

# The Challenger News



August 8, 2008 Issue 2

## ***Message from the Principal***

**Our first week of school was a great success!** Thank you to all of our outstanding teachers and staff for their extra-hard work in getting ready for a fantastic first week back! Thank you to our wonderful families as well! Your support is always so appreciated. A very special thank you to our incredible PTO volunteers who, while wearing stylish red vests, helped families and students find their way on 'Meet the Teacher' night and on the first few days of school. The students and teachers are already 'in the swing' of teaching and learning and we are all well on our way for another great year at Mariposa!

**The first big event of the school year is our Curriculum Night.** Please take special note of your grade's timeframe (see specific details included in this newsletter). This event is Thursday August 14 for all grades. As in past years, I will be making a brief presentation in-between each grade level timeframe as well and this is scheduled in the library. I will focus on some goals for this year and discussing the importance of the home-school partnership. Each presentation is exactly the same so you can attend any of the 15 minute presentations as scheduled. Please note that we are not able to provide childcare for the even. It is best to make arrangements to leave your children at home or with a neighbor so that you can fully focus and digest the important information your teachers will share.

**Beginning Monday August 11 we will begin our normal morning procedures** with regard to parents on campus. You may walk your child to their numbered line-up spot to drop off backpacks, but then move to the perimeter of the campus area. Duty teachers in orange vests will help with friendly reminders. We do this for the safety and security of all students. We need to see all children on the playground in the morning and extra adults in the area make it difficult to watch and supervise students. Thank you in advance for your support for our safety procedures.

Thank you also for your attention to drop off and pick up procedures. By the end of the week, we noticed that most parents and guardians were getting in the swing of our procedures. **Remember that parent parking is NOT permitted in the front lot from 7:15-7:45am**, this is for staff parking and buses only! One additional reminder....for the safety of all children, **please end your cell phone calls for the brief time you are in the parent drop off or pick up lane.** When you are on the phone you are not able to be 100% attentive to students and cars and this puts everyone at risk. Please do your part and refrain from talking on your cell phones for the brief time it takes to drop off and pick up students.

We know that the start of each school year is an important milestone for children and parents. We appreciate your continued support and the trust you place in us here at Mariposa. We know we have the very best school and we know your input and assistance is critical! Thanks again!

*Marianne Lescher, Ph. D., Principal*

## School Office Information

### School Hours

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday

Grades K-5 7:45 am -2:35 pm

Wednesday

Grades K-5 7:45 am - 12:35 pm



### School Office Hours

Monday - Friday 7:15 am - 3:45 pm

### School Phone Numbers

Office General Number 480-783-3200

Attendance Line 480-783-3297

Health Office Line 480-783-3284

Kitchen 480-783-3296

FAX 480-491-1386

### Mailing Address

50 E. Knox Road  
Tempe, AZ 85284



### Curriculum Night – Thursday August 14

The purpose of this event is for parents and guardians to receive information from the teachers on the curriculum and expectations for the school year. Again this year, there will be a presentation by Dr. Lescher, as an overview on school goals and family expectations. **We do not provide childcare for this evening event, so please do not bring younger children with you as it is distracting to other parents attending.** The schedule for the event is as follows:

Grades K and 1: 5:30-6:10 pm in the classrooms  
6:15-6:30 pm - presentation by Dr. Lescher

Grades 2 and 3: 6:15-6:55 pm in the classrooms  
7:00-7:15 pm - presentation by Dr. Lescher

Grades 4 and 5: 7:00-7:40 pm in the classrooms  
7:45-8:00 pm - presentation by Dr. Lescher

**Special areas (music, art, PE and library)** will be available from 6:00-8:00 pm to provide information and answer questions about their programs (location TBA).

### **WELCOME NEW STAFF!**

We have several new staff members this year...please welcome them to the Mariposa Family!

**Mrs. Nancy Poppe, in third grade.** Mrs. Poppe comes to us with experience at other Kyrene schools and as a Kyrene parent!

**Ms. Debra McAllister in fifth grade.** Ms. McAllister has over 10 years experience in the classroom and in special education, most recently from the Creighton District.

**Mrs. Carrie Jensen in first grade.** Mrs. Jensen returns to Mariposa, and had taught grades K and 1 in the past.

**Mrs. Peggy Shepherd.** Mrs. Shepherd returns on our SEI (Structured English Immersion) team supporting all grades.

**Mrs. Melissa Williams-Eastin.** Mrs. Eastin joins our SEI team, supporting students at all grades as they learn English as their second language.

**Ms. Lisa Sellars in music:** Ms. Sellars is our traveling music teacher, working with kindergarten classes. She has been in Kyrene for many years.

**Ms. Christina Herrera in PE.** Ms. Herrera is our traveling PE teacher, working with several grades...she has been in the Kyrene district as well.

**Mrs. Julie Loring.** Mrs. Loring is an instructional assistant, and former Kyrene parent who will be working to support students in reading and math.

**Mrs. Diane Ahlquist.** Mrs. Ahlquist joins our duty team and will support students during lunch and lunch recess.

**Ms. Jessica Salas.** Ms. Salas is supporting students in first grade in Mrs. Wilson's class.

### **Custody Issues**

If you have specific issues with regard to custody or restrictions on who may pick up your children, it is critical you inform the office. You must provide specific custody papers for our files if this has been court ordered. Please call the office with questions or issues.

### **Mariposa's Website**

You can reach our website by accessing the Kyrene School District homepage at [www.kyrene.org](http://www.kyrene.org) and then scrolling down the school sites for Mariposa's wonderful site. We have a newly revised site for both our school and our PTO! Check them out!!! Did you know? Mrs. Klein's website (art) received a 'Best in State' award! Be sure to check it out, linked from the school's site.

### **Dress Code Reminders**

Please remember that Mariposa School enforces the Kyrene District dress code as outlined in the family handbook (which you will receive in your back to school packet).

Please take special note of the following for students of all ages and grades:

- "spaghetti straps", strapless shirts, halter tops and bare midriffs are not permitted
- low slung, hip-hugger pants that expose the abdomen are not permitted
- underwear may not be showing
- clothing with obscene or gang-related messages are not permitted



### **Cell Phones, I-Pods and Other Electronic Devices**

Cell phones are not encouraged on campus. I-Pods and other electronic devices are not permitted. Students who bring cell phones to school must keep them turned off and in their backpacks during the day. They may only be turned on after leaving school campus. Students not following these rules will have their phones or other electronic devices confiscated and held in the school office and parents/guardians will have to come and pick up the items.



### **Birthday Celebration Reminder**

Mariposa School follows the Kyrene District guidelines on celebrating birthdays in school. Parents/guardians are not permitted to bring cupcakes, treats, cookies, balloons, or flowers to school. Students are not permitted to have limousines, 'hummers' or other special vehicles pick them up after school. With prior approval of the classroom teacher, parents may share non-edible items such as pencils or stickers for a student's birthday. Each student receives a card and pencil and has his/her name announced for their birthday as recognition of their special day.

### **Student Drop-Off, Pick-Up and Parking**

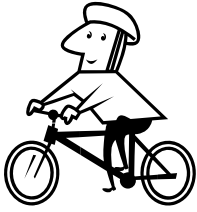
Although convenience is important, **STUDENT SAFETY IS OUR PRIMARY CONCERN.** The front parking lot is for school bus and day care van traffic only during the school day. Parking is not permitted at any time in the bus lane/emergency lane in front of the school.

**KINDERGARTEN PARENTS are requested NOT to park in the front lot during the morning time, 7:15-7:45 am. Parents of kindergarten students wishing to walk their children to the playground need to park in the east lot and walk across the front of the school building. Parking is also permitted in designated areas on Knox Road.**

The east side parking lot is for parent/visitor parking and for curbside drop-off or pick-up by parents or daycare vans. The Myrtle Ave. loop at the back of the school is another convenient place to drop off or pick up students. **During morning and afternoon hours, the procedure for drop-off and pick-up in the east lot is single file.** There will be cones to assist new parents with the procedure. No by-pass of the single file line will be permitted. Parents must pull-up as far as possible before letting children out of their cars. Please assist us by making this as efficient a process as possible, with few delays in the morning drop off.

After the first few days of school, if you walk your child to the school grounds and plan to stay until they enter the building, we ask your cooperation by waiting along the sidewalks outside the fire lane gates. This helps eliminate congestion on the school grounds and allows teachers on duty to supervise the students effectively. In addition, having 'extra' adults on the playground is a safety hazard and we are always looking to enhance our safety procedures.

In the afternoon, we close the primary playground for 10 minutes, from 2:35 when the bell rings, to 2:45, when buses have left. This means, that if you come to pick up your school age child with younger siblings in tow, they will not be allowed to play on the primary playground equipment during dismissal time. This streamlines the dismissal process and allows us to be sure that all students are on the bus and accounted for at that time. We thank you in advance for your assistance with our safety procedures.



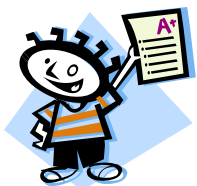
### **Walking and Bicycle Safety**

Please take a few minutes to review safe practices with your child.

- Children who are walking to school should walk with another child, if possible. Walkers should stay on the crosswalks and cross only at cross walks as available.
- Children on bicycles or rollerblades should wear helmets.
- Bicycles must be walked when entering school grounds and roller blades must be removed when entering school grounds.
- Bicycle riders should ride on the right-hand side of the road, with traffic, and should always obey all street signs and traffic signals.
- Students may not ride bikes or use roller blades, skateboards, or scooters on school grounds. Scooters are permitted as a means of transport to school but must be locked up in the bicycle area and ARE NOT allowed in the school building.
- Students should park bicycles and scooters at the rack closest to their arrival on campus.
- Students are encouraged to use individual locks for bikes and scooters locked in the gated areas.
- "Roller" type sneakers are not permitted at school.

### **Communication**

We feel strongly that communication is a key component to the success of our school and community. We encourage you to communicate with your child's teacher via notes, emails, or phone calls. As a school, the Challenger News newsletter is sent home twice monthly with students and contains very important information, dates and updates. Our website contains pertinent information as well, and also has websites for specific classrooms. You can reach our website by accessing the Kyrene School District homepage at [www.kyrene.org](http://www.kyrene.org) and then scrolling down in the school sites for Mariposa's site.



### **Mariposa Applies for A+!**

In 2004, our school received the highly-competitive A+ Award from the Arizona Educational Foundation. A school holds this honor for four years and then needs to re-apply. During the 2008-09 school year, we will be working our application to continue this honor! We will be asking for parent and community input so watch the newsletter for your opportunity to share your ideas for the application! The application is due in January 2009.

## LifeSkills

As many of you know, Mariposa uses the Lifeskills program to encourage students to develop responsibility, respect, and citizenship skills. These lifeskills and life long guidelines are published in the Mariposa Family Handbook, which you will receive directly from your child's classroom. We encourage you to use these guidelines in your work at home with your children as you follow through with school situations.

The key lifelong guidelines are:

Be Trustworthy  
Be Truthful  
Active Listening  
No Put Downs  
Personal Best



The specific lifeskills we encourage throughout the year are : respect, integrity, initiative, flexibility, perseverance, organization, sense of humor, problem solving, effort, common sense, responsibility, patience, friendship, curiosity, cooperation, caring, courage and pride. You may notice that we have named our hallways after these lifeskills in an effort to continuously draw attention to these important keys to school success

## Kyrene Gifted Child Find...

Gifted students are defined as those who score at or above the 97th percentile on national norms in one or more of three areas: verbal reasoning, quantitative (math) reasoning, and nonverbal reasoning on any State Board approved test.

Kyrene's gifted program is designed to provide academic assistance to students who demonstrate instructional needs that are not normally addressed in the regular classroom. Kyrene makes testing available for students in K-8 three times a year, typically occurring in August, December, and April.

Referrals for the gifted testing in kindergarten through eighth grade come from teachers, parents, and/or students. If you feel that your child might qualify in one or more of the three assessed areas, or if you have any questions about the testing and placement process, please contact Mrs. Patterson, gifted resource teacher, at [lpatterson@kyrene.org](mailto:lpatterson@kyrene.org). Children can only be tested once every twelve months.

**From the District Office:**

**Kyrene Schools PORTABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

In 2005 the Bond Election provided monies to replace portables at eight schools in Kyrene with permanent attached structures.

Prior to the Bond, a 'needs' assessment looked at factors like program placements, before and after school offerings, enrollment, special ed and other programming to determine the proposed design and development of these projects.

Kyrene is a proactive district always looking for the best solutions to maintain the highest standards of health safety and security in our facilities and it was determined that permanent attached structures would be more reliable, safe, secure and healthy than the portable classrooms in use at the time.

In Phoenix, Kyrene de la Colina, Kyrene de la Esperanza and Kyrene de los Lagos are currently in a demolition and utility preparation work phase.

When staff returns the week of 7/21 that phase of work will be complete. After school starts, the next phase will begin and continue through first semester into the early part of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

Schools in Tempe and Chandler will also have portables replaced but, work will not begin until Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> the beginning of Winter Break.

The schools in Tempe scheduled for work are:

Kyrene de la Mariposa

Kyrene de los Niños

The schools in Chandler scheduled for work are:

Kyrene del Cielo

Kyrene del Sureño

Kyrene de la Paloma

**Health Steering Committee Openings for the 2008-2009**

The health steering Committee serves at the request of the Kyrene Governing Board primarily to consider issues related to curriculum and instruction of Strand 8 (Growth & Development) and Strand 9 (HIV/AIDS & STIs) of the Expanded Health Curriculum.

The Committee, made up of parents, community members, health professionals, teachers and administrators, meets once a month on Monday afternoons at the D.O. from 4:30-6:30. At this time there is a need for more parent representation on the committee. If you have an interest in becoming a member of the committee or have questions about the work of the committee please call Sue Yost, Health Curriculum Coordinator [syost@kyrene.org](mailto:syost@kyrene.org) Phone: 480-783-4118

If requesting membership on the committee, please include your name, phone number, the ages of your children and their schools and any other information that would be helpful as potential members are considered. Should there be more people interested than the number of openings the decision will be made by lottery.



