

# The Innovator

*Four students from Mrs. Thomas' fourth and fifth grade class share their thoughts about school and what they are learning.*



*L to R- Justine Presto, grade 5, Sophina Debrum, grade 4, Jaileen Hermosillo, grade 5, and Daniella Rocha, grade 4.*

## **Jaileen Hermosillo, grade 5**

Hi, my name is Jaileen Hermosillo. My school is called Scales School and I am ten years old. I think that school is important to my friends and me because we know that if you don't do well in school, you won't have a future and you might live on the street.

I've been learning many things in school. Recently, in science we learned about vascular and non-vascular plants by doing experiments with celery and red and blue food coloring.

continued on pg. 2

*October 1, 2007*

## **A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL**

### **DAVID DIOKNO**

Welcome back to another wonderful school year at **Scales Technology Academy**. It is a great honor to join your community of learning. The 2007-2008 school year is off to an incredible start. We know that every child will be successful because of our committed staff and your never-ending support. Your involvement in the education of your child is a key factor in the learning process. The School Board approved our new name, **Scales Technology Academy: A School for Innovative Learning**. Our school is under construction and we are planning the instructional practices for next year. ...continued

---

## **A Message from Principal Diokno, continued..**

Today every classroom is integrating technology in ways to directly support learning. Classes are creating podcasts, videos, exploring volumes of information on the Internet, and making use of the technology of today in preparation for the technology resources of tomorrow. Every student will have a laptop to support their learning. Computers will simply be another tool that can be turned on and off as easily as we open and close textbooks. Technology will open the door of knowledge for our children!

It is a privilege to serve as your principal and work with each of you to ensure continued success for every child.

# SCALES TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

---

## A MESSAGE FROM VICE-PRINCIPAL MATT WHITNEY

At Scales Technology Academy it is extremely important that everyone be here at school and be on time! I encourage you to read the attendance policy that is in your handbook, as it thoroughly goes through the proper procedure for calling in your child's absence. From this point forward the consequences for tardiness will be the same as absences. Please see page 1 in your handbook.

---

**Jaileen Hermosillo** continued- The celery turned red because the celery has tubes that carry water to all the parts. In Language Arts, we practice grammar and are learning about personal and possessive pronouns.

My favorite subject is math. Some people think that math is difficult. For me, it is so easy. My math teacher is Mr. Szymakowski. I am happy to share my writing in the school newsletter.

**Sophina Debrum**, grade 4-

Hi, My name is Sophina Debrum. I really like our school's appearance. Our cafeteria is nice and I enjoy the delicious food we have. The other thing I like is our new Principal, Mr. Diokno. I

have a lot of friends in my class and I like our new teacher, Ms. Thomas. All the fourth and fifth grade teachers are great!

In social studies, my classmates and I did a Native American project. My team was called the Cheyenne.

**Daniella Rocha**, grade 4-

Hello everyone! It's me, Daniella Rocha. I am nine years old. Here is a little information about what I am learning in school and what I like about school.

Our teachers and our principals want us to do our best and have a great year! I learn new things here everyday. I enjoy doing my work. Recently, I learned the coolest thing ever. We were learning about the

animal kingdom and how to classify animals. As practice, we classified shoes. It was awesome! We can learn and have fun. Scales School is the best school ever!

**Justine Presto**, grade 5-

Hi! I'm Justine Presto. I go to Scales Elementary School. In this selection, I'm going to tell you what I like about school. My favorite subjects in school are reading and math. I also like science, social studies, band, and P.E.

Scales is a fun place and every day I learn something new. At the the new Scales we all will use laptops and more technology. So, pay attention in school so you can a have a great future!

---

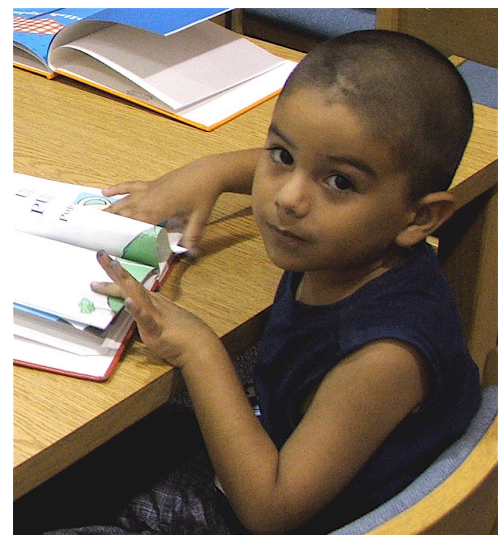
## LANGUAGE ARTS CORNER

**by Dawn Moan-Minott, Language Arts Coach**

"Children should be seen and not heard." This old saying has been shared for years. Yet research is telling us that in order for children to become readers that they should not only listen, but should also speak and express themselves. According to the National Reading Panel report, children *who are not* encouraged to talk, and *who do not* hear a lot of talk, often have difficulty learning to read.

There are many activities that all families can participate in that are easily accessible and inexpensive. Singing the alphabet song and practicing writing the letters helps your child build alphabetic knowledge. Reading books out loud to your child has been proven to be the most important activity for later success in reading. This activity builds vocabulary, fluency, and teaches children the connection between spoken words and written words. Make time daily to talk with your child. Ask questions. Discuss events and enjoy the experience!

***For more enrichment ideas, see page 4 of this newsletter.***



Adrian Siqueiro reads during library.

# SCALES TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

**A NOTE FROM THE NURSE-** Welcome back to a great year at Scales!

Your child will receive some forms that we ask you to **fill out, sign and return to school as soon as possible:**

- 1) Emergency Card, completed on 2 sides and signed.
- 2) Acetaminophen (Tylenol) Consent Form, signed.

(In the event your child has a fever  $>101$  at school and we cannot reach you immediately.)

- 3) Reach Out Health Care America Dental form for some dental treatment at the school if your child qualifies.

It is very important that your child have a good school routine. Some suggestions for your child to stay healthy and have a great year are:

- 1) Get 9-10 hours of sleep a night (8:00 p.m. bedtime, with the TV off and some bedtime reading).
- 2) Brush your teeth in the morning and at bedtime.
- 3) Get to school **on time**.
- 4) Eat 5 fruits and vegetables a day. Drink at least 8 glasses of water a day.
- 5) Wear sunscreen.
- 6) Get physical activity every day for 30 minutes: run, jump rope, swim, play sports, etc.
- 7) Cut down on sugar snacks: pop, candy, etc.
- 8) Help your child get organized and have all homework, paperwork, done and ready for school in a backpack.
- 9) Read with your child every night.
- 10) Please keep your child home if he/she is sick: has a fever  $>100.0$ , is coughing, vomiting, has diarrhea, or has a contagious rash.
- 11) Bring any medications that your child needs with the prescription label and sign a Medication Consent form.
- 12) Consider getting a Flu shot.

All these things will help your child have a successful year. Please feel free to call with any questions (480) 929-9909, ext. 6903.

Thank you for your support, Halyna Chirovsky, RN, BSN



## Calendar

Site Council Meeting is the first Monday of the month.

**October 1, 2007 - a full day of school**

October 2-4, 2007- Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 5, 2007- No School for students, Teacher Professional Day

October 8-12, 2007- Fall Break

October 23, 2007- Dental Van Day

## Tempe Elementary School District No. 3

**Mission Statement-** To assure that all students reach their achievement goals.

### Goals-

- Increase **student achievement** in every classroom, for every student, in every subject, everyday.
- Provide **exceptional service** and **support** to all.
- Provide a culture of **innovation** and **risk-taking**.
- Provide **outstanding facilities** and **technology**.

# SCALES TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

---

## **Question: How can I help my child become a better reader?**

Answer: When you are involved in your child's learning, he or she will be more successful! Providing language and literacy support to school-age children helps connect learning at school to learning at home. When school and home learning are linked, children are more focused and confident as they learn to read. ***Here are a few strategies you can use to help your child become a better reader.***

### **Phonemic Awareness**

- Sing songs, say chants and poems, and share nursery rhymes.
- Ask your child to think of words that begin with the same sound.
- Say a word; ask your child to say words that rhyme with that word.
- Clap syllables in words and names -- "How many syllables in hippopotamus?"

### **Phonics**

- As you read with your child, point to letters and ask him to name them.
- Make an alphabet book together with drawings or illustrations for each letter.
- Encourage your child to write notes, lists, letters to family and friends, and stories.
- Play word games -- "I spy something that starts with the letter M. What is it?"

### **Fluency**

- Read aloud to your child, changing your voice for different characters in the story.
- As you read, pause and show your child where sentences begin and end.
- Read books that your child is interested in, taking turns reading a page; when your child slows down or makes mistakes, encourage her to read the page again.
- Encourage your child to read lots of different things -- books, magazines, newspapers, letters, signs.

### **Vocabulary**

- Talk with your child often about family events and interests, their friends, and activities at school.
- As you read or talk with your child, draw his attention to new words and what they mean.
- When reading with your child, ask him to describe the pictures or illustrations and then point to words in the text that match his descriptions.
- Write new words in a list, display the list at home, and encourage your child to use these new words again and again when talking and writing.
- Look up new words in the dictionary or thesaurus to find out what they mean.

### **Comprehension**

- Encourage your child to tell stories; ask her questions that focus on the characters, the message, and the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
- When reading with your child, encourage her to predict what might happen next in the story; discuss events in the story and compare to her own experiences.
- Read many different kinds of books (poetry, fiction, nonfiction), magazines, and newspapers.
- Visit interesting places (museums, zoos, parks, cities), do things together (cooking, shopping, sports) and then talk about the experience with your child.
- Encourage your child to write for different purposes (lists, letters, stories, reports) and different audiences (family, friends, general public).
- After your child has read a book, ask him to talk about the meaning of the book.

*From the National Center for Family Literacy*