



Mitchell Mustang

May 2011

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Principal's News

Dear Parents,

Here we are once again at the end of the school year. I don't know where the time goes... There are many things left to do before the students leave for the summer, some required tedious work of the end of the year and some fun Mitchell traditions.

Parents often ask how they can help their students stay involved in learning over the summer months. There are a number of activities available, and many of them are free or low-cost. The New Mexico Kids! Family Magazine is an excellent resource, and can be found at local grocery stores and restaurants. The May/June 2011 issue will be out soon and spotlights summer opportunities. Most importantly, don't forget to just spend time reading and writing with your children this summer. Take them to the library, buy them notebooks to record their thoughts or journal during family vacations, and encourage them to read, read, read, and then to read some more.

Thank you to our dedicated and loving staff for helping our children learn, grow, and mature not only in academics but also as good citizens. *This year we are saying goodbye to Joan Weninger, who has been a member of the Mitchell staff for over 17 years. She started her career at Mitchell as a substitute, moved into the job of teacher, and has most recently been our Title I reading teacher. She has touched the lives of many students and their families over the years, and has been an essential member of the Mitchell staff. We also bid farewell to Sandy Brown. Sandy started out her career here at Mitchell as a parent, was PTO President, and then moved into the role of teacher eleven years ago. The past two years she has been our Instructional Coach. We wish both of these amazing folks a happy retirement and know that we will still be seeing them around our campus.*

Thank you to our PTO for working so hard to make our school the best elementary school in Albuquerque. *Our fantastic PTO Treasurer, Kim Cordova, and her family will be moving to Gallup this summer. We wish you great success in this new endeavor and please know you will be missed.*

Important Dates

May 3: Teacher Appreciation Day & PTO Meeting, 6 pm

May 4: Fun Run

May 14: Family Fun & Fitness Day

May 18: College T-shirt & Jersey Day

May 23-26: Play Days, see schedule below

May 27: 5th Grade Party (a.m.)

May 31: Last Day of School, 1 pm Dismissal, NO LUNCH SERVED 5th Grade vs. Staff Kickball Game

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Play Day Schedule

May 23 rd	1 st Grade (am) & 2 nd Grade (pm) Play Day
May 24 th	3 rd Grade (am) & 4 th Grade (pm) Play Day
May 25 th	Kindergarten (am) Play Day
May 26 th	5 th Grade (am) Play Day

Don't forget sunscreen and hats AND please let your child's teacher know if you can help out!

From the PTO President...

Hello Mitchell Parents!

Are you ready??? Welcome to the last month of school! That's right! Only one month to go and BOY is it going to be a busy one!

The Annual Fun Run will be May 4th. We will need LOTS of parent volunteers for this event for set up, snacks, lap marking, and clean up! If you can help, please email our volunteer coordinator, Kelly Lotrich, at mitchellpto@yahoo.com with "Fun Run Volunteer" in the subject to let her know you will be there. If you would rather just show up, that's fine too! Come out and cheer your student on as they run! Each child who brings in at least a \$5 pledge will receive a FREE T-shirt!

On Saturday, May 14th, Defined Fitness will be on our campus for Family Fitness Day! There will be tons of activities for the entire family, so please join us in promoting physical fitness for the WHOLE family. Also on Saturday, May 14th, Page One Books will be set up on campus and hosting a \$.50 book sale! Come check it out and get some great books at a STEAL!

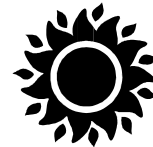
Yearbooks will be on sale for 5th grade ONLY starting on May 16. General sales of the yearbook for all other grades will begin the following week.

We still have PTO Board positions open for next year. If you are interested in holding a PTO board position, please feel free to attend our next meeting on May 3rd. You can also leave a message at the office and one of the current board members will be happy to get back to you and answer any questions.

I hope to see you at our last PTO meeting of the year on Tuesday, May 3rd at 6 p.m. in the Teachers' Lounge!

Have a fantastic May and a fabulous summer break! See you next year!

Andrea Babineaux
President, Mitchell PTO




Mitchell Fun Run
May 4th
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Come run or walk with your child!

Consent form must be signed for your child to participate. Donations due on the day of the run.

Volunteers Needed!



Remember...

Library Materials and Chocolate Bar Money MUST be returned in order for students to participate in the **Play Days or the 5th grade party**. If you can't find the book, ask Ms. Debbie what the cost of the book is and bring in the money ASAP!

Principal's News, continued

And finally, I want to thank each and every family for helping to make this year such a success for our children. *There are several families that will be leaving Mitchell this year as their students move on to middle school. I want to say that it has been a joy watching your children grow, some of them since they were just toddlers, into amazing young men and women. Don't forget, "once a Mustang, always a Mustang." Please stay in touch and drop by for a visit when you can.*

The first day of school is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16th for grades 1st - 5th and Thursday, August 18th for Kindergarten. During the summer, keep an eye on our marquee, the Mitchell website, (www.aps.edu/aps/mitchell/index.html), and the Mitchell PTO website, (www.MitchellPTO.org), for important dates and other information regarding next school year.

For those families that will be returning, I look forward to seeing you and your children this fall, full of energy and ready for a brand new school year. I wish you all a relaxing summer.

Debbie Garrison
Principal

FAMILY FITNESS DAY

**Saturday May 14th
10:00a.m.-1:00p.m.**

Bring your family and enjoy an array of fitness activities that include:



**Obstacle Courses
Basketball
Relay Races
Jump Rope Contest**



**And other activities sponsored by DEFINED FITNESS
Also, you will be able to buy books from Page One
for only \$.25**

**Join us for a day filled with FAMILY, FUN & FITNESS!
Bring your picnic baskets and Plenty of Water.**

**If you would like to sponsor or help at this event, please contact
Mrs. Hausermann at 507-1801 or hauser@aps.edu**

A Year of Service by Student Council

Jaylen Domina-Lovato
Natalia Chavez

This year has been a very successful year for the Mitchell Elementary Student Council. We have taken on many projects during the course of the year. Our mission was to raise hope and concern for others throughout the school.

The first project we took on was Constitution Week. We wanted to teach students about the foundation that makes our country great. We put up a bulletin board and did daily education announcements about the Constitution of the United States.

Our second major project was a food drive for All Faith's Receiving Home. We made posters, talked to our classrooms, and our buddy classes. We had exciting announcements from our D.J., Caroline, asking the Mitchell Community to help by donating food. Everyone responded to our call and brought in piles of food!

We tried to promote our students to have fun at school, but show Mitchell Pride at the same time, so we hosted a Mitchell Pride Assembly! We were hoping to have more throughout the year, but we got so busy! To celebrate the holidays, we worked tirelessly on the Thanksgiving decorations for the holiday meal. Parents were invited to share this meal with their children, and so many came! Thank you, parents and families, for celebrating with us!

We believe in supporting our troops and the hard work that they are doing. We had a drive for the Honor Our Troops organization. H.O.T. sends care packages to the troops overseas. We collected \$2.00 from students, along with names of family members of the Mitchell Community that are currently serving overseas. H.O.T. made dog tags with the names of the troops serving from Mitchell as thank you gifts for our donations. Our students are wearing these dog tags in support of our fellow troops that are overseas.

For Valentine's Day, we followed in tradition to honor our teachers at Mitchell. We worked hard for weeks on Valentines for the great staff and volunteers we have at Mitchell Elementary. They are awesome and we wanted them to know that! We also added a couple of treats for them to enjoy in the teacher's lounge.

This year we had a Jump For Heart fundraiser to help the heart survivors through American Heart Association. We had a goal of raising \$700.00 and we greatly surpassed this goal. We raised \$809.00!! This is the best we have ever done at Mitchell Elementary. Thank you all for your support in this effort.

Our final project we just finished is a drive for Japan. We did this to try and help the victims of the massive earthquake disaster. Our goal was to raise \$800.01 for the American Red Cross to send to Japan, but as of the date when we are writing this article, we have only collected \$317.00. We have been doing a lot of advertising to achieve this goal and promote the spirit of giving to those in need at Mitchell Elementary School.

We have accomplished so much this year. To the fifth graders and their families: Good Luck in Middle School, continue in good service, and show pride wherever you go. To the rest of the Mitchell Community, keep up the good work, and take over for the fifth graders next year. Continue in Mitchell Pride and make us proud!



Have a fun and relaxing summer!
Keep Reading!