



# Tres Rios Puma Prints



Littleton Elementary School District leading in learning, caring and growing

Volume 4, Issue 3  
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## Welcome to Tres Rios!!

Ms. Traci Skok  
5th Grade



## PTSA NEWS!!!!



The first meeting of the Tres Rios PTSA was held on September 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a McDonald's family night on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar! The event will feature two **half hour Zumba demonstrations by The Arizona MOVEMENT** at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. in front of the restaurant at 91st Avenue and Lower Buckeye. A portion of the sales during the 1 hour demonstration will go directly to our Tres Rios PE program.

Fifty tickets were sold for the Diamondbacks/Giants baseball game on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all of the parents and staff who purchased tickets. Enjoy the game! Through much hard work and dedication of parents, teachers and students, an awning for the west side parent pick-up was approved. We are anticipating it will be installed over fall break. The PTSA will sponsor the Zoo Walk for Autism at the Phoenix Zoo October 1st. If you would like to join the walk, sign up at : <https://www.ariautism.com/zoowalk/phoenix/index.html>. Click the "Join a Team" tab and/or make a donation. Our team name is "Igniting the Light" in Littleton School District.



## Upcoming Events

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| October 5-7                | Conferences                 |
| October 10-14              | Fall Break                  |
| October 20                 | PTSA General Meeting 6-7 pm |
| October 17–<br>November 18 | One School, One Book        |

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

Please complete yours today!



## From Mrs. Macdonald



During the month of September, the Tres Rios Site Council met to revise the Continuous Improvement Plan for the 2011-2012 school year. We welcome parent and community feedback on the goals and the direction set for Tres Rios. The following goals have been established:

**Tres Rios Goal 1:** Increase students who Meet or Exceed on the AIMS in Reading 3rd –8th grade.

3rd: 85% 4th: 80% 5th: 80% 6th: 85% 7th: 83%  
8th: 86%

**Tres Rios Goal 2:** Increase students who Meet or Exceed on the AIMS in Math 3rd –8th grade.

3rd: 70% 4th: 70% 5th: 65% 6th: 75% 7th: 67%  
8th: 75%

**Tres Rios Goal 3:** Increase students who Meet or Exceed on the AIMS in Writing 5th –7th grade.

5th: 67% 6th: 67% 7th: 60%

**Tres Rios Goal 4:** Reclassify 30% of ELL students to proficient.

**Tres Rios Goal 5:** Increase Membership in PTSA to 80 Members by March 2012.

**Tres Rios Goal 6:** Promote a culture that is safe, drug free and conducive to learning as measured on Parent, Student, and Teacher Surveys.

To achieve our goals, strong parent support is critical. Please assist us by making sure your child completes their homework everyday. Your signature on the agenda each evening is an essential component of helping us reach our goals. Also, volunteers in the classroom are always welcomed!

If you have additional suggestions or comments, please email me at: [smacdonald@littletonaz.org](mailto:smacdonald@littletonaz.org).

Sarah Macdonald, M. Ed.

Principal

## Grade Level Notes

### Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, students continue to work on letter recognition, letter sounds, and writing the alphabet. Students continue to work on writing names and sentences. As the year continues writing will become more independent work. For now we are modeling sentence structure and students are sounding out the words. In the DIBELS progress monitoring, students are working on the first sound they hear in a word. We say a word and the student produces the first sound. The students will begin working on segmenting words,



In math, students continue to work on number writing, recognizing and relating the number of objects to the number symbol. Please practice the site words with your child. It is important that these skills are mastered in order to move on to first grade. We are looking forward to seeing all of everyone at parent teacher conferences.

### First Grade

We are learning and growing in first grade! Students are studying parts of a story - such as characters, setting, and picking out details. These are important skills that will be reinforced throughout the year. The spelling words focus on the short vowel sounds (hop, pop, hot...), and often include sight words. Students are also learning how to use punctuation in sentences along with correct grammar usage when writing.

Students participate in intervention 4 days a week, which addresses the specific literacy needs of kids. Intervention groups are based on DIBEL data and focus on the skill areas of phonics, fluency, and comprehension. Our first grade goal is to get all of our kiddos reading!

In math, we just finished up a unit on addition, and are now moving on to subtraction. Thank you for your support and encourage you to continue reading with your child every night. Don't forget... homework is due every Friday!



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

### Third Grade

Can you believe that quarter 1 is almost over?! Time flies when you're having fun! In third grade, we've started working on multiplication in math, cause & effect and main idea & details in reading, and writing book reviews in writing. We've also started to implement the use of intervention time to help students master standards that they did not master in previous weeks. In order to group our students, teachers looked at scores from the week 3 formative math assessment, which measured students on their understanding of place value and estimation. As a grade level, 67% of our students achieved a passing score (70%) on the 3 week formative assessment. In the coming weeks, we'll be taking benchmark assessments for both reading and math, which measure overall achievement on all standards learned throughout quarter 1. You can expect to hear about your child's score on benchmarks at their fall conference! Keep your eyes and ears open for more information coming on conferences. We can't wait to see each of you soon!

## Join us on Facebook and Twitter!!!

Special thanks to Ashley Wentz who is assisting Tres Rios with setting up our Facebook Fan Page.

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!

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

Let's stay Connected!!!

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

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



### Second Grade

Hello, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade families. Wow, another month has past! We are moving along in second grade. In math, students learned about place value to the tens place. They also learned strategies to help with addition and subtraction. Next, our focus will extend place value into the hundreds place. In reading, students are developing their understanding of literary elements. We have talked about characters, cause and effect, and problem and solution.

Our students have had many academic gains. We would like to recognize all of their hard work in math this quarter. On our 3<sup>rd</sup> week math formative assessment 35% of the second graders passed the test at 70%. We are proud to say on our 6<sup>th</sup> week math formative assessment 75% of the second graders passed the test at 70%. This is a GREAT improvement.

As always, we are glad to have your students with us. We look forward to working with you to make all students' education great.

### Fourth Grade

Wow, we can't believe that is already the end of the first quarter! From 8:10 to 8:50 each day we have intervention time. The purpose of our intervention is to really focus on the skills that our students struggle with the most. Teachers have evaluated the student data from the Math Formative assessment given during the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup> and determined that our students need more work on multiples, factors, and estimation. Then, the students were grouped based on their level of understanding. The students are provided an opportunity to extend their learning of these skills by doing a week rotation in each. At the end of the week teachers assess the students and decide whether they have mastered the skill or if they would need additional tutoring or intervention.

Fourth grade was very excited to take our Math Formative assessment during the week of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, our data came back with 83% of all fourth grade students passing at a 70% or greater. The fourth grade team and all students are very proud of the hard work and dedication that is being shown at school and home. In addition, to these formative assessments, we will be administering our Quarter 1 benchmark assessments for both Reading and Math the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest this week and eats a healthy breakfast at school or home.

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. Lastly, please work with your children at home on their multiplication facts on a daily basis; this will help them master these facts with accuracy.

## October Key Bullying Message "Bullying is not acceptable"



### Special Area News

We are having a great time in specials so far this year! Congratulations to the "Specials Superstars" in grades 1-4 who have great behavior every week in music, art, physical education and computers.

We would like to give special recognition to the third grade students who are consistently at the top of the star chart for behavior - way to go! Students in grades 5-8 will be switching to their new specials class when we return from fall break.



Littleton Elementary School District is a Kids at Hope district which means we are committed to the belief, principles and practices that support the success of all children, No Exceptions!



### Fifth Grade

As we approach the end of the first quarter our students have been learning a great deal! Students are well on their way to mastering multiplication and division, along with other skills in mathematics. Through reading, students are developing their understanding of plot, setting, and character traits.

In recent weeks, we have started intervention. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade team is focused on 3 primary skills that students need to master. Greatest common factor, least common denominator, least common multiple, and integers in context are the focus skills for the next 3 week block. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be MASTERS in math! Please assist your child in practicing all of our concepts!

### Sixth Grade

6<sup>th</sup> grade students are focusing on personal experiences for their narrative writing unit. Students shared their own cultural backgrounds through these pieces of writing. Our intervention block has concentrated on number sense in math. For the sixth week assessment, 50% of the students met the standard in math. We are striving to reach 70% of students meeting the standard by the first quarter benchmark. As we gear up to take the first quarter benchmark test, in reading and math, students are working very hard on these concepts. Please encourage your children to continue reading out loud and working on their multiplication and division facts. Together, we will see the success of each student! Communication is the key, please keep in contact with us.

### Middle School News

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Mr. Hunter:

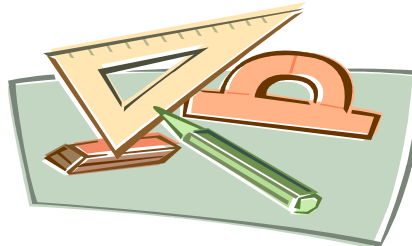
The 7<sup>th</sup> grade has been working hard on a major "Short Story" project that will be shared in class on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September. We would love to have parents come and watch!

#### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies - Mr. Miller:

Social Studies classes are learning about the American Revolution and the Civil War.

In intervention, the students are learning about the stock market and how it affects the daily lives of people. A stock market simulation game is being played where students buy and sell stocks and see if they can gauge the market and make some money. This activity incorporates Math and Language Arts while dealing with the history of the market and understanding when to buy and sell.

Starting the second quarter the students will attend the Social Studies and Science classes by quarters.



#### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science - Ms. Gudger:

Enrichment classes are working on some fantastic projects. In the first class we are creating science board games with loads of tough science questions so we can challenge each other with our extensive science knowledge.

In the second class we are working on a Claymation animation project called the *Alien Chronicles*. We will start filming next week.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts - Ms. Mitchell:

The students are working on Language Arts skills related to plot, sub-plots, parallel episodes, characters and characterization. Students are starting to paraphrase and summarize stories before they begin writing personal narratives.

Each night students should be reading for 20 minutes every night and recording their reading in Independent Reading Log. This will help them complete their Brown Bag book report



Backpack with a book and  
Tres Rios Tee Shirt!

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

Drawing will be held on  
October 7th!