Los Ranchos Elementary School

100th Year Celebration
1914 - 2014
Foreword

Buildings hold a community’s culture and value system both within and outside their walls. We cannot unlock the meaning of a building until we learn how to read it, but not as we would a book.

The bones our school will tell you how Los Ranchos came to be. In the 1930’s the school received its first bus. Before this, a wagon was used to transport students to school. The PTA built the cafeteria in the 1940’s, and the first teacher’s lounge was in the basement. We have grown to include a mini gym and a modern wing with technological equipment in our library/media center. Our classrooms have Promethean Boards to allow students to engage in digital learning. We are growing and thriving and will continue do so into the next century. We are fortunate to have an archival collection on display in the main hallway and through our posted photos of our beloved “Ranchos.” Flip through the materials and study Los Ranchos’ architectural elements to understand the school’s past and present. As you observe and study, you will discover why many families and educators along the way have loved this quaint little school.

This building, which I have been entrusted to maintain along with the educational future that we all support, has many years of experience and learning embedded deep in its walls. As adults, we look at our building knowing its form and function. Our students look at the building as a place to discover about all areas of academia, but they also to create special memories here.

We, the proud members and alumni of Los Ranchos, are the custodians of all that is special about our school. We remember beloved leaders, teachers, parents, and friends who impacted our lives and made us the people we are now. Each year, for 100 years, educators at this school have continued the endeavor started by Atanasio Montoya, the first principal, and two teachers. We assist and support our students in becoming the builders of the future.

We have all been fortunate to have been given access to the lessons of life in this historic building, where friends are made, learning is acquired, and the opportunity is provided for each student to reach his or her potential. And like many before us, we have come to love the building, the history, the monument of teaching and learning that has been here for a century. Teachers, students, and families - past and present alike - are proud members of the Los Ranchos Elementary School Community. We are the Pride of the Past and the Hope of Future.

Thank you for sharing in this momentous occasion to celebrate the quaint little school, which has left a large and lasting impression upon us all.

Renee Gallegos - Principal
Brief History of Los Ranchos

1914 – Land Purchases where school stands today from Mr. and Mrs. Megetita Garcia at a cost of $300.00
1917-18 – Ranchos was considered a landmark
1919 – No dancing in school
1920-22 – Wagon to be discontinued as school bus
1923 – Built more rooms
1927 – 3 rooms were added at cost of $2,193.00
1928-29 – Barb wire fence was built on south side of playground
1933-34 – Abby Redwine (Princ.) asked school board for bus accommodations
1935 – Average daily attendance was 31
1936 – P.T.A. started at Ranchos May 1936
1937 – Room added to Ranchos School at a cost of $1,345.00
1939-40 – Land rented and purchased adjacent to school property
1941-45 – Scrap drive raised 3,311 pounds of metal in 2 days
1945 – Ranchos consolidate into Dist. #3 with Alameda and Griegos
1946 – First Teacher lounge in basement
1947 – Lunchroom built by Ranchos PTA and School Board at cost of $9,600.00
1948 – School board purchased 1 ½ acres of land, to serve as playground
1949-50 – Gas head was put in at Ranchos instead of coal heat
1951 – Los Ranchos was consolidated from county school to city school district (APS)
1951-55 – 4 new classrooms were built onto existing cafeteria 1953
1956-59 – Playground equipment purchased
1963-64 – $200,000.00 new school to be built at Ranchos
1977 – Classroom addition built
1976 – Los Ranchos celebrated U.S. Bicentennial
1986 – Soccer field constructed
1987 – School site improved and playground developed
1989-90 – Los Ranchos celebrated its 75th anniversary
1998 – Multipurpose room constructed
2008 – Kindergarten wing and Media Center constructed
2014 – Los Ranchos celebrates its 100 year anniversary
Principals of Los Ranchos

Atanasio Montoya 1914-19
Fred Calkins 1923-29
Abbey Redwine 1931-36
Lola Geisler 1936-46
William Robertson 1946-76
Vita Saavedra 1976-80

Principals Not Pictured:
Margaret Zamora 1919-20
Edith Elliot 1920-23
Harry Hogrefe 1929-30
O.L. Jackson 1930-31
Principals of Los Ranchos

Dolores Montoya 1980-88
Frank O. Salazar 1988-90
Nancy R. Blackler 1990-2000
Christine M. Lopez 2000-09
Letha Oman 2009-10
Renee Gallegos 2010-Present
Students in front of original, three-room Ranchos School - approximately 1914
Edith Elliot and Class - 1921
Teacher salaries were $75 per month.
Students and Staff in front of Ranchos School - 1926
Los Ranchos in 1930s
School still heated with coal
Students from the 1930s in the school’s first school bus - before that, a wagon was used
Front view of Ranchos School when it was still a county school
The building sat closer to 4th street
Class Trip - 1943
Ranchos de Albuquerque residents were happy today as work was started on a $30,000 community house at the school. The project is sponsored by the Ranchos Parent-Teachers Association. All labor will be donated by Ranchos residents on Saturdays and Sundays. The PTA raised funds for materials. Left to right, are Mrs. T. H. Card, past president of the PTA group who now resides at Deming and came here for the ceremonies; Mrs. C. R. Meister, present PTA president; Joe Starr of Edd Starr and Sons, utility contractors, who have donated their machinery to dig the foundations; Troy Dalley, operator of the digging machine. —(C. E. Redmond Photo).

Lunch room constructed in 1947 at a cost of $9,600. Ranchos is 3rd school in Albuquerque to have a lunchroom program.
November 1955 - Old Chevron station, previously Baca’s Store, at Los Ranchos still used as a classroom
7th grade arts and crafts students in classroom that was formerly Baca’s Store
Old school building demolished in the early 1960s to make room for new construction.

New school cost $200,000.
Los Ranchos in the 1960s
Los Ranchos 75th Year Celebration - 1990
Facility renewed and Multipurpose Building constructed in 1998 at a cost of $1,500,000
Kindergarten Wing constructed in 2008 at a cost of $2,500,000
Media Center constructed in 2008
at a cost of $1,200,000
Los Ranchos today, 100 years after it was founded
Aerial of Los Ranchos as it is today
Los Ranchos

Then

and

Now