

TRES RIOS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# PUMA PRINTS

APRIL 2011

### Administrative Team

One of the goals of Peace Works is to create Peaceful communities. At Tres Rios, K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students are introduced to some common expectations which help create a peaceful community. Students in middle school are identifying the qualities they possess that enhance our community and lessons are taught which focus on working cooperatively, speaking respectfully, listening with an open mind, acting with kindness, respecting each other's feelings and taking responsibility for what we say and do.

**Ms. Faulkner, Ms. Elam-Gordon, and Ms. Goodman**

### Kindergarten

We've seen such amazing growth in March with our Kindergarten classes. We are counting to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's now. Continue practicing this at home. We are writing amazing small moment stories, with many students writing multi-page stories. We are moving from narrative writing and writing books from our Author Studies into writing non-fiction factual books. In April, we'll be studying different types of animals and each child will pick an animal to research and write a book about that animal, complete with a cover page, title page, table of contents, and animal diagram. These will be shared during an Authors Celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This would be a great opportunity to take your child to a public library, get them signed up for a library card, and help them pick out some books on animals that they are studying. A note about which animal they have chosen to study will come home around the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. We're also doing a math study on recycling the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in April, and will have a Recycling Museum of Art on the 22<sup>nd</sup> open to parents. Look for a note from your child's teacher with more details. Please keep practicing the sight words from the monthly homework packets, and use the flashcards or lists that have been sent home to practice. Make sure to read nightly for at least 15 minutes with your child, pausing at common sight words like: I, a, am, an, the, and, can, go, like, and you. Help them sound out words while you read, asking them what sound each letter makes and then putting the sounds together. Check your child's

folder daily for a stamp or smiley face to mark that they have had a good day and reinforce good behavior at home.

**Ms. Moneda, Ms. Yadon, and Ms. Watson**

### First Grade

This month, first graders will be working on the phonics skills of words with variant vowels ou, sounds of y, ie, and long o. We will be studying a variety of genres through studying the stories: *On the Job with Dr. Martha Smith* (nonfiction), *Little Bear's Friend* (fantasy) and *Busy Buzzy Bee* (nonfiction/science). In these literacy studies, we will be focusing on the skills of writing using adjectives, alphabetical order, and comparing/contrasting features of a story. In math, we will continue with non-standard and standard measurement. Please continue to practice reading fluency skills with your child every day.

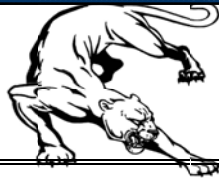
**Ms. Forney-Lee, Ms. Beck, Ms. Quinn, and Ms. Kracht**

### Second Grade

This month in math, we will be starting multiplication in second grade. Help your student become fluent in their multiplication facts by practicing flash cards with them. We will be focusing on multiples of 1, 2, and 5. As part of our literacy block, the kids will be using resources from the library to research informational text. Ask them what topic they have chosen and what facts they are going to include in their report. We will also be starting a unit on maps. The students will be learning how to use a Compass Rose and how to find things on a map. They will also be creating their own maps.

We have just finished benchmark tests for quarter 3. Second grade is very proud of the growth they have made. Nice job students! We are now preparing for more testing. As the older grades gear up for AIMS, second grade is getting ready to take the Stanford 10. Help your student be ready to do their best by getting lots of rest, eating a healthy breakfast and being prepared to come to school on time every day. Every day counts!

**Ms. Hackenson, Ms. Romo, Ms. Samland, and Ms. Bach**



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### Third Grade

Can you believe it's already April? We are so proud of our third grade students and all of their hard work so far this year. AIMS testing is quickly approaching! Since third grade is the first year for AIMS testing, we want to give a few reminders/hints for successful testing. Please make sure that your child gets at least 8 hours of sleep each night and eats a good breakfast each morning. This will ensure that their brains are ready to go in the morning. It is imperative that students are on time and present each day for testing. Encourage your child to try their hardest and do their best on the test. Reassure them that everything they need to know for the test has been taught to them throughout the school year. AIMS testing should not be a stressful time for students, so let's work together to keep everyone calm and happy!

**Ms. Ball, Ms. Badonie, Ms. Wentz, and Ms. Lawlor**

### Fourth Grade

We have begun the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and have reached a very important time of the year! This month, we will begin to prepare our students for AIMS testing. AIMS testing will take place from April 11-20. During this time, it is extremely important that your child is coming to school each day, has gotten plenty of rest, and eats a good breakfast. We'll be taking a Reading, Math and Science test. If you would like to help your student prepare for AIMS, you can go online to [www.ade.az.gov](http://www.ade.az.gov). Under the green heading of Hot Topics, click on AIMS-take the test. You will see a page of sample tests for each grade level. You can either take the sample tests online or you can print out the test. Homework will not be assigned during the week of AIMS, except for reading logs. However, before AIMS, we will be sending Math homework daily that will help students review concepts we've learned throughout the year. Thank you for all your support. We look forward to working with you and your child the rest of the school year.

**Ms. Lawrence, Ms. Miller, Ms. Bowman, Ms. Moore, and Ms. Gomez**

### Fifth Grade

Thank you parents and students for your participation in March's Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences! It was

wonderful to see how the students proudly shared with their families what they have been learning. We had a wonderful turn out. A is for April and also for AIMS. We cannot stress the importance of this annual test enough. This is the time where students need to demonstrate everything they have learned this year in order to show their mastery in reading, math, and writing. Our classrooms will be reviewing various 5<sup>th</sup> grade concepts during the remaining weeks before the test. Feel free to explore the Arizona Department of Education's website. There are some links for AIMS sample test items and information regarding 5<sup>th</sup> grade learning standards.

**Ms. Rizor, Ms. Kannalikhram, Ms. Bates, and Ms. Smith**

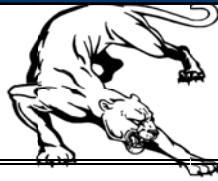
### Sixth Grade

Incredible!!! The time that we have been AIMing for has arrived. 6<sup>th</sup> grade is prepared for the challenge of the AIMS tests after months and months of dedicated work. We are asking parents to please plan any appointments or trips accordingly, so our students can get to school on time and do not have to leave school early during this important time. As we continue to move forward, we will focus on works of prose, poetry and drama, as well as on drawing conclusions, theme and narrative point of view in reading. In writing, we will complete our functional text unit and demonstrate our research skills with our Ancient Greek Gods Research Project. In math, we will estimate the measure of objects, using scale drawings and maps, as well as solving problems related to Hamilton paths and circuits. We want to congratulate our 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents for breaking a new record in our school of 100% parent participation in our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of student led conferences. We will continue working together and look forward to having another great month of parental support to make this month another success.

**Mr. Garcia, Ms. Gravelle, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Hale**

### Seventh and Eighth Grade

On March 4<sup>th</sup> the 8<sup>th</sup> graders traveled to the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in north Phoenix. The museum houses over 10,000 instruments from all over the world. The students enjoyed the trip and the staff at



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the museum stated that they were very well behaved and asked great questions. The trip was made possible by a grant from Target.

Middle School teachers have reviewed the data from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Benchmark Tests and are reviewing with students to prepare for the AIMS tests in April. Please help your student be successful by encouraging them to get a good night rest before the tests. AIMS testing will be from April 11<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion is just around the corner...May 26<sup>th</sup>!  
Parents and students who would like to be involved in planning or helping with the event please contact Ms. Mitchell at [mmitchell@littletonaz.org](mailto:mmitchell@littletonaz.org) or 623-478-6376

Upcoming dates:

Progress Reports	April 21
Dance (last one!)	May 6
Field Day	May 24
Promotion	May 26

Student Council News:

Student Council and Kindergarten are working together to collect shoes for the people of Japan through Soles4Souls! Students can bring to school shoes to be donated! Soles4Souls is an international organization that aids the hurting areas worldwide by sending immediate needs such as shoes and clothing to the people in these areas.

Student Council is excited to be working with Kindergarten and collecting hundreds of shoes!

Bunny-Grams are coming! From April 4<sup>th</sup> through April 19<sup>th</sup> Student Council will be selling Bunny-Grams during lunch.

The Bunny-Grams cost \$1 and will be delivered April 21<sup>st</sup> with a yummy treat attached! Thank you for supporting Student Council and sending a note to some "bunny"!

**Mr. Miller, Mr. Brown, Mr. Hunter, and Ms. Mitchell**

would like to take this time to highlight projects from each grade level. K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be working on a clay project while learning about the ceramic and glaze process. They will be cutting out clay shapes and adding texture by pressing objects into the clay. 3-4<sup>th</sup> graders are working on creating 1950's style Tiffany lamps while using different materials and tools that bring life to their unique lamp designs. 5-8<sup>th</sup> graders just finished a graffiti clay project where they transferred their graffiti name designs onto clay. Using clay techniques, students re-created their designs using 3-D elements. This work is on display in the school until April 16<sup>th</sup>.

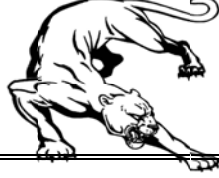
**Mr. Morris, Ms. Lomas, Ms. Whang, Mr. Vidatec, and Mr. Flaherty**

Save the Date:

- 4/1 – Citizens of the Month Lunch
- 4/1 – District Math Challenge D.O.
- 4/7 – Guest Reader Sandi Nielson 8-11am
- 4/7 – Title I Parent Mtg. Tres Rios 5-6pm  
ASSETT & Learning Websites
- 4/7 – PTSA Board Mtg. 6:30pm library
- 4/8 – After School Tutoring Ends
- 4/11-4/15 – National Library Week
- 4/11-4/20 – AIMS/Stanford 10 Testing
- 4/12 – Governing Board Mtg. 6:00pm D.O.
- 4/15 – Kinder Promotion Pictures
- 4/20 – Kinder Round-Up 2-7pm D.O.
- 4/20 – McTeacher Night 4:30-7:00pm  
99<sup>th</sup> & Lower Buckeye
- 4/22 – Good Friday/Earth Day – NO SCHOOL
- 4/27 – Site Council Mtg. 4:00pm Library
- 4/27 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Panoramic Picture
- 4/28 – PTSA General Mtg. 6:00pm
- 5/2 – Littleton Art Show 5-7pm Avondale Library
- 5/3 – National Teacher Day
- 5/5 – Title 1 Parent Mtg. Littleton Café 5:00pm
- 5/5 – PTSA Board Mtg. 6:30pm Library
- 5/6 – Citizens of the Month Lunch
- 5/6 – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades Dance 5:30-7:30pm
- 5/10 – Governing Board Mtg. 6:00pm D.O.
- 5/11 – National School Nurse Day
- 5/12 – New-Kinder Family Night 5-6pm
- 5/12 – PTSA General Mtg. 6:00pm library
- 5/13 – Family Movie Night 5:30-7:30pm café
- 5/25 – Quarter 4 Awards Assemblies 8:25-10:00am café
- 5/26 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion 9:00am café
- 5/26 – Last Day – early dismissal 1:20

Special Area Classes

It continues to be a great year for the Tres Rios art program. In order to celebrate student artistic achievements, there will be a district-wide art show at the Avondale Civic Center Library. The show will be up from April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a reception for students and parents on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7pm. Ms. Whang will send out invitation letters to students who will be chosen to represent our school in the art show. I



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