



Olga Reed Elementary School

Mrs. Denton's Dispatches

Miss Morris is Back!!!

With use of the special "Class Size Reduction Money" we leverage from the State, we were able to rehire Miss Sheri Morris. Miss Morris is teaching a 1st grade class this year, in Room #6. You may remember that Miss Morris was laid off at the end of the 2008-2009 school year due to budget cuts. Miss Morris had been a member of the Olga Reed staff for 12 years as a Kindergarten teacher. With her return, we are able to keep class sizes in Grades K-3 below 23 students. Welcome back, Miss Morris!

Vandalism

Vandalism was one of the lead stories in our newsletter last year. During the 2009-2010 school year, vandalism cost the District over \$20,000. This is money that comes directly out of our District budget. We do not get reimbursed by the insurance company, nor do we get special funding from the State or Federal Government. We have had

several gym windows broken, the large window in the principal's office broken and a laptop computer stolen, the large window in the cafeteria was broken, and windows and doors in the library have been shattered. Graffiti continues to be a problem, with our custodian having to repaint parts of the campus after every weekend. Last year, we had several break-ins in one of our classrooms. We had four brand new laptop computers and a 54" plasma television stolen. The plasma TV was only in the room for one day before it was taken.

We need you to be our eyes and ears.

We are often here late at night for meetings, but we have not been able to catch the people who are doing this.

Much of the vandalism is done on the weekends, in the afternoon. The District is exploring ways to stop the vandalism and break-ins. We are looking at the possibility of hiring security guards and installing cameras in various locations around cam-

pus. The Sheriff's Department has stepped up patrols in the area, but we also need you to report anything you might see

Walk-a-Thon

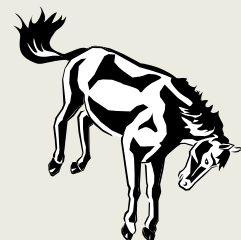
This year we are trying a new fundraiser, a Walk-a-Thon. On October 15, our students will take to the track to earn money for their class and their school. The money raised through this event, will go towards 6th Grade Science Camp, the 2nd Grade Whale Watching Trip, 8th Grade Graduation, the Kindergarten trip to the Pumpkin Patch, assemblies for all students, and visiting artists in the classrooms. We do not want students going door-to-door to get pledges, but we are asking for your support. Any money raised by the individual class members, stays with their class from grade-to-grade. The money raised goes directly to the students, not one penny is paid to an outside vendor or administrator. Our goal this year is to raise a total of \$7,500. Please

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HOME OF THE
"BRONCOS"



(Mrs. Denton's Dispatches cont.)

support the students of Olga Reed School.

WELCOME BACK!!

Summer is over and we are back in full force. Over the summer, our campus had some much needed repairs and additions. There is the new slurry on the parking lots, air conditioners and heaters were repaired in the classrooms, new plumbing was installed in the cafeteria kitchen and drains were unclogged, more Fibar was added in the play areas and new classroom cleaning equipment was purchased. All of these projects were paid for with special funding from the State. This is money that could only be used to improve the facilities on the campus; these funds could not be used for textbooks, teachers, or classroom aides. We now own our own carpet cleaner, floor scrubber, and hardwood floor cleaner. We were able to purchase these items through our County Safety Team. Now we are able to steam clean our own carpets on a regular basis.

This year, we have changed from a quarter grading period to a trimester grading period. The trimester grading period allows for more time to pass, prior to issuing grades and report cards. This extra time allows teachers to gather more information about your student prior to giving a grade. We will continue to have two weeks of parent conferences, one in the Fall and one in the Spring.

In addition to the trimester grading period, we will also be using a "Standards-based" report card in Kindergarten through Third Grade. This report card lists the State Standards, at each grade level, and reports if your child is achieving the standard, approaching the standard, or is below the standard. We will have more information regarding Standards-based Report Cards, in the future.

We are continuing with our Title I Program, for students needing additional assistance in the area of Language Arts. In Grades K-3, we are using the SIPPS Program and in Grades 4-8, we are using the GATEWAYS program. Both programs are state approved, research-based, and proven to increase reading scores.

In the Computer Lab, we also have the new LEXIA program for all students. LEXIA is the only research-based reading skills program shown to be effective; all students will have access to the use of this

program to improve their skills in the area of reading.

In addition, we have adopted the Imagine program for our Limited English Speaking students. This program is designed to give them basic English skills and literacy.

Those of you who have students in the After School Program, may have heard your children talking about our new "SPARKS" Program. "SPARKS" is a research-based, physical education program that is skills based. You will begin seeing students using a variety of items during their recreation time at the After School Program. The students will now have "directed play" with lessons taught from the SPARKS program. If you would like more information about the SPARKS program, Mrs. Chaves has a program binder you may look through.

Harvest Festival



Olga Reed School will again have its annual Harvest Festival, October 29. Each classroom will have a booth for games or food. Your child's teacher will soon be asking you for help in sponsoring a booth. We will also be asking for donations of wrapped candy, to be used as prizes. Plan on joining the fun this year at the Olga Reed School's Harvest Festival, October 29, from 4:00p.m. until 7:00p.m. This is the same day the students come to school in costume and we have a costume parade around the campus and track. Please remember, some costumes can be very scary to young children and we don't want to upset our preschoolers or our Kindergarteners.

Mrs. Linda Denton, Principal



Help Make Great Things Happen for Olga Reed School

Our school has joined the "My Coke Rewards for Schools" program. That means by drinking *Coca-Cola* products your family already enjoys, you can get My Coke Rewards points and donate them to our school.

Your donations will go towards rewards like physical education equipment, art supplies, and educational resources that help our students learn, play and have fun.

It's easy to donate...

Purchase your favorite *Coca-Cola* products to get codes (they're on hundreds of different packages, including DASANI®, Sprite®, Minute Maid®, POWERADE ION4®, and more.) Information on where to find the codes is found on the site page.

Go to mycokerewards.com (The first time you visit the site, you will need to register.). Enter codes to collect points.

Find our school by Zip Code (93440). When our school's page comes up, click and enter the amount of points you would like to give, then click "Donate".



Check out mycokerewards.com/schools for more information and start turning My Coke Rewards points into rewards for our school.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please check with Ms. Heidi Schneider, Room 18.

Classroom Communiqués

Kindergarten “Capers”, Room 18

The Kindergarteners have gotten off to a great start. We have been working on developing a routine, remembering how and where to line up, handling those tricky lunch trays, getting out and putting away supplies, and even some reading, writing, and math! Of course, they all look forward to snack and story time. The first few weeks of the year are quite busy and a little confusing, but we are having fun and learning.

School is hard work and sometimes the kids are simply worn out from learning so many new things. One thing that parents can do to make it run more smoothly, is to be sure your children get at least ten hours of sleep each

night and a good breakfast every morning.

Something that makes bedtime easier is reading a story. From Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, nightly reading is a standard expectation. Now is the time to make it a part of every night's routine. A few suggestions for books to read to your child are:

Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd

The Going to Bed Book by Sandra Boynton

Time for Bed by Mem Fox and Jane

Dyer

Olivia by Ian Falconer

Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson

Check out these and many other good books at our school library.

Ms. Heidi Schneider

“Children won't care how much they learn until they learn how much you care.”



First Grade Features, Room 6

It is a pleasure for me to be the new First Grade teacher in Room 6. It has been an adjustment for the students, but all are doing well and getting used to me and our new room. I'm so proud of them.

I am already seeing an improvement with their printing, letter recognition,

and sight words. I am lucky to have such a smart bunch of students.

Ms. Sheri Morris



“...all are doing well...I'm so proud of them.”

News & Notes from Mrs. Nyenhuis' 1st/2nd Grade

It has been an unusual start to the 2010-2011 school year. The school year began with a large first grade class. After the first week of school, it was decided to divide the class, making a straight first grade and developing a 1st/2nd Grade combination class. I like the extra challenges of teaching a combination class and 1st/2nd combos have always been a favorite.

It was difficult to give up some of my original First Grade students; they had already worked their way into my heart. Yet, I was so excited to have Ms. Morris back on the staff and,

knowing she is such a great teacher, made it easier. Also, I was excited about getting some of my students back, who are now 2nd Graders, but were in my 1st Grade class last year. They are such a great group of students.

Everyone of the students in the 1st/2nd Grade combination class are adjusting well. They are learning to be patient and considerate, as I teach a variety of ways throughout the day—sometimes combined, sometimes one grade at a time. They have really made the change well.

Thank you to all the parents, too. You are the best! With all the adjustments,

you have been so supportive and patient. It's going to be a great year!

Mrs. Bonnie Nyenhuis



Second Grade “Speerings”

Mr. Waxman

Things have finally begun to settle down here in Second Grade. The children are adapting well to the routine, and we are looking forward to the coming school year. Although the Second Grade has been split into two classes, we still plan to do many things together. We will be making horses together for the Old Days Parade, and we will march together in the parade as one class. The annual Second Grade whale trip will also include all Second

Grade

students. So, even though we now have separate classes, they still have



many opportunities to join together on

various activities.

Speaking of the Old Days Parade, we will meet at the usual meeting place, across the street from Chevron/Subway on Sunday morning, September 26. Children should begin gathering at 10:30 a.m., ready to march at 11:00 a.m. The parade route will follow Bell Street to St. Joseph Street. That will be the end of the parade route, and you may pick up your children there. We are looking forward to a good time, and

Words from Mrs. Wilkanoski’s 3rd & 4th Grade Class

We are off to a wonderful start in Room 7. We have been busy studying from our Open Court Reading series. In the Third Grade, we have been focusing on the theme of Friendship. In the Fourth Grade, we have been studying the theme of Risks and Conse-

quences. We have all been working on improving our reading skills, learning new spelling words, writing, nouns, verbs, and pronouns.

We are very excited because we just received news that we will be learning music! Ms. Apolonia has graciously volunteered to teach Third Graders to play the recorder, and the Fourth Grad-

ers to play individual band instruments owned by the District. This should be music to everyone’s ears!!!



4th & 5th Grade Flashes

Mrs. Wiggins

We’ve been reading up a storm already! We are also looking for a challenge. We are looking to challenge a class that is similar in size to ours. Let’s see who can get the most Accelerated Reading points! We have two girls in our class that are new to the District. Their names are Alexa and Kaley. Alexa comes from Santa Maria and Kaley comes to us from Cuyama.

Each is a pleasant addition to our 5th Grade class.

Mrs. Wiggins is currently reading “*Little Town on the Prairie*”, which has caused quite a stir among the young readers in our class. If you happen to have any Laura Ingalls Wilder books around the house, send them our way! We are just devouring the Little House series of books in class.



We had a great turn out for Back to School Night. Thank you, parents. Ms. Apolonia will be teaching music to all 3rd and 4th Graders on campus. She is volunteering her time and talents on Friday mornings.

Students are really enjoying learning how to do research on the computer with Mrs. Ramos.

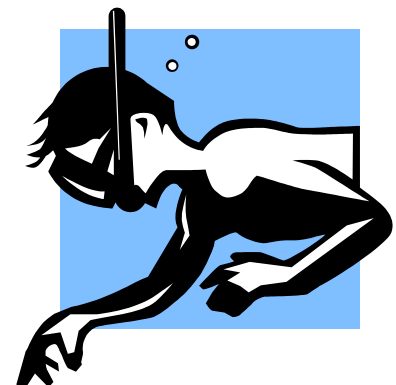
Mrs. Paula Wiggins

Messages from Mrs. McGray’s Sixth Grade

Catalina or Bust!! The 6th Graders are packing their gear for the annual Science Camp trip to Fox Landing at Catalina Island. They are all looking forward to snorkeling, kayaking, and swimming in the Pacific Ocean. The students will also learn about marine mammals, oceanography, astronomy, and dissecting squid. Wish us well!

In the science lab, we have learned about how scientists measure using the SI system (metric), what a 5-year science fair project looks like, and why safety is important in the lab. We are planning to use the science lab equipment a lot this year.

Mrs. Cheryl McGray



Mr. Luis' "Lowdown"

7th and 8th Grade

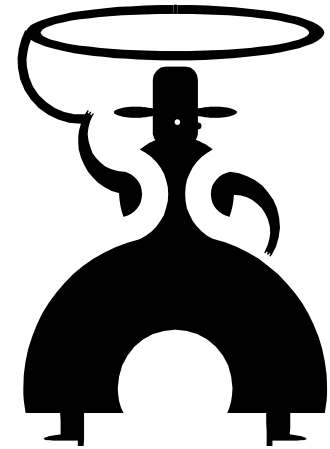
It's me again, Mr. Luis, the math teacher. Welcome back to all my students and parents. A special welcome goes out to Jake and Maliah and their families. Maliah and Jake are new Eighth Graders, and we are so happy to have them join our school.

We are off to a great start in Room 9. I have a great group of 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade math students! I also will be teaching 8th Grade English this year.

There are some new and exciting activities here at the school this year, including electives. The students are participating in such things as cooking, art, and roping twice each week. (Speaking of roping, I would like to thank John Chaves and Mike Monighetti for their support of the roping class. Thanks, guys!) There will be a lot going on here this year, so stay tuned.

Until next time, Adios!

Mr. Mike Luis



Bob Berkemeir Gym Dedication

Saturday, October 16, at 1:00 p.m., there will be a special dedication ceremony to dedicate and name our gymnasium in memory of Bob Berkemeir, a man who supported our school in so many ways. The following is a brief biography of this kind man who meant so much to our school and enriched so many students' lives.

Robert John Berkemeir

December 31, 1950—December 12, 2003

Robert John Berkemeir moved to Los Alamos, CA, in April 1992, to work in the insurance business. He checked out Olga Reed School, where two of his three daughters would eventually attend; Jennifer for 7th and 8th Grade, and Allison for her entire K-8 education. Bob learned that the competitive athletic programs for both girls and boys in Los Ala-

mos had been defunct for many years. Bob wanted to resurrect basketball and softball/baseball programs at the school, and he did.

For more than a decade, even continuing after Allison's 8th Grade graduation, Bob coached Junior High girl's basketball, coed T-ball and basketball at the kindergarten level, and finally basketball and softball in the primary, intermediate, and Junior High levels. He also coached the boys when no one else could. He taught ground level basics in basketball and softball to the Junior High girls for two years—none of the girls, except Jennifer, had ever played competitive sports before. He taught them rules, fundamentals, skills, teamwork and sportsmanship. They didn't win very many, if any, games in those early years, but they practiced and learned, and each one of the kids knew Coach Bob cared about them.

Eventually they became a team to be reckoned with, and other teams feared having to play "that team from Los Alamos"!

Bob worked hard for many years to instill many sports ethics and attitudes in the countless Los Alamos Olga Reed School students. He was proud of each and every one of his athletes. He worked before, during, and after games on scheduling, line-ups, skill drills, mopping the floors, setting and taking down chairs, practices, even staying late or coming early to give some of the kids extra help.

Bob worked hard, and he expected the kids to do the same. He stayed in constant contact with the teachers, making sure kids were "making the grade". He always told the kids that school, homework, and grades came first. With Coach Bob, it was always about the kids and for the kids. And he loved every minute of it!

Just Around the Corner—Upcoming Events

September 20 - 24	6th Grade Science Camp
September 25 - 26	Los Alamos Old Days
October 5	Picture Day
October 14	School Board Meeting
October 15	Monthly Awards Assembly
October 16	Berkemeir Gym Dedication
October 25—29	Red Ribbon Week



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*“Education is not filling a pail
But the lighting of a fire.”*

- William Butler Yeats

