



Mitchell Mustang

Volume 32 Issue 1

September 2007

From the Principal's Desk...

Important Dates

- Sept. 3: Labor Day, No School
- Sept. 6: School Photos
- Sept. 10: PTO Meeting, 6:30pm
- Sept 11: Mitchell Day at Il Vicino
- Sept. 17: In-service Day, No school
- Sept. 25: Mitchell Day at Il Vicino

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year. The summer seemed to just fly by and we are suddenly surrounded by the hum of happy children. It was great to see everyone at Open House.

We had hoped to see many improvements to the Mitchell campus over the summer,. However, the scheduling did not work out, so now the improvements are going to be happening during the school year. Things to look forward to include: a new kindergarten playground, newly- remodeled bathrooms in the patio area, plus finishing up last year's work on the shade structures and the outdoor climbing wall.

Mitchell made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) on the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Our continued work with Everyday Math (which emphasizes multiple problem-solving strategies), the focus on literacy skills, as well as the dedication of our staff and parents has once again paid off. Our current proficiency levels are 63% for math and 71% for reading. According to the No Child Left Behind Act, by the 2013-14 school year, 100% of our students must score proficient 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 sustain our work. As teachers and parents, we are in this together. I think we make an unbeatable team!

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to call (299-1937) or come by the office to talk.

Debbie Garrison
Principal



Clothing Bank Needs Our Help

The **CLOTHING BANK** has moved and is now located near McKinley Middle School. They are desperately looking for volunteers to help them get set up. If you are interested in helping out, please call Laura at 344-7481.

Free or Reduced Lunch Program

Have you filled out the application for Free or Reduced Lunch? If you qualify, it not only benefits your children but also Mitchell. Just drop into the office and fill out the form today.

From the PTO President...

Welcome back to another GREAT school year! I hope everyone had an awesome summer and is ready for a super year! The PTO has some wonderful parents that have fantastic ideas for our school. If you would like to be involved, we would love for you to come to our monthly meetings. We meet the first Monday of the month in the Admin. Office at 6:30 p.m. - although September's meeting will be September 10 due to Labor Day.

We have several fundraising opportunities throughout the year. We have already started our fundraising for the year with the peeler cards. We fundraise to provide money for the buses for field trips, small stipends for teachers (who spend much of their own money on their classes and our children), community support for students in need, and various other items not provided by the APS budget. We don't want Mitchell students to suffer because of budget issues with APS. We are also offering a donation option. A donation form was sent home in the peeler card fundraising envelope. Please do not get frustrated with the fundraisers - just participate in the ones you want!

The Entertainment Books are on sale in the office. They are \$35. The books will NOT be going home with the children again this year.

Our Fall Festival is going to be October 19. If you are interested in helping, we NEED you! We desperately need help staffing booths. Please email me at ediegues@gmail.com or call me at 292-1518. We look forward to another year of learning and growing! Hope to see you at the meetings!

Edie Guess

PTO President

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

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Mitchell's Il Vicino Days

Join us on two Tuesdays, **Sept. 11th & Sept. 25th**, at Il Vicino on Montgomery & Juan Tabo. Bring in a flyer (will be sent home & available in the office) or tell the cashier that you're there to help Mitchell PTO. Mitchell will then receive 15% of your sale. This is good for any time during those 2 days. Let's have a big turnout!!



New Mustang T-Shirt!

Have you seen the newly-designed Mitchell t-shirt? They are just \$10. each. We have children sizes S-L and adult sizes S-XL. Pick up yours today in the office. (We'll also be selling them at Fall Festival.)

- Don't forget to wear your t-shirt (or a blue shirt) each Friday for Spirit Day!

FALL FESTIVAL



This year's Fall Festival will be held on Friday, October 19th from 5:30 to 8 p.m. There will be games, food, music, and fun for all! Let's start looking for donations for the basket raffles now to make them even better than last year!!

Join the Pack!

All boys in the first through fifth grades that are interested in joining **Cub Scouts**, please call the Cub Scout Master, Todd Zeter, for details at 237-1869.

Groceries Earn \$\$\$ For Mitchell

Two 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.

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. PLEASE NOTE... Smith's purges their list of the preferred school linked with each Fresh Values Card each July. Just have the cashier scan your card and say, "Yes, Mitchell Elementary is my school of choice."

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.

Entertainment Books

are now available for purchase in the office (students will **not** be selling them).
Just \$35!

Be on the lookout for school picture information and payment envelopes to come home. **School Picture Day** is Thursday, September 6th.



CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ▲ DESIGN
BUILD **DOLOGY**

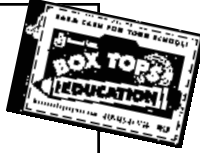
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MITCHELL MUSTANG

BOX TOPS & CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS

Don't forget to 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.



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