

SCHOOL NEWS

Thompson Ranch Elementary School • The Jaguar Telegram

December, 2008

Principal's Message

Well, here it is December and we are half way through the school year. This means that students will be taking their mid year exams. You should be hearing about Benchmark and DIBELS testing. Every grade level has set goals for the benchmark. The goal charts are posted in the main hallway and in every room. Each grade level decided upon their reward for raising scores for December. Let's wish them success!

In math you will soon hear your child speaking about two new supplemental programs we are participating in. One is called Study Island, a computer program that your child can access from school or from home. The other is Excel Math, individual lesson sheets that teach math concepts using a spiraling approach, with CheckAnswers to provide immediate feedback to students.

As you enter the building make sure to take note of the Character Always Counts Bulletin Board. Students caught displaying good character will receive a Character Card to post on the Board, at the end of the month a raffle is held. Every month we re-populate the board.

Our Thanksgiving lunch was a big success. We had approximately 100 parents that were able to join us for the delicious turkey dinner served by our wonderful cafeteria staff. We had some great students assisting our parents as well. We appreciate all your hard work and for making this a "yummy" day for Thompson Ranch. Everyone also enjoyed our 1st Annual Turkey Trot, nine winning families got to enjoy a free turkey donated by Albertson's.

I am also excited to tell you about a new partnership with the Sun City Rotary Club. The Rotary is honoring TRES middle school students by having teachers select one 6th, 7th and 8th grade student per month to be honored at their meeting. Students shall be recognized for their achievements for one or more of the following special reasons, such as hard work, diligence, assisting others and/or high grades. The students and their parent not only get lunch but also a \$35.00 gift certificate to Barnes and Nobles, \$50.00 cash and a Certificate of Recognition.

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is here and that a new year is about to begin. TRES wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday. Please know that we still has many fun activities planned and we hope to see you and your family at some of our upcoming events, especially the **Jaguar Jamboree, on December 11th, come hear our students sing and enjoy some hot cocoa!**

Builders Club

As a service organization, the Builders Club is sponsored by the El Mirage Kiwanis Club. The members have started a recycling project in the school. They collect paper and cardboard once a week to recycle. They have also entered a District competition to see which school can collect the largest amount of foil. Please send clean used foil to help. Club members also participated in "Trick or Treat " for UNICEF. They wore funny hats and collected \$98.01 for this worthy charity. Thank you to everyone who participated. **Jaguars are the BEST! They GIVE more than the rest!**

Library Club



The library club is sponsoring a family fun night, tonight, Dec. 1, at Barnes and Noble on Bell in Surprise. Parents, friends and family can do their holiday shopping from 6pm -8pm while children play games and other activities. The same day...same parking lot...eat at Chick-fil-A...buy an adult combo meal and receive a kids 4 piece meal FREE. Tell them you are from Thompson Ranch and you can register for a year of Chick-fil-A (52 combo meals). The more the merrier! **Jaguars ae he BEST! They READ more than the rest!**

Diversity Club

The Diversity Club members worked hard to decorate the school with posters celebrating National Character Counts week and Red Ribbon week during October. They divided bracelets, stickers and character cards to give all students. November was National Native American month. During December students will discuss the different Christmas traditions celebrated around the world. **Jaguars are the BEST! They have more CHARACTER than the rest!**

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The Dysart Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs or activities. For information regarding discrimination grievance or complaint procedures contact the superintendent at (623) 876-7000.

Dates to Remember

- Dec 1**—6-8 PM Family Fun Night at Barnes and Noble (sponsored by the library club).
- Dec 1**—Chicki-fil-A—Sponsored by Library Club
- Dec 1-5**—Benchmark Testing
- Dec 4**—NJHS Induction
- Dec 5**—Red Robin to Read to students
- Dec 7**—Choir to sing at Church
- Dec 8-12**—DIBELS Testing
- Dec 9**—Rotary Luncheon
- Dec 11**—6-8:00 PM—Jaguar Jamboree in the Courtyard
- Dec 19**—Early Release at 1 PM
- Dec 22—Jan 2**—Winter Break
- Jan 5**—School Resumes
- Jan 9**—Report Cards Issued
- Jan 12**—Elroy the Elk visits K-2
- Jan 19**—Martin Luther King—No School

News from 4th Grade

Mrs. Levings' fourth grade students are studying the effects of the Ethan Fire that burned near the Phoenix International Raceway this past June. Eric Proctor from Arizona Game and Fish has provided our class with materials so students can track the changes in the vegetation and animal life as the area recovers from the fire. It will be interesting to see which plants and animals begin to return to the area first.

We are also decorating thank you notes and holiday cards to send to our troops. This project is set up by the American Red Cross. We send our cards to them and they send them on to our soldiers so they receive them in time for the winter holidays.

The fourth grade team would like to extend our appreciation to Mary Hoffman for sharing valuable information about the Rand McNally site <http://www.randmcnallyclassroom.com> This site will be a great asset to our Social Studies curriculum. Ms Hoffman also shared a great interactive Social Studies folder idea that our team is very excited about using with our fourth grade students. Thank you, Ms Hoffman for sharing your wonderful ideas with us here at Thompson Ranch.

**Thompson Ranch Jaguars
are the best! They outshine
all the rest**

Jaguar of the Month

Character Counts, a program at Thompson Ranch that encourages students to observe the traits of **Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, and Citizenship**. Students are chosen who exhibit the chosen trait for each month and are honored the first Monday of each month. **Here is the list of our Jaguars of the Month for November.**

Nancy Rublacava-Sandoval, Evelyann Franco, Brady Bush, Jayden Hopp, Cassandra Quevedo, Eddie Zuniga, Destanee Delton, Nicholas Gonzalez, Oscar Castelo, Gilbert Garcia, Ruby Price, Ricardo Deleon, Alyssa Trujillo, Matthew Arizmendez, Junita Lara Gomez, Jackeline Orozco Ibarra, Maleigha Welsh, Oliver Moroyoqui-Moya, Daniel Medina, Jimmy Alejos, Charlie Lopez, Simplicity Siquieros, Sandra De Los Angeles, Kameron Montagnino, Cassidy Slater, Alondra Cano Marquez, Kendra Red Bear, Chiquita Lechuga, Arista Dawson, Destini Rodriguez, Raven Desporte, Juliet Marquez, Liliana Verdin, Ashley Spencer, Gonzalo Espinoza, Iris Carrasco, Tony Milo, Maria Gonzalez, Leticia Laborin

PTA NEWS

As always, new faces are eagerly welcomed at our monthly PTA meetings, so please join us on the fourth Thursday of any month. Due to holiday schedule, our next meeting will be in January. We meet for approximately one hour and we discuss all the events that have happened throughout the month and even discuss upcoming events. We would love to see you there!

Have you noticed that on Friday at dismissal we sell Ice Cream? It's delicious! Be sure to get yours. Most items are \$1.



Movie Night was Great Family Fun! We had over 400 for our viewing of Kung Fu Panda .

CHARACTER COUNTS

To celebrate National Character Counts week, the student body of Thompson Ranch was given RESPECT bracelets... Give Some to Get Some, character stickers and character counts pocket cards. The Diversity club made posters for the halls and cafeteria. The students of Thompson Ranch practice "Character Counts Always" everyday. The seventh grade and some eighth grade students participated in a Unity Day/Peace Education learning experience called Acohumri facilitated by teachers at Thompson Ranch, high school students from Dysart High School and Opening Minds consulting firm.

The grade level was divided into sixteen small groups. Activities were created to encourage students to determine their own response to various character building scenarios.

The four agreements were discussed; video presentations detailing the thirty human rights and bullying were shown. A skit by the high school students illustrated the many different types of bullying. Class discussions followed enabling students to share what they learned and how they would prevent bullying on the campus.

Thompson Ranch students and faculty would like to thank the Dysart High School students and Opening Minds for providing an enriching educational opportunity for our seventh and eighth grade students.

