



Mitchell Mustang

March 2009

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www.aps.edu/aps/mitchell
Volume 33 Issue 7

From the Principal's Desk...

Important Dates

- March 2-7: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1pm Dismissal
- March 2: PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.
- March 10: Mitchell Night at Gardunos
- March 17: Crazy Hair & Hat Day
- March 23-27: Spring Break
- March 31-April 9: NMSBA Testing

Dear Parents,

This is a very busy time of the year here at Mitchell. I want to thank each of you for your prompt attention to the parking lot situations that I called about using Parent Link. The situation has improved. Please remember safety first is our motto. I wanted to notify parents that Mrs. Encinias, one of our fourth grade teachers, was diagnosed last week with breast cancer. Students and staff members are working on a plan for a fundraiser to benefit Mrs. Encinias and recognize other staff members that are living with cancer or cancer survivors. We will keep you posted on this event. Please pay close attention to the information below and have a great March.

Conference Week



It is hard to believe that two-thirds of the school year has come and gone. We look forward to meeting with each of our students' families again for conferences Monday, March 2 – Thursday, March 5. There will be NO conferences on Friday, due to teacher collaboration time. The teachers will be discussing your child's progress and effort as well as any concerns they might have for the remainder of the year. We invite you to bring any questions that you might have to the conference. Remember that school dismisses this week at 1:00 p.m. Please make after school arrangements. Also, don't forget to visit the Book Fair on your way in or out.

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 and class begins at 8:58 a.m. Please work to get your child to school on time.

New Mexico Standards-Based Assessment – “The Test”

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be taking the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment beginning Tuesday, March 31st. We hope to complete the testing and any make-ups by Thursday, April 9th. Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be testing for approximately two hours each morning.

We need the support of our families in order for our students to do their best. You can help by ensuring that your students are rested, have had breakfast and are on time to school. Please avoid making appointments for your children during this window. Once testing has started we cannot interrupt the classroom, as this may disrupt testing for other students, or even invalidate test results.



Mitchell Mustang Newsletter

Deadline for the April Issue is Friday, March 13.

Send articles to:

mustangnewsletter@yahoo.com

Mitchell Mustang is sponsored by the Mitchell PTO.

For more info go to:

www.mitchellpto.org

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From the Principal's Desk cont...

The tests are un-timed in order to give students ample opportunity to demonstrate knowledge. Last year we had a 100% participation rate for Mitchell and, as always, our students do their best on assessments. We are very proud of the way our entire educational community comes together as we implement the state mandated Standards Based Assessments. Our success is possible only through the support of our parents. Your understanding and patience during the testing period will be greatly appreciated.

Debbie Garrison
Principal

Thank You to
Passage Community Church
for supporting our school
and its families.
We appreciate your help!

Treasurer's Report...

The World's Famous Chocolate fundraiser was a success! As of mid-February, we made our goal of 300 boxes sold, giving us a profit of \$7800. This puts us just short of our projected budget for money raised for the school year! We couldn't have done this without the help of all of you who sold boxes of chocolate and supported your PTO. Thank you all!!!

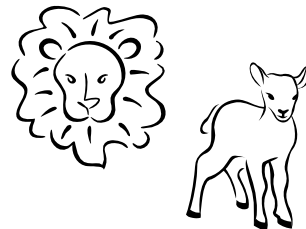
Kim Cordova
PTO Treasurer

Alyssa Adams in
Mrs. Encinias' class won the February
Mitchell Question of the Month.
Way to go Alyssa!

A Special Thank You to Our PTO Volunteers

This month the PTO would like to recognize **Julie Grosso and Paula Adams**. Julie is the PTO Secretary. She takes notes at all the meetings, sends e-mails to members, and does lots more.

Paula is our President and she works tirelessly on all aspects of PTO activities. Thanks Julie and Paula for all you do for Mitchell!



Mustang Basketball March



Girls

3-04	2:45 pm	Armijo	H
3-11	2:45 pm	Alamosa	A
3-18	1:45 pm	Gov. Bent	H

Boys

3-04	2:45 pm	Armijo	A
3-11	2:45 pm	Longfellow	A
3-18	2:45 pm	MesaVerde	H

A: Away game
H: Home game

**Good Luck
Mustangs!!**

Health & Wellness News ... Get Outdoors in March!

We usher in March, welcoming the spring weather of the great Southwest. In this transitional month, it is so nice to be outdoors, enjoying the warm sunshine and beautiful views. Albuquerque is a great place to live with many opportunities to experience the great outdoors, and so many possibilities are free! Here are just a few ideas to get you outside and having fun:

1. Ride the bike trail along the Bosque! This trail begins in the north at Alameda and the river and continues well past the zoo. This is a nice flat, paved trail that is good for kids. There is also good parking access at the Rio Grande Nature Center, which is at the end of Candelaria, and another where Alameda crosses the river.



2. Tour the Rio Grande Nature Center! The Nature Center is a natural habitat center where you can view migratory birds, see pond life, and learn about the Rio Grande River as a habitat. There are plenty of trails to hike in the Bosque and experience the wildlife first hand. Be sure and bring a camera!

3. HIKE A TRAIL IN THE FOOTHILLS!

The majestic Sandia Mountains hold a variety of hiking trails for the beginner to the experienced hiker. Many of the trails are a five minute drive away from Mitchell! These trails are so close, but quickly take you into the enchanting foothills and away from the hustle and bustle. Elena Gallegos picnic grounds have a good variety of trails, plus many picnic areas to enjoy a lunch or dinner. There is a small vehicle entry fee to enter the grounds.



4. Go Fishing! Tingley Beach, located off of Central, across from the Aquarium, has some beautiful ponds full of fish! Fishing is free for children under 12 years old in the state of New Mexico. All others are required to purchase a fishing license, which is pretty inexpensive for residents, especially if you plan on using it a few times during the year. Even if you don't have the gear to fish, there is a small shop located at Tingley Beach to rent you what you need!



5. Play in the Park! With so many wonderful neighborhood parks, why not enjoy one of them? Fly a kite, throw a Frisbee, play catch, or bring the dogs while the kids play on the equipment!

These are just a few of the many opportunities that Albuquerque and the surrounding area have to offer in the spring months. So, get out and enjoy our beautiful city and have fun with the kids!

Mitchell Night at Garduno's

Join us on **Tuesday, March 10th** for Mitchell Night at Garduno's. Whether you dine in or take food to go, present the flyer that's been sent home and Garduno's will donate 15% of the cost of your meal to Mitchell. Hope to see you there!

10555 Montgomery Blvd. NE
298-5000 (carry out)

In memory of Alma Miller...

Donations to Mitchell in the memory of Alma Miller now total \$455.
Thank you all.

NOTICE:

Please make sure that the office has current and updated contact information. We have had students get sick or injured here at school and we cannot reach anyone. We must have the current contact information for the parent('s) and at least two, preferably three, emergency contacts.



For more information go to:
www.mitchellpto.org

