



Mitchell Mustang

Volume 31 Issue 1

September 1, 2006

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents,

Important Dates

- September 4: Labor Day— No School
- September 11: PTO Meeting, 6:30pm
- September 21: School Photos
- October 9: Fall Break—No School
- October 20: Fall Festival, 6-8pm

Another school year begins and we find ourselves surrounded by reenergized teachers and happy, excited children. Mitchell's Parent-Teacher Organization, headed by Edie Guess, will help us expand our before and after school activities this year. We have recently learned that the City Middle School Initiative Grant and our PTO will fund several clubs and activities that Mitchell students can take part in:

Chess Club	Outdoor Adventure Club
Basketball Club	Chorus
Sewing Club	Tutoring

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will also be offered thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Zeter family (Boy Scouts) and Dorothy Carroll (Girl Scouts).

Generous legislative appropriations will result in climbing walls for our playground and gym. New shade canopies are on their way to Mitchell, and our library will benefit from updated lighting and equipment

Mitchell made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) on the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment Test as required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Teachers, parents and students worked ceaselessly last year on our new Math pilot curriculum, which emphasizes multiple problem-solving strategies. The test results show the kind of progress that takes your breath away.

Our NMSBA scores compared to last year were as follows:

	School Year: <u>2004-5</u>	School Year: <u>2005-6</u>
% Of students proficient in Math	42.57%	60.84%
% Of students proficient in Reading	69.59%	72.29%

According to the No Child Left Behind Act, by the 2013-14 school year, 100% of our students must score 100% proficiency in Math and Reading. This is a tall order. Just know that the Mitchell staff will continue to strive for improvement for all our students. Your encouragement and support sustains our work. As teachers and parents we are in this together. I think we make an unbeatable team!

September 19th marks the APS GO Bond Election. More than \$1 Billion in capital improvement needs, in 131 schools, have been identified by APS. Approval would pay for improvements in Eldorado Cluster Schools.

Eldorado High School	\$9,167,000
John Baker	\$2,656,274
Ocate	\$2,474,072

Approval would also provide much-needed updates for APS stadiums, student data collection system, and our food services department, including kitchen facilities.

Remember September 19th is a very important date for APS and Mitchell Elementary. Please vote!

Raquel Reedy
Principal

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From the PTO President's Desk...

Welcome to a new year at Mitchell.

We are so happy to have you as a part of this very talented and creative group of families at Mitchell Elementary. It is our absolute goal to ensure that our children have the best start to their learning experience. Your help will ensure that we can do just that.

Our PTO has a myriad of talents amongst our members. At the core of it all we have a heart and spirit that is unsurpassed. Just having your family's name on our rolls, gives us the moral support we need, and your contributions of time and energy keep the spirit growing and showing.

Some of the things to be looking forward to this year are after school programs, the Fall Festival, and possibly a Jog-a-thon in the spring. We have listened to concerned parents about door-to-door fundraisers and while these are important for fundraising, we never, ever want your child to be unsafe. We have pared down the number of these kinds of fundraisers. We cannot give them up entirely, but we have tried to find other kinds of fundraisers that will work better for our children and community. If you have an idea that you don't see, SPEAK UP!!! I promise you that we take all suggestions very seriously.

I also want to personally thank you. I know that some folks shy away from joining the PTO out of fear of constant requirements to volunteer. While we, of course, appreciate any type of support you can provide and realize that your time is very valuable, we also know that in some cases it just is not possible. Our board is comprised of working families as well as stay-at-home parents, so we maintain an even perspective on what impact we have on you.

Finally— look around you at our great school. I cannot say often enough how lucky we are to have this place of learning, this group of teachers and staff, and all of these wonderfully supportive families to form our learning community. Get set for a great year and remember that we are here to leave our prints on tomorrow... so let's get started.

Sincerely,

Edie Guess



Join the Pack!

All boys interested in joining **Cub Scouts** please call the Cub Scout Master, Todd Zeter, for details at 237-1869. First graders interested in **Tiger Cubs** call BJ Drexler at 296-7431 or Todd Zeter.

Hoover Holiday Bazaar

We are looking for artisans who are interested in renting a booth for the upcoming Hoover Holiday Bazaar. It will be held October 28th from 9am to 4pm. The cost is just \$30.00! Volunteers are also needed on October 27th and October 28th.

Contact Susan at 323-2131 or e-mail Twilla at bookends1@comcast.net.

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**BOX TOPS & CAMPBELL'S
SOUP LABELS**



Please save your Box Tops and Campbell's Soup labels. Be sure to write your name and teacher's name on the back of the Box Tops because there will be a drawing in October. Both can be turned into the office at any time.

Starting September 1st you can buy this year's **Entertainment Book** in the office (students will **not** be selling them).
Just \$35!



From The September Library Bookshelf...

I am Mrs. Debbie Sprague. The children call me Ms. Debbie. (It's easier to pronounce.) I manage the library here at Mitchell Elementary. I feel very fortunate to be able to see all the children every day and work with them to help them enjoy reading and researching fun topics.

The library program and procedures encourage student **Character Counts Traits**. We ask that all library books be placed and kept at home in the student's **Backpack** when not being read. In this way they are kept safe and protected. Also, it ensures that the book will not be forgotten on library day as it travels to and from school. If you do not want your child carrying the book each day, please set aside a specific **library spot** safe from all dangers, near their back pack, and keep the book there when it is not being read. But don't forget library day....

Our library books are difficult to replace and the process is sometimes long. Please encourage your child to be responsible for their books. Together, I know we can.

If any person would like to **volunteer** in the library, please fill out the form below and send it to the office with your child. There are many jobs in our library and you may work the hours you wish to work and do the tasks you wish to do. (Your comfort level is important.)



I would like to volunteer in the library.

My Name is (print): _____ My Child's name is: _____.

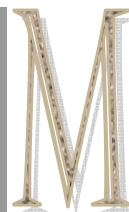
Teacher's Name is: _____ My Home Phone is _____.

My Cell Phone is: _____ I would like to work on M T W T F (circle)

I would like to work between the hours of: _____ and _____ .

Or _____ whenever I can

Or _____ at home laminating, fixing etc. books



Be On the Lookout For These Exciting Events...

After School Programs:

The clubs we currently are planning include: Sewing Club, Outdoor Adventure Club, Chess Club, Choir, Basketball, and Computer. In order for these programs to be successful and allow more students to participate – we are asking that the students pay for half of the cost and the PTO will pick up the other half. There will be a flyer going home soon regarding these clubs – so be on the lookout! Also, we would love your help with these clubs, remember the more volunteers we have – the more students we can accept into each club.

Fall Festival:

We want this year to be even better than last year. This will be our third year and we just keep learning each year. Our big aim is to have more student involvement on the actual night. We will be asking classes to host a booth which involves the planning and prep work that goes into their booth and then also to staff it the night of the festival. Also, we will be doing the basket raffle once again. We need donations for this to be successful and will be sending home instructions once the Festival gets closer. If you own a business, please consider donating your services or money to help make this the most successful basket raffle EVER!

Original Works:

A new Fundraiser this year is called **Original Works**. This is an awesome Christmas present idea. The children create their art in the classroom and then the Original Works company can turn your child's art into various items such as aprons, luggage tags, mouse pads, teddy bears, pot holders, journals, magnets, mugs, note cards, pillowcase, sweatshirt, quilt blocks, tile trivets, totes, calendars, key chains, garden flag, t-shirts, and photo albums. We are extremely excited about this new program. The product will be back in time for Christmas!

PTO Website:

We are currently developing a PTO website which will provide information about upcoming events, fundraising, volunteer opportunities, meeting minutes, Mustang Newsletter, and much more! We'll let you know when we are up and running.



ALSO COMING SOON... FAMILY FUN NIGHTS. FREE FOR ALL!!

Groceries Earn \$\$\$ For Mitchell

All three grocery stores in our area have programs that allow you to donate a percentage of the money that you *already* spend on food to Mitchell Elementary. **Raley's Quality of Life** program allows you to go online to activate your card and designate Mitchell as your favorite school. Cards are available in the school's office or at Raley's Customer Service.

Albertson's Community Partners program links your Preferred Savings Card with the school of your choice and gives up to 4% of each purchase to your school. Forms are available at their Customer Service desk or sign up online at www.albertsons.com. Click on "In The Community" for the *Community Partners* link.

Smith's Earn & Learn Program links your Fresh Values Card with Mitchell. Sign up by calling 1-800-764-8897 to register Mitchell or e-mail your request to earnlearn@sfdc.com. Be sure to type in your Fresh Values card number and indicate city and state.

So PLEASE SIGN UP wherever you shop and know that you're helping Mitchell pay for after school programs, field trips, equipment, and many other items that contribute to our children's education.