



The Innovator

February 15, 2008

Issue 6

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

DAVID DIOKNO

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Scales Innovator! This is a very busy time of year. Spring Break is around the corner, the days are getting warmer, and our children are growing up so quickly. These are the times that we need to stop what we are doing, slow down, and enjoy life. Family time is essential in helping to develop our children into well-educated students and great people. Go to pg. 2...

Scales First Grade Teachers Share What Their Students Are Learning

by Allegra Biggs, Adriana Fairfield, Lindsey Jack,
Courtney Weber

February is a very busy month for First Grade! We are working hard and learning a lot. We are continuing to build our fluency in reading and we are learning our high frequency words. We love playing the reading games BINGO and Memory.

We are becoming excellent writers. We use multi-flow maps to explain "why" in our writing. This month we are learning long vowels (a, e, i) and soft c.

First graders use technology everyday in our classrooms! We explore our world by using websites, webquests, and taking pictures with our digital camera.

Continued on page 2...



First graders gather for a group picture after a recent field trip

SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Teachers share...continued from page 1...

In social studies, we will be learning about Native Americans of the Southwest. We will be infusing sketches of hieroglyphics into clay and painting them.

In science, we are "going green" by learning about recycling and how to care for our earth. Recently, we went to the Arizona Science Center and gained knowledge that we are using in our classrooms. We look forward to learning in February!

Mr. Diokno continued from page 1...

Now is the time for us to truly enjoy our family, spend quality time with them, and help each other grow. Last month, I touched upon New Years resolutions, goal setting, and challenges that lie ahead. I hope that you and your family created goals that you would like to accomplish. Open dialog in the family is the best way to keep each other close and ensure that you support each other.

Each day I challenge our students to do their best, ask questions, respect themselves and others, and to be kind. I know that with your help and reinforcement at home, we will continue to have the best school and students in the district. Thank you for your continued support, communication, and involvement with our school!

Language Arts Corner: Sharing Resources

By Dawn Moan-Minott

One aspect of my job as a Language Arts Coach is to find resources for students and teachers. While searching the Internet, I found the following website, www.ReadingRockets.org. This site focuses on "how" kids learn to read, "why" kids struggle, and "what to do" to help kids learn to read. From this site you can download free parent guides, subscribe to a monthly newsletter, and find links to other websites with ideas and activities for reading.

Included on this site is a section called Empowering Parents. I was excited to find that this multimedia project can be accessed on television (check local times) and the Internet. In addition, the advisors of www.ReadingRockets.org, Dr. Lynne Fuchs and Dr. Louisa Moats, are well known educators who are respected for current research in literacy development.

Take some time and visit Reading Rockets, either on the web or at PBS (Channel 8). If you need information in Spanish, visit the companion website, www.ColorinColorado.org.

SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH MR. WHITNEY,
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Greetings Parents!

Student drop-off and pick-up:

Please drop your children off at the church parking lot across the street from Scales and not in the Gililand parking lot. We have staff available at the church to help your children cross safely to our school. We have had many issues with busses not being able to unload students due to a blocked parking lot. Do not block other parked cars in either school parking lot. Scales parents should park in the lot across the street when you need to come to campus. Please help us out! Parents, remember that before 7:30 a.m. there is no supervision on the school grounds for students. **Please do not drop your children off before 7:30 a.m.**

Updated Information Card (below):

If you have not already furnished us with your most current information, please cut/tear out the updated information card. It is **CRITICAL** that we have accurate information on your child. Please return it to your child's teacher as quickly as possible.

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the Innovator:

Writers- David Diokno, Matt Whitney, Halyna Chirovsky, Dawn Moan-Minott, Lindsey Jack, Allegra Biggs, Courtney Weber, Adriana Fairfield, Rachel Trim

Translators- Mila Jimenez and Fabricio Serrano

Copy Editors- Dianne Berg, Stan Berg, and Barbara Walker

We appreciate you!

Rachel Trim, Editor
Library Media Specialist

Child's Last Name	First Name	M F	B-day	Teacher	Year
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Home Phone	Street			Apt.#	
<hr/>					
Father/Stepfather/Guardian			Bus. Phone		
<hr/>					
Address if different from above			Cell Phone		
<hr/>					
Mother/Stepmother/Guardian			Bus. Phone		
<hr/>					
Address if different from above			Cell Phone		
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I authorize the following person(s) to be contacted and to transport my child if I cannot be reached (names, telephone numbers, and addresses):

SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TEMPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENT: COMMUNITY FORUMS

District leadership will be sharing important information about TD#3 with school communities and other members of the TD#3 community in several public forums.

The purpose of these forums will be to educate our community regarding current data about TD#3 and the challenges TD#3 faces each day in maintaining financial stability and improving student achievement for all children.

Topics to be shared include 1) declining enrollment, 2) escalating costs in utilities, transportation, maintenance and operations, 3) insurance, and 4) competitive salary schedules to attract and retain highly qualified principals and teachers.

Community forums will take place on the following dates:

- February 25th - 6:30 - 8:00 pm @ Connolly
- February 26th - 6:30 - 8:00 pm @ McKemy MS
- February 28th - 6:30 -

8:00 pm @ Fees MS
•February 29th - 8:00 - 9:30 am @ Sanchez Building
•March 3 - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m @ Gililand MS

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**.

New Immunization Requirements for the 2008-2009 School Year

Students entering the 6th grade in the 2008-2009 school year will be required to receive the following immunizations by September 1, 2008.

- (1) *A combined vaccine for pertussis and tetanus (Tdap) and*
- (2) *A vaccine for meningitis (MV).*

Sixth graders who are not eleven years of age when school starts will be required to receive the immunizations after their eleventh birthday.

Pertussis (whooping Cough) and tetanus (lockjaw) vaccines are given to young children in the DTap or DTP vaccine series and to adolescents and adults in the Tdap vaccine. Meningitis is an infection of the fluid in a person's spinal cord and the fluid that surrounds the brain. Meningitis can spread quickly.

In addition, students eleven years and older, who have had 5 years pass since their last tetanus/diphtheria vaccine dose, are required to receive the Tdap immunization.

The nurse at your child's school will be sending immunization referrals as a reminder to make an appointment with your child's doctor or nearby clinic for the needed immunizations. If you have questions, please call the school health office. Scales Health Office 480-929-9909 ext. 6903

SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A NOTE FROM THE NURSE

What is ASTHMA?

Asthma is the most common long-term disease of children. Asthma affects your lungs. Asthma causes repeated episodes of wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, colds that last more than 10 days, and night-time or early morning coughing. If you have asthma, you have it all the time. But, you will have asthma attacks only when something bothers your lungs or triggers an "asthma attack."

An asthma attack happens in your body's airways, which are the paths that carry air to your lungs. During an asthma attack, the sides of the airways in your lungs swell, and the airways shrink. Less air gets in and out of your lungs, and mucus that your body produces clogs up the airways even more. An asthma attack can occur when you are exposed to things in the environment called asthma triggers.

ASTHMA TRIGGERS:

- Environmental/Tobacco smoke •Secondhand smoke •Outdoor air pollution •Freezing temperatures
- Dust mites •Cockroaches and their droppings •Furry pets •Mold •High humidity •Bad weather such as thunderstorms
- Some foods and food additives •Some medicines •Strenuous physical exercise
- Strong emotional states can also lead to hyperventilation and an asthma attack.

Keeping your house clean and tidy, (sweeping, vacuuming and mopping floors), controlling pet dander and hairs in the house (better to keep pets outside), and not smoking inside, will help you control your child's asthma. Just taking medicine is NOT ENOUGH. Getting to know your child's triggers and doing your best to stay away from them will help prevent serious, possible life-threatening asthma attacks. Having a properly labeled prescription school inhaler and/or breathing treatment with an ASTHMA ACTION PLAN from your doctor will help your school nurse assist your student with asthma.

When you control your child's asthma by following the doctor's treatment plan and avoiding asthma triggers, you'll decrease or avoid symptoms like wheezing or coughing, missing school or work, and visits to the hospital. You will also sleep better and enjoy taking part in physical activities.

For more information see <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/faqs.htm> or contact the Scales School Nurse, Halyna Chirovsky, RN, BSN, NCSN at 480-929-9909 ext 6903.

February/March Calendar

18- Presidents Day,

No School

20- Scales Multicultural

Fair 5:00 p.m.

March 4-7 Parent Teacher
Conferences

10-14 Spring Break,

No school

21- Spring Holiday,

No School



Congratulations to
Scales Spelling Bee
winners, (L)
Brianna Ormsby
(Champion) and (R)
Lynelle Tilden
(Alternate). They
recently represented
us at the District
Spelling Bee. We
are very proud of
them!

SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Family Resolutions from “End to Beginning” by Rachel Trim

Many educators have learned to set goals using the design process, Backward Design. It calls for three stages of planning. By looking first at the desired result, teachers can plan from “end to beginning” and will have a clear idea of where to begin work on a goal. Teachers can use this to plan their lessons, create monthly and yearly themes, and increase student achievement. But, whether for educational or personal goals, this process works for any goal you’d like to accomplish.

Backward Design- Parent Example: Improving Employment Opportunities

Stage 1: What is my desired result?

I will find a job that increases my hourly pay to \$ _____ an hour.

Stage 2: What is the physical proof of my effort? *I will attend job fairs and community resume classes that will help me present my skills and work experience in a professional and up-to-date style.*

Stage 3: What will I do to keep myself motivated and actively learning? *I will take advantage of opportunities to interview and search out employment agencies that can help me find a good job. I will research what skills, certificates, or education I need to continue moving forward. I will also conference with my new employer and reflect on the things I am doing well and look at how I can learn more.*

Backward Design- Student Example: Improving Reading Fluency

Stage 1: What is my desired result?

I will read for 30 minutes each day with a parent to improve how smoothly I read. I will choose books or magazines to read at my level that challenge me to grow.

Stage 2: What is the physical proof of my effort? *I will list the names of the books I have read and record how much time I read each day. I will conference with my teacher and a parent to celebrate my success.*

Stage 3: What will I do to keep actively learning and progressing? *I will brainstorm and create a list of several topics that interest me. I will visit the school or public library to find new things to read. With a teacher or a parent, I will plan special activities that celebrate my successes.*

Author Steven Covey talks about goal setting in his book, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. He says, “To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means that you know where you are going so that you better understand where you are now. Then, the steps you take are always in the right direction.”

Include your children in the process of goal setting. What kind of goals can you set as a family? **Education goals** can be for all family members. Goals might include 1) working for better grades, 2) studying for tests, 3) completing and turning in homework on time, and 4) returning other items to school such as signed papers, library books, and musical instruments. **Household goals** encourage each family member to show responsibility and respect at home. Each family member can pick up and put away belongings and clean the home to make it easier to manage. Train family members to gather and pack items for the next day. Quiet the house at bedtime, send visitors home, turn off the T.V. and music, and get plenty of rest.

Hold a family meeting and try setting a few goals from “end to beginning.” Review goals with family members regularly. Celebrate with fun, inexpensive activities to create lasting memories and unite the family. When parents model goal setting, they are teaching children to actively plan and prepare for a bright future.