

Roadrunner Express

November 2007



Mr. Long, Principal
Ms. Luna, Assistant Principal

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

The cooler weather is finally here, and our students and staff are working very hard. As I walk from classroom to classroom, it is apparent that quality instruction is taking place, and our students are learning. We have seen academic growth in Language Arts and Math since the start of the year and teachers have been attending Saturday trainings.

Thank you to all who participated in our fall fundraiser. It was a big success! Over 40 students participated in the limousine ride to Chuck E Cheese. Other ways you can donate to our school is through Target. If you have a Target

credit card, money from the card can be applied to our school. Also, if you have a Washington Mutual bank account, they will also donate to our school. See the respective companies for more information.

Our Edward Wenzlaff PTA is now established, with over 30 members at this time. I encourage you to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, December 12th from 5:30 pm-6:15 pm in room 41.

Have a great fall and keep working hard for our students!

Upcoming Events

| | | | |
|-------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 12/5 | Science Fair Night | 12/19 | ELAC Meeting |
| 12/6 | CHIP Child ID Pictures | 12/22-1/7 | Winter Recess |
| 12/10 | Awards Assemblies | 1/7 | Return From Winter Recess |
| 12/12 | PTA Meeting | | |

Wenzlaff Attendance

At this time, there are 95% of students here on a daily basis. Our goal is 95.5 %. Remember, students are rewarded with stickers and pencils each month for Perfect Attendance. At the end of the grading period, those students who have Perfect Attendance for the entire time will receive a bumper sticker. Also, students with Perfect Attendance for the 2007-2008 school year will receive a t-shirt, and be entered in a raffle to win a bicycle!

Remember, a student is considered truant once they have three or more unexcused absences during the school year. Also, remember to continue to make appointments for your child once the school day has ended.

KidBiz 3000

All third, fourth, and fifth grade students are participating in an on-line reading program called KidBiz 3000. Now your child can improve his or her reading skills at home with the same great technology program we're using in school.

Each day, KidBiz3000 sends each student a current events article. The content is customized to match each child's own reading level. The article comes with a variety of fun activities to improve your child's comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills. As your child's reading level improves, KidBiz will increase the level of difficulty so he/she remains challenged and interested.

Each third, fourth, and fifth grade student uses this program in class, but you can also share in the fun at home - or anywhere a computer is connected to the Internet. Here's how:

1. Log on to www.kidbiz3000.com and enter your child's username and password.
2. Encourage your child to follow these five easy steps:

Step 1: Check your e-mail. Read the message from KidBiz and respond.

Step 2: Click the link in the e-mail to read that day's news article.

Step 3: Do the activity.

Step 4: Finish the thought question.

Step 5: Vote in the poll.

3. Explore other KidBiz features, including other articles, the Stock Market game, puzzles, jokes, and more.

We hope you enjoy exploring KidBiz with your child.

CONGRATULATIONS, MS. PENA!

**THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOVEMBER
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Palm Springs Unified School District strives to provide the absolute best education for the students in our District. Dedicated teachers, caring staff, involved parents and adequate school facilities all play an important role in maintaining student success. Today I am writing you to discuss the classrooms and school facilities that house and educate our students.

Generally, District schools have been well maintained over the years with many major renovations and improvements. The District has been very successful in securing funding to aid in this process. To date, over \$45 million has been received from the State to help pay for these improvements. However, our work is not done. Many of our schools continue to be overcrowded. Additional classrooms and facilities need to be built to accommodate the District's increasing student population, which is now over 24,000.

The District's Board of Trustees unanimously voted to place Measure E, a local school improvement program, on the upcoming February 5, 2008 (the California Presidential Primary Election) ballot. Measure E is a general obligation bond measure for the Palm Springs Unified School District that, if passed, will address many of the District's facility needs throughout our District including:

- Constructing new schools to ensure class sizes
- Making health and safety upgrades, including handicap accessibility improvements and replacing fire alarm systems
- Upgrading and renovating existing schools which will include replacing outdated heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems (HVAC)
- Constructing permanent classrooms at the elementary schools to replace temporary portable classrooms

If Measure E is passed on February 5, 2008 the District will establish an independent citizens' oversight committee to review the expenditure of all Measure bond funds.

Measure E will provide students in the District with up-to-date classrooms and school facilities. In addition, passage of Measure E is expected to qualify the District for approximately \$125 million in State-matching grants to help pay for the proposed projects. These improvements will enable the District to continue to strive to maintain a high quality education for all students. Information on the bond election, the proposed facilities projects and the tax repayment for the bond will all be included in your voter pamphlet.

I look forward to having an opportunity to further discuss Measure E with you. Please feel free to contact me at (760) 251-7244 or you can email me at mlong@psusd.us if you would like more information or have questions.

Sincerely,

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The following information is provided to assist voters in understanding the facts behind the Palm Springs Unified School District's school improvement measure, Measure E, and how its passage will affect the District and the community.

- **Why is the District placing a school improvement bond measure on the ballot?** The Palm Springs Unified School District is severely overcrowded. In 1996, the District had over 18,000 students. This year, the District has over 24,000 students, an increase of over 33% in the past 11 years. In addition, the District is projected to have more than 30,000 students by 2013, an additional 24% increase from the current enrollment. A local school bond improvement measure would allow the District to relieve student overcrowding as well as continue to improve existing school facilities.
- **What is Measure E?** Measure E is a \$516 million general obligation (G.O.) bond program. Measure E will appear on the February 5, 2008 ballot. Measure E is intended to address the needs of a growing student population, such as the construction of new elementary, middle, and high schools in the Cathedral City and Desert Hot Springs area to relieve student overcrowding. Other facility issues to be addressed through Measure E measure include replacing temporary portable classrooms with permanent classrooms at two schools in Palm Springs and at elementary schools throughout the District, and purchasing land for the construction of new schools.
- **What is a general obligation bond?** G.O. bond funds are used to finance capital projects such as the renovation of existing classrooms and school facilities, as well as construction of new schools and classrooms. Similar to a home loan, G.O. bonds are typically repaid over 30 years. The loan repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property - residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial - located in the District.
- **How can I be sure funds from Measure E will be spent on improving our school facilities?** As required by law, an independent citizens' oversight committee will be established by the District to ensure that bond funds are properly spent. Also by law, there must be annual audits of the expenditure of the bond funds and no bond money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries.
- **What about using State funds?** With the passage of Measure E, the District is expected to become eligible to receive approximately \$125 million in State-matching grants. However, under current law, districts must provide local matching funds in order to receive any State school bond funds. By law, State lottery funds cannot be used for construction or rehabilitation projects.
- **What will the passage of Measure E mean for our students and the community?** Measure E will provide students with a better learning environment by building new schools to relieve overcrowding and making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities; many of which are also used and available to the community such as the libraries, playgrounds, and athletic fields.