



Mitchell Mustang

September 2008

10121 Comanche NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
(505) 299-1937
www.aps.edu/aps/mitchell
Volume 33 Issue 1

Important Dates

- Sept. 1: Labor Day,
No School
- Sept. 8: PTO Meeting,
6:30pm
- Sept. 9: Open House,
6:30-7:30pm
- Sept. 11: School
Pictures
- Oct. 1: Fun Run
- Oct. 24: Fall Festival
- Nov. 11: Read-a-thon
Begins
- April '09: Spell-a-thon



Mitchell Mustang Newsletter

Submission deadline for the Oct. Issue is Wednesday, Sept. 17. Send articles to:

newsletter@mitchellpto.org

Mitchell Mustang is sponsored by the Mitchell PTO.

For more info go to:

www.mitchellpto.org

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin by thanking you and the wonderful Mitchell staff for the very successful beginning of the year. We have several new staff members this year, so I am going to take this opportunity to introduce them to you and to welcome them to the Mitchell Family. They are as follows:

Kindergarten

- **Brandee Martinelli** will be teaching Kindergarten in place of Tom Maupin, who is currently on medical leave. Brandee was a student teacher here at Mitchell, and also worked as the long term substitute last year when Mrs. Szwed had her baby. We are hoping Brandee will become a permanent member of the staff. I will keep you posted as to whether Mr. Maupin will be returning later in the year. **Barbara Corneliussen** will be the assistant in that classroom.

1st Grade

- **Sandy Brown** is returning from extended leave and is joining the 1st grade team.
- **Ashley Allen** is a student teacher from UNM that will be working with Karen McElroy for the first part of the year. She will graduate from UNM in December.
- **Jessica Corbett** is a student teacher from UNM that will be working with Delise Hoy this year.

2nd Grade

- **Barbara Skelton** is a student teacher from UNM that will be working with Mrs. Collins this year for the first part of the year. She will graduate from UNM in December.

3rd Grade

- **Elise Austin** is a student teacher from UNM that will be working with Lindsay Szwed and Michelle Sandoval for the first part of the year. Lindsay and Michelle will be job sharing this year. She will graduate from UNM in December.
- **Faye Richards** is a student teacher from UNM that will be working with **Lesley Botz**, who will be working full time this year, for the first part of the year. She will graduate from UNM in December.

4th Grade

- **Kimberly Brothers** is a student teacher from UNM that will be working with Erica Encinias for the first part of the year. She will graduate from UNM in December.

Special Education

- **Kasandra Poole** is teaching one of our primary special education classes.

Cluster/District Personnel

- **David Lucero** will have an office here at Mitchell as he works as an IEP specialist for several schools in our area.
- **Bejat Sherazi** will be housed here at Mitchell as she services families in the Eldorado and Manzano clusters.
- **Dr. Bryan Euler**, Lead Psychologist for the district.
- **John Kail**, Social Worker for Mitchell and Hoover.
- **Allan Murray and Rodrigo Flores**, Behavior Intervention Specialists for our cluster.

(continued on Page 2)

From the Principal's Desk, cont...

Custodians

We continue to have Joey Archibeque as our Head Custodian, working during the day. **Paul Zamora** is joining our other night custodian, Stephen Saenz. Stephen will probably be leaving Mitchell sometime this fall to attend the Police Academy.

Music

Mitchell is lucky to have a music teacher for the full year. **Janet Harmony** will be teaching our students all about harmony.

BAND

Mitchell will have a before school band program this year, under the direction of **Joe Gershin and Cedric Knox**. We are very excited to be able to offer band to our 4th and 5th graders.

Also many of you have asked about **Joan Weninger**. She will serve as our Literacy Teacher this year, serving students from all grade levels that are struggling with reading.

It is exciting to have so many new faces on campus this year and we are truly blessed to have an awesome staff.

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 62% for math and 69% for reading. According to the No Child Left Behind Act, by the 2013-14 school year, 100% of our students must score proficiency in Math and Reading. Each year the target number increases. The 2008-2009 target is 50% for math and 63% for reading. 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!

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 p.m. for Open House. We will also host an orientation for parents of students that are learning English a second language at 7:30 p.m., immediately following the classroom teachers' presentations. If you have questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to call or come by the office to talk.

Debbie Garrison, Principal



Mustang T-Shirts **GET**

YOURS
TODAY!

New design: \$10.

Old design: \$5.

Kids—don't forget to wear yours each Friday to show your school spirit! Available in the Office.

From the PTO President...

Welcome Back to School!

My name is Paula Adams, your newly elected PTO President for the 2008-2009 school year. I have previously been an active member of the PTO. My daughter, Alyssa, has attended Mitchell since kindergarten. My four year old son, Preston, is eagerly looking forward to joining the Mustangs in the near future. Having been a product of APS I would like to enact growth, sustainability, and fulfillment of success. I will have a pro-active approach and would hope and appreciate that each and every parent can make an effort to do the same. No matter how big or small, your involvement is essential and appreciated. Community involvement, creating awareness, raising money and maintaining a top quality educational experience are some of the PTO's goals.

PTO met before the current school year began, and of course we have many wonderful ideas and creative projects, and challenges for our school that I look forward to sharing with you. The PTO anticipates a productive school year, and looks forward to recruiting more members. Your participation and support equals success for our Mitchell students, our primary focus!

Looking forward to an exciting new school year,
Paula Adams
PTO President

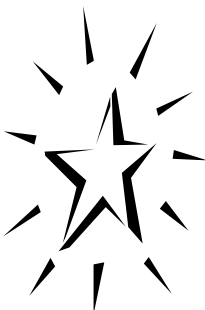
This space is for sale!



Your business could be
featured in a full page ad
JUST \$125.



***Half-page business ads
JUST \$75.***



Business card ads will run \$25.

*One line messages are just \$5,
For example, "Happy Birthday, Squirt!"*

Mitchell Elementary PTO VOLUNTEER Sign-Up 2008-2009

Volunteering for the many Mitchell PTO activities is a great way to help our kids and our school. Your help is what continues to make your PTO a strong organization. We do fund raisers to assist with various items such as; classroom supplies, after school programs, campus beautification, field trips, supplemental materials and various supplies needed to insure a continued high quality educational experience for our children. We try to fill the gaps APS leaves. We are ever striving to make Mitchell an awesome experience for each of our children.

Please fill out the following information to help us communicate with volunteers more effectively.

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____ **CELL:** _____

E-MAIL: _____ **CHILDS NAME/GRADE:** _____

TEACHER: _____

In an effort to save paper, I am interested in receiving the PTO Newsletter and other school correspondence Via E-Mail YES or NO (please circle) or sign up at www.mitchellpto.org

1. Please “check” as many of the following activities you are interested in volunteering for:

EVENT

YEAR ROUND HELP

_____ **Jog-a-thon** (October)
set up, donations, organization, tallying...

_____ **Fall Festival** (October)
set up, raffle donations, booth help, booth construction, clean up, publicity, decorating...

_____ **Read-a-thon** (Nov-Jan) packet assembly, tallying...

_____ **Spell-a-thon** (April) packet assembly, tallying...

_____ **Staff Appreciation Luncheons** (Dec & May)
donate food, set up , clean up decorating, coordinating....

_____ **Picture Days** (Sept 11, Oct 23 & Jan 11)
assist getting students lined up and ready for pictures....

Dates & Activities are subject to change

_____ **Library** – Year Round
book fairs, general help, shelving books, end of year inventory...

_____ **Office Help** – Year round
answering phones, filing, copy room, mail, stuff Friday folders...

Student Clubs (before and after school)

_____ **Art/Sewing/Fine Arts**

_____ **Band**

_____ **Basketball Boys/Girls**

_____ **Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts**

_____ **Chess Club**

_____ **Cooking Club**

_____ **Great Outdoors Adventure Club**

_____ **Music Programs**

_____ **Tutoring**

Is there a new club you would like to suggest or be willing to chair? _____

2. Would an at home activity suit you better, such as: baking phoning other _____

3. Would you like to put your name on a list of “last minute volunteers” who may be called in a pinch? YES NO
We will make a concerted effort to call all who sign up to volunteer for that activity. Feel free to contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Stacy Sturgess at 271-1420, if you have any questions.

New Requirements for Parent Volunteers!

Any parent or adult volunteer who will be with children *without* an APS employee present (i.e.: driving on a field trip, tutoring, etc.) must obtain a background check and fingerprinting. This must be done through APS. Get a volunteer form from the office. Thanks for your support!

OFFICE: Please place forms in the PTO box - Thank You!

Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels

Please save Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup Labels For Education! Remember that we need the UPC symbol on the soup labels (not the whole label) in order to get any money for them. Also, it would be very helpful to have the Box Tops cut out neatly and to make sure that the expiration dates have not passed. Be sure to put your child's name and teacher on the back and hand them in to the Office.



Welcome Back to Health and Wellness Class

Welcome to a new school year at Mitchell Elementary! It is wonderful to see all of the returning students and welcome our new students to our school. I trust that everyone has had a fun-filled summer break and is ready to begin the new school year.

Health and Wellness class at Mitchell Elementary School is a combination of physical education, learning how to keep our bodies healthy for our entire lives, and safety. The health focus this year will be nutrition. The students will be learning how to make good food choices, as well as how nutrition affects academic performance and quality of life. We will cover the nutritional guidelines published by the USDA and explore how we can use this information to help with our daily choices.

We will be practicing Mustang PRIDE in health and wellness class. Preparedness is the "P" in Pride. Please make sure that your child is prepared with proper clothing and shoes for activity on their scheduled Health and Wellness days. The students will participate in a wide variety of activities, thus comfortable play clothing is a must. Athletic shoes are required to participate. The shoes should fit properly and not slide off the foot while tied. The proper fit will help the student perform to his/her maximum potential, as well as keep all students safe from random shoes flying through the air!

This will be a year full of activity and learning in Health and Wellness class at Mitchell. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me using the information below. Thank you for the opportunity to teach your children and thank you for your support.

Laurie Aragon
299-1937 School
aragon_la@aps.edu

Drop-off, Pick-up, and Parking Lot Procedures

- The **East parking lot** on Comanche can be used for student drop-off and pick-up **only if you are parking your car and walking your child onto campus.** Please do not have students meet you in this parking lot.
- The **Southeast circular drive** on Comanche is for **child care vans only.**
- The **Southwest circular drive** on Comanche will be used for the APS school bus. Students will use this area to access the crosswalk, too.
- **Inca Street** will be used for student drop-off and pick-up. Parents should access Inca **from San Gabriel headed south**, enter the parking lot using the north entrance, drop-off and pick-up students is designated area and exit back on to Inca headed south. **Parents should NOT park in this parking lot or in the north parking lot at any time.**

Please assist in the smooth flow of traffic by pulling your car forward as far as possible when picking up or dropping off students. **DO NOT DROP-OFF OR PICK-UP YOUR CHILD ON COMANCHE STREET. You may drop them off on Inca, south of Comanche and they can use the crosswalk to access campus.** Students will not be allowed to cross Inca to the west at Comanche to meet parents in the apartment parking lot. **Please DO NOT drop-off/pick-up or park in the fire lanes. Fines for misuse of the Fire Lane can reach \$500.**

At no time should children be in the staff parking area, located on the **north or east** side of the school. Students are asked to walk on the sidewalk and go around the parking area. Walkers approaching the school from Inca Street are encouraged to use the crosswalks and walk on the sidewalk as closely as possible to the North wall area of the parking lot. Students walking on Comanche Street will obey the directions of the crossing guard and enter the school from the front.

**MITCHELL
TEAMS UP WITH**



**Pick up your card
today in the office.**

From The September Library Bookshelf...

Welcome back to the Mitchell ES/APS Library! Parents are always welcome to call or visit with any need, concern or just for fun volunteering. Any time, no matter how small, is appreciated.

- The children are doing a wonderful job keeping their library books safe in **Ziploc bags and in their backpacks**. Tell your child "Good Job!"
- Promote P.R.I.D.E. in the library with your student (s) by reinforcing the procedures & expectations of the library.
- In October we are having an event at the Fall Festival called "**Build a Klutz Book.**" It is a book that your child creates. Each book kit will sell for \$6.00 and will be a treasured keepsake for years to come. More info is on it's way.
- Coming Very Soon is our **Scholastic Book Fair**. It will be held during Parent/Teacher Conference Week in November. The theme is: Enter the Kingdom of Reading. It arrives November 10 and stays until Nov. 21st. This is a fundraiser that allows us to buy current books for the library that the children want and will read. This year it will also go towards funding the school wide and home based program Bookflix. More information is on the way.
- I am looking for volunteers to help before, during and after the two weeks of Book Fair. We need people to put up signs, decorate, cashiers (very simple process), security, help children and parents locate books, help with Family Night, set up and take down. If you have any time available **please** let me know at 299-1937.

Debbie Sprague

Neighborhood Piano Lessons



www.mountainsidemusic.com

Summer Jeromin

508-2755



Timothy J Scott

Insurance and Financial Services Agent

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MITCHELL PTO MEMBERS:

The families of: Martin/Garcia, Domina-Lovato, Parish, White, Bruce, Nguyen, Adams, Ferguson, Ervin, Zeter, Sturgess, Grosso, McClure, Ellington, Nicolet, Mendoza, Ulibarri, Stearnes, Seiler, Komiske, Brittain, and Debbie Garrison

*Join the PTO and receive a FREE Mitchell t-shirt with paid membership now through September, while supplies last (limited sizes available). *

Become a Member of your Mitchell PTO... Sign Up below and turn into the Office...

Contact Name _____ Child's Name _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone Number _____

\$5 membership fee _____