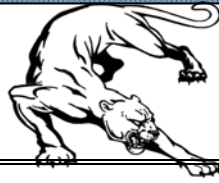




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5025 S. 103rd Ave. • Tolleson, AZ 85353



TRES RIOS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PUMA PRINTS

MARCH • 2011

Administrative Team

Tres Rios and Littleton School District are now on Twitter...follow us on Twitter at TresRios_ES.

Girls on the Run

Tres Rios is proud to host the Girls on the Run program again this year. This program is a life-changing, non-profit program for girls in 3rd-5th grades. Girls on the Run combines training for a 5K running event with healthy living education. The program instills self-esteem and strong values through health education, life skills development, mentoring relationships and physical training – all of which are accomplished through an active collaboration with girls and their parents, the school, volunteers, staff and community. We would like to thank Ms. Wentz for bringing this program to our community. The program has now expanded to involve 28 girls in 3rd – 5th grades and we are hoping to add a middle school program starting next school year.

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

Kindergarten

We would like to extend our many thanks for all who brought Valentine treats! We truly appreciate your continued support, and most importantly, our students enjoyed them the most! In Math, our students are exploring forms of measurements. Please continue practicing addition and subtraction and let your child be involved by letting him/her apply the concepts of addition and subtraction in his/her daily life. We ask that you continue working on counting by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's up to 100. Our students love to write so please encourage your child every day by asking him/her about his/her plans for writing. In order to be a good writer, knowing many sight words will also contribute to the success of writing. Please continue practicing the sight words from the monthly homework packets. Daily reading with your child will expose him/her to many words that we see in everyday print. Since we have been working on concepts of print, oral expression, phonological awareness, letter formation and sound recognition, your child will now begin to independently read short words by blending sounds together. Enjoy helping your child discover the

world of reading. Provide help whenever needed. Most importantly, remember to have fun!

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

First Grade

This month, we are entering the fourth quarter of the school year! With that information, we need parents to commence or continue working with their student on take-home reading passages. This is an important time of the year, as students need to be reading at least 40 words per minute by May. First grade teachers will be meeting with parents during conferences this month to discuss their child's current reading progress in class. Please make it a priority to read the week's fluency passage sent home with your child every night. During the month of March, first graders will be working on the grammar skills of alphabetizing words to the first letter, increasing our sight and vocabulary word base, learning about new genres of fiction and non-fiction with a social studies twist (places around the world), and learning about words with long vowels a, e, and i. For math, we will continue with addition and subtraction: story problems, related facts, and fact families. Overall, the emphasis is on reading – for fluency and comprehension. Thank you to our families who work with their students to make academics an essential part of their home life! Ms. Forney-Lee, Ms. Beck, Ms. Quinn, and Ms. Kracht

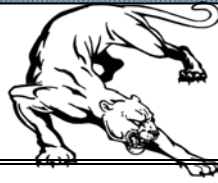
Second Grade

In second grade, we are working on comparing literature from different cultures. Culture is a set of shared values, goals, attitudes, or practices. We will be reading, Anthony Reynoso: Born to Rope, a story about a Mexican and Yaqui Indian boy from Guadalupe, Arizona. We will also be reading a story called Chinatown. These two stories focus on different cultural backgrounds in the United States. We will also be reading stories and letters from people in global cultures. Take some time to share your family culture with your child. Talk about your ancestry and any beliefs or values you carry because of that background. We will be talking about the importance of celebrating diversity and differences in our cultural backgrounds.



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In Math, we have been working on the concept of estimation. We have learned how to round numbers to the nearest ten to add. We are currently working on real life examples of estimating like grocery lists and solving complex story problems. Share with your child real-life situations in which you estimate. Some examples are filling the car with gas, preparing a meal, or grocery shopping. We look forward to seeing all of you at student-led conferences!

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

Third Grade

Happy March! This month in Language Arts we are learning about persuasive vocabulary and reviewing different skills that we have learned over the school year. In Math, we are learning how to use color maps, find the shortest distance between two points, and reviewing different graph types. Remember, this is the month before AIMS testing. We will be covering a lot of material and reviewing what we have learned. As always, remember that attendance is important. With AIMS coming up, it is crucial that your student be here on time as often as possible. Homework is equally important. This helps your student practice the skills they are learning and helps the teachers know what needs to be covered again during our reviews. Spring Break is also this month. We hope everyone has a fun and safe vacation!

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

Fourth Grade

Wow! We can't believe it is already March and time for Spring Break and Benchmark testing! As we continue to move forward in the year and closer to AIMS testing week, please ensure that your child is coming to school each day, getting plenty of rest, and eating a breakfast at home or the breakfast offered at the school. This month in Math, we will be working on coordinate grids and discrete Mathematics. Please continue to work with your child at home on his/her multiplication facts on a daily basis; this will help him/her get these facts mastered much quicker. We will continue creating expository and functional writing papers. Ms. Miller's class is very excited to be piloting a new program called Peace Scholars. Peace

Scholars is a curriculum-based program that educates children on the dynamics of conflict and promotes peacemaking skills in our schools, homes and communities. We require your child to read each weekday and highly encourage him/her to read on the weekends. Please make sure his/her 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. Thank you for all your support and we look forward to working with you and your child the rest of the school year.

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

Fifth Grade

As we enter March, we know how fast it will come and go! We'll be finishing geometry, including solid figures in Math, and finishing up persuasive text in Language Arts. The students will be very busy during the second week in March as they lead their conferences with their parents. They will proudly share and show what they have been learning during the third quarter. Benchmark testing will also be held this same week. After a much deserved Spring Break, students will be back for that final quarter of 5th grade!

Ms. Rizer, Ms. Kannalikhram, Ms. Bates, and Ms. Smith

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade is focusing our math time on Geometry. The students are doing so well, and really enjoy working with this concept. In writing, we are working on persuasive essays and students will soon be presenting their arguments to defend their opinions. We are looking forward to seeing all of our parents for conferences, and hope to get 100% participation. Our students are getting excited about showing their parents their portfolios. Mr. Garcia, Ms. Gravelle, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Hale

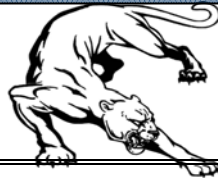
Seventh and Eighth Grade

8th grade field trip March 4th – Students will be traveling to the Musical Instrument Museum to view over 10,000 musical instruments from around the world. Check out their website at: themim.org. Ms. Mitchell received a



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Target Field Trip Grant to provide the transportation for this field trip.

Benchmark testing is March 7th through the 11th. Please help your students succeed by sending them to school with a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast!

Parent/Teacher conferences are coming! The middle school teachers will be available for conferences on Monday and Tuesday, March 7th and 8th from 3:30 to 4:30, Wednesday, March 9th from 1:45 to 4:00 and Thursday, March 10th from 3:30 to 7:00 p. m. Please watch for a letter to come home and an opportunity to schedule a conference with your student's teachers.

Middle School Rally – Student Council is sponsoring the next middle school rally on March 8th! Students who have 9 or fewer marks in agenda/puma passport will be invited to attend the craziness of the student rally, where the 7th and 8th grade compete against each other. The first quarter rally was won by the 8th grade and the second quarter rally was won by the 7th grade. Which grade will break the tie at this rally?

Spring break March 14-18 Enjoy!

The next Middle School Dance is a neon dance on March 25th from 3:30 to 5:30. Students will be bringing home information and permission slips soon!

Reminder: AIMS testing is only weeks away! The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards will be given to all middle school students beginning April 11th through the 22nd.

7th Grade Language Arts - has started to read the nationally acclaimed book, "The Hunger Games". We are finishing our Science fiction unit, and had great success with our poetry unit in January. Expect your child to be writing a lot more after parent teacher conferences.

8th Grade Language Arts – is finishing writing persuasive essays. We will be starting new book reports and current events before Spring Break.

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

Special Area Classes

The 3rd quarter is bringing a wealth of knowledge about musical instruments to our Tres Rios students. 4th graders have begun to toot beautiful melodies on their recorders and 7th grade has spent time learning how to play an electronic keyboard in the music classroom. 6th grade spent time researching the science of sound and creating a homemade musical instrument. Beginning band students will be visiting the Symphony and 8th grade students will be traveling to the Musical Instrument Museum early this month. We are proud of each and every one of our young musicians!

Mr. Morris, Ms. Lomas, Ms. Whang, Mr. Videtic, and Mr. Flaherty

Girl Scouts – Arizona Cactus-Pine - Join us!

Girl Scouts provides an opportunity for girls to discover themselves, connect with others locally and globally, and take action to make the world a better place. If you are interested in learning how your daughter can join a troop or if you would like to learn more about starting a troop in your community contact Christine Keyser, ckeyser@girlscoutsaz.org or call 602-509-6782. Space is still available for girls to join the Tres Rios troop.

Mark your Calendar

- 3/1 – NJHS Induction 6:00pm library
- 3/3 – Title 1 Parent Mtg. 5:00pm Estrella Vista
- 3/3 – Tres Rios PTSA Board Mtg. 6:30pm Library
- 3/4 – 8th Grade Field Trip Music Museum
- 3/4 – Spring Pictures
- 3/4 – Citizens of the Month Lunch
- 3/8 – Governing Board Mtg. 6:00pm D.O.
- 3/9-3/11 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Early release 1:20
- 3/10 – 3rd Quarter Awards Assemblies
8:25 – 7th & 8th
9:00 – 3rd & 4th
9:30 – 5th & 6th
- 3/14-3/18 – Spring Break



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- 3/21 – School Resumes
- 3/21-3/25 – Custodian Appreciation Week
- 3/24 – Tres Rios PTSA General Mtg. 6:00pm library
- 3/25 – 7th & 8th Grade Dance 3:30-5:30 cafenadium
- 3/26 – Littleton Music Festival – LaJoya H.S. 9:00-2:00
Performance at 1:00
- 3/29 – Governing Board Study Session 6:00pm D.O.