



Santa Fe School for the Arts & Sciences Newsletter

Academic Excellence, Respect & Diversity

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Volume 7 Issue 1
10/1/06

Middle School Trips Garage Sale #2
Sunday, Oct. 15th, 8:00am-2:00pm
128 N. El Rancho Rd. (Mason's home)
Call 984-2801 for directions or to
drop off donations.

Parent Teacher Conferences
for Unicorns **Friday, October 27th**
No School for **Unicorns Only**

Parent Teacher Conferences
For everyone **Monday, October 30th**
No School for **All Students**

Fall Festival **Tuesday, October 31st, 1:00-3:00**
Everyone is invited to come!
We have regular school in the morning.

Hotel Santa Fe, Thursday, November 9th
6:00-9:00pm AIGA Auction to benefit our school!
See details on page 6

Friday, November 17th
No School – Teacher Inservice
Wednesday, November 22nd-24th
Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 1st
OPEN HOUSE 6:00pm
“Wintercomes Student Showcase”
All parents & students
Will be invited to come to this special
showcase of student work and art.



Some students from our Peace Jam club from the past 2 years attended the 10th Anniversary Peace Jam conference this past weekend in Denver. Our kids attended sessions with the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jody Williams, Rigaberta Menchu and 6 other Nobel Peace Laureates! They presented our school's service projects to Shirin Ebadi,(above), a judge and lawyer who received the Nobel Peace prize for her human rights work in Iran.

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Unicorn Update

The Unicorns have been settling into the classroom, learning how to make friends, and how to work as a team.

In the Science Center for “C” week, there was a “Mystery Piece,” which was the book The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle, which was placed inside a terrarium. A group of kids came over during “free play”, looked at the book in the terrarium, and asked, “Why is that book in there?” Someone replied, “I know, it’s because it’s “C” week.” Later that cold day, while lining up to come in from outside, someone yelled out, “A caterpillar!” The kids crowded around the picnic bench, and there was a big green caterpillar that looked just like the one in The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Two days later someone found another caterpillar outside. By the end of the week the caterpillars were not looking very good inside the terrarium. Monday morning, before I could clean out the terrarium, I heard “There’s a chrysalis!”

That day the Unicorns became scientists, doing observations with magnifying glasses and researching the transformation of caterpillars to butterflies, and worms to moths, in our books. They made hypotheses to determine if we did indeed have two caterpillars, whether one was actually a worm, or perhaps they were both worms? The consensus was that we had one caterpillar and one Tomato Horned Worm. The children made predictions as to what was going to happen to the chrysalis, determining as a group that it would be a butterfly, then drawing it.

Stay Tuned!

By Suzanne Shakespeare



Our middle school students were a fantastic help at our recent Parent’s Night Out!



Stargazer Science by Chintan Kess and Amy Birkan

The Stargazer year is off to a roaring start. We have begun our expedition about physics with a "mystery" liquid that could be changed and held in one's hand without dripping or made to disappear...H₂O! We have also begun exploring objects in motion and have talked about gravity, forces, and even inertia. We have already gone to the Santa Fe Children's Museum to do some research and will go to the Explora! museum in Albuquerque soon. Our math classes have fit in nicely with our expedition. We are learning about probability, grouping data, creating surveys or collecting data when experimenting, and graphing.

Here are some anecdotes from our preliminary science talks:

Chintan: Do you think there were always scientists? When did they come about?

Noa: They came after the Ice Age.

John: They made houses.

Sarafina: The scientists wondered stuff.

Lewis: They observed beaver dams then they made houses.

Noa : They might have wondered when they found the mammoth tusks what they went to, cause well, is there actually an animal like that?

Landon: Scientists might wonder if a mammoth got extinct, how the tusk even got there?

Chintan: What do you call a guess a scientist makes?

Merit: A theory.

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Chintan: We were wondering when we boiled the magic liquid, where did it go?

Safaina: I think it went into the ice.

John: I think it evaporated into the pan.

Nicky: Did it go back into the bottle?

Sofia: I think it turned into this ice. (points to the ice in her cup.)

Lewis: Maybe it might have turned into metal.

Okema: I think it went into the ocean.

Sabrina: Like smoke from trucks...I think it went into the sky. To the sun.

Sarafina: To the clouds. Mist can evaporate through the window.

John: I think it went to a cloud something like 30,000 feet. I think it went through the roof.

Chime: I think it went to the top wall (the ceiling) and spiders drank it.

Chintan: If I want the ball to move what do I do?

Sarafina: Push it.

Teacher rolls ball, hits other ball...

Chintan: Why did it stop?

Isabel: It didn't have enough power.

Sarafina: Cause balls are heavy.

Chintan: Why wouldn't the ball roll forever?

Isabel: Because it's carpet.

Nicky: What happens if you hit it harder, would it go farther?

Lewis: The reason why it stops is because when you stop pedaling a bike stops.

Nicky: I wonder if it's the gravity!

Chintan: What is gravity?

Merit: Gravity is a type of force.

Isabel: Gravity keeps you from floating.

Lewis: Maybe in space the ball would keep on going and going.

Isabel: If the ball was going downhill it would keep on going and going.

Chintan: What if it was going uphill? Would it still go?

John: If you hit it hard.

Chintan: How hard would you have to hit it?

Sarafina: It depends on how high the uphill is!

Centaur Check-In

By Todd Stiewing

The Centaurs have been clearing the rust out of their brains and kicking it into high gear this year. They have started their expedition on *energy* as energy detectives searching for examples of energy and learning through the scientific process how to define energy. Through research and investigation they have come up with some of their own definitions. Here are a few examples:

Energy *noun*

- 1. a source of power that makes things move 2. a source of power (the sun) that makes things grow when water, electricity, wind and other substances are used
- a source of power that makes everything work in its own way
- 1. when something moves because it is powered by fuel 2. a power source made by the sun, wind, and water 3. when the sun hits a solar panel it creates energy
- a source of power to make something work

The Centaur recycling program is under way again. The class conducted some fieldwork at the Buckman Road transfer station and has brought their knowledge back to the school. The Centaur students presented to every class in the school on the recycling process and the importance of recycling in our community.

The Centaur class is also enjoying their new salaries this year. Each week a student gets a paycheck for doing their weekly classroom responsibilities. They use the money to purchase their classroom supplies and other fun and educational materials. It's a great way to have fun and learn about the responsibility and the value of money.

Badger Highlights

By Matt Burke-Newsum

Things in the Badger Class are in full swing. Our Expedition on Weather Related Events is underway and students are beginning their research and writing assignments. We have been conducting experiments in class that have to do with the atmosphere and weather. Our kickoff was a huge success. The entire class went to see "An Inconvenient Truth" and the students were fully absorbed. During the movie, there were gasps, ooh's, ahh's, tears, and cheers. It was very powerful and the movie describes some weather related events in a very clear fashion.

Students are reading some great books and discussing them in book clubs. In math, we have been reviewing multiplication, division, rounding, factoring and place value.

During the first week of school, the Badgers were extremely courageous and supportive of their peers when they visited the high ropes course at SFCC. Every Badger challenged him or herself on the high events and really impressed the staff at the college with their enthusiastic support of one another.

Middle School Science Scoop

This month we officially started working on our science labs. In 7th grade (Life Science), we focused on biodiversity, natural selection and ecology. In 8th grade (Earth Science) we began our journey from the foundation of elements and minerals, into igneous and metamorphic rocks. We have two very exciting speakers coming up in October. The first is Ms. Carol Parker the director of the Pamoja Project in Tanzania, which promotes schooling and self sufficiency of children orphaned by the AID's epidemic. Badgers and Middle Schoolers will be treated to her presentation on October 5th.

On October 16th, Dr. David Mittlefehldt, the senior space scientist from NASA, who is the head of the Mars Rover Project will be visiting to speak with several classes. We are also planning a field trip to a Lepidolite mine in Taos for the 8th graders later in the month and a trip to a renowned mineral and fossil gallery/museum.

By Joan Alessi

Middle school students challenging themselves and having fun at 100 Elk!



Thank you LANL Foundation! Our school recently received a \$5,000 grant from the LANL Foundation for our educational operating budget.

Middle School Touchstones Discussion Project

By Katie Irving

In the Middle School Language Arts classes the students are practicing discussion skills through a program called Touchstones, an outgrowth of the Great Books program at St. John's College. This is a description from their manual:

The Touchstones Discussion project is a nonprofit organization based on the belief that all people can benefit from the listening, speaking, and interpersonal skills gained by engaging in active, focused discussions.

Both 7th and 8th grade students have experienced two of the discussions so far, and I can already see the benefits. The Touchstones texts are short and extremely varied: from Aesop's Fables and Plato to Chaucer and folktales from many countries. A question is posed to the students first and small discussion groups come up with some ideas. The entire group then engages in a larger discussion.

The guidelines for each discussion and story help keep everyone involved. Listening to the discussion groups is fascinating - I feel as if we are in a college seminar! We use our Thursday Language Arts class for the Touchstones activities. You are welcome to come listen and observe. (7th grade meets 8:30-9:25 and 8th grade meets 9:30- 10:23.)

The Touchstones program states: "As their understanding of the world becomes more sophisticated, middle school students develop ideas that they want to discuss. Unfortunately, the social pressures of this age often keep them quiet and reluctant to share their thoughts. Touchstones Discussions provide an opportunity for students to explore ideas and take risks in a safe environment. The interrelation of the text to themselves and society helps students see their schoolwork as both relevant and meaningful."

If you'd like more information on the program itself, their website is www.touchstones.org

Middle School French & Japanese

This Spring, the French and Japanese students will be visiting France and Japan and, in addition to touring the country, they will spend a few days of language and cultural immersion with a local family.

The students are fundraising as a group to raise the \$15,000 needed to enable every student to go on these exciting trips.

Middle School students have held a garage sale, a parents night out babysitting service and worked at a Japanese festival in Albq.

There will be more opportunities to help support our kids to go overseas. For now, feel free to bring in your change for their donation jar in the middle school lobby!

Jeannie Curtis(French teacher) and Noriko Ralphs (Japanese teacher) share a bit about what is going on in their classes right now.

French: We are having an exciting time in French right now. The 7th graders are busy learning the basics of the French language. Each student has presented an article about French culture and they are currently working on a children's book. The 8th graders are reviewing topics from last year and working on a project entitled:"Mon Livre", a book all about them. We are just starting to write letters in preparation for our homestays in March.

Japanese 1 (7th graders): In 7th grade, we sing a lot and laugh a lot. Learning Japanese letters (how to read/write) seems so easy and fun to the students that they have already devoured 50% of Hiragana alphabet within a month!

Japanese II (8th graders): The whole class is getting into training themselves to speak only Japanese as much as possible. Sometimes we feel we are already in Japan trying to communicate with the host family!

Amy's Art Space

All art classes started the year by creating a giant puzzle. They used patterns (repeating shapes) warm colors and cool colors. We put the pieces together in their next class. Each class created a letter and one class created an exclamation point. When all the classes put their letters together it spelled out **ART!** They did a fantastic job and enjoyed seeing everyone's work together. I hope you get a chance to see it hanging in the art room!

Also all of our art students have been invited to participate in the **4th Annual AIGA Santa Fe Ornament Auction.**

This year the auction is challenging artists to come up with new ways of defining an "ornament." It is not required to "hang on a tree or deck the halls." Students have been scavenging their garages and looking by the side of the road for any object that they might transform into an "objet d'art." The 8th graders are designing and collecting hubcaps. The 7th graders are transforming a dollhouse (donated by Kiera's family) and a violin (donated by Sophia's family.) The Badgers are designing a stencil of a plant or flower to be painted in the style of a Mexican folk artist on burlap squares cut from coffee bags (donated by Las Chivas Coffee Shop).

The Centaurs have been working on self portraits to start the year. We are still brainstorming ideas for the auction. A few ideas are; shoe forms (donated by Benet's family), wooden frames, tea canisters, and recorders!

Proceeds from the auction will benefit Santa Fe School for the Arts & Sciences.

Please save the date! - Ornament 06 will be held Thursday, November 9, 2006, at Hotel Santa Fe from 6-9 p.m.

Unicorn Quotes

Benji: (Looking at the bell in the Unicorn class that has a rubber frog on top)
“It’s Hermit the Frog!”

Jonah: “When I die, and it’s stormy out, my Mom and Dad will remember me.”

Makai: (While getting ready to go outside) “Could you inside my jacket out?”

Blaze: (To his mother in the morning) “Mommy, I dreamed of baby dinosaurs.”

At the end of school one day, Noah ran up to his father and said, “Daddy, can I marry Berke tomorrow?” “Sure,” his dad said, “but there are a lot of things we will have to do... caterers, a hall...and it’s always nice when you’re proposing to get on your knees.” Noah ran over to where Berke was, got down on his knees, and asked, “Berke, would you marry me?” To which Berke replied, “O.K., O.K.!”

Lety: “Suzanne do you know why I fell asleep? Because I was thirsty.”

Blaze: “Teacher, do you have a lot of snow in your house?”

Noah: “Here Suzanne. Here’s a mud cup. I made them just for good.”

One afternoon during naptime the discussion came up on what the children could be when they grow up:

Makai: “I want to be a vegetarian so I can pet animals.”

Jack: “I want to be an actress.”

Noah: “I want to be the guy who makes the pizza.”



For Camille’s birthday, Tim & Chriss brought in their old fashioned cider press and all of the kids helped make fresh apple cider! Thanks Tim and Chriss!

Thank You Notes

We have had an outpouring of wonderful parent volunteers and donations so far this year.

Huge thanks to the Jansen family for making the fantastic Centaur deck become a reality. Thank you Chuck, Bev and Sara Wooldridge for letting us fly your gorgeous Japanese fish flags!

We had a fantastic turnout at our summer work day and accomplished most everything on our long "To Do" lists! Thanks so much to the following people who came and helped out: The entire Clifford family who worked tirelessly all day and the Rudolph family who did more than we could have imagined possible in one day and Jennifer and John McCarthy, Anson and Mike Schwegman, Bindu, Chad and Kiran Smelser, Lynn, Dennis, Dien and Benet Comeau, Cheryl Gardopee, Gretchen Overman and Paul and Noah Wingren, Joan Gallini and Juli Gallini-Irby, Laura and Michael Carthy, Arlen, Robin, Lauren, Noah and Megan Sarkissian, Cody Barnes, Wendy VanderHam, David and Sophia Bomse, Beth Christensen, Amy, Rebekah and Leyla Birkan, Andy, Cathy, Sarah and Makai Weber Colvin, Murt Byrne, Bev and Sara Wooldridge, Fernando Gonzales and our wonderful teachers, Chintan, Todd, Cathy, Suzanne, Matt, Brian, Suzanne and Eddy. Thanks so much to Fernando's dad Angel who donated his truck for the day and delivered all of our trash to the dump for us! He also donated a ton of wonderful rock for our garden areas. Thanks to Wanicha and Paul for donating lots of great flagstone and rock!

Thanks to the middle school students who volunteered their time at our great Parent's Night Out- Eryn, Lili, Kyle, Benet, Beth and Rikki. Thanks to the middle school students who worked at the Aki Matsuri Japanese Festival in Albq.- Maddy, Malia, Sachi and Kyle. Thanks Keiko for your support! Thanks Bev for all of your help ordering items for the sale!

Thanks SO much to all of the hard working middle school students and their families who helped to make our middle school garage sale a huge success! Special thanks to the Barnes family for donating their home and yard for the sale and being so generous with their time and space!

THANKS to our anonymous donor who dropped off the new small basketball hoop! We love it! Thank you David Bomse for help with the Stargazer expeditions.

Thank you David and Patricia Rudolph for your rototiller for our peace garden and thank you David for making our wonderful new middle school shoe bench.

Thank you Wendy Odai for making banana bread with the Unicorns.

BIG thanks to Wendy VanderHam and Sierra West Appliances for donating the fantastic kitchen cabinets for the DaVinci Room! Thank you to all parents who help to chaperone field trips- we really appreciate your help every time!

HUGE thanks to the following parents who offered to deliver our burritos and pizza each week: Cecilia Gonzalez, Petra O'Brien, Marti Christensen, Irene Epp, Christian Geideman, Mike Schwegmann.

Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to be class reps! We have had our best turnout of parent volunteers ever!

Wish List

Display panels for the art room

Donations for our scholarship fund

Donations of rock & flagstone

Donations for our Japan and France trips

All donations are tax deductible

WAYS YOU CAN HELP.....

- **Art Helpers:** Would you like to help out once in a while in the art room...hang out, help with specific art projects, or collect materials? **Are there any Badger parents who might be interested in helping with Badgers with their ornament auction project?** I need help ironing burlap coffee bags, cutting 9 X 12 pieces, buying and cutting dowels, attaching dowels to the finished piece etc. You can help at school or at your home! Any help is greatly appreciated!
- **Ornament Auction:** Have fun with your kids and make an ornamented item for the AIGA auction. Decorate any object you wish in any way you wish! This item will be auctioned along with items decorated by well known artists and graphic designers. Part of the proceeds benefit our school.

All families will be invited to attend this free, exciting event! See page 6 for details and call Rayna at 438-8585 if you would like to make an item for the auction. 3 year olds can do it too!

PAINLESS FUNDRAISING

- ✓ Use your LOCAL's CARE Card- we have more cards you can give to family and friends!
- ✓ Make sure you have your Albertsons preferred shopper card set up to benefit our school and just present it every time you shop and we receive a percentage! It's our best fundraiser!
- ✓ **Smith's** also has an Earn & Learn program. Just sign up for a Smith's Fresh Values card and designate our school as your school of choice and go shopping at any of their stores. Present your card at checkout and Smiths will automatically donate up to 5% of your purchases to our school. To enroll, call 1-800-764-8897 or visit one of their stores for an application, or log onto www.smithsfoodanddrug.com
- ✓ Go to www.schoolpop.com before shopping online and we receive a percentage at no cost to you! You can also get a Schoolpop Visa card which works the same way.
- ✓ You can also get a Target card to help our school- just go to their website www.target.com or call 1-800-316-6142 and tell them our account number is 115315!
- ✓ Whenever you shop at Office Depot, tell them the name of our school and again, we receive a small percentage of your purchase at no cost to you!
- ✓ **Recycling Fundraising** - Every empty toner, inkjet printer cartridge and used cell phone that we collect will earn us points towards a wide range of educational materials, including technology, playground equipment and sports equipment! Please collect them from your work and tell your friends!! We have a plastic recycling basket in the main building entryway.

THANKS FOR HELPING US IN SO MANY WAYS!