

around dysart

Exciting happenings at Dysart Unified School District

November 5, 2008

Cimarron Springs Elementary School



When you passed by Cimarron Springs Elementary this week you were probably wondering why there were red ribbons tied to the fence posts. Our students are celebrating Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon week is designed to help bring awareness to children that drugs should not be part of their life. The children learn that drugs can harm our bodies. By encouraging children to “Stay Drug Free”, we are instilling in them the courage to say no to drugs. It is an effort we hope will help our children to become healthy adults. Classes made posters to display our Drug Free theme, tied ribbons to the fence to make the community aware that we are drug free and wore red to school on Friday to finish our Red Ribbon Week. We look forward to celebrating Red Ribbon week next year.

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Cimarron Springs Chapter is currently collecting donations for UNICEF. Our members are very excited as our overall donations have increased significantly over the past three years. UNICEF (The United Nations Children’s Fund) supports children around the world, including the inner cities of the U.S. A. Our donations will go toward providing clean water, nutrition, medicine, education and emergency aid in over 150 countries. The pennies, nickels, and dimes we collect will go a long way toward helping hundreds of people. UNICEF boxes have been distributed to all grades.



Countryside Elementary School

Kindergarten students from Countryside went on a fieldtrip to Tolmachoff Farms. Students had an exciting time learning about different vegetables, petting the animals, running through the corn maze, and picking pumpkins.

Countryside held its first ever across the board student-led conferences. Students from kindergarten through 8th grade have spent the school year building portfolios and learning the process of running their own conference. The students really enjoyed taking ownership of their own behaviors and academic successes and the parents enjoyed spending time with their child in their learning environment discussing their work quality and setting goals for themselves. Teachers enjoyed watching their students take the time to explain their learning to their parents.

Countryside’s Student Council sponsored carnival was a huge success! It featured 16 different booths of games and food. The evening was highlighted with a DJ who kept us all dancing and

the dunk tank full of teachers getting wet to the joy of the students and parents. Student Council members would like to take this opportunity to thank all the vendors who donated items for our silent auction and our food booths. The hot dogs and nachos were so yummy and everyone seemed to enjoy the cotton candy too. Albertson's donated 800 hot dogs and buns for the evening, along with 5 cases of water. Other contributors with gift cards were Wal-Mart, Great Clips, Red Lobster, Applebee's, NYPD, Carrabas, Olive Garden and TGI Fridays. Our thanks to everyone who helped make this evening so profitable and fun.

Dysart Elementary School



Dysart Elementary School hosted its third annual Family Dance, “Masquerade Ball” Thursday, October 30th. Over 200 students and family members attended the dance as well as many teachers and staff. Everyone had a blast dancing the night away dressed up in costumes and wearing masks and a special guest appearance was made by our very own Dysart Eagle!! PTO sold pizza and pumpkin pie. Photographers were there to take family portraits. Awards were given to the following students, family and staff for: Most Creative, Corey Smith, Best Costume, Alyssa Soto, Best Theme, The Tanner Family: Jason, Jennifer, Brynna and Nathan, Most Elegant, Julia Ruble, Best Mask, McKenna Kraus, and Most Festive, Ms. Buck for wearing an Eagle Mask and Boa in true Dysart Elementary style. The Family dance has become one of the favorite traditions at Dysart Elementary. The next event held on Thursday, November 6th is another family favorite at DES, the fourth annual Family Craft Night from 6-7:30. This year students, together with their families, will be making winter crafts.

At the DES Fall Scholastic book fair, the PTO raised money for one of the book programs and raised a total of \$453.16! In addition a class competition was held. The class that had the most leaves on the “book tree” would win a gift card to spend at the fair to help build their classroom library. Each leaf cost \$1. First place winner was Ms. Lopez (kinder). She won a \$75 gift card to spend at the book fair. Ms. Puryear (5th grade) was in 2nd place and she won a \$30 gift card. Congratulations to both and all who helped raise money for charity.

DES PTO donated \$2000 to Riverview Elementary for the startup of their PTO organization. In addition, PTO raised \$2000 from the 2007-2008 Spring Scholastic Book Fair to purchase books for their library. Thank you DES PTO for your generosity and efforts!! Way to go!!!

21st CCLC has coordinated a “Bridge Club” for students and teachers to learn the basics of playing bridge. The first ever DES Bridge Club Tournament will be held right here at DES on December 16 after school. Check out our own website for the Eagles' Bridge-Squad website: <http://dysart.bridge-squad.info/>. Students who work hard and learn the game of Bridge may be part of a group of DES Bridge players to go to Washington DC to play in a tournament in July!

On Saturday, October 25th, DES held their 3rd Annual Character Counts Community Clean-up event. A big eagle thank you to everyone who came out on a beautiful Saturday morning to help clean up the DES campus, neighborhoods, and city. A contest was conducted for the class with the most students participating in the event. The winning class of Ms. Julia Orozco – Kindergarten earned a classroom pizza party! In addition, Babbo’s generously donated a dinner certificate for a drawing for all parents and community members who participated that was

awarded to Nadine Arias, parent of a first grade student. Thank you to the following sponsors: Babbo's, Paradise Bakery, Bronco Billy's.

El Mirage Elementary School



30 first grade families began the Families and Schools Together (FAST) program at El Mirage Elementary School last Tuesday evening, Oct. 21st. Families shared a meal, completed activities and shared time with other families in this social initiative program created by Dr. Lynn MacDonald in partnership with the University of Wisconsin, Madison and Southwest Behavioral Health. The purpose of the program is to develop strong family and community ties and to build communication within the family unit.

Anticipation filled the hallways and classrooms of El Mirage Elementary as both students and staff prepared for the first annual Character Counts! Field Day, Thursday, Oct. 23rd & 24th. This two- day endeavor began with the pairing of an upper grade classroom with a lower grade classroom. Together, they created team names, posters and a team cheer. Each group then tie-dyed matching shirts with the color of their choice. The following day, each pair of classrooms competed in variety of games against other teams, enabling students and staff to practice displaying the six pillars of Character Counts! Teams then received trophies based, not upon their success at each game but, their ability to show responsibility, caring, fairness, respect, trustworthiness and citizenship throughout the day! This not only was a great team building opportunity for everyone but, also reinforced the school's adoption of Character Counts! Everyone was overwhelmed with excitement and couldn't wait for the festivities!

Kingswood Elementary School



Kindergarten at Kingswood Elementary is learning about safety for the month of October. Cassandra Horan and Adrian Ruiz brought an ambulance to the school from Rural/Metro Southwest Ambulance services. The students were able to get into the back of the ambulance, sit in the gurney, ask questions to the EMTs, then the students were able to sit up front and learn about all of the buttons, walkie talkies and the technology of GPS systems and how it can find their house if they have an emergency.

Luke Elementary School



First Graders are studying about and growing their own plants in the classroom! They are also learning all about the First Thanksgiving and Native Americans.

Mr. Collotta's class is learning science through Elvis Presley songs. Sixth grades classes made all different types of poems and did a beautiful job. They were displayed at parent teacher conferences.

This year a team of Luke's eighth grade students are participating in the Arizona Middle School Science Bowl. In order to prepare for this event the team is practicing twice a week and learning about all areas of science and math. On February 28th the students will compete against other middle school students for the chance to win an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C.

Marley Park Elementary School



KMLE Country 108's Scott "Shappy" Shapiro came to Kindergarten at Marley Park on Thursday, October 30th to record students saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Students in Ms. Schoonover, Mrs. Nead, Mrs. Day and Ms. McDaniel's classes came together as a grade and were proud to show off how well they could say the Pledge. Shappy stayed to high five each student and posed for pictures with the entire Kindergarten class. Dave Pratt's morning show on KMLE 108 plays the Pledge being said by classes throughout the Valley weekdays at 8am. The recording made while Shappy was at Marley Park will be aired November 5th, 2008 around 8am on FM 107.9.

Rancho Gabriela Elementary School



Rancho students snatched up lots of great reads at a recent book fair safari. Funds raised will support literacy education and more books for the library.

On Friday kindergarten created a pumpkin patch with parents and eighth grade science buddies. Students had the opportunity to pick a pumpkin from the patch and then study physical science by estimating and measuring the pumpkins physical attributes.

Mr. Miller's sixth grade students are in the process of sending business letters professionally typed and addressed to local companies requesting donated items and merchandise for their monthly class auctions. Students earn money daily for academic effort, behavior, additional jobs, and test performance. Students rent or purchase their seats each month, and then spend additional money they have earned on rewards and prizes. They are making efforts to involve the Dysart Community in their endeavors. The business letters are looking quite strong.

Mrs. Vacey recently had her first student read his way to UMASS/Lowell. On October 28th Garrett McKeever had read over 2,706 pages (the number of miles to UMASS). He won a T-Shirt provided by the University. Several students will be arriving there shortly. Students are handing in their Reading Logs with hundreds of miles of reading.

Sunset Hills Elementary School



The 4th grade students at Sunset Hills have been studying the Federal and State Government. They learned about the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of the government. On October 28 representatives of the different branches came to Sunset Hills to speak to the students. Surprise City Councilman John Williams, Honorable Joseph Malka, Honorable Carrie

Harrison, State Representative Jerry Weiers, Officer Hall from the Surprise Police Department, and Deputy William Milender from the Sheriff's Office were among the guest speakers. They explained their job, duties, responsibilities, role in the government, how they got their position, and why they chose it. The students took notes and were able to ask questions. Afterwards back in the classroom the students identified which branch each guest speaker was a member of.

Surprise Elementary School

Surprise Elementary School PTSA hosted a Rubio's night at the Rubio's on Bell and Grand. It was a fun night filled with good food, good friends, and drawings for the kids. Congratulations to Iris Resendiz, who won a bicycle and to all the other winners! The PTSA made \$130.00 which will go toward our Cub Olympics Field Day which will be held in April. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us and thank you to Rubio's for hosting us!

Congratulations to October's students of character. This month's trait was Trustworthiness! The students were honored at a Character Counts Assembly held on October 31, 2008. Thank you to Big Mouth Productions for performing!!!

The students of Character are:

Kindergarten - Isaiah Spencer, Darlin Ortega, Deymian Salazar, Casey Kaholo, Jose Gomez, Rebecca Todoran,

First Grade - Jasmine Pantoja, Maria Paula Diaz Gomez, Bryan Reyes, Memune Tabaku, Paige Bryant,

Second Grade - Viviana Luna, Alejandra Diaz, Jady-Lynn Gonzalez, Monica Alvarez,

Third Grade - Sylvester Winbush, Ashton Kroll, Jonathan BaBa, Jose Macias,

Fourth Grade - Santos Ornelas, Jason Llamas, Camila Ibarra,

Fifth Grade - Alejandro Mora, Lorryn Kemp, Gabriela Plascencia, Raul Arevalo,

Sixth Grade - Juan Pasillas, Angel Torres, Matthew Ellis, Sierra Navarette,

Seventh and Eighth Grade - Ariana Lopez, Justice Gentry, Noe Arellano, Vasti Casillas, Jacob Cunningham

Surprise Elementary School is proud to announce that they raised \$2680.43 for the City of Hope Cancer Research Center during their Pennies for Pasta penny drive. The top-raising class is Mrs. Poretta's sixth grade with a whopping \$442.98!!!! Second Place was Mrs. Swedenhjelm's sixth grade with \$370.94 and the third place class was Mrs. Schiff's fifth grade with \$360.21!!!! As a thank you to all the students, Blue Bell Creamery donated fruitie bars. Thank you to everyone who participated in this awesome fundraiser!!!!

Thompson Ranch Elementary School

To celebrate National Character Counts week, the student body of Thompson Ranch was given RESPECT bracelets. The Diversity club made posters for the halls and cafeteria. The students of Thompson Ranch practice "Character Counts Always" everyday.

The seventh grade and some eighth grade students participated in a Unity Day/Peace Education learning experience called Acohumri, facilitated by teachers at Thompson Ranch, high school students from Dysart High School and Opening Minds consulting firm. The grade level was divided into sixteen small groups. Activities were created to encourage students to determine their own response to various character building scenarios. The four agreements were discussed;

video presentations detailing the thirty human rights and bullying were shown. A skit by the high school students illustrated the many different types of bullying. Class discussions followed enabling students to share what they learned and how they would prevent bullying on the campus.

Thompson Ranch students and faculty would like to thank the Dysart High School students and Opening Minds for providing an enriching educational opportunity for our seventh and eighth grade students

The Third Grade Students at Thompson Ranch used pumpkins from their Farm Field Trip to participate in "Pumpkin Math!" The students estimated the circumference, weight, and amount of seeds in each pumpkin. They were then cut open and students were able to check and see if their answers were right! The students also used the seeds to solve addition and subtraction problems. Lastly, the students made graphs of the amount of seeds they had in each pumpkin. What a great way to tie in fall and math!

To celebrate and participate in the 2008 Election, students at Thompson Ranch tied their Social Studies curriculum into the election process. Students researched how the electoral process works, the different branches of government, as well as the two main presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain. As a culminating activity for the school, each student was given a chance to vote at the website kidsvotingaz.org.

Mrs. Levings' fourth graders are beginning a new and engaging writing activity in conjunction with our secret pen pal. Flat Stanley has arrived in our classroom to find out about all the fascinating things we are learning in class this month. Students will write letters about the things we are learning and send them along with Flat Stanley when he goes to visit our secret pen pal later this month. We are hoping that he comes back with some interesting news about his travels and maybe even some snapshots.

West Point Elementary School



Congratulations to these talented West Point students for being selected for Dysart Honors Choir! We are looking forward to our Honors Choir concert on Thursday, November 13th at 6:30 p.m. Public is invited to the DHS auditorium for a delightful, musical event!

Dysart High School



Seven of the Dysart High School Spiritline members competed in solo dance performances at the UDA Desert Southwest Dance Championship on Saturday, November 1. Most of them had never competed in solo performances before, and all competed against other teens who were from dance studios with years of training. They all put on incredible performances and we are so proud of all of our participants!

Raven Morrisette: 5th Place

Jackie Threat: 6th Place
Doree Seay: 7th Place
Alycia Rodriguez: 8th Place
Eric Parks: 10th Place
Priscilla Ayala: 11th Place
Taylor Nguyen: 12th Place