

# ZIA NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear Zia Families:

Welcome to the New Year! All of us at Zia ES hope that your holiday break was safe and peaceful for your family. We have already been working hard for a month at Zia.

We have expanded our reading program this month. Balanced Literacy, the literacy program in place at Zia, has an important component called Guided Reading. This component involves the teacher reading a book with a small group of children who all read at the same level. In most classrooms, due to a wide range of reading levels, teachers have only been able to do this critical, small group instruction one or two times per week for most students. We have trained Educational Assistants and other certified staff such as the PE Coach, the technology teacher, the counselor, and others to also teach Guided Reading. We are using these educators at a regular time each day to work with first and second graders. Because of this training and schedule we are now able to provide Guided Reading to every first and second grader four days each week. This allows us to closely monitor the progress of your child and as they make progress, or encounter problems, we are able to change their group or adjust instruction accordingly.

We began this program with two Title I Literacy Teachers last year and saw considerable growth with the students they taught. Some students jumped over two grade levels during the year. When we saw the impact of daily Guided Reading we began planning for the expansion of Guided Reading instruction. Since we trained so many of our staff to do this work we have been able to free our Literacy Resource Teacher to now work, for the first time, with struggling readers in the kindergarten, third and fourth grades.

Zia staff had a professional development day on January 16. These days are scheduled each year and are mandated by the New Mexico Legislature. Schools use these days to study and improve teaching and programs. In the fall our training focused on teaching mathematics, specifically, how to help children develop the conceptual understanding of number. Our work this month involved learning the new data system for APS, called AIMS, and then studying the data on student achievement for Zia. We are using this information to write our Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS) and plan for programs at school. In the remaining professional development days this spring we will continue to refine our Balanced Literacy program and study data to plan for next year's classes.

If you would like any further information on these initiatives, please contact your child's teacher, our Instructional Coach-Frank Chiki, or myself. As always, we welcome you at school and encourage you to be involved in your child's education.

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**

**E**verybody matters  
**A**ppreciate everyone  
and everything  
**G**ive and accept  
praise  
**L**isten and  
acknowledge  
others  
**E**levate yourself and  
those around you  
**S**peak kindly

**PTA BRIEFS . . .**

Happy New Year Zia Families! Much has happened since before Winter Break; I'll do my best to summarize.

The final numbers for the Innisbrook Fundraiser are in, and in spite of the difficult state of the economy, the event raised \$5,936 for the PTA. Thanks again to Nysha Livingston and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this fundraiser a success. Nysha is ready to transition out of the coordinating role of this event, so if you are interested in helping organize this event next year, please contact the PTA officers at the numbers listed below.

The Halloween Carnival was another great success with good attendance, fun games, and an impressive haunted house. Although not conceived of as a major fundraiser, the Carnival brought in \$1,850.

At the end of November, the PTA put on its second Middle School Fair. With sixteen different middle schools exhibiting their programs and over fifty families attending from eleven different elementary schools, the event was a huge success. Parents were very appreciative of focused time with their children to discuss this important transition and schools were thrilled to have the chance to showcase their diverse programs. One of the attendees this year was Ruby Etheridge, APS Associate Superintendent for middle schools. Impressed by what she saw, Ms. Etheridge indicated a willingness on behalf of APS to support the planning and publicity for the event in the future.

Thanks to Pam Murphy and her team of parent volunteers for another successful Book Fair. The fair generated over \$700 for the Zia's library fund.

This year's combination Science Fair and Math Night went well with good attendance. Thanks to Mike Kuhn and Carrie McGill for their efforts at planning the evening. This was the first time in recent memory that these events have been combined and the planning team will be discussing pros and cons as they look ahead to next year.

During the first semester, the PTA funded \$1,500 for field trips while contributing \$1,695 for school and curriculum enrichment on the basis of teacher and staff requests.

Gears are already turning in preparation for spring events. The student performance event, Zia Follies, is scheduled for April 17th. To offer your help contact Jamy Darrow at 232-6877, [jamydarrow@yahoo.com](mailto:jamydarrow@yahoo.com). The Ziathon, a Jog-A-Thon fundraiser, will follow that and is being coordinated by Noelle Borders, who can be contacted at 266-8778, [aborders@salud.unm.edu](mailto:aborders@salud.unm.edu). For something novel, Noelle is hoping to offer a Ziathon T-shirt to the kids this year. If you would be interested in helping find sponsors for the T-shirt, please contact Noelle via email. Both Jamie and Noelle could use understudies so that the transition of new organizers in these roles can be facilitated in a thoughtful way. Please consider lending a hand.

Finally, PTA elections will be coming up in April. We will be electing a new president and secretary, and I encourage you to consider one of these positions. The Zia PTA does great work for the school community and is simply a lot of fun. To learn more about what these positions entail, contact current president Mike May at 401-5736, [mikemay5@comcast.net](mailto:mikemay5@comcast.net), or current Secretary Julia Keleher at 293-5272, [jrkeleher@aol.com](mailto:jrkeleher@aol.com).

Mike May  
Zia Elementary PTA President

*NEXT PTA MEETING,  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 6:00PM,  
IN THE CAFETERIA FOLLOWED BY  
YOUNG AUTHOR'S NIGHT*

*DINNER AND CHILDCARE ARE  
AVAILABLE AT EVERY MEETING.*

Zia Follies Auditions will be held at the Family Focus Center on the following dates:

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-12:00

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:45-3:45

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:45-4:00

## **A WORD FROM THE COUNSELORS**

Children are not always aware of the many changes their bodies are going through as they grow and strengthen each day. Nor are they aware of how these changes may affect them.

Whenever a child comes into the counseling office because they are having a hard time controlling their behavior, some of the first questions we ask them are: Are you hungry? Tired? Cold? Hot? Sick?

As we know, the body and the brain are connected to one another. The signals they send out to the other, communicating what they need, are often too subtle for children to pick up on (often times they're too subtle for adults to pick up on as well). Children may not always know that they are hungry; they just know that they're unhappy. How does a child respond to being unhappy—by acting out.

It is our job as parents, educators and as adults who care about children, to help them recognize these signals BEFORE they escalate into a situation. Teach children to pay attention to their bodies and what their bodies need every day to stay healthy and happy. Educate children about proper nutrition, getting enough sleep, wearing appropriate clothing for different seasons and noticing when we don't feel well. Our children will be much happier for it.

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

### ***Upcoming Events***

Feb 5 Young Author's Night; PTA Meeting  
Feb 16 No School: President's Day  
Mar 2 Parent/Teacher Conference Week  
Zia Book Fair Week

## **NEWS FROM THE FAMILY/COMMUNITY LIAISON**

Making time for your children is an important part of being a parent. Communicating is one of the easiest and most important thing you can do with your children. Communication means not only talking to your children, but also listening to what they have to say. Your children need to feel important to you. It's vital for your children to have a sense that you respect their views. If so, they will be far more likely to talk to you about any problems they may be having. It's important to ask your children questions and express an interest in their activities. Keep up with your children's interests and friends. If you can, ensure that when you organize activities that you include your children's friends. Try to find out what your children like or dislike about school. Find out what subjects they like or which cause problems. Try to think about whether there are any ways in which you might be able to help. Make an effort to understand what subjects and topics your children are studying in school. You will be in a better position to understand any feedback you get from the school regarding your children's performance.

Read, talk and play with your children. Ask how their day went. Find out if they had any problems—just talk! Building your relationship in this way will allow it to deepen, and will help your children grow into confident, independent adults.

Corinne Martinez  
Family Community Liaison  
260-2020 ext. 85071

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

### ***A Chair Affair***

It's a chair affair and you're all invited.

For our new Reading Corner, we're all so excited!  
With a southern exposure, Zia's library's the spot.  
For students at recess, who read little or lots.

We're in need of some chairs to furnish our pad,  
Slightly used, not abused, if that's what you have.

Un-upholstered would do,  
Something comfy and bright.

A wing back of leather or vinyl...just right!

A donation we're asking, if your chair fits the bill.  
For the students who wish to, could read at their will.  
So, give us a call if you have any questions.

260-2020 is the number, 85029, the extension.

Peggy Miller, Librarian

## MUSIC EDUCATION NEWS

This year I am Zia Elementary's full-time music teacher. Classes meet for 45-minutes each week. During class, we are learning many songs. We are also learning music on the xylophones, metalophones, and glockespiels. In January, the upper grades will start playing recorders.

We had a wonderful performance for the school by the NM Jazz Workshop. This month at the assembly, our all-school song is Pizza! Later this year, classes will be presenting performances of musicals and recorder music.

Barbara Rivers

## NEWS FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Eye injury is the leading cause of blindness in children in the U.S.

If something gets into your eye, such as sand or dust, do not rub your eye. Wash your eye with water to get the object out.

If your eye gets hit by a ball or a fist, put cold cloths on your eye for 15 minutes. This will make the swelling go down and the eye won't hurt so much. You should also go to the doctor.

If an object, such as a stick or a pencil, gets stuck in your eye, do not pull it out. Put a loose bandage on your eye. This is very serious. You need to go to the doctor right away.

If a chemical, such as cleaning fluid, splashes in your eyes, wash out your eyes with water for at least 10 minutes. You need to go to the doctor right away.

For more information, call 260-2020 ext. 85072, and talk with Margaret Grady, RN, or Johnnie Hamm, Health Assistant.

## Help! My child is acting \_\_\_\_\_! What do I do?

Every parent has probably asked the above question at least once in their parenting experience. It is one of the most often asked questions our counselors deal with. All parents need help to solve an issue with a child, from misbehavior to excessive crying to outright defiance. What is a parent to do? What options are available?

Our counselors are always willing to listen and help as best they can to help our parents with possible resources. The following are additional resources one might use.

Each of these resources address children and parent needs from different perspectives. In the books on Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) by Thom Hartmann, he explores the idea that certain of our children are wired in such a way that they have 'hunter' instincts, such as making split second (impulsive) decisions, causing issues at home or school, which are set-up for 'farmers', who generally think things through. He offers suggestions on how to work with the "hunters" of the world.

John Rosemond, states that parents need to make sure to make their relationship with each other a high priority which helps them meet the needs of their children. There are real-life scenarios on how to work with children's misbehavior, such as not listening or temper tantrums, in a way to effectively modify the behavior.

In the "old days", families used to sit down together each night for dinner. The web article, *The Magic of the Family Meal*, demonstrates the power of sitting down as many times as possible to eat together as a family. Doing so helps children develop good communication skills, increases vocabulary and other literacy skills. For children in the teenage years, having a family meal together helps reduce drug/alcohol use, pregnancy and truancy.

*Why Gender Matters* offers a different perspective on why some children have difficulty in school. Dr. Sax talks about innate differences in how boys and girls learn and interact. He is very clear that one way is not better than the other, just different. He provides examples on how to speak to boys and girls to help stop misbehavior. Other examples include how boys make friends compared to girls, and how a math lesson might be given to more thoroughly engage each gender in the learning process.

Good luck! As a parent, one needs all the luck and help one can get, no matter the temperament of your child.

*Attention Deficit Disorder : A Different Perception* by Thom Hartmann

*Family Building: The 5 Fundamentals of Effective Parenting* by John Rosemond

*New Parent Power!* by John Rosemond

*The Magic of the Family Meal*, <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1200760,00.html>  
(active as of January 16, 2009)

*Thom Hartmann's Complete Guide to ADHD: Help for Your Family at Home, School and Work*  
by Thom Hartmann, Lucy Jo Palladino, and Peter Jaksa

*Why Gender Matters: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know about the Emerging Science of Sex Differences* by Leonard Sax



In our Spanish Bee, 1<sup>st</sup> Place-Ashley Villalobos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Justin James, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place-Leslie Hernandez.

**Congratulations  
to our  
Spelling Bee  
winners  
and a big  
Thank You to our  
judges for  
their time!**



1<sup>st</sup> Place-Liza Lawton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Jade Kragt and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place-Elijah Steele for our English Bee.