

ZIA NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In the last few weeks we have had a Halloween Carnival, the fall Green Thumb Day, and our family Thanksgiving dinner. It was very nice to see everyone at these events and witness the parent participation and interest in Zia Elementary. Thank you for the time and effort on behalf of your children and Zia Elementary in spite of your busy lives.

It is hard to believe we are in November already. Our school year is one-third done. This month you will be having a conference with your child's teacher regarding the academic and social progress to this point in the year. Please use this opportunity to continue honest communication with the teacher and other staff who work with your child.

It is helpful to prepare for a parent-teacher conference. With so many students the teachers do not have a lot of time for each family. Make the most of it. Make a list of your questions in advance. Think about homework you have had questions about, or things you have discussed with your child that you want to know more about. At the conference you should expect to learn where your child is performing in reading and mathematics. You should see samples of writing and other work. Ask the teacher to show you samples from the last three months and discuss progress that they are noticing. If there are concerns, ask what the teacher and school are doing to help your child, and what you can do at home to help maintain the learning from the classroom. Please be on time for your appointment. If you are not able to attend the scheduled time please notify the teacher and office so we can reschedule.

Attendance, tardies, and early release continue to be a concern. We have begun a monthly program for families whose children have excessive absences. This is a new required program the district has put in place. The first and most important thing you can do as a parent to help your child in school is to have them in school, on time, every day, for the full day. When a child is tardy or taken out early it disturbs the flow of instruction for other students. It also means your child is not receiving their full opportunity to learn. Please help us work together on this concern.

Sincerely,

Gregg McMann
Principal

ZIA STAFF

Gregg McMann, Principal
Helen Gomez, Secretary
Lizette Nuñez, Clerk
Cara Cawood, Counselor
Laura Buell, Counselor
Valerie Karwowski, Nurse
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:

9:05-3:40
9:05-1:30 Wednesday

*New absence
policy at Zia:
three tardies or
early releases
= one absence.*

*Effective Nov. 26
documentation
will be required
for an excused
tardy or early
release.*

PTA BRIEFS. . .

Upcoming Events

- o Zia Scholastic Bookfair, November 12-16th. The book fair will be open during lunch recess and after school each day from 1:30–3:30 PM. Questions, or to volunteer at the fair, contact Pam Murphy at 266–4527, turtle4527@comcast.net.

Community Bulletin Board

This is a place for Zia families, teachers, and staff to place requests for, or offers of, information, goods, or services. Submissions may be placed in PTA mailbox in the staff lounge or emailed to ziapta@gmail.com. All submissions must include name and contact information and are subject to principal approval.

Items for sale

- o Kelly "Trek" Child Carrier, with rain/sun shade. Perfect condition. \$100 OBO. Call Noelle at 266–8778.
- o Used RCA No-Frost Refrigerator. Off-white, freezer on top. Clean, works perfectly. 20.6 cu. ft (14.6 fridge/6 freezer) Dimensions: 66"h x 31¼"w x 31¼"d \$100 delivered. Contact Julia at 293–5272.

Summary of PTA events and discussion from the past month.**Communications and School Life Team**

- o Organized a feedback session for the ongoing Superintendent search at the last PTA meeting. Families from Zia, Montezuma and Monte Vista Elementary Schools attended and participated in a well facilitated session designed to determine what characteristics the new Superintendent should possess and what their first priorities should be. Thanks to all the families that participated and the insightful input they provided. Feedback is posted in the cafeteria windows.

Welcome Team

- o Libby Henry and her Halloween volunteers did a bang-up job on this year's Halloween Carnival. Attendance was great and kids and families had a great time. Julia Keleher shadowed Libby and will be taking over the leadership of the carnival next year.
- o Green Thumb Day was a blast thanks to Jamie Darrow and Principal Gregg McMann. About 35 people showed up with rakes, shovels, gloves and muscles. A lot was accomplished in two hours and then all enjoyed pizza in the glorious November sunshine. Thanks to all the families, custodians and staff members who participated.

Fundraising Team

- o Working on establishing partnerships with local businesses to better support Zia. Thanks to the initiative of Zia Treasurer Brett Engel, PTA has obtained supplies for our nursing office.

The PTA membership

- o Approved the purchase of rotating book stands for the Zia Library.
- o Added another \$1,000 to the class field trip account.
- o Approved ½ of the cost for purchasing floor mats for all major entrances on the Zia Campus. Thanks to Pam and Pat Murphy for suggesting the idea and contributing half of the cost.

Thanks again to all of the parents, teachers and staff who contribute their effort and ideas.

Mike May

Zia Elementary PTA President (ziapta@gmail.com)

*PTA MEETS THE
FIRST THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
AT 6:00PM.*

*DINNER AND
CHILDCARE ARE
AVAILABLE AT
EVERY MEETING.*

COUNSELOR'S UPDATE

My name is Laura Buell. Cara Cawood and I are partnering as counselors here at Zia. As you may know, Ms. Cawood is currently out on maternity leave. She will be returning after Winter Break. At that time, each of us will be working half-time to fulfill the needs of our community.

Ms. Cawood has given me a lot of guidance as to the needs and programs here at Zia. I am currently busy trying to maintain and implement these programs (as well as learn everyone's name!). Currently I am working with many fourth and fifth graders on continuing the Best Buddy Program, which provides friendship resources for the entire school during the first recess. I have also begun to create several weekly student support groups that will meet during recess hours as well. Current groups include friendship groups, social skills, and "insight" or personal awareness. My goal is to begin additional groups within the next few weeks, and as the year progresses.

If you are interested in having your child being a member of any of these groups, please don't hesitate to leave me a note or voicemail. Thus far I have been very impressed with the level of commitment and involvement I have seen from both staff and parents. I'm looking forward to a fun and productive year!

Laura Buell,
Counselor

Watch for classes at the Family Focus Center this coming spring on how parents can work with schools and teachers.

Truancy Prevention Program held first Monday of each month at 5:30 PM.

NEWS FROM THE NURSE

Nosebleeds

What to do:

1. Have the child sit up with his/her head tilted slightly forward. Do not have the child lean back (this may cause gagging, coughing, or vomiting).
2. Pinch the soft part of the nose (just below the bony part) for at least 10 minutes.

Call a doctor if the child:

- has frequent nosebleeds
- may have put something in his/her nose
- tends to bruise easily, or has heavy bleeding from minor wounds
- recently started a new medication

Seek emergency medical care or call the child's doctor if bleeding:

- is heavy, or is accompanied by dizziness or weakness
- continues after two attempts of applying pressure for 10 minutes each
- is the result of a blow to the head or a fall

Think prevention - Most childhood nosebleeds are caused by dryness and nose picking. To help combat dryness use saline (salt water) nasal spray or drops (or put petroleum jelly on the inside edges of the child's nostrils) and use a humidifier in the child's room. To help prevent damage from nose picking, keep the child's fingernails short.

If you have any questions, call our health office at 260-2020 ext. 3, and talk with one of our nursing staff members, Valerie Karwowski or Corinne Martinez.

Note: All information is for educational purposes only. For specific medical advice, diagnosis, and treatment, consult a doctor. .

Upcoming Events

November 12–16	Parent–Teacher Conferences; 1:30 Dismissal all week
November 21–23	Thanksgiving Break
December 6	PTA Meeting, 6PM
December 24	Winter Break Begins
January 7	Teacher In-service Day-No School
January 8	Students Return to School
January 16	Bilingual Night 6PM

Read, read, read to your child each and every day for at least 20 minutes.

- *Choose good authors*
- *Read chapter books*
- *Read different genres, such as poetry, fiction, biographies*
- *Stop and ask questions about the text as you read*
- *Ask your child to partner read with you*

How Might I Help?: Techniques and Strategies to Further Your Child's Educational Growth

Reading with your younger children

First and foremost, *read, read, read*, to your child each and every day for at least 20 minutes. Numerous researchers have found that if a child is read to for 20 minutes a day, their chances for academic success improves dramatically. I would suggest reading really good children's books by authors such as Patricia Polacco, Eric Carle, Cynthia Rylant, Bill Martin, Jr., Ezra Jack Keats, Leo Lionni, Jonathan London, Eve Bunting, Ted Arnold, Jan Brett, and Tomi dePaolo. Books that have repetitive and predictable language is great for this age level.

Don't be afraid to read chapter books. Reading at a level above where your child is in his/her development helps build vocabulary. It also helps to have them begin to develop that movie we have in our head as we read when there aren't any pictures. Some favorite chapter book authors are Barbara Park (Junie B. Jones series), Roald Dahl, and Astrid Lindgren (Pippi Longstocking series).

Read different genres of reading material. Read a magazine or newspaper article that appeals to you. Do a crossword puzzle together. As you surf the Internet, read something interesting you find. Poetry is very rich in the use of language (a great children's poet is Shel Silverstein). Even reading the labels on food or the back of a cereal box helps children recognize that words and language are all around us.

After you've read all the way through a book, if it is a picture book, reread it right away. During the rereading, at natural points, stop and ask what just happened or what is going to happen next. Also, when you read a part that is fun for you, reread it several times asking your child to read it with you. There are just certain combinations of words that just feel good and are fun to say more than once. At some points, read a word and ask what letter sound they heard at the beginning or end of the word. You can also ask him/her to name the first or last letter of a word.

Track with your finger at times when reading. This means being very deliberate in using your finger to float under the words as you read them. This helps show where we start reading and how the words flow on a page.

Partner read with your child when appropriate. Pick a story with many basic sight words (such as *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Eric Carle). You read the first couple of pages. After the first couple of pages, when you get to the words, "what do you see," point to these words and have your child say them. Gradually move away from pointing word for word to floating your finger under the words as mentioned above.

Now, go read many good books with your child. Enjoy!