



# Wile E. Coyote



October 2009

Ventana Ranch Elementary School

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*Ventana Ranch Elementary School is a safe learning community where students, teachers, staff and parents are committed to the shared responsibility for each child's total development. Through our combined efforts, our students will become responsible, productive, knowledgeable and skilled contributors to our community and beyond.*

## Sigmon Says...

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe we are in October already! It has been a very successful start to the school year. We have had only one hic-cup and that is we had to open up a new kindergarten class ten days into the new school year. We have had very successful participation in our Curriculum night, Entertainment Book fundraiser, Bounce Back to School Night, and last Friday's Balloon Aloft. Thank you all for your support!

By now you should have already received your student's mid-term progress report. This is the mid-point of our first trimester, which ends November 13<sup>th</sup>. Please take a close look at the progress your child has made. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call your child's teacher. Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.

We are trying various ways to improve communication with our community. Besides our website, we are also on Facebook (ventanaranches). I hope you will join us there and share your thoughts and concerns. We are also working on getting a parent list serve together so we can email you our newsletters and current events. You can help this process along by making sure your child's teacher has your current email address.

Reading the paper this weekend, we did learn we lost our appeal to the State of New Mexico regarding our AYP status. While the state considers us not making AYP, I feel we have done and will continue to do a phenomenal job. In large part this goes out to the support and feedback we get from our community. Thank you for all you do to make Ventana Ranch Elementary School a great place to learn!

Christy Sigmon, Principal

**Putting your child's name on her/his jacket this winter can save a lot of money and headaches! This also works on backpacks and lunch boxes! Help keep our lost and found empty!**

### Parentlink and You

Many of you are already familiar with Parentlink, our automated notification system, which will call or email you when important school announcements need to be made. Please be aware this system will also notify you of your child's absence whether or not you have called the school. This is an automatic system set up by the APS district. If you have called in your child's absence, please disregard the Parentlink notification.

### Bounce Back to School a Success!

On September 18 Ventana Ranch hosted the second annual Bounce Back to School Night. It included 5 large bouncers, food vendors, and several games and booths sponsored by our teachers. With over 1000 people attending, this event was a huge success! Thank you to all who participated and volunteered to help out! We couldn't have done it without you. All money raised will be used to purchase classroom supplies and to pay for field trip school busses. We are looking forward to doing this again next year!

## News from the Nurse...

Students have been doing a great job learning how to keep their hands washed, control the spread of germs, and stay healthy. Please encourage your children to keep up the good work! During the cold and flu season it is a great time to emphasize boosting your family's immune system with lots of fruits and vegetables, exercise, and getting plenty of rest each night. As a reminder, students who are sick with a fever of 100.00 or greater must stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours, without the administration of fever reducing medication. Please follow-up with your Healthcare Provider as needed.

Resources for students who need a healthcare provider/health insurance are available in the VRE Health Office. APS offers free enrollment assistance for Medicaid. Many children up to age 19 qualify for free or reduced-price health insurance coverage. Please contact Judy Scannell at 855-9818 for an appointment. Other options are available for families who do not qualify for Medicaid.

A "Super Fit Family Challenge" program will be held every Tuesday 10/6/09-12/9/09 from 5:45-8:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center, 5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE. Each week the challenge includes: a light meal, fun-to-do activity sessions, take home ideas, and prizes. If interested, please call the Community Health Advance at 836-1845 or by email- [contact@nmcommunityhealth.org](mailto:contact@nmcommunityhealth.org). You may register at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) 348-4449 or online @ [www.nmcommunityhealth.org](http://www.nmcommunityhealth.org).

Walk and Roll to School Day is October 3<sup>rd</sup>! This is an international event to encourage children to walk, bike, rollerblade, skateboard, wheelchair, or scooter their way to school. Please remember **SAFETY FIRST!** Parents, if possible, come with your children and /or educate them about pedestrian and bicycle safety, and use of helmets ahead of time.

Hope everyone enjoys the fall weather!

Jan Torres RN, BSN School Nurse  
Norline Garcia Health Assistant

### Entertainment Book Sales

Our annual Entertainment book sales were off the charts this year! Together we raised \$4000!!! This is far more than we even imagined could happen. Ms. Sigmon and Ms. Dooley agreed to color their hair the school colors. They looked spectacular...in a scary sort of way. This is a great community to work in. All your hard efforts to support Ventana Ranch are much appreciated.

Thanks!  




*Don't Forget!  
Stop at the front  
office and sign in  
when you come  
by our school!*



A note from your school counselor.....



### ATTENDANCE:

A key to your child's success

Schools are responsible for teaching your child. But schools can't do their job if your child is absent. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning.

Children can make up an assignment, but they can never get back what is most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.

Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background—  
one that can only be gained through **regular school attendance**.

Here's how you can improve your child's school attendance:



- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school
- Avoid scheduling family trips or doctor appointments during school hours
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Support school rules and consequences.

Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success.

Lynne Mitzelfelt, School Counselor  
890-7375 ext. 3

*The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.*

Parents:

This letter is to clarify that students do not need to bring a doctor's note to school after being absent due to illness. All that is required is either a call to the school or a note to the school from the student's parent or guardian, depending on what your student's school normally requires.

Both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus are affecting students in schools this time of year. And, in order to keep parents from overwhelming doctor's offices asking for notes for the students to return to school, APS wanted to clarify that **doctor's notes are not required when a student returns to school following an illness.**

If your child is ill, please make arrangements to keep them home until they are well. Many times sick students bring their illnesses to school and affect other students and staff.

As a school district, we will continue to take direction from the New Mexico Department of Health should a serious outbreak of flu arise.

Hand washing is the foundation of prevention and spread of the disease. Encourage students and staff to wash their hands frequently—at a minimum before and after lunch, and after using the restroom. Hand washing and drying is the single most important precaution we can take.

In addition to hand washing, hand sanitizer also can be used by students and staff. The one caution with hand sanitizer is that younger students should only use it with supervision. Most sanitizers contain alcohol and students should not lick their hands after using it.

Albuquerque Public Schools maintenance and operations staff, including custodians, are cleaning highly used surfaces like door knobs and desktops frequently. Custodians also are directed to assure that all restrooms are adequately stocked with soap and towels.

We wish you and your student a safe, successful and healthy school year.

Sincerely,

Linda Sink  
Chief Academic Officer  
Albuquerque Public Schools

## **Support Our Join-a-School Partners!**

Help us in supporting those who support us! The following is a list of our current

Join-a-School Partners;  
Kyle Zimmerman Photography  
Domino's Pizza - Paradise & Universe  
Applebee's @ 528  
Subway - Paradise & Universe  
Staples - Coors Bypass  
Barnes & Noble - Cottonwood

### **Bits and Pieces:**

- \* Please do not plan to pick up your student(s) between 2:35 and 3:05 on school days. We will not release them to you during this time unless we have prior written notice. Please respect this necessary requirement so we can disrupt the educational process as little as possible.
- \* We will not allow phone calls changing or verifying any student's going home procedures. If a change is necessary in an emergency, you will need to fax the office at 890-4124 with a copy of your driver's license (for identification purposes), with student's name(s), teacher's name, and detailed instructions for your student's new going home procedure. We will do our best to get the information to your student, but must have the information at least 30 minutes prior to the end of the school day.
- \* Student information will not be given out over the phone. This includes what teacher the student has or whether s/he was in school that day. To obtain private/personal information about a student you must be physically present in the office and have a valid picture ID.
- \* Student absences must be reported to the office within 24 hours of the absence. An absence will be considered excused only for medical reasons. Students who are absent more than three times (excused or not) will be reported to APS Truancy office. Parents who have a child with 10 or more absences will be subject to legal action and the possible disenrollment of their child. For further information regarding attendance please call our front office at 890-7375. Thank you.
- \* School begins at 8:10. Please make every effort to have your child to school on time. If your child is late, please accompany him/her to the front office to get a late slip. Excessive tardies will result in a required parent and administration conference.

### **No More Cavities!!**

Tired of taking the kids to dentist only to find out they have a new cavity? Are you dreading the tons of candy your children will be bringing home this Halloween? We have the solution for you! Ventana Ranch and Sandia Smiles Dental Center are sponsoring the Halloween Candy Buy Back! On Monday, November 2 or Tuesday, November 3, just take your extra, unopened candy to Sandia Smiles on Unser and McMahon between 3:00 and 6:00pm. Your candy will be weighed and you will receive \$1 for every pound of candy donated. If our school donates the most candy we will win \$500 for our library! The top 5 donating classrooms (of all participating schools) will win certificates for pizza or ice cream parties. All the candy collected will then be bagged and shipped to our troops overseas. We will be competing against other local schools so your participation is needed. So let's kiss those cavities goodbye and support our troops! For more info on this wonderful project check out: [www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com) or [www.halloweencandybuyback.com](http://www.halloweencandybuyback.com) or [www.sandiasmiles.com/halloween](http://www.sandiasmiles.com/halloween)

### **Dates to Remember:**

October 9 No School Fall Break  
October 27 Picture Re-takes  
November 2-6 Storehouse Foodbank  
Food Collection  
November 11 No School Veteran's Day  
November 25-27 No School  
Thanksgiving Break  
December 3-4 Parent Conferences  
December 21 - January 1 No School  
Winter Break  
January 4 - No School Inservice

*The goal of education is to replace an empty mind with an open mind.* *Malcolm Forbes*