

# Zuni Magnet School News



August 13, 2010

## A Note From the Principal

Welcome to the 2010-11 school year! Many exciting experiences await our students and staff this year. Zuni continues to be a leader in the District's technologically-enhanced learning initiatives. Our school has partnered with NextGen and Intel in a professional development initiative for all teachers. This will help us to take the next steps in pushing the leading edge of innovation in implementation of classroom technology.

The partnership with Kids Cook, the City of Albuquerque EMSI after school programs, Champion Tae Kwon Do, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts will continue to provide opportunities for enhancing the Zuni experience both in the classroom and after school. We'll have a Student Council, Art, and a Battle of the Books Team as well.

Our academic program includes a new reading program in grades 1-4, Treasures, and we'll continue implementing Everyday Math. Science and Social Studies continue to provide high-interest interaction in application of literacy and math skills.

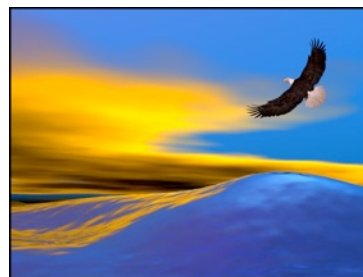
I'm so proud to work with such an amazing staff, supportive families, and incredible children! Join us in making this a fantastic year. I encourage every family to volunteer and be actively involved in contributing to supporting our students in their learning each and every day. Together, we will make this year the very best for every Zuni Eagle!

-Mrs. Elder, Principal

## Staff Changes

We wish a fond farewell to staff members who have moved on to the next phase of their professional lives! Our former nurse, Cristin Mann, was transferred to another APS school by the Nursing Services Department. Two of our Educational Assistant positions were lost due to budget cuts. We're so sad to wish Cindy Dixon and Joey Wilson the very best at their new schools, New Futures and Rudolfo Anaya. Mrs. Harlow and Mrs. Rodriguez were, unfortunately, short-term employees. Mrs. Harlow will be back and forth between NM and Ohio, and Mrs. Rodriguez is supporting Albuquerque's youth in another capacity. Mrs. Reiter was married over the summer, and resigned from APS. Ms. Mueller is at another APS school

teaching music while we have art this year. We will miss you all!



We welcome Laurie Benson (Gifted), Cynthia Rose (3rd Grade), Mary Lira

Rosas (Clerk), Michelle Treme (Nurse), Gwen Mabry (Art), Cathy Verhines (Librarian), and Michelle Ellis (Special Education) to their new school home!

Zuni's staff is truly top notch. Each teacher is committed to the success of every child, to implement technology to enhance and extend the curriculum, and to provide a supportive learning environment for children and adults.

## **Pick Up and Drop Off**

The after school pickup process is carefully designed to ensure the safety of students. It is critical that all adults on campus follow procedures to keep everyone safe. If there is an issue with pick up or drop off, please contact Mrs. Elder at [elder\\_d@aps.edu](mailto:elder_d@aps.edu).

Kindergartners and first graders are escorted by Zuni staff to the bus, parent pickup, and Children's Choice. This helps ensure that each child gets to his/her designated place without becoming distracted. Parents of kindergarten and first grade children who pick their child up in the classroom should wait at the outside door to the classroom. This is new and will help the hallway to be less congested for our youngest students.

Please help keep pickup and drop-off time safe and efficient by:

- ...crossing only at the crosswalk.
- ...pulling all the way to the West gate to pick up and to drop off.
- ...adhering to the 5 miles per hour speed limit.
- ...taking cues from duty staff, even when it's inconvenient.
- ...parking in designated parking spaces, not the crosswalk or in the traffic flow.

The businesses to the West of campus on Arizona have requested that we not use their parking lots.

## **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)**

Our school was one of the many in APS that did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress on the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment. The comprehensive tests, which measure student proficiency in math and reading in accordance with the federal No Child Left Behind law were administered last April to all third, fourth, and fifth grade students in New Mexico. Ultimately, every school in America is expected to reach 100 percent proficiency by 2014.

The standardized tests are based on 37 indicators, or subgroups, which include racial and ethnic categories, special education, English language learners and students living in poverty. There are also participation targets in elementary and middle schools and graduation rate for high schools. If any one of those indicators is missed, the entire school does not meet AYP. At Zuni, all subgroups made AYP with the exception of our learning disabled students, yet this group increased in proficiency by 12% in math.

Overall, math scores increased for every subgroup at Zuni. We exceeded the AYP goal in math by 13%, and met the overall reading goal. We did experience a slight decrease in our reading proficiency rates. Our implementation of a new,

research-based comprehensive reading program will support all students in reaching reading proficiency this year.

Zuni is designated as "Progressing" by the Public Education Department, meaning that no corrective action is being taken at this time. Our staff is confident that we will continue to see increases in mathematics this year, and will work diligently to support every child's progress in all academic areas.

## **Construction Update**

The cafeteria project is underway after the behind-the-scenes work that occurred all summer. Jim Sena Construction is our contractor. Over the summer, the portable cafeteria and kitchen arrived on our campus. All of the utilities were connected, and the old cafeteria has been emptied. A Notice to Proceed will be issued on Monday, August 16th.

Please ensure that children arrive on time each day and are dropped off on the South side of campus in the pick up/drop off area. This will decrease congestion in the Northwest parking lot.

The construction will mean some inconvenience, and we apologize in advance. We appreciate your support through the "growing pains" of the project.

## **A Note From the Nurse**

If your child needs any medication during school hours please pick up medication forms in the health office. Asthma inhalers or epi-pens can be carried by a student, but only with a signed order from a health care provider. If your child has asthma we strongly encourage your child to have an inhaler at school for emergency use. Over the counter medication, such as Tylenol, can be kept and given in the health office once a form is filled out and signed by a parent. Call the health office for any questions regarding medication use at school. Our goal is to have healthy happy school year for Zuni students and staff.

Michelle Treme, RN, School Nurse

Karen Yardman, Health Assistant

## **Tardies**

This year, we'd like to see fewer students tardy each day, and decrease chronic tardies. When children are tardy, they miss the first minutes that set the tone for the day in the classroom. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is on time with a nutritious breakfast in their tummies each day. Your support will make all the difference in your child's success.

Children are considered tardy at 9:09 this year. We had to add a minute to the bell schedule to accommodate Public Education Department requirements. At 9:09, the gates at parent pick up/drop off will be closed. Tardy students need to be escorted by a parent and signed into the office. Please do not drop off your tardy child in the Northwest parking lot.

## **Agendas**

The Zuni Handbook is in the front of the agenda. The handbook should be reviewed prior to the first day of school. Please turn in the signature page to your child's teacher by Monday, August 23rd.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

Wednesday, August 18

First Day of School for Grades 1-5

Friday, August 20

First Day of Kindergarten

Thursday, September 2

PFC Meeting, 4:30-5:00

Curriculum Night, 5-6:30pm

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**Our Mission:  
To push the  
leading edge of  
innovative  
learning  
through  
technology and  
communication**

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