



Tres Rios Puma Prints



Littleton Elementary School District leading in learning, caring and growing

Volume 4, Issue 6
January 2012

PTSA NEWS!!!!

TRES RIOS PTSA NEWS

Would you like to use your skills and talents to assist our PTSA? We are looking for dedicated parents to assist with the board decisions and committee work. We have an openings for our Treasure and Secretary Positions! .

During the Winter Concert PTSA and Student Council will collected donations for:

- Coats for Kids: 64 Coats Collected!
- Canned Food Drive: 1003 Cans Donated!
- School Supplies for Your Class

The supply drive continues with each class. Please donate as you can! Thank you for your kind support.



Upcoming Events

1st Grade Fluency Night: January 12th
5:00–6:00 pm–Library

District Spelling Bee: January 18th
(Gustavo Aguilar will represent Tres!)

PTSA General Meeting: January 19th
Grades 1-3 will present recognition awards beginning at 6:00 pm!

No School: January 16th in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

No School: February 1st–District Wide Staff Development

Tres Rios students depend on the generosity of our community for **Tax Credit and Gift Donations.**

Please complete yours today!



From Mrs. Macdonald



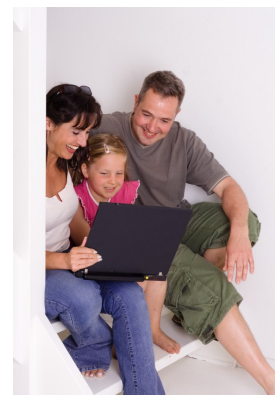
Tres Rios would like to welcome all students, parents, and community members to 2012. January is named after Janus (Ianuarius), the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in *Roman* mythology,

The doorway offers an opportunity for us to reflect on the path leading to the door and to plan and prepare for the new journey we take as we cross the threshold. At Tres Rios, we are doing just that as we analyze data to measure the growth of students. We are celebrating the success of those who met 80% or higher on their benchmark in Reading and Math by posting Puma Paws on the Academic Wall of Distinction. Additionally, we are looking at our strategies to move more students forward to meet their academic goals.

As a learning community, we are most appreciative of the hard work parents and families have invested to make sure students are completing homework, reading every day, and engaging in the progress monitoring of their child and/or children. One of the single most important factors in helping students become successful is the loving support of their families.

As we look forward to the second half of the year, we are all going to be highly invested in the academic success of your children. It is an enormous responsibility on the part of the Tres Rios Staff, but also our greatest pleasure and source of pride.

Happy New Year,
Sarah Macdonald, M. Ed.
Principal,
Tres Rios



Grade Level Notes

Kindergarten

Benchmark testing is complete and the students have all shown growth. Students should practice segmenting "heard words". That means when they hear a word, they are able to say all of the sounds individually and orally. For example, when hearing the word 'cat', the students say the sounds "c - a - t". In addition, students should sound out words quickly. So when they are looking at books, signs, or any environmental print (example: McDonald's sign) they should try sounding out every letter. These skills are the basis for the Phonemic Segmenting test and the Nonsense Word Fluency test that is part of the DIBELS assessment that is used by the district. Students need to orally produce the letter sounds at a rate of 25 sounds per minute in order to pass the Nonsense Word Test and to be able to segment at 35 sounds per minute to pass the Phonemic Segmenting Test. We are working on these skills daily. If you notice on your students report card that they are not at this point, then extra practice at home will help. As you drive to school and see a tree, ask your student to tell you all the sounds they hear in the word 'tree'. As you make dinner, ask your students to name all the sounds they hear in the words pan, fork or anything that comes to mind as you work. This will speed up their processing and allow them to become a more fluent reader which in turn leads to better reading comprehension.

Mrs. Hintz and Mrs. Carter

First Grade

Happy New Year! We will be holding a Fluency Reading Night on Jan 12th in the school library. This is a night where we will teach parents how to time and read passages with your child. The purpose of this is to increase reading fluency. We hope to see all first grade parents there! A letter will be going home prior which will explain this event a little. We are learning how to solve double digit addition and subtraction problems. In addition, we continue to check for understanding as we read texts, practice summarizing, and noting details/facts. Thank you for your donations for the gingerbread houses! The kids had a great time!

Ms. Lee, Ms. Yadon, Ms. Horsley, and Ms. Quinn

Third Grade

Welcome back from your holiday break! Third grade will be starting this quarter off with a supply drive for our classrooms. It is half way through the school year and our classroom supplies are beginning to dwindle. Please look for a classroom supply list which will be sent home with your child the first week back from winter break. The class that brings the most supplies in will win a pizza party! Thank you in advance for supporting your child.

In reading this month, third grade are learning about text features, reference books, locating facts in a passage and how to interpret information from charts, maps, tables and timelines. In math the students are covering some previously learned skills like word problems, estimation, combinations, justifying the sort and in and out tables. This quarter the students are also working on social studies. This subject ties into writing. It is going to be a busy and productive month for all of third grade!

Join us on Facebook and Twitter!!!

Our postings on the Facebook Fan page will go directly to Twitter. <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/TresPumas>

Let's stay Connected!!!



http://twitter.com#!/TresRios_ES



Second Grade

Read, Read, Read!

Many people know that that they should read with their children, but they don't understand *just how* important it is. Students must acquire skills in phonemic awareness (letter sounds), phonics (letter-sound relationships), vocabulary, fluency (reading automatically) and comprehension as early as possible in order to be reading at grade level by third grade. According to the Florida Center for Reading Research, students who fall behind may never catch up to grade level by third grade. So, it is critical that students are reading out loud to someone every day. This is especially important over long breaks from school. During this time away from the classroom, children can read signs, menus, or other environmental print. Also, parents can read to their children to model what good reading sounds like. Another way parents can support their young student's reading development is simply by listening. While students are reading, parents can correct or help the child sound the word out. Children in kindergarten through third grade should read or be read to at least 20 minutes every day. So, curl up with a good book and develop those early literacy skills. For more resources about reading or materials to support your child's reading development visit these websites.

www.starfall.com

www.fcrr.org

<http://www.tumblebooks.com/>

Ms. Bach, Ms. Samland, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Hackenson

Fourth Grade

Welcome Back! We hope you had an enjoyable and restful Winter Break. Third Quarter has approached and we are nearing AIMS testing that will be coming in April. This month in Math we are working on composing and decomposing of whole numbers, factors and multiples, expressing fractions as fair sharing, parts of a whole, parts of a set, and locations on a real number line, making appropriate estimates to a given situation, and naming, locating, and graphing points on a coordinate grid. In Writing we will turn back our focus to expository writing and begin to write 3-5 paragraph essays. Reading skills and strategies for the month will consist of functional text, author's purpose, main ideas and details, persuasive vocabulary, author's position, and distinguishing between the appropriate electronic resources to use in a given situation. When these concepts are brought up at home or in the community, it can become a teachable moment. We require your children to read each weekday and highly encourage them to read on the weekends. Please make sure their agendas are being completed, signed and turned in each day, therefore we will know that you are involved and informed with the education of your child. Lastly, please work with your children at home on their multiplication facts on a daily basis; this will help them get these facts mastered much quicker. Ms. Bowman, Ms. Andrews, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Miller



January Key Bullying Message

“The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.” ~ Jim Rohn



Special Area News

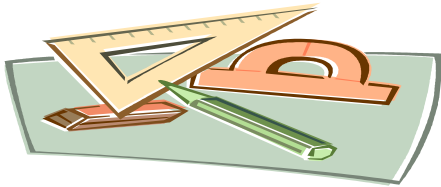
During the past quarter in PE, the presidential fitness test was given to the 5th through 8th grade.

There were two areas of achievement; The National and Presidential Awards.

The National was based on achieving a 50 percentile and the Presidential achieving an 85 percentile of students in the nation.

Congratulations to Kenyan Jones, Ruben Frausto, and Juan Retana for achieving the National Award.

Congratulations to Dominic Martinez, Akir Munammad, and Joshua Rich for receiving the Presidential Award.



Fifth Grade

Fifth grade is excited about starting this New Year! The fifth grade teachers at Tres Rios are proud of the progress made by all of our students. Many students made significant advances during the first semester. The new semester brings new learning. We will soon be starting on geometry in math and poetry in language arts. In science, we will be studying the earth and space and in social studies, we will continue with our study of the American Revolution. At the close of one semester and the beginning of a new one, we would like to take this time to remind parents and community members of our basic classroom needs. Cold season is upon us which means Kleenex is always needed. Hand sanitizers, notebook paper, pens and pencils are always a daily need. Thank you for remembering and supporting your local schools.

The Fifth Grade Teaching Team.

Sixth Grade

Welcome back pumas!

Sixth grade welcomes you to the year 2012 and to another exciting school quarter. This month, we are ready to go with many stimulating units. For reading, we are analyzing characteristics of realistic fiction, examining the features of a biography, and evaluating persuasive text. In writing, we are writing responses to literature and demonstrating our writing skills as writers with our persuasive writing unit. Our math unit includes hands-on activities with lots of geometrical properties and figures, measurement, and transformation of shapes. Our 6th graders are also exploring how the earth is composed of many parts which interact with the atmosphere and the bodies of water. Our month ends up with a social studies research project that will be focused on the middle ages, renaissance/reformation, and enlighten periods. We are looking forward to complete all of these units with our students' parental support to make this month another success!

Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Hale, and Mr. Garcia

Middle School News

In Mr. Miller's Social Studies class the 7th graders are learning about the Road to Revolution and how the 13 colonies were formed. They are also learning about the different types of governments and comparing them to each other. The students are working on brochures of why to move to the 13 colonies and are using the computers for research of each colony. The Boys basketball team is off to a good start with a 4-1 record. We have a big game next Monday with the Country Place Mustangs.

Recognitions and Awards

Congratulations to Gustavo Aguilar Velez in 7th Grade! Gustavo won the Tres Rios Spelling Bee held on January 6th. He will now compete at the District Spelling Bee on January 18th! The Runner Up for the school bee was Azayra

Clark from 4th grade. Congratulations to both!

5 Students earned a 100 percent on one of their Benchmark Assessments! Congratulations to:

Gustavo Aguilar Velez: 7th Grade Math

Daniella Castro: 3rd Grade Math

Brian Vo: 1st Grade Math

Diana Torres: 1st Grade Math

Alexandra Lopez: 1st Grade Math

Additionally we are recognizing 245 students grades 1-8 or achieving 80% or higher on their benchmark for either Reading or Mathematics or both. Each student has a Puma Paw posted on the Academic Wall of Distinction!

The Tres Rios Honor Band will be recognized at the APS Fiesta of Light Awards Banquet. The following students will represent the band!

Tatiana Medellin and guest

Madeline Trujillo and guest

Shelby Stockdale and guest

The awards reception will be held on Tuesday, January 10th. It starts at 6:00pm with a light dinner followed by the awards presentations.

2 Movie Tickets to

Harkin's Theater

Drawing

Cut out and return to the Front Office once a parent has read the Newsletter.

Drawing will be held on January 20!