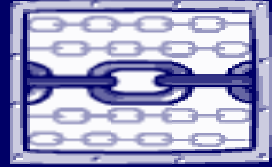




# The Littleton Link

## Connecting Littleton School District With Its Most Valuable Resource

### “Our Community”



September 2008

**District Mission:**  
To provide comprehensive  
success-oriented learning  
activities for young people in  
our schools

## One on One with the Superintendent

A new school year means **new opportunities** in the Littleton School District. We have recruited an excellent cadre of new teachers for the 2008-09 school year and have the greatest percentage of returning teachers in recent years! While student enrollment has declined across the state, our District grew by more than twelve percent last year and we are expecting to grow by another 300 to 400 students this year. For the first time, we will open the year with over five thousand students!

With the opening of **Tres Rios** the District will open for the first time six comprehensive kindergarten through eighth-grade schools with middle school programs built into their master schedules. Each school has a teacher for the gifted, for youngsters struggling in reading, for students learning English, and a director for band. Every student in every school will also start the day with breakfast in the classroom, assuring the best opportunity for learning each morning. The Underdown campus will host expanded alternative programs for students struggling in our traditional settings.

We are pleased to have all six of our outstanding **principals returning** this year, but we have an important change in our Educational Services Division. Our Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Smith, was tapped by another Governing Board in Phoenix to become their new Superintendent. We certainly will miss his helpful hand in the leadership and operations of our district.

After an extensive search, our Governing Board approved **Dr. Paul Tighe** as his replacement and we want to thank everyone who helped in the process. Dr. Tighe has most recently been a principal in the Dysart School District and had an opportunity to open one of their new K-8 schools. He also served as an administrator in Vermont where he handled both building and district level duties.

Dr. Tighe taught in Vermont and in 1997 was recognized as the Teacher of the Year in Vergennes and received the Outstanding Vermont Teacher Award. Dr. Tighe received his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Vermont. He earned a doctoral degree at Arizona State University in 2007, and received the *Arizona School Administrators* Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. Dr. Tighe has been married for seventeen years and has a daughter who is entering her freshman year of high school. His wife is a first grade teacher.

We made huge progress on the District's **construction program** in the last year. *Sundt Construction* has helped us to open two new K-8 schools in less than one year. Voter approved bond funding added improvements to the facilities and grounds, as well as classroom space to help keep class sizes down. Funding from our community also supported improvements by the *Chasse Building Team* to the Littleton school, including a new secure entrance to the campus, a newly remodeled computer lab, site improvements and completely remodeled student restrooms. Work on the Littleton campus will continue throughout the year.

Considering all of the changes in our District, our opening week unfolded smoothly. We have extraordinarily dedicated and caring employees who contribute long hours to the learning community of the Littleton School District. On behalf of myself and our Governing Board, we want to **express our appreciation** to our students, parents, staff and teachers who are part of our growing success.

Sincerely,  
Roger S. Freeman, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**GOVERNING BOARD**  
Mrs. Kelli Watson, President  
Mr. Manuel Macias, Member  
Mrs. Sally Maddux, Member  
Mrs. Sandi Nielson, Member  
Mrs. Kathy Reyes, Vice Pres.

Roger S. Freeman, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Paul Tighe, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent

Collier Elementary  
Mr. Pat Bentley  
Country Place Elementary  
Mr. Richard Stinnett  
Estrella Vista Elementary  
Mr. Michael Halley  
Littleton Elementary  
Mrs. Jean Bell  
Quentin Elementary  
Mrs. Jazmin Pacheco  
Tres Rios Elementary  
Mrs. Tracy Faulkner  
Underdown Jr. High  
Mrs. Lenora Owoyemi

### Inside this issue:

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE	1
SCHOOL NEWS	2-3
- COUNTRY PLACE	
- TRES RIOS	
- QUENTIN	
- LITTLETON	
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
DISTRICT NEWS	4



All students were actively engaged in learning



Kinder Camp is designed to provide information to future kindergarten parents and allow incoming kinder students to get comfortable with school and their teachers.

**TRES RIOS  
IS THE SECOND  
LITTLETON ESD  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
TO OPEN IN 2008.**

Check our website for individual school calendar events.

[www.littletonaz.org](http://www.littletonaz.org)

## The Littleton Link

### Country Place Elementary

#### Summer School Jump Start Academy

There have been exciting things happening at Country Place! During the summer months Country Place housed Kinder-fourth grade summer school called "The JumpStart Academy." The program coordinator was our own Dean of Students, Mrs. Latasha Harris. Parents were invited to a parent meeting where they were shown the program's academic focus and had an opportunity to meet the coordinator and teachers. The summer program was a success with its three distinct programs consisting of JumpStart for English Language Learners, JumpStart Enrichment to challenge students at or above grade level and JumpStart Remediation which helped student bridge the learning gap from the school year and specialized services for Special Education Students. All students were actively engaged in learning and the majority of our students had perfect attendance!

#### Kinder Camp

On Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, Country Place kindergarten teachers invited future kindergarteners and their parents to attend our second annual "Kinder Camp". The kindergarten team created the idea of kinder camp and it has now grown throughout the entire district. The camp is designed to provide information to future kindergarten parents and assure incoming kindergarteners how much fun school will be. Information provided to parents consisted of academic expectations in all academic areas, conferences, school hours, free breakfast, uniform choices, and arrival and dismissal procedures to and from school and other important topics for parents. Our speakers included Mrs. Jackie Davis, Mrs. Laura Beachy and Mrs. Kathy Bigar. We also had our PTA representatives: Karen Hook and Amanda Earnshaw talk to the parents about the importance of getting involved in school activities. We're headed for another great year!

### Tres Rios Elementary

We are very pleased to be opening Tres Rios for the 2008-2009 school year. We will still have a few "end of construction" items to complete, but overall we are off and running. Our cafenadium floor was manufactured incorrectly, so we were unable to get it installed before school began, but we will be looking forward to the new sports flooring to be installed over Fall Break. We are very happy about our kindergarten

and primary play equipment that has been installed on our playgrounds. Our intermediate play piece, picnic tables and sun shades are scheduled to be installed the first half of September.

The Tres Rios Open House was very well attended, with about 85% of our parents and students able to tour the school and meet their teachers. There was a lot of excitement in the air and anticipation for the first day

of school to begin. We had over 30 parents sign up to help get our PTA up and running. We hope to have our officer installation meeting completed by the end of August. Once our PTA is off the ground and our Parent Involvement Team in full swing, we will begin the planning process for the Tres Rios Dedication Ceremony. We hope to make it a memorable event for staff, students, parents and community.

### Calendar of Events

Littleton E.S.D. will once again provide Parent ESL and Computer Classes. Plans are underway for classes to begin October 13 after Fall Break. Please continue to look for updated information on our Littleton News Link and flyers. For further questions, please contact Ms. Sylvia Colorado at 623-478-5692 or 623-478-5606.

**September 1  
September 16  
October 1,2,3**

**October 6-10  
October 14**

**Labor Day - School out-of-session  
Governing Board Meeting  
Parent Teacher Conferences  
Early Release Days  
Fall Break - School out-of-session  
Governing Board Meeting**

## Quentin Elementary

### *Back To School Clothing Drive A Huge Success*

Each year since the implementation of the uniforms, Littleton District has participated in the Back To School Clothing Drive distribution. On July 25, 105 students from our district were able to get a uniform, a set of street clothes, tennis shoes, socks, underwear, and a back pack filled with school supplies and personal hygiene products. Students from every school in our district were able to benefit.

Julie Fach and Mary Mesich from Quentin Elementary coordinate this program along with Sylvia Colorado in the district office. The nurse or secretary of each school is given forms to send home with students in April. Once they are returned they are registered for the program. Over the summer the coordinators called or made home visits to each house to remind the parents. On the morning of July 25, two buses picked them up and took them to the site

downtown. After the children received their items they were dropped off back home. The chaperons this year were Julie Fach, Mary Mesich, Brenda Bustos, JoAnn Vega, Imelda Garcia, Aileen Mancillas, and Martina Moreno from Quentin as well as Corina Cuellar from Littleton. These wonderful folks all volunteered their time. Thanks for all who helped make a difference for our children.

**“WE EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO THE MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENTS FOR COMPLETING ALL OF THESE PROJECTS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL”**

## Littleton Elementary School

Littleton Elementary School has been undergoing many renovations since May.

Student bathrooms located outside the classrooms have been completely remodeled. The creation of our new computer lab for student use has just been completed in former classrooms 63 and 70. District technology department and Director, Sue Chyzy have been successful in providing our students with a wonderful new environment. This will also serve as a great area for teacher and staff trainings during non-instructional times.

Our district maintenance department has spent many hours working on this “in house” remodeling project and have been busy installing new exterior lighting for our campus. These new fixtures will be more “green” friendly. New lighting was installed in all of the classrooms and work areas on campus. The new lighting will enhance the instructional areas so they are more “learner friendly”. They also gave several of our classrooms a fresh coat of paint. The renovation to

building “G” went very well. The remodeled space now serves as the new school office. The school counselor, nurse, academic dean, assistant principal and principal will now be located in one location. This will enhance our customer friendly environment since it is now closer to the parent and visitor parking area. It will also promote school safety by having the access to the campus during instructional hours limited to entry and exit through the school office.

Other exciting programs we are working on for this year are as follows:

- Third grade will participate in the RoMac Program, focusing on enhancing math achievement
- Make a Difference” Organization Grant focusing on bringing students, parents, community and staff together to complete projects aimed at enhancing the school environment.
- Phoenix Children’s

Hospital “Kids Rock Stars”. This program focuses on bringing students and their families together to learn and participate in fitness activities.

- Junior Achievement Program for our sixth grade students.
- National Elementary and Junior Honor Society. This program honors student excellence in academic achievement as well as student service.
- Olweus – Bullying Prevention Program will be implemented this year. This program defines bullying behaviors.

For more information on any of the above mentioned programs, please contact the LES office at 623-478-5700.



Littleton School remodeled space now serves as the new school office.

Are you interested in an after school recreation program? The City of Avondale is offering an afterschool program at LES. If you would like more information, contact City of Avondale’s Recreation Department at 623-333-2400.

## Littleton Elementary School District News

### Special Education Department

#### What Can I Do at Home?

Support the efforts of the school. A cooperative effort between home and school enhances the chances for your child to overcome the behavioral challenges they face. Meet with your child's teacher to discuss how each of you can support the efforts of the other.

Increase your skills in managing behavior. There are a number of easy to read, supportive books available to help parents better guide their children. A couple of especially good books are "Assertive Discipline for Parents" by Lee Canter and "How to Talk so Kids will Listen and Listen so Kids will Talk" by Adele Faber and Elizabeth Maslich. You may also find helpful advice at [www.BehaviorAdvisor.com](http://www.BehaviorAdvisor.com) or [www.DisciplineHelp.com](http://www.DisciplineHelp.com)

Have your child read stories that promote positive values and behaviors. Select books in which the major character(s) show

bravery, honesty, generosity, or other admirable qualities. Books of this type can be located by asking your local neighborhood librarian, or going on the web sites of Free Spirit Publishers, [www.freespirit.com](http://www.freespirit.com); Magination Press [www.maginationpress.com](http://www.maginationpress.com); or Parenting Press [www.parentingpress.com](http://www.parentingpress.com).

Enroll your child in groups that provide guides that promote positive interaction and fun. Boy and Girls clubs, scouts, "the Y", and other organizations can support the efforts of you and your child's teacher.

Be a good role model. Show the behaviors you want your child to emulate. For example, do you handle frustration in a calm and thoughtful manner? As the old saying goes, "Actions speak louder than words."

*Reprinted from Parent guide, (February 2004, volume 22, number 2, pages 20-21. Author: Tom McIntyre*

### Federal Programs

Our Federal Programs Department has been working diligently in completing 2008-2009 federal and state grants.

Under Arizona Revised Statutes 15-751 through 15-757, Littleton Elementary School District will implement an English Language Development Program for all English Language Learner students identified by the state mandated AZELLA assessment for the 2008-2009 school year. This assessment tests listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the English language for those students identified by the Home Language Survey completed at the time of registration. The students scoring English proficient are placed in a mainstream classroom. Those students scoring less than proficient will be placed in the ELD program.

The ELD Program is a four hour program that is an intensive English language teaching program for non-proficient English speakers as identified by the AZELLA assessment, designed to accelerate the learning of the English language within one year. Arizona law requires English language learners to be grouped together in a structured English immersion setting. For further questions, please call Ms. Zozaya, Federal Programs Director at 623-478-5601.

Our department also oversees the Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Program. The program assures homeless children and youth have equitable instructional and non-instructional services through supplemental federal funding for homeless students preschool through twelfth grade. For more information, please call Ms. Colorado, Title I Specialist Sr. at 623-478-5692.

Our At Risk Preschool located at the Littleton Elementary campus is at full capacity. The program has an enrollment of twenty students for the AM session and twenty students for the PM session. All families must meet income guidelines for eligibility into the program based on state grant guidelines. We currently have forty-four students on the waiting list. If you need more information, please call Ms. Terri Martinez at 623-478-5785.

### Technology—HomeLogic

By now you should have received information pertaining to the HomeLogic Program. HomeLogic will allow students and parents to log on and view grades and attendance from the Internet. It is easy to use and will allow you to stay current with the progress your child is making in school. This will also allow you to email the teacher if you have any questions about assignments or grades. It is uncomplicated and all you need is an Internet connection (home, work, library etc.).

If you have not received information, please contact your child's teacher to request a password and login.