

SCHOOL NEWS

Thompson Ranch Elementary School • The Jaguar Telegram

MAY 2009

MESSAGE FROM MRS SPERLING AND MS SHAW

As the school year comes to an end, we would like to take this opportunity to thank families for all of their support. Our classroom assessments are indicating increased student achievement. Attendance to our events to celebrate students has been phenomenal. We are so proud of our students and staff and we are looking forward to year number two, 2009-2010.

Our first thought was to recap all the wonderful accomplishments that took place at TRES but there is no way we could say it any better than the teachers have already done so. Please take the time to read the year in review section submitted by each grade level at the back of this newsletter.

As we continue our journey to Excelling, we want to wish you all a safe and wonderful summer. Please remind your children to read daily and to sign on to Study Island Reading and Math often in order to increase their academic knowledge during the summer recess. Thank you for making our first year at Thompson Ranch a Success!

Paw Power!

Mrs. Sperling and Ms. Shaw



**PAW
POWER**

THOMPSON RANCH AWARDED GRANT

Thompson Ranch was awarded a \$2000 grant award from the Friends of the Surprise Library. We were one of six schools in the Dysart School District to receive these grants. Thompson Ranch school librarian, Darlene Roach, accepted the award at a presentation on April 3rd. The \$2000 grant award will be used to supplement the middle school reading materials in the library. The Friends of the Surprise Library uses funds earned at their ongoing used book sale at the Northwest Regional Library (a.k.a. Surprise Library) located at 16089 N. Bullard St. Thompson Ranch faculty and students would like to thank the Friends of the Surprise Library for their generosity!

CEREMONIES

8TH GRADE PROMOTION
THURSDAY MAY 21, 2009
10:00 AM

KINDERGARTEN
CELEBRATION
WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2009
9:30 AM IN CLASSROOM
10:00 AM IN CAFETERIA
WITH A PERFORMANCE
BY STUDENTS

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Dates to Remember

May 4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 6	Dental Clinic
May 7	Family Reading Night
May 11-15	Dibels
May 11-15	6th Grade Human Development Week
May 12	Science Fair
May 13	Governing Board Meeting
May 20	Kindergarten Celebration
May 21	8th Grade Promotion
May 21	Last Day of School
May 25	Memorial Day

Upcoming Events:

June 1-26 Summer Academic Camp

SCIENCE FAIR

This year's Science Fair will be held on Tuesday May 12th in the Cafeteria from 9-3:30 p.m. Projects may be viewed during that time.

CINCO DE MAYO

Thompson Ranch's very own Ballet Folklorico will perform during the lunch hours in celebration of Cinco De Mayo on May 5th. **In the evening, there will be performances at 6:30pm in the cafeteria with Chips and Salsa being served courtesy of PTA.**



PTA NEWS

Thompson Ranch PTA is now selling preferred savings cards for \$10.00 each. There are 18 local establishments featured on the cards including Papa Johns, Cinnabon, Denny's, Black Angus and many more! These cards are good for 18 months. Expiration date would be October 31, 2010. If interested, see Kevin Dunmire, PTA President, or Diane Taylor, PTA treasurer.

Check out our Ice Cream selection Friday's after school by the main entrance doors. Cost for most items are \$1.00.

FAMILY READING NIGHT MAY 7TH 5 - 7 PM GRADES KG-2ND

FAMILY READING NIGHT

We will hold a family reading night for all of our kindergarten through 2nd grade families on Thursday May 7th from 5-7 PM in the library. Reading Night will highlight activities from the Big 5 which are **Comprehension, Fluency, Phonics, Phonemic Awareness, and Vocabulary.** Our National Junior Honor Society members will be on hand to run the centers activities for the evening.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is often referred to as the year of "new" beginnings, and the 2008-2009 school year is no exception. This year we brought on two new teachers, Mrs. Robitaille and Mrs. Vasquez to our team of five. A new program was also brought to Kindergarten as we followed state guidelines and implemented three ELD classrooms within our five at Thompson Ranch. In addition, a new leadership team was also created to oversee the Thompson Ranch staff which brought the arrival of our school principal, Mrs. Frances Sperling and our assistant principal, Ms. Linda Shaw.

As the "new" 2008-2009 school year began and all of the changes began to take shape, Kindergarteners in the ELD classrooms struggled with learning a new language separated from their English speaking peers. Their teachers, Mrs. Benavides, Mrs. Humphrey and Mrs. Trevillion, also found teaching all second language learners challenging and spent countless hours brainstorming and creating new teaching methods to ensure success for all their students. Kindergarteners in the regular education classrooms adjusted to their "new" environments and their teachers worked diligently to establish their own classroom routines and teaching methods.

By the middle of the school year, the Kindergarten "newness" had wore off and most students had not only adjusted well to the school environment but were achieving great academic success. By the end of the first semester, over 60% of our Kindergarten students had learned all the letters and sounds in the alphabet and were on their way to beginning to read and in math they could count and identify numbers to twenty. During a team collaboration period, it was decided that in order to increase the academic growth in reading of even more of our Kindergarten students we would level and group students by their academic ability in order to provide a focused thirty-minute intervention time each afternoon.

In the Spring, our Kindergarteners turn over another "new" leaf as we added an additional 9 students to the grade level, keeping an average of 22 students per class. Our students were also provided the opportunity of another "new" experience and environment as we took many of them on their very first field trip to a farm. Our Kindergarteners also continued working with all their newly acquired language and academic skills and proved that they had mastered these skills as over 90% of our ELD students showed proficient on the state AZELLA test and over 90% of our Kindergarten students reached a benchmark score on the state DIBELS assessment.

As we close out the school year, we're looking forward to one more "new" adventure as we go on a field trip to the World Wild Life Zoo. We're also going to celebrate our successes with family and staff members of the Thompson Ranch community during our Kindergarten Celebration Assembly. Our Kindergarteners and Kindergarten teachers had another very successful school year and we are very pleased that we have created "new" life long learners.

