

Would you like to share your artwork and poems in the newsletter?

If you are interested in sharing please hand in your work to your teacher! Teachers can contact Judy Reed about how to get the work put in the newsletter.

### **PAC Begins new Year with 4 Goals**

By Liz Newlin Taylor, parent

The Parent Advisory Council (“PAC”) and parent involvement this year will focus on four goals to improve student achievement at Pajarito. Several activities are associated with each goal, and parents are needed to help with the activities. If parents do not get involved, some of the activities may not happen, according to Judy Reed, Parent Liaison at Pajarito. Budget cuts means that teachers and staff are stretched thin, she said, which means that parents must help coordinate and organize many of the activities that a few years ago were the responsibility of school personnel.

The Goals and some of the activities are listed below. Dates are included, but may change – be sure to check your student’s monthly calendar:

**Goal 1: Academic – Math.** Activities include Math Game Night, September 23; and a Star Party/Explora Night, February 15.

**Goal 2: Academic – Reading.** Fall Literacy Festival, October 27.

**Goal 3: Behavioral – Increase Attendance, Reduce Truancy and Tardiness.**

Families who have had trouble getting their children to school will be invited or required to attend monthly workshops, but the workshops will be open to all Pajarito parents and should be interesting to many parents. Parents who attended Pajarito’s Open House on the first day of school had the opportunity to vote for the subjects of the workshops. The top vote-getters were selected for inclusion in the workshop schedule.

Workshop topics will touch on parenting skills, child development and other issues. Workshop sessions will be held at least twice each day to accommodate different schedules. Some of the topics scheduled include:

October – “Outdoor Learning in Nature”

November – “Managing morning madness” and “Dads make a difference”

December – “Play and Learn”

January – “Stress Management”

February – “Communication”

**Goal 4: Climate of Partnership.**

Activities include the monthly PAC meetings (generally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month); Incredible Kid’s Day/Week, March 24; Muffins for Mom, May 6; Super Bowl Donuts for Dad, February 4; Apples for Teachers (a shout-out from parents to teachers) three times during the year; and Affirmation Notes from Teachers to Parents.

The activities envisioned by parents and staff are ambitious, said Ms. Reed, but they are aimed at helping children succeed in school. Parents Reaching Out (“PRO”) has been helpful in organizing the framework for the goals, but they are parent-driven—that is, Pajarito parents determined what the goals and activities would be, and now parents are needed to carry out the plans.

**For more information, contact Judy Reed, Parent Liaison, at 877-9718.**

## Wellness Tips

### **Nutrition:**

Snack time at school: A piece of fruit, string cheese, raisins, cut up veggies or sunflower seeds are the perfect snack size so that kids are still hungry at lunchtime.

A Dry Idea: Raisins are better for you than grapes. Why? When fruits are dried, their compounds are highly concentrated. Raisins have nearly three times more antioxidants than grapes, making them one of the best sources of antioxidants. Snack on 60 raisins, or one ounce, once a day for just 85 calories.

### **Fitness:**

A Good Beginning: Start the day off on the right foot by getting some movement in first thing in the morning. It's a good way to fuel the body and mind for peak performance on every task. Spend another 10 minutes or so around noon and re-energize with another 10 minutes around 5 o'clock.

Straighten up: Good posture not only makes you look taller and leaner, but it strengthens your abdominal muscles.

### **Health:**

Healthier Fund Raising: There are many other ways to raise money than peddling unhealthy foods. Try selling school supplies, hair accessories, wrapping paper, magazines or organize a car wash. And kids love those little bouncy balls that they have to chase.

## YOGURTWICHES After school snacks: Ice Cream Sandwich alternative



### Ingredients:

Ice Cream or Frozen yogurt, Graham Crackers, chocolate chips

### Directions:

Place a scoop of frozen yogurt between graham cracker squares. Roll the edges in chocolate chips. Freeze until firm.

## Vision

The students at Pajarito Elementary School will become compassionate, respectful, confident life-long learners, with high expectations, and will recognize that their dreams are attainable.

## Mission

At Pajarito Elementary School we will provide students a safe learning environment where they will become socially responsible and academically successful. We commit to using research based instructional practices, support systems, and maintaining fidelity to all programs through consistent communication and collaboration.

Congrats to Ms. Kabarra's class for collecting the most box tops for the month of August. Her class will be receiving an award and entered into the May drawing. Thank you to all classes who collected. New contest starts September 1st!

Congrats to the 1st grade team for collecting the most pop tabs for the month of August. This grade level has won 10 extra minutes of recess.

Thank you to 2nd and 3rd grade for collecting as well.

Good Luck and keep collecting.

Mrs. McCaffrey

### **National Immunization Month:**

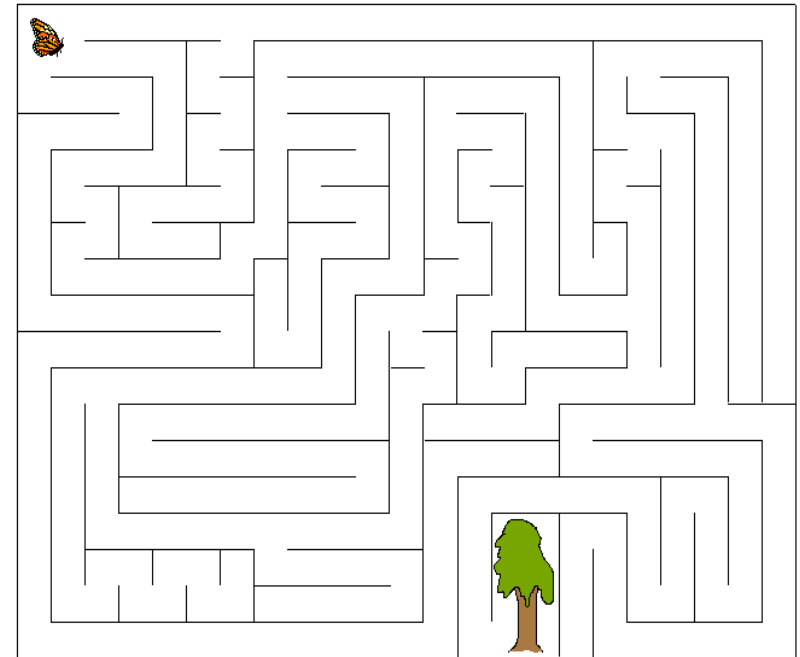
Be sure everyone in your family is up to date on their immunizations.

Get immunization information and catch up requirements for children, adolescents and adults from this

<http://tinyurl.com/2fum8b2.Health>

There will be a FREE DENTAL clinic at the Manuel Lujan building at the State Fairgrounds Oct 15 & 16 for both children and adults. Doors open at 5 AM, first come first serve. Be prepared to wait...bring food and something to do...books, crossword puzzles.

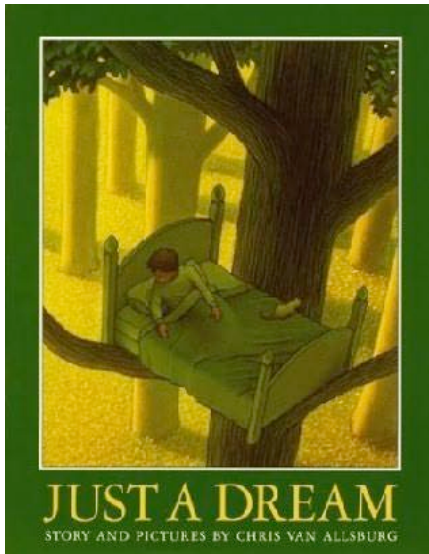
<http://nmdentalfoundation.org/patient.php>



Help the Monarch fly south for the winter

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### *Just a Dream* Chris Van Allsburg



When it comes to the environment, young Walter is not an enlightened individual. He's a litterbug who believes sorting trash is a big waste of time. What's more, he thinks his friend's birthday present, a tree, is the most ridiculous gift he's ever seen.

Walter believes the future is going to be wonderful, filled with robots and other amazing inventions. One night while lying in bed, Walter wishes he could visit the future. He falls asleep and his wish comes true. But the world Walter sees is not exactly what he'd imagined. When he returns to the present, he is changed and so are his dreams.

Caldecott-winning artist Chris Van Allsburg brings us a striking look, in unique and evocative pictures, at what our future may hold.

Dig deeper:

Visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) to learn about air pollution. What can you start doing to help with preventing air pollution and how can you start recycling?

Visit [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net) to learn about upcoming events and ongoing programs related to Earth Day.

Visit [www.kidsdomain.com](http://www.kidsdomain.com) to read poems, stories and activities related to Earth Day.



**Orchestrating  
a  
Symphony  
Of  
Student Success**

# Pajarito Elementary School

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September 2010

[www.aps.edu/aps/Pajarito/index.htm](http://www.aps.edu/aps/Pajarito/index.htm)

Principal: Gene Saavedra

Assistant Principal: Jackie Lovato

Parent Liaison: Judy Reed

Office: (505)877-9718

## Parking Lot, Drop off and Pick up

Last year our SHAC team came up with a plan for dropping off and picking up your children. We want to remind everyone that if you decide to park in the East parking lot you will need to get off of your vehicle, bring your child into the school or pick them up from the entrance of the school. If you use the West parking lot you can use the pick up and drop off area or park and meet you children on the sidewalk. We will not let your child cross into traffic with out an adult escort.

After school we ask that parents wait in the parent room, near the office or outside of the building. This means parents cannot go to the classrooms anymore to pick up children during or after school. All visitors to classrooms will need to check in at the office and receive a visitor's sticker.

We are doing this to keep our children safer in the parking lot area, not only before school but after school as well.

Thanks for your cooperation.

## Upcoming Events

September 9th -  
Grandparents Day (9:00 am)  
PAC Meeting (6-7 pm Library)

September 14th - Parent  
Classes (9-10 am & 3-4 pm Family  
Room)

September 16th - Dual  
Language Pot Luck (5:00 pm)

September 21st - Parent Title I  
Workshop (9-10 am & 5-6 pm)

September 28th - Picture Day

## September 2010 Volunteer of the Month

Joely Chavez (parent): Mrs. Chavez spent her summer volunteering in the school assisting in the preparation of notebooks for the staff. She has been attending the leadership and PAC meetings, as well as participating in the Climate of Partnership Goal Team. 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.

Mona Jones (parent): Ms. Jones has donated her time to prepare materials for the staff and teachers through the brown bag program, starting this summer! Her summer also included volunteering in the parent room to organize and prepare for the school year. Already this semester she has helped with the attendance, the Road Runner Backpack Program, and offered to take students to the clothing bank. Ms. Jones is dedicated to increasing parent involvement, and has volunteered her time to give presentations on different ways people can be involved. Furthermore, she and her daughter water the plants in the new Butterfly Atrium. Her devotion to volunteering has made an impact on her child's life as well as reducing the work load for our teachers and staff.