



# Tres Rios Puma Prints



Littleton Elementary School District leading in learning, caring and growing

Volume 4, Issue 4  
November, 2011

## Welcome to Tres Rios!!

Ms. Tracie Skok 5th Grade  
Teacher  
Ms. Eva Bustos  
Administrative Secretary  
Ms. Felicia Valenzuela  
Health Aide  
Ms. Breann Luciw  
Health Aide



### PTSA NEWS!!!!

Newly Elected Officers:

Kelli Gentile - President  
Dee Dee Tapia - Vice President  
Alma Sigala - Treasurer  
Itzer Garcia - Secretary  
Brin Nick - Membership Chair



### TRES RIOS PTSA NEWS

The PTSA was able to give a bicycle to one lucky student with perfect attendance! Every student with perfect attendance was entered into a drawing and the lucky winner was Cade Lee from Ms. Wentz 3rd grade class. Great job Cade and all of our perfect attendance students!

Our goal is to increase PTSA membership to 80 parents. Please join us on November 18th for our next PTSA Meeting from 6-7 in the Tres Rios Library

## Upcoming Events

November 7 Fund Raiser Order Delivery  
November 9 Kids at Hope Day  
November 9 Progress Reports  
November 10 Patriotic Assembly  
November 11th No School  
November 14- No School  
December 16 One School, One Book  
November 17 PTSA Meeting 6-7 PM  
November 24-25 No School



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

Please complete yours today!

Happy Thanksgiving!



## From Mrs. Macdonald



Several important events will occur at Tres Rios during the month of November. First, the student body will celebrate Veteran's Day on November 10th by honoring our armed forces with a patriotic assembly. The choir will sing and the band will play patriotic songs. All students will wear patriotic shirts on that day and classrooms will dedicate curriculum throughout the week to help students better understand the sacrifice our service men and women have made and continue to make protecting the rights and freedoms of our country. Invitations to families will be sent home next week.

The second event begins on November 14th and continues through December 16th. One School, One Book is a community based reading initiative designed to bring families together in partnership with schools for promoting the joy of reading. Each family will receive a book. The Fall selection is Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh. Each evening, children will be given a selection to read with their families. The following day, trivia questions and an ongoing contest will take place to help children better understand the story. In December, the school will celebrate the end of our reading event with a Family Movie Night. This is an exciting adventure for Tres Rios families. Please look for additional information to come home in the next week.

Thank you for helping create a culture of learning and success at Tres Rios!

Sarah Macdonald, M. Ed.  
Principal



# Grade Level Notes

## Kindergarten

In Kindergarten the literacy focus is recognizing and producing rhyming words, recognizing the difference between a story and a poem, identifying character, setting and main idea of a story. We are also working on the concepts of nouns and verbs. In the area of writing, students continue to work on writing their alphabet, starting a sentence with an upper case letter or "I." Complete sentences are also a focus along with producing the correct letter for the consonant and vowel sounds. The math focus areas are counting to 100 by 1's and 10's, shapes (recognizing shapes in the environment), writing their numbers to 20, recognizing in random order the numbers 0-20 and comparing number (greater than, less than and equal to). Thank you for all of your support. Please continue to work on these skills with your children.



## First Grade

We are so proud of our little first graders! They are such a great group of learners! In reading, your kids are focusing on telling about the cause and effect within stories. We are reading *Where Frogs Come From*, an informational text in which the kids identify facts. This is a strategy students are practicing in both small group reading and writing. In Math, we are practicing place value, subtraction, addition and story problems. A great idea to reinforce concepts at home is to make up simple math story problems, have children write short stories at home focusing on a 6 sentence paragraph with a topic/concluding sentence. Thank you for all parents and families for participating in conferences! Our goal was 100% parent participation!



Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Quinn, Mrs. Horsley, and Miss Yadon

## Third Grade

Teachers and students are always excited to see the first quarter of school completed with success! This month in Language Arts students are learning about Comprehension and Clarifying Questions, Suffixes, Fact and Opinion, Persuasive Vocabulary, Main Idea and Details, Genres, Speaker of a Story, Narrator, and Functional Text. We are also incorporating the Writing Process - Prewriting, Drafting, Revising, Proofreading, and Publishing, while writing an Imagined Narrative. Students will begin writing Imagined Narratives and Functional Writing (Recipes, Directions, or Procedures). In Math the focus is Division, Fractions, and Patterns. In Science we are studying Ecosystems and Earth Science. November promises to be a great month of learning with our wonderful 3<sup>rd</sup> graders!

# Join us on Facebook and Twitter!!!

Please join us for the latest information regarding the events at Tres Rios. As the school year continues, we will highlight students, staff, and activities! This is a great opportunity for family members around the country to follow the happenings at Tres Rios!

Let's stay Connected!!!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/TresPumas>

[http://twitter.com/#!/TresRios\\_ES](http://twitter.com/#!/TresRios_ES)



Our postings on the Facebook Fan page will go directly to Twitter.

## Second Grade What is Fluency?

In second grade, students develop in their reading skills and are expected to read fluently. The Littleton District uses the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) measure for assessing fluency. Students are assessed 3 times per year and their progress is monitored in the classroom weekly or monthly. We measure fluency by counting how many correct words a child can read in 1 minute. Second graders that are fluent readers read about 87 words per minute at the end of second grade. So, what is fluency?

Fluency is the ability to do something automatically and accurately. There are many examples of things that we do fluently in our lives like shifting gears on a car, playing a sport or musical instrument, or dialing your phone number. In second grade, we focus on reading fluency. Word recognition skills must be so good that they are automatic in order for a child to read fluently. A child must have mastered the fundamental skills (letter sounds, spelling patterns, sight words, decoding, and recoding). Fluency is not an end goal for reading, but it is a crucial step in the ability to understand what is being read. It is also important to remember that fluency can only be developed with frequent practice. So, make sure your child is reading every day!

For more information about the reading process, visit [https://dibels.uoregon.edu/resources/big\\_ideas/big\\_ideas.php](https://dibels.uoregon.edu/resources/big_ideas/big_ideas.php).

## Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade has had a fantastic start to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter! This month in Math students will begin working on algebra expressions and equations, change in quantity over time, and graphing of data. In Writing our focus will be on writing an excellent narrative, which contains a beginning, middle, and end. Reading skills and strategies for the month will consist of fact and opinion, cause and effect, functional text, graphic features and drawing conclusions. Any time any of these concepts are brought up at home or in the community use it as a teachable moment to help your child reinforce the skills they are learning in class. 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



## November Key Bullying Message “Everyone needs to learn to live in peace.”



### Special Area News

Learning the basics of Internet safety

Children use a variety of online services, and each of these services can have different safety concerns. However, there are some basic tips which you can employ no matter how your children use the Internet.

- Keep the computer in a high-traffic area of your home.
- Establish limits for which online sites children may visit and for how long.
- Remember that Internet technology can be mobile, and make sure to monitor cell phones, gaming devices, and laptops.
- Surf the Internet with your children and let them show you what they like to do online.
- Know who is connecting with your children online and set rules for social networking, instant messaging,

### Fifth Grade

As the 5th grade team starts off another quarter, the students are placing more building blocks on what they have learned in first quarter. The students will use everything they have learned in first quarter to continue their success in second quarter. As a learning community, the 5th grade team has decided to split Social Studies and Science into two 4-week blocks, in order to go more in depth with our lessons. Due to this change, students will not receive a grade for Science on their progress report. The 5th grade team is embarking on a journey through fractions in Math, understanding the settlement of the Americas in Social Studies, and working on perfecting their reading skills. The students will begin to try to use their new persuasive skills in many aspects of life....BEWARE!

### Sixth Grade

November being the month of giving, the 6th grade team would like to thank our parents and students for all their hard work and support so far this quarter. As we continue in the second quarter, students are focusing their learning on expository text in reading and writing. Expository text is factual information that can be found in newspapers, magazines, or in recipes. We ask you to have your children read these texts with you at home to help reinforce what they are learning in the classroom. Order of operations is our focus for the month of November in math. Students are solving multi-step operations that involve adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals and fractions. Our social studies theme this month is Ancient Greece, we are excited to travel to this ancient civilization. We are continuing to work very hard and want to encourage each student to be here every day ready to learn.

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

e-mailing, online gaming, and using webcams.

- Continually dialogue with your children about online safety.

For more information, please visit <http://www.netsmartz.org>

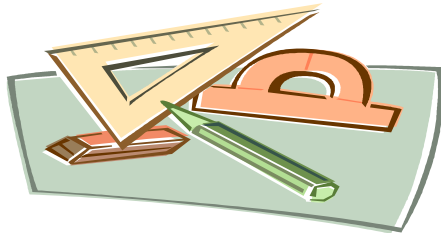
### Middle School News

#### Social Studies - Mr. Miller

In Social Studies the student are working on the civil war. They will be having a culminating project to go with their test to see how much they have learned about the war between the states. After this the students will be learning about putting the states back together after this very costly and terrible war. Stay tuned!

#### 7th Math – Mr. Brown

Test-Day Wednesdays resume again on



October 26th. We will have a test every Wednesday to check student's progress. Also, make sure to ask your student about our PRIME 71, what it means, and if your student signed the poster stating they want to be part of the 71.

#### Science - Ms. Gudger

8th graders are continuing their focus on Changes of Properties of Matter. Evidence of chemical reactions are what is being explored at this point.

Enrichment group one is about to “blast off” in their preparations for the Fiesta Bowl Aerospace Challenge by planning and building an International Lunar Base.

Enrichment group two is gearing up for the Legos Robotic Competition. Both groups are happy to represent Tres Rios by giving their best effort!

#### 8th Grade ELA – Ms. Mitchell

We are reading American Tall Tales while looking into the author's purpose, the elements of tall tales, summarizing, main idea and details. Ask your student about Davy Crockett, Paul Bunyan, Johnny Appleseed and John Henry. Next we will read and analyze myths and the elements of myths. Later in the quarter students will read stories dealing with WWII, propaganda and writing persuasive essays.

#### 7th Grade ELA - Hunter

This week we started reading our first novel, Holes. We will be reading it for the rest of the quarter. We got a 84% mastery on the quiz about myths and Folk Tales.

\$10 Gift Card to Einstein's Bagels

Drawing!

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

Drawing will be held on November 10th.

