

Lights, Camera, Success!

Pajarito Elementary School Newsletter Number 1 January 2010

Principal: Gene Saavedra
Assistant Principal: Jackie Lovato
Parent Liaison: Judy Reed
Front Office: 505-877-9718
<http://www.aps.edu/aps/pajarito/index.htm>

Early Polling Locations:

Clerk's Office
Annex, 620
Lomas, NW

APS City Center
6400 Uptown BL
NE

Alamosa
Community Center
6900 Gonzales Rd
SW

Paradise Hills
Center 5901
Paradise Bl NW

8:00-5:00
January 8- 29,
2010.

Chamber of Commerce Endorses Passage of Bonds

APS Perspective, an Employee
Newsletter:

Passage of the APS bond election has been endorsed by the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce. We are grateful for their support. The business community recognizes the impact the February 2, 2010 election will have on the local economy. As it is, APS projects currently account for 63 percent of commercial construction in Albuquerque. Remember this issue does not involve a tax increase. Complete information on the election and building projects is available on the Yes! For Our Children's Futures website at <http://www.yfocf.org/>.

Reading

Reading doesn't just happen. It is a skill that must be nurtured from a child's earliest years. Once children know how to read, they still need gentle coaxing and support to reach their full potential as readers.

Here are a dozen tips for nurturing your growing readers:

1. **Read with your children at least once every day.**
2. **Make sure they have plenty to read.** Take them to the library regularly, and keep books and other reading materials in their reach.
3. **Notice what interests your child**, then help find books about those things.
4. **Respect your child's choices.** There's nothing wrong with series fiction if that's what keeps a young reader turning the pages.
5. **Praise your children's efforts** and newly acquired skills.
6. **Help your child build a personal library.** Children's books, new or used, make great gifts and appropriate rewards for reading. Designate a bookcase, shelf or box where your children can keep their books.
7. **Check up on your children's progress.** Listen to them read aloud, read what they write and ask teachers how they're doing in school.
8. **Go places and do things with your children** to build their background knowledge and vocabulary, and to give them a basis for understanding what they read.
9. **Tell stories.** It's a fun way to teach values, pass on family history and build your children's listening and thinking skills.
10. **Be a reading role model.** Let your children see you read, and share some interesting things with them that you have read about in books, newspapers or magazines.
11. **Continue reading aloud to older children** even after they have learned to read by themselves.
12. **Encourage writing along with reading.** Ask children to sign their artwork, add to your shopping list, take messages and make their own books and cards as gifts.

➔ Message from the Principal

The staff and I hope that you had a safe and restful holiday. We hope that you enjoyed the extra time with your child during the two weeks off. Please continue to take a few moments each day to encourage your child's reading and math fact practice. Each child has been working very hard to learn new skills and concepts. Many of our students are well on their way to meeting their classroom goals as well as their Reading goals. So far, approximately 50 students have earned a Golden Eagle Award. I know many more students will meet their reading, attendance, and behavior goals in the months to come.

We had 90% of our students' families attend parent/teacher conferences in November. That is an outstanding turn-out. Our teachers and students did a wonderful job sharing information about progress and opportunities for further learning. Thank you again for your support in 2009. We look forward to a very productive 2010!

Looking Ahead

Feb 4-Principal's Coffee & Book of
Month

Feb. 16, Star Party 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Feb 8- Parent Informational Classes
9-10 / 3-4

Healthy School Parties

Classroom parties--like birthday and holiday celebrations--help kids relax and socialize. And other school events like dances and fairs bring parents, teachers and kids together. These parties can encourage unhealthy eating. There are plenty of ways to plan and organize parties and events that can teach kids healthy habits. It just takes a little creativity.

- **Fun, not Food:** Avoid making refreshments the “main event” at parties. And don’t use food as a reward or prize.
- **Different Drinks:** Serve low-fat (1%) or non-fat milk (plain or flavored), 100% juice and water at parties.
- **Chip-less:** Substitute pretzels, low-fat popcorn, rice cakes, bread sticks, graham crackers or animal crackers.
- **Healthy Pizza:** When the party calls for pizza, try low-fat toppings like vegetables, lean ham or Canadian bacon--or serve pizza dippers with marinara sauce.
- **Activity is Rewarding:** Let the birthday boy or girl be the teacher’s “assistant” for the day. He or she could walk deliveries to the office, lead the line or start an activity.
- **Giving is Fun:** Turn a regular party into a special community service project. Invite senior citizens in for lunch, or make blankets for rescue dogs. Parents can plan the events and bring materials.
- **A Sweet Story:** Rather than baking sweets, why not donate a book in your child’s name to the classroom or school library? You could even go to school and read it to the class.

From the Family Center

Volunteers of the month

Guanda Kenney (grandparent): For the last few months, this grandparent has volunteered in Ms. LaCour’s classroom and helped with Ms .McCaffery’s box top campaign. Additionally, she volunteered with the perfect popcorn and she comes into the parent room to separate informational flyers. Furthermore, she helped move and organize the parent room to its current location. She also has been a participant in the PAC meetings. Mrs. Kenny has been an asset to the school and her hard work is a reflection of the love and commitment she has for her grandchild.

Joely Chavez (parent): Mrs. Chavez has volunteered in the parent room and has put together a small library for our students there. She has volunteered in all of her children’s classes. She also presented at the PAC meeting and has translated during the literacy program “Partners in Print”. Currently, she is leading the transition for the school newsletter to become parent run. She encourages other parents to volunteer and be more involved in their student’s life. She is going to be a contingency sub for the school as well. Mrs. Chavez’s devotion to volunteering has had an impact not only on her own children’s life but on the community as a whole.

The Homework Battle

Do you ever feel as if getting your child to do homework is a constant battle? Do you hear “I’ll do it later” or they “forget”. Don’t sweat it because you are not alone. Many parents struggle with the homework battle. When children want to put off their homework for a later time, this could lead to an argument. A good idea would be to establish a daily routine including a “homework time”. This daily routine can be made into a schedule, with pictures for younger kids, and making sure “homework time” is on the schedule. You can place this schedule in a visible place such as the refrigerator and even have the child check off each time of day or task as it passes. Make sure to offer positive feedback when they finish their homework and become involved by checking over their work. This shows your child homework is a priority in your home. Another constant problem is children “forgetting” their homework. If this is a case, try using a strategy to motivate your child. Sit down and discuss what the homework expectations are for your home. You can even offer to try a reinforcement chart with rewards and consequences, like a contract. For example, you could make a chart for every day of the week and discuss your homework goals for that week. If they remember their homework 4 out of 5 days they receive a reward. If they forget their homework more than 2 days they receive a consequence. It is important to discuss expectations, rewards and consequences with your children before implementing a reinforcement contract. Of course we want our children to motivate themselves, but trying a contract can be a very useful tool. I suggest using it and once the problem improves, weaning your child off the contract. Hopefully by using some of these ideas, your homework battle with become a bit less of a battle and more of a win-win situation.

Volunteer Opportunities

Parents and friends, we invite you to come in and help us with some projects:

- Filling up backpacks with food every Friday around 1pm in the cafeteria.
- Know of any kids that need a jacket? Bring them in.
- Pennies for Patients-help assemble collection boxes any time in family center.
- Questions? Call Judy Reed our parent liaison.



What’s going on at school?

Wow talk about close, thank you to Mrs. Lacour, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Havill and Mrs. Cito's classes for turning in box tops last month. The winning class is Mrs. Havill and Mrs. Cito's kindergartners. Congrats!!

Our next class box tops contest will end January 29th.