hounds. Trained and licensed therapy dogs will be on campus weekly to read with children. The students read a book to the dogs, and the dog fosters a low stress environment for the student. The handler only helps the student when asked. Otherwise the reaction is mostly between dog and student. Research has shown that the students become better readers with these types of sessions. Please remember this does not mean you can bring your pet to school during school hours. This rule is in place for the safety of the animal and our students. Even the most loving pet might get a bit overwhelmed by over 400 children. Remember to obey the rule and avoid the fines.



COME ONE, COME ALL TO MITCHELL'S 2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY!

Join us on Saturday, April 26th at Mitchell to help beautify the campus AND gather as a community. There will be food, fun (no rocks to shovel this year!), music and, of course, beautification! More details coming soon...

Mitchell Receives \$10,000 Grant from Lowe's!!

Mitchell applied for and was selected to receive a Toolbox for Education grant in the amount of \$10,000. from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. The grant money will be used for campus beautification projects that were specified in the grant application submitted by the Mitchell PTO. Items specified in the application include picnic tables, planters, seeds, soil, plants, and rock to beautify our campus and help make the open areas more useful. Efforts will be kicked off at the upcoming Mitchell Community Day on April 26.

Volunteers Are Needed! Only 10% of the money that we received may be used for labor, so we will need lots of volunteers! We need a concrete contractor and lots of people to paint, help move rock, and plant trees. We also hope to match the generosity of donations received for last year's campus cleanup event because the more that we have donated, the further we can stretch the grant funds.

A committee is being formed to guide the spending of the grant money. If you are interested in participating on this committee or want to donate labor or materials, please contact PTO parent Bonne Cleveland at bcleveland00@comcast.net.



LADY MUSTANGS NEWS!!

This year the Mitchell Girl's Basketball team is a mix of fourth and fifth graders. Several of the girls are returning players from last year. Their skills continue to improve with each game. Last year was a very difficult one. The team was unable to win a single game. This year they have already put two very tough games in the win column and have high hopes for their last three games. Several of the girls have expressed an interest in continuing to play basketball when they graduate to mid-school.

Come and cheer on the Lady Mustangs for their last few games at the Mitchell Gym. We wish them all the best!

Be On Time and Win a Bike!

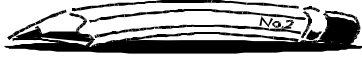
One bicycle will be won by a 3rd, 4th or 5th grader who is on time every day during testing. So make sure you get to class by 8:59 a.m. each morning from February 25th through March 12th and your name will be entered in the drawing!



Thank You Lowe's

A special thank you to Lowe's on Paseo del Norte for partnering with us for the Toolbox for Education Grant! We really appreciate it!!!

Homework Hints



- Assume that your children will have studying to do every night.
- Ask your children if they understand their homework. If they do not, work a few examples together.
- Ask your children to show you their homework after the teacher returns it, to learn where they're having trouble and where they're doing well. See if your children did the work correctly.
- Stay in touch with your children's teachers. Ask about their classes and what they are studying. Ask their teachers how you can support what they are studying (flash cards, spelling, etc.).
- Remember, you and their teachers want the same thing – to help your children learn.
- Don't be afraid to get in touch with the teacher if you and your child don't understand an assignment or if your child is having a great deal of trouble. Almost all parents run into these problems, and teachers are glad to help.
- Don't do your children's work for them. Help them learn how to do it themselves.
- Show your children that you think homework is important. If you are at work during homework time, ask to see their work when you get home.
- Praise your children for doing well. Make praise a habit.
- Maintain a portfolio of "best pieces."
- Ask your school about tips or guides for helping your children develop good study habits.
- Help older students organize their assignments by recording them on calendars or planners, along with due dates, dates turned in, etc.

School Tardies

She came late again today. She felt the eyes of the other children watching her as she entered the room. She tried to come in quietly, but everyone saw her as she came in and slipped behind her desk. She doesn't like being late. It is often embarrassing, and sometimes she misses out on what the other children are learning. She felt sad, and wanted to be on time to class. If only...

This scene has been repeated over and over this year at our school. Remember the bell rings at 8:59 a.m. Please work to get your child to school on time.

Spelling Bee



The Mitchell Spelling Bee was held on February 13, 2008. It was a lot of fun! Each 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classroom sent their top two spellers to the Bee. These 20 participants were Caleb Ellington, Destiny Isonhood, Selena Sanchez, Remy Feldman, Jenna Sinkevitch, Katie Belt-McDonald, Reyna Ibarra, Helen Ngo, Ernesto Gutierrez, Abraham Haddad, David Burr, Matt Begay, Tyrell Vigil, Niklas Cole, Rabya Ehsaqzoda, Abby White, Bradley Babcock, Jordan Jackson, Cayley Guess, and Ian Russell. Congratulations to all of these students!

We are proud to announce that our 1st place Spelling Bee Champion is **Ernesto Gutierrez** and our 2nd place runner-up is **Rabya Ehsaqzoda**.

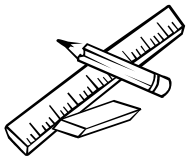
From The March Library Bookshelf...

A **Huge Thank You** to all the families who support our library by paying for or replacing lost or damaged library books! You are what keeps this library growing with new and current books.

Just as a reminder:

- Library plays a big part in teaching students the **Character Counts Trait of Responsibility**.
- When a child misplaces a book it is a **great opportunity** to teach them how to search for the book, what they can do next time to avoid a loss, how they can pay for or replace the book on their own, and how important it is, as they grow up, to take care of borrowed items.
- During Library time, we try to teach the **thinking skills** that will allow them to borrow for many years ahead.

- Every note for overdue books is, in general, just a **reminder** for your student to return the book so others may check it out. It is one step in the learning process. The note is **not** an instant request for the book or money for replacement. (However, I do appreciate the responsible responses I receive.)
- Remember: If ever a lost book is found at home, in the classroom, cafeteria, day care, or library, I instantly let Ms. Carmen know so she can reimburse you the amount you paid for the lost book.
- Also, if a book is ever mistakenly returned to the public library be reassured that they return the books to us here at Mitchell and vice versa.
- We have different strategies for students who may have trouble returning books each week. This is a habit that is often hard to learn and many students are in programs that teach these strategies either by choice of parent, teacher or librarian.



Help Your Student Get the Most Out of Homework

Many students try to avoid it, but teaching and learning research indicates that children who spend more time on regularly assigned, meaningful homework, on average, do better in school, and that the academic benefits of homework increase as children move into the upper grades.

Parents and families play an important role in the process. Together, families and teachers can help children develop good study habits and attitudes to become lifelong learners.

Why do teachers give homework?

Teachers use homework:

- to help students understand and review the work that has been covered in class
- to see whether students understand the lesson
- to help students learn how to find and use more information on a subject.

Homework is also the link between school and home that shows what children are studying. Research shows that when homework is turned in to the teacher, graded, and discussed with students, it can improve students' grades and understanding of their schoolwork.

How much help should I give?

This depends on each child's grade level and study habits. Younger students often need extra homework help. First, make sure the child understands the directions. Do a few problems together, and then watch your child do a few. When your child is finished, check the work. Praise right answers, and show how to correct mistakes.

Avoid doing your children's homework for them. Teachers need to see where your children are having trouble.

One of the most helpful things you can do is to show your children that you think homework is important. Many children today do their homework while their parents are at work. When you are at home, ask to see your children's homework and discuss it with them. Ask questions and be supportive.