

SCHOOL NEWS

Thompson Ranch Elementary School • The Jaguar Telegram

August 11, 2008

Principal's Message

I am so excited to have our students and parents back at school! I hope everyone is rested and had a wonderful summer. There are lots of new faces this year on campus, myself included. I hope that everyone gives them a big Jaguar ROAR! In addition, I am pleased to welcome Linda Shaw as the new Assistant Principal at Thompson Ranch. She is here to serve the students and their families and to maintain a safe and orderly environment where learning takes place every day. The staff is planning many fun filled family events in the upcoming months. I encourage every parent to take an active role in their child's education. I invite you to come visit often, volunteer and attend all school events! I look forward to working with each of you this year to ensure your children receive the best education and most positive school experience possible.

Parking Lot

As part of making our school a safe place for children, we have revised the drop-off and pick-up procedures. Please help us keep Thompson Ranch students safe by assisting us with these procedures.

The EAST parking loop is for students being dropped-off and picked-up by parents. Students will enter and exit the school at this location. Parents will drive forward in a single file line along the pick-up curb. Never double park to wait in this area. Students will only be allowed to enter a vehicle that is curbside. At no time is a student allowed to enter the parking lot area. Do not leave your vehicle in the loop unattended at any time. If you must walk your child in or out of school, please park in the FRONT or EAST parking lot.



The FRONT parking area is designated pick-up and drop-off for our kindergarten students only. At no time is any vehicle allowed to park along the marked fire lane. Kindergarten parents may park in this lot or our EAST lot to drop-off or pick-up their child.

Our WEST parking loop is for Bus loading and unloading of our students. Parent vehicles are not to enter this parking loop at any time.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring the safety of our children.

Upcoming Events.....

Aug 12-29—DIBELS Testing
Aug 28—PTA Meeting 5 PM
Sept 25—PTA Activity Night

Sports at Thompson Ranch

8/13—Boys/Girls Softball — Practice to start
9/2—First Game
10/3—Tournament Begins
10/12—End of Season



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.

Assistant Principal's Corner

It is with great pleasure that I have joined the Thompson Ranch community. I am committed to providing the best academic and social climate for our students and their families. Maintaining safety and order on our campus will allow for a meaningful learning environment in which our students can thrive. I ask that you, with your child, review the Student & Parent Handbook, as it defines the attendance and behavioral expectations of our students. I look forward to a very successful school year and encourage you to let me know of your concerns and interests. Please know that I am always available to assist in any way possible. My office is always open to you. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our students.



DIBELS Testing

The teachers and administrators at Thompson Ranch are committed to helping your child become a successful reader. As part of the commitment, our school has chosen to use a test called DIBELS to help us examine how you child is doing in learning important reading skills. DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills. DIBELS evaluates five skills that are necessary for learning to read. Children who learn these skills become good readers. The skills are

- Phonemic Awareness which is hearing and using sounds in spoken words
 - Alphabetic Principle which is knowing the sounds of the letters and sounding out words
 - Accurate and Fluent Reading which is reading stories easily and quickly with few mistakes
 - Vocabulary which understanding and using words
 - Comprehension which is understanding what is spoken or read
- DIBELS is used to identify children who may need extra help to become good readers. Thompson Ranch will complete DIBELING their students on August 29, 2008.

Breakfast in the Classroom

This year Thompson Ranch, along with three other elementary schools in the district, will be starting a new program called Breakfast in the Classroom. Instead of going to the cafeteria to eat breakfast at 8:30, students will report directly to their classrooms. As students arrive on campus, their breakfast will be waiting there for them as they enter the room. Students will have until 8:55 to eat and clean up their area. Learning starts at 9:00 AM at Thompson Ranch.

