

Roadrunner Express

September 2007



Mr. Long, Principal
Ms. Luna, Assistant Principal

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back! We are off to another great start here at Wenzlaff. There are a lot of great things happening. I encourage everyone to continue to participate in the Family Nights and parent events such as our PTA, School Site Council, and ELAC committees. Thank you to everyone for your continued hard work with your child and support of our school.

Last year we saw another increase in attendance. We saw an increase in academic achievement, as shown through our AYP results for Math and Language Arts. Student learning was evident from this success. We also saw a major increase in parent participation at our Family Nights.

I am also happy to let you know that we have an Assistant Principal, Blanca Luna. Ms. Luna comes to us from Cielo Vista Elementary School, where she taught first and third grades. She was also a summer school principal. Please welcome her to our Wenzlaff community.

We will continue to make student learning our number one priority here at Wenzlaff. We are putting a stronger focus on the use of technology for student learning. We have a new online program called Achieve 3000. This is

for our third, fourth, and fifth grade students. This program focuses on comprehension, writing, and vocabulary skills. Our school's web page is now developed and a link to it is found at the Wenzlaff site on the Palm Springs Unified School District page. Teachers are creating their own classroom pages as a tool to help both students and parents.

Family Nights will still be occurring during the school year. This is a great opportunity for parents to learn effective strategies to work with their child. Please watch for information about our next Family Reading Night, on October 10.

We will continue to focus on student attendance throughout the school year. Our goal will be to have a minimum of 95.5% of our students here on a daily basis. This is important because it allows each child to have the opportunity to learn and not miss valuable instruction, which is occurring daily. We will also make it our goal to increase by at least 37 points on our API, which will make us a 720 school.

I look forward to another exciting school year!

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance goal here at Wenzlaff is for 95.5 % of students to be here on a daily basis. We have many incentives we will be providing for perfect attendance. Besides increased knowledge, students will be awarded with stickers and pencils each month for perfect attendance. Students who have perfect attendance for the entire grading period (trimester) will receive a perfect attendance bumper sticker. Students with perfect attendance for the year receive a t-shirt and will be entered in a raffle to win a bicycle. Remember, perfect attendance means that students are able to actively participate in the day's lesson and not fall behind.

Wenzlaff Dismissal

At 3:15 each day, we have over 800 students being dismissed from our campus. In order to ensure a smooth and safe dismissal, please remember our procedures at the end of the day. For parents, relatives, and older siblings who are picking up students, please remember that the gates do not open until 3:15. Once the dismissal bell sounds, you may enter campus and pick up your student. First and second grade students are dismissed at the West gate located on West Drive. Third, fourth, and fifth graders are dismissed at the North gate located on 4th Street. Third, fourth, and fifth graders who have siblings in kindergarten, first, and second grade can pick up their younger sibling and be dismissed at the West gate. Kindergarten students are always dismissed from the kindergarten playground.

Please remember that if you arrive on campus during the day, you must stop in the office first to receive a visitor's badge. This badge must be worn and must be visible at all times. Teachers have been instructed to send any visitor back to the office who is not wearing a visitor's badge. Also, please remember that if you need to make an appointment for your student, please try to arrange for that appointment to happen after school. With the limited amount of time we have to teach your child each day, it is very important that your student is present. Simple scheduling will help to ensure that your child is not missing valuable instruction and is learning the most that he/she can.

Student success and safety is a combination of the efforts at home and school. This partnership is key to make this a great school year for everyone!

Modified Schedule

The Palm Springs Unified School District is considering moving its elementary and middle schools to a modified single-track year round schedule beginning in the 2008-09 school year. A modified single-track schedule has proven to be beneficial to students and teachers in the following ways:

- Students retain more information with shorter breaks throughout the year.
- Both students and teachers are more alert, refreshed and motivated after a break.
- School sites can offer intervention programs during inter-sessions, providing students with two opportunities for intense intervention prior to Spring state testing.
- Families can plan vacations during off-peak periods.

A decision on whether or not to move forward with the proposed schedule will be made in October. Parents will be notified in November if we will implement a change in the schedule beginning in August of 2008. We'd like to have your input as to whether you are in favor of or opposed to the proposal. Soon you will be receiving a survey. Please fill out the survey and return to Edward Wenzlaff Elementary School by October 5. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Long or visit the District web site at www.psusd.us. Thank you for your time and input on this important decision.

Wenzlaff Parking

Our staff members have increased throughout the years. Because of this, the number of parking spaces we have are limited. As a reminder, the parking lot is for Wenzlaff staff only. This is especially important during arrival and dismissal.

Important Dates

September 26 Back to School Night
October 4 Lifetouch Pictures
October 8 Awards Assembly
October 10 PTA Meeting
October 10 Family Reading Night
October 17 Minimum Day (1:00 Dismissal)
October 24 ELAC Meeting