

RIO MINDERS

2007

December 12,

Rio del Mar Elementary / 819 Pinehurst Drive / (831) 688-2053 / FAX : 728-6467
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1 Dates to Remember

Fri Dec 14/ See's Candy Sale in Quad- All remaining candy will be available!

Tues Dec 18/ Restaurant Day at Pizza One

Wed Dec 19/ Full Day of School!!

Fri Dec 21/ Last School Day for 2007!!!

Dec 21-Jan 14, 2008- Winter Break/ Read a book or two!

January 15, 2008—Come back to school!!

Jan 22/ Restaurant Day at Palapas

2 From The Principal's Desk

Dear Rio Families,

We are coming close to winter break, but as always students, teachers and staff are working hard to “get in all in” before we dismiss children on December 21st. As a reminder to all of you, Wednesday, December 19th is NOT a restructured day.

On Thursday, December 13th the second graders performed “Little Red Riding Hood” at 8:20 in our multi-purpose room for our parents and community. It was a wonderful production that was enjoyed by students and parents alike!

Our student elections are complete and we now have a new body of student leaders joining our established group of student leaders. We continue to develop the leadership skills of our established student leaders so students who were apart of the student leadership last year and the year before will continue in their roles. Therefore, two student representatives from each 4th & 5th class were elected and one student from each 6th grade class was elected since we have 12 sixth grade reps who are continuing to develop their leadership skills.

I am happy to welcome the following students to our student leadership team.

4th grade Amy Ely, Olivia Quinn, Alicia Burrell, Jason Zheng, Isabel Andrews and

Rachel Surgalski .

5th grade Lauren Reade, Dante Gomez, Haven Parker, Jezebel Powers, Chloe Jot, and Elizabeth Wayne.

6th grade Sierra McDonald, Mariken Zieglar, and Ruchira Sanjeev

In an effort to have students take on meaningful, relevant and timely current school issues, student representatives will start working on researching and writing schools rules for tetherball and four square that will be posted on playgrounds. A more long-term goal they have is to plan and implement “Green Month,” a totally student generated idea about environmental issues. Students proposed to make presentations to their classrooms as well as lower grades on ways to help our planet by conserving water, energy as well as ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. This is only one of the “Green Month” activities they have come up with. They will be learning to research, organize, formalize and implement their plans. It is a joy and a pleasure to work with this terrific group of students.

For me, things are starting to “settle” a little more with my new position as principal and I am looking forward to spending more time in classrooms. I wanted to let you all know, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and every other Wednesday morning, I will be going straight from the parking lot into the classrooms without stopping by the office. If there is an issue you feel needs

immediate attention, Ms. Defendis, our assistant principal, will be here on these days and I have every confidence she will be able to help you. Otherwise, Maria, our office manager, can schedule an appointment for you with me.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful, restful and safe holiday season filled with lots of cherished memories for you and your children. I look forward to seeing you in January.

Happy holidays,

Deborah Dorney

3 And now a word from our Vice Principal...

Now that we are experiencing very cold mornings and pleasant afternoons, our school's Lost and Found collection is growing by leaps and bounds. As the day warms up, clothing items are left on the playground, particularly by primary grade students. If you notice that a coat, jacket or sweater didn't make it home, please check the area in front of the school cafeteria for lost items.

On Wednesday, December 5th, a team of teachers, staff and parents attended our first training in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. This six hour training is a part of a District Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant in partnership with the Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance Program. The goals of this comprehensive school-wide program are to:

- Reduce any existing bully/victim problems among school children
- Prevent any new bully/victim problems from developing
- Improve relations among children
- Improve the school climate

Our school team's role is to implement school, classroom, individual, parent and community strategies. The next steps are to train Rio's whole staff in the use of consistent techniques to deal with abusive childhood behaviors, to finalize school procedures, to organize a debut of the program for students and to have a parent event to introduce the program.

Keep your eye on this column for monthly updates of info and events. If your child experiences bullying at school, be sure to contact me or Mrs. Dorney so that any issues can be resolved.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Jackie Defendis

4 Fall Trimester Principal's List and Honor Role

6th Grade	Principal's List	Honor Roll
Mr. Kyle	Anderson, Tierney	Ayyad, Jihan
	Belluardo, Anne Marie	Cooney, Kassandra
	Bol, Jonathan	Mauldin, Ryan
	Crandall, Riley	Peterson, Elizabeth
	Drysdale, Danny	Phelphs, Mckenzie
	McMamara, Hannah	Roberts, Houston
	Morpeth, Jacob	Rodriguez, Bret
	Sanjeev, Ruchira	Rossi, Luke
	Staka, Mary	Russo, Gio
Ferrero	Beaudoin, Alex	Barrett, Averl
	Burke, Camille	Black, Zach
	Jeffery, Sarah	Harrison-Evans, Zach
	McDonald, Sierra	Fischer, Katelin
	Mix, Kimberly	Krbec, Kylie
		Lawson, Alyx
		Lee, Ryan
		Maxwell, Meghan
		Tao, Melissa
McNeilly	Peabody, Clare	Welle, Cole
Salazar	Sambrailo, Jessica	Wilson-Barad, Mikaela
		Ziegler, Marikin
		Madden, Dominic
		O'Loughlin, Halsey

5th Grade	Principal's List	Honor Roll
Jaynes	Bird, Wylie	Bloom, Philip
	Dorfman, Benjamin	Gomez, Dante
	Marr, Michaela	Harrill, TaiLi
	Reade, Lauren	McMinn, Kelly
		Nigh, Gwendolyn
		Pettigrew, Ella
		Rossi, Sara
		Sandidge, Camille
		Esche, Breanna
Kitch	Jot, Chloe	Jeske, Christian
	Quinn, Emily	Kootstra, Chris
	Smith, Dylan	Rocha-Ventura, Kiannah
	Staveland, Owen	Rose, Jack
Koue	Wayne, Elizabeth	Rose, Jack
	Burke, Anna	Davis, Jayce
	Patterson, Nate	Eaton, Austin
	Yamasaki, Jasmine	Glynn, Peyton
		Herd, Ryan
		Kshirsager, Sanika
		McConnell, Elena
		Mehl, Charlie
		Nagamine, Sara
		Powers, Jezabel
		Rudd, Jeremy
		Welle, Karsen
		Wilson, Connel

5 Notes From The Office

Driving Information-----

Reminder to update your insurance and driver's license

with the office as we are in a new trimester.

Note: Each trimester the District Office requires any parent who drives on a field trip update with the office even if there insurance &/or drivers license is current.

Absences-----

Please remember to call the office or send a note with your child if they will be out due to illness, doctor, dentist, vacation etc.

Thank-you

6 New Rio Tee Shirt Update

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As you know the NEW Rio T-Shirt & Sweatshirt Design contest has been underway and the results were announced at a special assembly Thursday!

**The Grand Winner: (Tee shirts will be his design!)**

**Trevor Foley** (Mrs. Flegal/Mrs. McCraw 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Classroom Winners were:

- K Zackary Jot (Mrs. Agee)
- 1 Abby Pardue (Mrs. Sandman)
- 3 Katie Harris (Mrs. Terribillini)
- 4 Rachel Surgalski (Mr. Sweet)
- 5 Emily Quinn (Mr. Kitch)
- 6 Joey Belardi (Mr. Kyle)

The NEW Rio Gear goes on sale NEXT - Thursday, December 20th - you'll find the tables in the Quad area after school.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Monday, December 17th, 5-7PM - We will be folding shirts in the MPR...the more people we have, the faster it goes -so ALL volunteers will be accepted.

Thursday, December 20th, 1-2:30PM - we can use some extra hands selling in the quad.

All volunteers will be REWARDED with "early shopping" privileges - ensuring you get YOUR first pick at sizes.

If you are able to lend an extra set of hands on either Monday Evening or Thursday Afternoon, pls contact Erika Brand @ 831-688-8601 or [ebrand@earthlink.net](mailto:ebrand@earthlink.net).

## **7 Parent Alliance Update**

### **2007 - 2009 Parent Alliance Board of Directors**

President, Denise Russo  
Vice President, Gina Guhin  
Treasurer, Mimi Rudd  
Recording Secretary, Rebecca Jot  
Corresponding Secretary, Cindy Evans  
Hospitality Coordinator, Veronica Seitchick  
Room Parent Coordinator, Sheila Hurley  
Volunteer Coordinator, Michelle Guzman  
Rio Minders Editor, Mary Crandall

## **The Parent Alliance is YOU!!**

Thanks to all who participated in the See's fundraiser this year. We made over \$4000 for Rio. The top purchasers were the Taulbee

family, the Scott family, the Sanchez family, and the Esche family. I'd like to thank all those who helped as well, including Michelle Cecchini, Kristin Jeffery, Shanna deDiego, Susan Nichols-Heffner, Liz Coniglio, Kim Mansfield, Katie Esche, and Leslie Kootstra. Thanks to all who helped make this a successful fundraiser. I couldn't have done it without you.

Michelle Chapa

Have a wonderful Winter Break. There will be plenty of activities to get involved in when we return. Our next Parent Alliance meeting will be Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 6:30pm in the Library.