

Ram Gazette

A publication of the Georgia O'Keeffe PTA

January 23, 2012

Ram Calendar

1/23 LOE Club begins Mondays 2:30-3:30 in library (through 3/5/12)

1/24 Class Pictures

1/25 Craft Fair Planning Meeting 1pm @ PTA room

1/25 Native American Families Meeting, 5:30pm in the library

2/1-14 Love a Lonely Book

2/7 PTA mtg. 8:10am @ PTA room

2/7 Deadline for Valentine Day fundraiser orders

2/8 FOL mtg. 12:30pm @ library

2/20 No School for Presidents' Day

A Message from Lucinda Sanchez, Principle



Dear Georgia O'Keeffe Families,

During the 2011 legislative session, the A-F School Grading Act was approved. Under the School Grading Act, each school in New Mexico will be given a grade of A, B, C, D, or F annually. While AYP provides specific goals to be measured, it did not capture proficiency and growth as well as it doesn't differentiate among schools.

The model for both elementary and middle schools includes the following for determining A – f grades:

1. Proficiency and baseline data compared over 3 years
2. All student growth
3. Comparison of the highest 3 quartiles over a 3 year period
4. Comparison of the lowest quartile over 3 years
5. Attendance
6. An opportunity to Learn Survey (filled out by students on the SBA)

Our school's overall current grade is an "A". We have seen our students progress in all areas. Our community is so fortunate to have supportive families and parents who volunteer to cover our classroom so our teachers can collaborate on a bi-weekly basis.

Teacher collaboration time allows grade level teachers and their grade level support teachers to meet and discuss the proficiency levels of their students from beginning steps to advanced. Through collaboration our teachers have developed their curriculum maps, determined the proficiency levels of their students across the grade level in math and reading, implemented standards based curricular measurements and have developed strategies for supporting the growth of their students. We are so grateful to the parents who volunteer to cover our teachers classroom so they can attend collaboration, this is one of the reasons we have an "A". Thank you !

If you would like to see our complete school report card, you can go to the link on the APS Home Page and click on our school. A special thank you to all the staff members at our school for their hard work, care and compassion for our students. What an honor it is to know and work with them every day!

AS always, thank you for being such a support to our school,

Lucinda Sanchez, Principal

Georgia O'Keeffe
Albuquerque Public Schools

"Learning Today for Tomorrow"

PTA Reflections Contest Winners



Congratulations to the winners of this year's PTA Reflections contest! The first, second and third place winners will go on to compete in the state competition.

Visual Arts

Grades K-2nd

1st Irene Xue
2nd Ruya Nelson
3rd Sierra Hanson

Grades 3rd-5th

1st Cleo Drobik
2nd Kevin Xue and Ava Jahner
Honorable Mentions- Gabrielle Stork, Fiona Trotz-Chavez

Photography

Grades K-2nd

1st Elias Lines
2nd Aidan Young
3rd Alexandra Allpass

Grades 3rd-5th

1st Gavin Connell
2nd Aaron Baker
3rd Mallory Connell

Music Composition

Grades K-2nd

1st Kiki Riley
2nd Matthew Murray
3rd Anthony Gurrieri

Grades 3rd-5th

1st Austin Robinson
2nd Una Oljaca
3rd Carol Sun

Literature

Grades K-2nd

1st Alexander Gurrieri
2nd Kyle Mann
3rd Jordan Muirhead

Grades 3rd-5th

1st Lucas Gatterman
2nd Allen Hewson

Film

Grades 3rd-5th

1st Anthony Knouse
2nd Mauricio Ibarra-Towle

The Craft Fair Is Coming!



The GOK PTA will be hosting a spring craft fair on Saturday, March 24. We will have a planning meeting on Wednesday, January 25 at 1pm in the PTA room (in the cafeteria). Bring your ideas!

To help this craft fair be a success we will need volunteers to run booths, vendors to sell their items, and sponsors to help offset the costs. All of these components will help our craft fair be a hit! If you can help with any of these things, contact Renee Feirtag at renee@feirtag.org.

A Get Together for our Native American Families



Jan 25, 5:30 in the library. Bring your kids there will be pizza and drinks provided!

Love a Loney Book Is Coming!



The "Love A Lonely Book" activity will take place this February 1-14. This year the program will be a little different than in the past. Students may check out "lonely books (books that have not been checked out this year) from a special cart in the library. Each book will have a bookmark/ballot with it. When a child checks out a "lonely book," he or she will get a chance to guess how many conversation hearts are in the display jar. After reading the book, the student may

vote as to how good the book is. The ballot can be returned (sticking out of the book) when the book is returned as a normal library return.

When the program is over the person who guessed closest will win a prize. The winner and some other students whose guesses were picked randomly will get to choose "lonely books" to put book plates in, with the student's name included in the book of his or her choice. We hope lots of students will chose to read some books that have not been read recently. The students will be able to fill out a ballot and a guess for the conversation hearts jar for every "lonely book" they read during these two weeks. Go Bibliomaniacs!

Valentine's Day Fundraiser



Get Awesome Valentine's Day Gifts and Support Your School! Our Valentine's Day fundraiser is here.

To participate, go to www.MaryKay.com/Katalin and place your order.

The products are by Mary Kay Cosmetics and come with a full 100% satisfaction guarantee. 25% of the purchase price of the items will be donated to Georgia O'Keeffe. The products will be delivered within 7 days to the address you provide with FREE shipping and handling. If your purchase exceeds \$40 (excluding tax), you will also receive a FREE gift. To guarantee delivery in time for Valentine's Day, please order by February 7, 2012. Tell your friends and neighbors, too. Thanks for your support!

APS Budget Petition



Help your children now! We need your voice! Hold our legislators accountable this January to provide the public education we pay for and our children deserve! We are a group of concerned citizens – parents, businessmen and women, community members – advocating for adequate financial funding for NM public education. We are called P.E.A.P.S. – Partners in Education & Advocates for Public Schools. Public schools in New Mexico have faced many challenges over the past few years, the most daunting of which is a shrinking budget. Our NM state constitution requires 'adequate funding' for all public schools, which is clearly not being executed.

Budget cuts translate into:

- Increased classroom sizes
- Lay-offs of teachers and specialists
- Fewer textbooks
- Longer wait times at bus stops
- Less academic support
- Reduction in extra-curricular activities
- Fewer chances for children to succeed

The operational budget for Albuquerque Public Schools, like school districts throughout the state, has been slashed over the past few years, and more cuts are anticipated. In the past three years alone, APS has cut \$100 million and more than a thousand jobs.

Our goal is to guarantee quality education for all of our children by holding the public officials accountable to adequately fund the education budget and not pass unfunded mandates in the upcoming session.

If you are as concerned as we are about the future of New Mexico's public education, please join our cause. For more information, visit us at <https://sites.google.com/site/peapsforeducation/> or contact Stacy Scott Sturgess at stacyscottcm@aol.com or 505-271-1420.

Read and Feed



There are still spots available for the read and feed program in the library. Please contact Cecy Wheeler at cecywheeler@yahoo.com if you are interested in this program.

Submitting Gazette Articles



A quick reminder if you have something to submit for the Gazette,

Sunday night, 6:00 p.m. is the deadline.

If entry is not submitted by deadline it will be added the following week. Feel free to use this wonderful information resource to spread the word about upcoming events.

Send articles to Nicole Sy at ram.gazette@gmail.com.

Get all the school news you need right here in your Gazette!