

# ZIA NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2008

## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear Parents:

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe our year is half over already and we are heading into the spring semester. Teachers and children are already hard at work since we have returned.

One of the strongest aspects that makes Zia unique comes from the diversity of our students and their families. We are fortunate to have families from all parts of town, all ethnicities and all income levels. One of the best parts of my job is speaking with and getting to know all the different parents, grandparents and guardians who come on our campus.

In spite of our differences we are all focused on helping our children become happy and successful American citizens. When you come on campus for a school event, to meet a teacher or to pick up your children after school, talk to another parent. You will have more in common than you think. All of us share similar joys and sorrows in our lives.



Please control the amount of junk food your child brings to school. Beyond what they pack in their lunch we are requesting you do not send other candy, chips, or other unhealthy snacks to school. These foods negatively affect student learning and we want your children to be successful.

We have several school events over the next few weeks. In this newsletter you will find information on Math Night, Young Authors' Night, Middle School Information Night with PTA, and the upcoming Science Fair. Please read this information and plan to attend. We hope to see you there. They are already helping our school with gift certificates and other donations.

Sincerely,

Gregg McMann  
Principal

## ZIA STAFF

Gregg McMann, Principal

Helen Gomez, Secretary

Lizette Nuñez, Clerk

Cara Cawood, Counselor

Laura Buell, Counselor

Valerie Karwowski, Nurse

Corrine Martinez, Health Assistant

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](http://www.zes.aps.edu)

## School Class Hours:

Regular 9:05-3:40

Wednesday 9:05-1:30

## Welcome to the Zia Community



Weck's Breakfast and Lunch and Catering  
265-9237 • Open 7 days 6:30-2:00

Now a Zia Join A School partner.

Please patronize the new restaurant at San Mateo and Lomas.

**Reminder:**  
**Three tardies**  
**= one absence**  
**Three early**  
**releases**  
**= one absence**

## PTA BRIEFS. . .

Upcoming Events

- o Save the Date!! On February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. the PTA will be holding a middle school transition program entitled, "Look before you Leap: Making Sense of the Middle School Transition". The event is open to all but will focus particularly on providing useful information to Zia 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their families about different middle school options and how to prepare for this step away from Zia. Approximately ten different APS and Charter middle schools will be represented. Come and join us and feel free to bring a friend!
- o Planning is underway for the Zia Art Night! Ideas for the event include a venue for showcasing student artwork, art-making stations, a performance venue, exhibition space for local artists, and much more. If you are interested in helping with the planning of this event, contact Lisa Eaton at 260-0132 or email her at lpeaton@swcp.com.
- o New Twists for the Ziathon! Help brainstorm new additions for one of Zia's most popular events, the Ziathon! To get involved with this school-wide fun run, contact Noelle Borders at 266-8778 or email her at aborders@salud.unm.edu.
- o Coffee & Goodies! Join us the first Tuesday of every month in the cafeteria for coffee and sweetbread starting at 8:35 a.m. Hang out with parents and teachers or eat with your kids. Remember, breakfast is FREE for all kids!

*NEXT PTA MEETING,  
THURSDAY,  
MARCH 6, 6:00PM,  
IN THE CAFETERIA*

*DINNER AND  
CHILDCARE ARE  
AVAILABLE AT  
EVERY MEETING.*

Thanks to Christy Mae's Restaurant for donating the sweetbread!

- o Storytime at Breakfast! Bring your child to the cafeteria every Tuesday for Breakfast Storytime. Enjoy wonderful kids' stories as 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher Shari Doyon reads books from 8:40 to 9:00AM. If you'd like to help Shari out by holding a book for her, or read to a group of kids, just come by. She'd love some company!

Summary of PTA events and discussion from the past month.

Focus on Immigration. In recent months, PTA members have noticed firsthand the negative effects that immigration issues have had on our school community. In a first step to better inform ourselves about this complicated issue, the PTA invited Rachel Lazar, the director El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos, a local immigrant rights advocacy organization, to come and speak to the membership. Ms. Lazar led an informative discussion examining immigration from multiple perspectives: public health, economic, human rights. As was reinforced over the course of the evening, there are no easy answers in this arena. Nevertheless, the Zia PTA is committed to supporting all members of our community and recognizes the need for further discussion of this issue. Thank you to all who participated in the event and stay tuned for more information.

**Math Night Planning!!** Thanks to four Zia parents who helped plan the upcoming Math Night on January 30. Josh Hulebak, Sandy Schmidt, Jon Dunnam, and Elizabeth Calhoon all made an early Tuesday AM meeting to lend a hand to the Zia Math Team. We appreciate them making the effort and look forward to seeing you all at the event!

**Bilingual Night!!** Thanks parents, especially Lisa Eaton for doing the shopping, for Bilingual Night.

See you at Math Night!

Mike May, Zia Elementary PTA President (ziapta@gmail.com)

## COUNSELOR'S UPDATE

Welcome back Zia Eagles! I hope you all had a restful, joyful break. The counseling department continues to provide both a resource for children and families as well as a safe environment for students to come to discuss all kinds of issues—big and small. The peer groups that began prior to break have started again. They include friendship groups (for both boys and girls), assertiveness, and social skills. We are lucky to have Marina Hillard here on staff as our social worker. She and I have been working together with the social skills group to great success—proving the old adage of, “two heads are better than one!”

Within the next few weeks we will begin more groups that will cover a variety of subjects, such as grief and loss, and coping with divorced/separated parents. If you would like your child to participate in any of these groups, including the groups in progress, please don't hesitate to contact the counseling office. Also, we are very pleased that Ms. Cawood will be returning from her maternity leave on February 19th, at which time she and I will begin sharing counseling responsibilities. Please don't hesitate to stop by and welcome her back!

Laura Buell,  
Counselor

The Family Focus Center is conveniently located on Monroe one block south of Lomas between Washington and San Mateo. We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Come visit us soon!

Isabel Cutler, Executive Director  
Betty Peterson, President,  
Board of Directors

(505) 260-6106

## NEWS FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

### *Children's Allergies*

Millions of children have seasonal allergies, year-round (perennial) allergies, or both. If you are a parent of a child with allergies, you know how hard it can be on him or her (not to mention on you).

Facts about kids and allergies:

- \* Allergies are believed to affect up to 40% of children in the United States.
- \* When one or both parents have allergies, there is a greater likelihood that their child will too.
- \* Most allergies first appear during childhood.
- \* Allergies are more likely to develop in the oldest child in the family.
- \* Allergies are more common in boys than girls. By adulthood, however, the number of men and women who have allergies is about the same.

The good news is that there are ways to help manage indoor and outdoor allergy symptoms and to help your child feel better. Several different treatment options are available, so it is important to talk with your child's doctor to find out what may work best for your child.

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.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The next Book Fair will be here before you know it. Since we had such great success with the last, the Book Fair will be held during Parent Teacher Conference Week again, February 25–29. Watch for complete details to be sent home via backpack mail soon.

If you are interested in assisting during the next Book Fair, please contact Pam Murphy or myself.

Alison Almquist,  
Librarian

### ***Upcoming Events***

January 30	Math Night 6:00–7:30PM
February 8	Young Author's & Dessert Night 6:00–7:30PM
February 18	No School: President's Day
February 25	State Testing Begins Conference Week; 1:30PM Dismissal
March 9	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 19	Science Fair Judging at 9:15AM

### APS Transfer Process to Begin for the 2008-2009 School Year

Families who are seeking to have their child attend an Albuquerque Public School outside of their designated attendance area can apply for a transfer beginning February 1, 2008. The first window of opportunity will run from February 1, 2008, through March 15, 2008. Individuals can apply for a transfer by contacting the APS Student, School and Community Service Center at 6400 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite 100 West. Applications and transfer information are also available on-line ([www.aps.edu](http://www.aps.edu), link to Service Center from the home page). Transfer applications will be accepted under the Open Enrollment and No Child Left Behind provisions.

Transfers will be granted on a space-available basis and in compliance with State and Federal requirements. As per legislation, we will be using a random lottery system in granting transfer approvals, following the prescribed priority system.

Students who **CURRENTLY** have an approved transfer do not need to re-apply unless they are changing schools. They will be considered a "rollover" transfer if they remain at that school site. "Rollover" transfers do not apply from one school to its feeder school. Feel free to contact the Student Service Center at 855-9050 or 855-9040 for more information on the student transfer process.

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

#### ***Just Playing—Anita Wadley***

When I'm building in the block room, please don't say I'm "Just Playing."  
For you see, I'm learning as I play, about balance and shapes.  
Who knows, I may be an architect someday.

When I'm getting all dressed up, setting the table, caring for babies,  
Don't get the idea I'm "Just Playing." For, you see, I'm learning as I play;  
I may be a mother or a father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint or standing at an easel, or molding  
and shaping clay, Please don't let me hear you say, "He is Just Playing."  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm expressing myself and being creative.  
I may be an artist or an inventor someday.

When you see me sitting in a chair "reading" to an imaginary audience,  
Please don't laugh and think I'm "Just Playing."  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I may be a teacher someday.

When you see me combing the bushes for bugs, or packing my pockets with choice  
things I find, Don't pass it off as "Just Play."  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I may be a scientist someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or some "plaything" at my school,  
Please don't feel the time is wasted in "Play."  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate.  
I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,  
Please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is "Just Play."  
I'm learning to follow directions and see differences.  
I may be a cook someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run and move my body,  
Please don't say I'm "Just Playing."  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning how my body works.  
I may be a doctor, nurse or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school today, and I say, "I Just Played,"  
Please don't misunderstand me. For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work. I'm preparing for tomorrow.  
Today, I am a child and my work is play.