



# Tres Rios Puma Prints



Littleton Elementary School District leading in learning, caring and growing

Volume 4, Issue 2  
September, 2011

## Welcome to Tres Rios!!

Ms. Leslie Gudger, 7-8  
Science  
Ms. Anna Montalbo,  
Resource 7-8  
Ms. Pamela Barstow,  
3rd Grade



## PTSA NEWS!!!!

Newly Elected Officers:

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



Please support PTSA by joining and sharing your voice. Parent involvement provides opportunities for children and supports the teachers at Tres Rios.

### Hero's in the Classroom

The University of Phoenix is sponsoring a "Hero's in the Classroom" Award to recognize outstanding teachers in the state of Arizona. The Heroes in the Classroom panel will recognize three teachers, serving grades K-12 and special education, at every Arizona Cardinals regular season home game. A total of 24 educators will be selected. Selected teachers will receive an Arizona Cardinals jersey, 4 tickets to a regular season home game and 4 VIP sideline passes. If you would like to nominate a Tres Rios teacher, please stop by the front office for a nomination packet.

## Upcoming Events

September 5: Labor Day—No School  
September 11: 9-11 Tenth Anniversary  
September 15: PTSA General Meeting  
6:00—7:00 PM  
September 16: Fall Fundraising Kickoff  
September 27: GRADS Picture Day—  
Uniform Pictures  
September 29: Fall Book Fair



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

Please complete yours today!

## From Mrs. Macdonald



The school year is off to a great start! Tres Rios is growing in students and as a result, we will begin hiring additional staff at grades five and six.

### Academic Progress

Tres Rios has earned the AYP label under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This is great news for the academic progress of Tres Rios students. The teachers and staff have worked diligently to move all students forward in reaching and exceeding the Arizona State Standards.

September is the month to revise the Tres Rios Continuous Improvement plan. We would love to include parents in this process. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let Grace Gutierrez or Maria Moya know in the front office. We will meet three times in September to review school wide data and write academic goals for the 2011-2012 school year.

September 11<sup>th</sup> is the tenth anniversary of 9-11. The school will recognize this important date by several events on campus. Here are a few:

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Mr. Hunter will go back ten years in time and have students research the event through the eyes of the children President Bush read to in the days following 9-11. They will discover the lifelong impact on these children and how their lives have changed in the last ten years.

Many classes will explore the events of 9-11 through Discoveryeducation.com. Comprehensive lesson plans, discussion guides, and curricular content will accompany live webcast events from communities most impacted by September 11th.

In addition, school flags will be flown at half-mast and a moment of silence will be observed in remembrance of the victims of 9-11.

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

Sarah Macdonald, M. Ed.

Principal

# Grade Level Notes



## Kindergarten

### Literacy:

Students are moving along with learning the letters of the alphabet. We are discovering what each letter is, the sound it makes, as well as how to write both uppercase and lowercase letters. Our goal is to learn the red club sight words (the first 18 sight words). Finally, we are learning the letters in our names, both how to read and write them.

### Math:

Kinders continue to working numbers 1-10, both recognizing them as well as writing them. We are also halfway through the first chapter in math on sorting objects as well as counting them. Students are also learning about the different shapes as well as focusing on our colors.

Homework will begin after Labor Day weekend. There will be a checklist of things that you and your child will be work on a each day.

## First Grade

First grade has begun their first month of school with a great start! For many students it has been an introduction to their first full 8-hour school day, and they are adjusting well. We have introduced addition, citizenship skills, short ( a) and short ( l) word families with spelling tests on Friday. Please continue to read with your child every night!



## Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade has had a wonderful start to the 2011-2012 school year! This month in Math, we will begin working on division, decimals, percents, and fractions. In Writing, we will focus on creating an excellent expository paragraph which contains a topic sentence, body, and conclusion. Reading skills and strategies for the month will consist of genres, cause and effect and drawing conclusions. In addition, we will continue our studies in Science with the focus on Classifying Living Things, while incorporating main ideas and

# 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 Second Grade families! We are so excited to be back in school and working with all of you and your students. We are looking forward to an amazing year with much to learn and do. This year promises to hold a lot of new experiences.

This quarter in English language arts we are focusing on literary text and literary elements like characters, plot and setting. In math we will be focusing on place value, the properties of addition and subtraction and problem solving strategies. You can find a complete list of the focus standards for language arts and math posted in each of the 2nd grade classrooms. Feel free to take a look at them the next time you are in one of our classrooms.

We look forward to working with you to make this the best year in education your student has ever had. Thank you from the 2nd Grade team.

supporting details to clearly understand the content. When concepts are brought up at home or in the community, please use it as a teachable moment to help your child reinforce the skills learned in class. Students are required to read each weekday and encouraged to read on the weekends. Please make sure their agendas are being completed, signed and turned in each day, This is a good way to be involved in your child's education. 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



## Visual Arts at Tres Rios Michell Wang



Greetings to the Tres Rios community, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the exciting visual arts program offered to grades 5th through 8th grade.

Our visual arts program offers four art disciplined quarters.

**First Quarter: Drawing and Painting:** Technical drawing applications, scratchboard techniques and painting on clay tiles will be the main focus for this quarter.

**Second Quarter: Printmaking:** Students who wish to learn the printmaking process will have hands on experience working with our baby press, as well as preparing their artwork for printing.

Students will also make clay stamps which will complete the printmaking experience.

**Third Quarter: Ceramics:** Our school facility is fortunate enough to have a fully functional kiln, clay and tools. The ceramics quarter will focus primarily on clay construction such as coil pots, pinch pots and slab building. Students will experiment with different types of glaze and under glaze paints, understanding the process of ceramic art.

**Fourth quarter: Sculpture:** Students will explore 3-Dimensional art form, using their hands to build and construct free standing forms. Using

paper mache techniques and clay construction, students will problem solve how to put materials together in a functional yet artistic manner.

Students are currently working on a self-portrait project that includes five points of self-pride that students can identify in themselves. I can't wait to see these portraits up in our Tres Rios Hallway Art Gallery!

First and Second grade students are learning about color, and making two cactus landscapes using warm and cool colors. They are learning ways that color can communicate feeling.

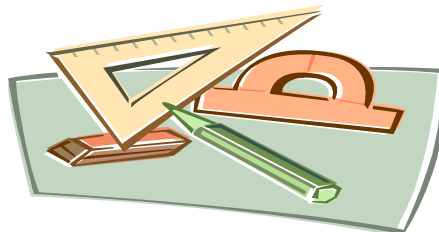
Our third and fourth grade students are learning about the life of Vincent Van Gogh and reproducing his most famous painting, "The Starry Night." By learning how he painted while he was in the hospital because of his depression, students are left to wonder, how can someone so sad paint something so beautiful. Learning to create art to express feeling and emotion is one of the driving forces of this art program.

I look forward to a great year and working with students towards reaching their artistic and creative potential.

### Fifth Grade

What a great start to the new year with an excellent group of students! We are so excited about all the wonderful learning standards that we will be learning in the 5th grade.

Beginning year benchmark tests are past us and action plans have been designed to best help each and every student. We design learning around your child. Students are busy at work learning their math facts and practicing their spelling skills. We will be starting book reports soon and we are working on peer editing skills. Thanks to Mrs. Hedges for making it possible for all 5th graders to have weekly library time. Hooray!!



### Sixth Grade

Sixth grade is beginning the writing process with Personal Narratives focusing on Ideas and Voice from the six traits. In math, we are moving into conversions of fractions, decimals, ratios and percents. We just finished a unit on factorization and common factors. Our students were very successful with this objectives. We would like to encourage parents to work with their children on their multiplication facts. Also, parents please review the daily objectives written in your child's agenda to see all the great things he or she is doing in class.



Backpack with School Supplies

Drawing

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

Drawing will be held on September 16th.