



Mitchell Mustang

Volume 31 Issue 9

May 2007

From the Principal's Desk...

Important Dates

- May 7: PTO Meeting, 6:30pm
- May 14-18: Play Days (see below)
- May 25: Last Day of School

Dear Parents,

The year is coming to an end. As we barrel our way towards May 25, we need to stop and look back at what has turned out to be a wonderful school year. Over the years, teachers, parents and community members have mourned the fact that students had few after school options for enrichment activities. Our Instructional Council Governing Board and wonderful Parent-Teacher Organization, together with some very determined and dedicated teachers, decided that the 2006-7 school year would herald the start of new and varied after school opportunities for our students.

And so it is with great pleasure and with special thanks for the people who made it all possible, that I can list for you the following activities and clubs that Mitchell students were able to take part in this school year.

- Chorus (Thank you: Rhonda Schripsema)
- Boys Basketball Team (Thank you: Ted Maes, Laurie Aragon)
- Girls Basketball Team (Thank you: Laurie Aragon)
- Outdoor Adventure Club: Climbing (Thank you: Susan Stearns)
- Outdoor Adventure Club: Biking (Thank you: John McNett)
- Outdoor Adventure Club: Hiking/Fishing (Thank you: Laurie Aragon)
- Chess Club (Thank you: John McNett)
- Sewing Club (Thank you: Caitlin Robinson, Joan Weninger, Debbie Sprague, Maria Lucero, and Meredith Adolf)
- After School Tutoring (Thank you: Caitlin Robinson, Debbie Sprague, Delise Hargis, Joan Weninger, Karen McElroy, Jamie Kassetas, and a special volunteer Diane Stady)



Play Days

- May 14: 1st & 2nd
- May 15: 3rd & 4th
- May 16: Kindergarten
- May 18: 5th

Be sure to wear sunscreen and a hat, and bring a water bottle to school with you.

This past February the Eldorado Cluster Principals were invited to visit the legislative session in Santa Fe. During our visit, we met with Senators Mark Boitano, Kent Cravens and Bill Payne. We also met with Representatives Jimmie C. Hall, Janice Arnold-Jones and Bill Rehm. This was a follow-up to meetings we had with our state legislators in January. Each senator and representative was welcoming and attentive to the needs of our schools. It was a privilege to meet with them at such a busy time of year.

Recently, we learned that our cluster received close to \$2 million for capital outlay projects from the recent legislative session. This money is geared towards improving our schools' infrastructures as identified by the APS Master Facility Plan. In addition, our cluster received \$150,000 for professional development. The primary focus of this will be for training all cluster teachers and educational assistants on working with students to achieve our cluster math goals. This is an extraordinary amount for professional development and a direct result of our discussions with our legislators.

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Raley's

Thank you to Raley's for being our Join-a-School Partner and for donating 6 gallons of ice cream & 14-2 liter bottles of Root Beer for the 5th Grade party!

M I T T C H E L L

Community Day at Mitchell!

Thanks to all the parents, students, and staff who came out to beautify Mitchell! It was a wonderful day filled with music from Apple Mountain Strings and Things, planting, painting, and fun. If you weren't able to attend, check out the areas we worked on: on the Comanche circle drive we planted a tree and shrubs, painted all the pillars in the courtyards and surrounding areas, added whiskey barrels and planted seeds and plants in them throughout the school, pulled weeds and picked up trash throughout the school. Don't be disappointed if you weren't able to make it this year, we'll have another Community Day next year!

Thanks for your support!

Thanks to all the businesses who supported Mitchell for our Community Day. In turn, let's support them when we can! Tell them how much you appreciate their donation to Mitchell.

- Plants of the Southwest donated 2 trees, shrubs, and compost
- Osuna Nursery donated 10 whiskey barrels
- Gro-Well donated all the soil for the barrels and planters
- Starbucks on Montgomery donated coffee (yum!)
- Jay Ellington from the Southwest Fire Coordination Center brought goodies, Smokey Bear, and shared information about fire prevention
- Justin Cheney from Kirkland Fire Department brought the fire engine
- And of course, all the parents, staff, and students who made this possible!



A **special thank you** to Susan Stearns who coordinated Community Day - organizing the day's activities, and contacting local businesses for their generous donations.

**Outdoor Adventure Club
AKA: The OAC**

What a wonderful 6 weeks the OAC has had! We've biked, climbed, learned to fish, hike and had fun doing it!

Thanks to all the participants and to the businesses who made it possible:
Ken Gailord from Sportsman Warehouse,
Rudy Rios from The River Company,
Sports Outdoors, and Mitchell's very own PTO!

If you didn't make it in this year, try again next year! We look forward to another fun session!

Mr. McNett, Mrs. Aragon, Ms. Susan

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From the PTO President...

Well, another year is coming to an end this month and our children are moving forward! It goes sooo fast and all we can do is slow down and enjoy them while they are still in our care. I want to thank each of you who have supported our school in one way or another. Your involvement really does help your children. In the last newsletter I told you to keep your ears open to hear more information about another Family Swim Night. We acted too late and couldn't schedule the pool. So, we have decided to host a Back to School Swim night August 25 or September 8. We are still trying to finalize those dates. Start planning now to attend! It will be a GREAT way to say goodbye to summer and usher in a new school year.

Have a fantastic summer and we look forward to seeing you again in the fall!

Eddie Guess

Mitchell Family Science Night



Wow! Mitchell students worked hard on some fantastic science projects for our Family Science Night. It was an evening of fun, discovery and learning on April 11. Thank you to all the students (and families!) who worked so hard to conduct experiments and create wonderful displays of your work. We also had several community members present awesome science activities. Thank you to the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club, Hoover Middle School Gifted Science Team, Keep Albuquerque Beautiful, Lovelace Science Academy, Shaw Environmental Inc., Acme Worldwide Enterprises, Gagliano Graphics, and dedicated parent volunteers and teachers who added some excellent opportunities for learning. We appreciate the support of our community members and families.

Dress A Child!

Children who can start the school year with new clothes and new backpacks are better prepared and more eager to learn because they enjoy increased self-esteem. That's why our PTO is sponsoring "Dress A Child". We are asking for donations of new backpacks (filled with some new school supplies would be really nice!) and new school outfits for our Mitchell children in need. An "outfit" would consist of a pair of shoes, socks, underwear, a top, and a bottom.

We have needs for boys and girls at all grade

levels (K-5th). If you are unable to donate a complete outfit, the PTO will gratefully accept any part of an outfit. PTO can also accept cash and checks in any amount earmarked for "Mitchell Dress A Child". Our counselor and administrators will work together to see that our children's needs are met. You can donate now or at any time during the summer so we can help our children be prepared for school in the fall.

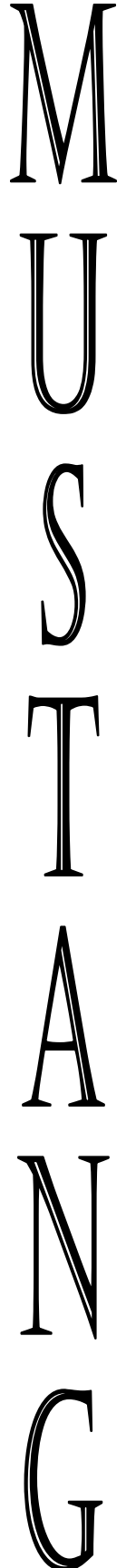
Thanks to all of our Mitchell families who continue to be so generous to our kids in need!

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. Also thank you to the Student Council students and sponsors, Ms. Aragon and Ms. Strongin, who sponsored the clothing drive. Your generosity was much appreciated by the Clothing Bank! 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.

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MITCHELL MUSTANG

From the Principal's Desk, cont.

Mitchell Elementary is the recipient of some very generous allocations. We will share in the \$150,000 professional development, \$500,000 in technology money offered to the Eldorado Cluster schools by Senator Kent Cravens and \$100,000 from Representative Jimmie C. Hall, the \$250,000 offered to the Eldorado Cluster schools' libraries by Senator Bill Payne. Mitchell will also receive an additional \$125,000 for technology from Representative Janice Arnold-Jones and \$10,000 from Senator Mark Boitano. Our library will also receive an additional \$50,000 (\$25,000 Senator Boitano, \$25,000 Representative Arnold-Jones) to purchase books and equipment.

The specific allotments still need to be cleared through for compliance with the Zuni District Action that all NM School Districts must heed.

Many thanks to our legislators for their vote of confidence in the work that Mitchell and the Eldorado Cluster schools are doing.

As you can see, there is much to look forward to for next year. Have an exciting action-packed summer. We'll be waiting to start the new year with you. Mark your calendar.

August 10: Meet Your Teacher 9:00-10:30 a.m.

August 13: First day of classes for 1st—5th grades.

August 15: First day of classes for kindergarten students.

Sincerely,

Raquel Reedy

Principal



From the May Library Bookshelf:

- We have had a great year in the library. Thank you to all of our volunteers and especially to Martha Kurley (Paulette Chasing Hawk's mom) who has been here almost every day this year. She has allowed me to accomplish so much more for the students than I thought possible. Her devotion to our students is much appreciated.
- Please continue to Read and use the **Public Library on Juan Tabo** this summer. They have a great reading incentive program for children.
- Before the end of the school year please LOOK FOR ANY LOST BOOKS in your collection and RETURN them to our Library for next year.
- Carissa Rosin (Marketing Coord.), Amelie (Manager) and Dion's hosted our **ONE FOR BOOKS** Pizza Party for the children who donated their hard earned money so other children could read. The children had a wonderful time. Thank you to DIONS on Montgomery and Morris and to Carissa and Amelie. Also, thank you Jan Rehren-Zepeda for coordinating this event. **Next time you visit DIONS tell Amelie how much we appreciate their support of our school.**
- Lastly, if there are any books in your collection that you no longer need or want, consider **DONATING** these to our Library. We are always in need of books in good condition that children enjoy reading. A Book Plate will be placed on the inside front cover of the book with your child's name as the one who donated this book(s).
- **HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER READING WHEREVER YOU ARE!**