



COUGAR TALES

Governor Bent Elementary Newsletter

December 2007

Dear Governor Bent Community,

It is the time of year to celebrate all we have. I am thankful to be at a school where the staff and students care about others and share what they have to make others feel better. Most of our grade levels have chosen to support the Ronald MacDonald House. This house is maintained to provide a home away from home and support for families who have sick children and have to travel to Albuquerque to get care for them. You can help by collecting the "tabs" from cans. Send these to school in zip lock baggies and have your child be a part of this process.

Also, take time to support your own child and family by creating memories and healthy habits. Take time to exercise with your children or let them see how important exercise is to you. Walk the dog together and talk about all the wonders of nature you see. Go to one of Albuquerque's Open Space areas and just enjoy the beauty of our city! Take a drive to a nearby site - like the Petroglyphs, the Bosque del Apache, or the Malpais. We are so blessed in New Mexico. Share all this natural beauty with your children and talk, a lot! Talking in full sentences increases your child's ability to communicate!

Estimados miembros de la comunidad de Governor Bent,

Es el tiempo del año cuando celebramos todo lo que tenemos. Estoy agradecida de estar en una escuela donde los empleados, maestros y estudiantes les importan unos a los otros y comparten lo que tiene para ayudarlos a los otros. Muchos de los grados han escogido la Casa de Ronald McDonald para apoyar. Esta casa se mantiene para proveer una casa lejana que apoya a las familias con niños muy enfermos que tiene que viajar aquí a Albuquerque para servicios médicos. Ustedes pueden ayudarnos. Colecten las pestañas de abrir latas. Mándenlas en bolsas plásticas chiquitas y su hijo/a puede ser parte de este proceso.

También, tomen tiempo para ayudar a su propia familia por el crear de memorias y hábitos saludables. Tomen tiempo para hacer ejercicios son los niños y déjenlos ver la importancia que ustedes valoran. Caminen juntos con el perro y hablen de las maravillas de la naturaleza alrededor de nosotros. ¡Vayan a uno de los Espacios Abiertos/Parques de Albuquerque y gócese de la belleza de nuestra ciudad! Manejen a un parque nacional cerca como los Petroglyphs (al oeste), el Bosque del Apache (al sur) o El Malpais (cerca de Grants.) ¡Qué benditos somos aquí en Nuevo México! Comparten esta belleza natural con sus hijos y ¡hablen con ellos mucho! ¡El hablar con frases completas aumenta la habilidad de ellos de comunicarse!

Sincerely,

Pat Willis

The Parent Involvement Team is planning a Family Game night January 16, 6:00 - 7:30. This will be a family-oriented get together to play fun games which will be donated to various classrooms after the event. Put this date on your calendar and watch for more information in the next newsletter.

PTA NEWS

Dear Governor Bent Families,

This year has flown by and we have been busy with a lot of fun activities and school fun. I have been enjoying my time so far as PTA President and want to thank the wonderful, hard working board for a great year so far. I really appreciate all of you who have volunteered your time in any way for our school. Remember that every little bit makes a difference and this school can only get better with help from our families. Also, it is not too late to join PTA, membership is only \$5.00 and we are still offering specials on sweatshirts and T-shirts. A great Christmas present! We don't have many activities scheduled for December but we are getting ready for a Read/Math-a-thon in January or February. We will definitely be looking for helpers for this fundraiser, so let me know if you have any time to spare. Don't forget to enjoy your kids during this busy time of year, they truly make the holidays so much fun. Have a great holiday! *Janet Burks, PTA President*

CALENDAR

December 11 - PTA Board meeting, 6:00

20 - Bennigan's Night, Uptown Bennigan's

24 -January 4 - Winter Break - no school

January 7 - Inservice Day - no school

8 - PTA Board meeting 6:00, Teachers' Lounge; parents, teachers welcome

16 - Family Game Night, 6:00 - 7:30

17 - Bennigan's Night, Uptown Bennigan's

21 - Martin Luther King Holiday - no school

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

It's hard to believe that school is already half over and the afterschool programs are running full force. Our cheerleading team performed at Eldorado in November and did an excellent job. Our basketball teams have been training very hard because their games start in December. The Art Club has been creating many types of art and Computer Club is busy computing away. We also have had many scientists experimenting in our famous Science Club. Sports Club is working out and let us not forget Homework Club where the kids are using their brain skills. In short, afterschool programs have been busy so please remember to thank the instructors for their hard work and dedication. *Mrs. T.*

Is your child missing a jacket or coat? Be sure to check the Lost and Found box in the Cafeteria before the holidays. There are lots of nice items missing their owners.

LIBRARY NEWS

I want to thank everyone who supported the Governor Bent Elementary Library's Book Fair. A special thanks to all the wonderful helpers: Jack & Judy Elder, Bob & Betty Frazer, Anita Jaime, Marnie Ross, Rosa Rhea, Martina Archibeque and Taneya McWillie. I would also like to thank our wonderful staff story tellers.

We had a very successful Book Fair. I was able to purchase many new books for the library including 11 new *Guinness Book of World Records* and 11 new *Ripley's Believe It Or Not* books for your children to enjoy when they come to the library.

The most popular book purchased at the Book Fair was *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and the most popular poster was the blue ferrari.

Mark your calendars—our next book fair will be the week of February 25.



What's more fun than shopping for books in your pajamas on a school night? Add a fun Sing-Along, stories, hot chocolate with cookies and you have Family Fun Governor Bent Style! Tori Wade and David Elder got together to compare their opinions of the very best books at the Book Fair.

DID YOU KNOW????

...last week the PTA Clothing Bank saw **50 students** in ONE DAY- that is 300 pairs of socks and underwear and about 50 pairs of shoes- \$1,400 for just those 3 items. We also gave out 46 coats, over 50 pairs of pants and shirts, this is close to \$3,500- I bet you can guess what we need help with!!!! *Please have your school do an underwear and sock drive, or a loose change drive, a clothing drive or have your parent organization make a donation.* To continue to serve our students we **MUST** have your help **SOON!!!!!!**

...ALSO-our **LAST** day to be open for this semester will be **Wednesday-December 19th**. Please bring your students and donations prior to this date.

Thanks for your understanding and support!!

Happy Holidays! *The BCCPTA Clothing Bank Staff*

PARENT TRAINING: NEWLY ADOPTED MAT PROGRAMS

Access to parent training for the newly adopted Math Programs; Investigations, EveryDay Math, and Connected Math, is now available on the APS website. Parents follow the 'Parent' link to 'Help your student learn math'. Please let your families know how to access this very informative site.

Contact: Patti Nabors, Director, Human Resources Operations, APS, phone: 889-4861, Fax: 889-4884.

TUTORING

Del Norte cluster has many resources that can help with learning. Every Monday from 6 - 7:30 pm Del Norte High School Media Center.

For a place with a tutor call Del Norte High School: 883-7222, ext. 106.

PRESCHOOL IS HERE!

We're happy to be at Governor Bent Elementary School. We have been busy making new friends and getting comfortable coming to school. We look forward to a great year of learning with Governor Bent Elementary.

Ms. Dawn, Ms. Karen and Ms. Michelle

TITLE I NEWS

Parent Sing-Along Concert and Story Teller Night a HUGE Success!!!

We know that many of you managed to come to the Parent Sing-Along and Story Teller Night. These were combined with the Scholastic Book Fair, and all three events were very well attended and highly successful events. At the sing-along, parents were invited to join their children in lots of fun music with a purpose: reading and singing music makes children better readers! Music was carefully selected by our wonderful music teacher, Bonnie Finch, who not only taught the children well but also helped all of us adults feel comfortable enough to sing out and make music. The music must have been magical, because both stage and audience were filled to capacity with singers of all ages. Meanwhile, in the library, the book fair was also very busy and lively, and story tellers read books in "the pit" while many of us were wearing pajamas and bathrobes. There was hot cocoa in the library, too, and water and cookies in the gym. What a wonderful school community we have when we all get together—parents, students, families, and school staff—to have a celebration. Thanks to Ms. Finch for helping us all to belong together! Thanks also to Coach B. and Ms. Barnhart for their planning and hard work and to all who helped to make it a success; to the story tellers; to the PTA for their support; and to our amazing librarian, "Miss Pat." Thanks to all the parents who came and sang, and to all the students who gave us so much to sing about. This was truly a night to remember at Governor Bent!

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

We are so proud and excited to have a state funded, city managed Child Development Center here on our campus. The pre-school serves 4 year olds who will attend kindergarten next year. If you have questions, call 767- 6500.

Also, parents who drop off and pick up children may use the south drive behind the portables, but, please use the proper entrance to the parking lot (not the "exit") and go slow, as there are many children who exit to the east. Thanks and we are glad you are here!