

ZIA NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear Zia Families:

When you read this, our students will have just finished the 2009 NMSBA assessment. As I have mentioned before, this is the mandated state test that determines how well Zia makes Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This is a grueling and time consuming experience for our students and staff and I want to thank them for all of their hard work and best efforts.

Our school will be undergoing a number of construction projects and improvements over the next several months. The first will begin in mid- to late April when we begin landscaping the area between the office and the student drop-off lane. This will close off the north doors to the office and change access to campus in that area. Please look at the enclosed map or the Zia website for specific guidance. Other projects coming up will help the 100 and 200 buildings, built in 1949 and 1950, move into the 21st century. Beginning this summer these buildings will get new windows and insulation, an electrical upgrade, new energy efficient lighting and new paint in all the classrooms. Our computer lab is going to be completely rebuilt to make it easier for instruction as well as safer for students. All these projects will occur through the 2009–2010 school year. In the fall, classrooms in these buildings will be affected for a week at a time but we have made plans to keep your child's instruction going without interruption.

The recently finished 2009 legislative session was a difficult one for public education. Our schools continue to be underfunded, in violation of the New Mexico Constitution. In spite of that, our local legislators managed to find capital allocations for Zia. We would like to thank Senator McSorley and Representatives Picraux and Williams-Stapleton for their funding of sidewalk improvements and a master drainage plan for our campus. We will use these funds over the next year to continue campus improvements.

We just completed our budget for next year. After receiving our allocation we met with teachers, educational assistants, parents and other staff and community members to prioritize how to allocate our funds. We analyzed all this input and were able to submit our budget for next year. As we go to print, we have not yet received approval from the district. I will update you on the results in our next newsletter. I want to thank all the parents who came to the April PTA meeting and gave us their ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Gregg McMann
Principal

ZIA STAFF

Gregg McMann, Principal

Karen Sleuth, Secretary

Janice Bollen, Clerk

Laura Buell, Counselor

Cara Cawood, Counselor

Margaret Grady, Nurse

Johnnie Hamm, Health Assistant

*Corinne Martinez, Family/
Community Liaison*

Mike May, PTA President

CONTACT ZIA:

(505) 260-2020 phone

(505) 255-1014 fax

440 Jefferson Street NE

Albuquerque, NM 87108

www.zes.aps.edu

School Class Hours:

First Bell 8:55

Regular 8:58-3:42

Wednesday 8:58-1:32

Eagle Creed

Everybody matters
Appreciate everyone
and everything
Give and accept
praise
Listen and
acknowledge
others
Elevate yourself and
those around you
Speak kindly

PTA BRIEFS . . .

Zia PTA currently does not have a President-elect or Secretary for next year. The folks currently in these offices will not be continuing. The organization is ready for new blood and new ideas, and there is support from the outgoing officers to transition new people into these roles. The commitment is about four hours a month. Lend your hand to the effort and run for PTA office! To learn more about what these positions entail, contact current president Mike May at 401-5736, mikemay5@comcast.net, or current Secretary Julia Keleher at 293-5272, jrkeleher@aol.com.

5TH GRADE GRADUATION, FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2:00-3:00PM: So that 5th grade parents can simply enjoy the ceremony, the PTA's goal is to get a small team of 4th grade parents to help Zia Counselor Cara Cawood coordinate this event. Lisa Eaton has volunteered to help as well, and she could use additional assistance. You may contact her at lpeaton@swcp.com or call 260-0132.

ZIA FOLLIES: Jamie Darrow needs help soliciting items for the Zia Follies Raffle. If you have items to raffle, contact Jamy Darrow at 232-6877, jamydarrow@yahoo.com.

TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION: Mike May and Zia Counselor Laura Buell are brainstorming fun ideas for staff appreciation week this spring. In an effort to thank the entire Zia professional community, the PTA will be putting on several different enjoyable activities for faculty and staff that week. If you have ideas, or want to help, contact Ms. Buell at buell_l@aps.edu or Mike May at mikemay5@comcast.net or 401-5736.

Mike May
Zia Elementary PTA President

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Please mark your calendars now for the following important dates:

- YMCA will hold a summer program in the Family Focus Center. More details to follow.
- Registration for new and returning students will be held on August 14, 9:00AM-Noon.
- Parks and Rec before and/or after school program will register students for the 2009-2010 school year on August 14 from 9:00AM-Noon.
- The school office will remain open through June 4, 8:00AM-4:30PM. It will reopen on July 27 at 8:00AM.

Watch the Zia website for updates, www.zes.aps.edu.

Upcoming Events

May 4 Zia Book Fair through Friday, May 8
May 14 Zia Play Day: Kinder-2nd Grades
May 15 Zia Play Day: 3rd-5th Grades
Zia Follies-Highland High School
May 22 Last Day of School: Dismissal at 3:42PM

NEXT PTA MEETING IS
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 6:00PM,
IN THE CAFETERIA.

DINNER AND CHILDCARE ARE
AVAILABLE AT EVERY MEETING.

With Appreciation...

The Zia community would like to thank Zia parent Ms. Elizabeth Calhoon and Westwind Landscaping Co. for their support and help with our campus landscaping plans. Ms. Calhoon has been part of building committees for the new playground equipment, the new building renovations and the new entry to the administration building. She also donated our new tree in honor of our SAIC volunteers.

Thank you Elizabeth Calhoon.

A WORD FROM THE COUNSELORS

Every month the Zia school community comes together for an assembly. The last assembly of the school year has been reserved as a special event to be hosted by Mr. McMann honoring students who have been exceptional throughout the year.

Among the honorees there is meant to be an award for a student, or students, who has maintained perfect attendance this year. Perfect attendance would mean that a student will have been in school every day from August 14th until the day of the assembly, May 20th, with no tardies or early releases. Thus far, we haven't been able to find a student that meets this criteria.

Reading the newspaper and watching the news reminds us that families are being torn apart by poverty, war, and corporate layoffs on a daily basis. The housing market continues to collapse and more and more families are becoming homeless. Our children, whether in these families or not, are affected by these happenings. That is why, now, more than ever, structure and stability is so important in the lives of our children. Coming to school everyday can help provide children with the structure they so need and crave.

If you need assistance in terms of attendance, or any other matter, we want to help. Please do not hesitate to contact us here in the counseling office—we understand that there are so many issues affecting our students and there are many resources available.

Zia is, above all else, a community school—let us be of service.

Laura Buell and Cara Cawood
Zia Counselors
260-2020, ext. 85085

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY/COMMUNITY LIAISON

A heartfelt "Thank You" to all the following companies for their help and support: Clark's Pet Emporium (Thomas Steeples); Golfnoggins (Clint West); The Rain Tunnel (Billy Quintana); STP Tattoo & Piercing (Mario Saiz); New York Hair.Nail.Spa (Dong Pham); Burger King and Taco Bueno (M&M Brothers, Inc.); Join-a-School—Seeds of Learning Grant (Cynthia Mann, Carole Smith and Victoria Pruitt); and Fuddruckers—Coronado Mall (Katie Ford).

The after-school tutoring program with the Highland High School Black Student Union has been a great success. We have 25 Zia students participating in the program with the help of the following tutors: Tanecia Warren, Deadra Jones, E Aaron Smith, Christopher Gooding, Felicia Martinez, and C.J. Palmer. Highland High School Coach Stacey Washington is the coordinator of the program.

Corinne Martinez
Family Community Liaison
260-2020 ext. 85071

LIBRARY NEWS

Wow! It's hard to believe the school year is nearly over. I've so much enjoyed being your Librarian at Zia this year and look forward to returning in the fall. It was a joy to meet with all of the students at Zia every week and being a part of their reading and learning experience.

There is one more Book Fair. The *BUY ONE GET ONE FREE BOOK FAIR*, May 4th–8th, is a great opportunity for your student(s) to stock up on summer reading material. To volunteer, please e-mail me at miller_pe@aps.edu, or call me at 260-2020 ext. 85029.

Materials for *Dion's Club Read 2009* have come home already. Please look through the material and find out how to earn rewards for reading this summer. Fun awards for reading are presented by the Albuquerque Isotopes. Just nine books will score a home run!

Peggy Miller
260-2020 ext. 85029

NEWS FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

MAY IS ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

Many families don't know if their children have asthma or how to treat it well.

Common signs of uncontrolled asthma:

- A cough that lasts a long time after a cold
- Coughing all throughout the day
- Coughing during the night or early morning
- Coughing, wheezing, chest tightness, or shortness of breath after vigorous physical activity or activity in cold, windy weather
- Little energy for active play
- Coughing, wheezing, chest tightness or shortness of breath even though the child is taking medicine for asthma
- Using extra asthma medicine to stop coughing, wheezing, chest tightness, or shortness of breath

If you notice any of these signs, talk with your school nurse: Margaret Grady, RN, 260-2020, ext. 85072 or Johnnie Hamm, Health Assistant.

With regular medical care and the right treatment, children with asthma can live active, healthy lives! Make an appointment now with your family doctor to get ready for a **healthy and safe summer**.

Visually Impaired Program: Reading

Zia Elementary is the district site for the program for Visually Impaired (VI) students. Most of the students in this program have enough vision loss that Braille will be their primary way to read and write. Like their sighted friends, our VI students spend a lot of time learning to read and write. Unlike print, Braille is more than just letters. It's not part of daily life. So, learning Braille for our VI kids requires more work and more time to learn. We are committed to this program as a school because we know how lasting the benefits will be.

When VI kids learn to read and write, they are immediately introduced to more than just letters. Braille is only six dots. But combinations of those dots make letters, numbers, and symbols that can stand for groups of letters, punctuation marks, and even whole words, for example, "the", "and", and "for" all have symbols that mean those words. These little words are in all beginning reading books. Some symbols look like others in shape, but they might be turned a different way or upside down. The letters "d" and "f" are the same shape, but they face different ways. These are things that require time to learn and practice to get right.

When students are learning to read and write, they can find new words everywhere—on signs, in the store, on the cereal box. But Braille is not found before or after school to practice with. For this reason, it is important that VI Braille learners have as much opportunity as possible to interact with Braille at school.

By 3rd or 4th grade, most Braille learners in our program know enough Braille to catch up with their sighted classmates. They will move on to incorporate Braille into their daily lives. They can enjoy writing notes, writing novels, labeling CDs, and other communication tasks.

Adult Braille readers cherish the Braille under their fingers. Statistics show that only 3 of every ten employable blind/visually impaired adults have a job. Of those 30%, 90% of them are Braille readers. So, as we spend the extra time and effort now to equip our VI students, we look forward to celebrating their future success.

Caroline Benavidez
Teacher of the Visually Impaired
260-2020, ext. 85060

The **last** day of school this year will be Friday, May 22. It will be a **full-day** of school. Please plan accordingly.

There will no early registration this year. A letter of *Intent to Return* will be coming home shortly for you to complete. Registration for next year will take place on Friday, August 14, from 8AM-Noon.