

# The Challenger News



November 3, 2009 Issue 6

## Message from the Principal

We are more than half way through our parent conference window and I want to thank you for your participation. We know that parents and guardians are such an integral part of each child's education and your support helps tremendously. Your continued support in homework and project completion, and follow-through with behavioral and social issues is also very important. In continuing your support of your children, please take a few minutes each night to go through and review your child's folder, agenda or notebook. It is essential that you are aware and informed of the work your child has completed (or still needs to complete) and that you are aware and informed about long term expectations, tests, and classroom projects and events. You have such an important role to play in the partnership between home and school. Thank you for all that you do to support your child's success.

We also appreciate parents and guardians who **get students to school each and every day, on time and ready for school**. We are seeing an increase in our tardy students and while we realize that morning routines are demanding, it is so important that children are here and ready to learn right from the bell. Within the first 15-20 minutes of the school day, each classroom works on daily practice in reading and math, they take care of morning routines, and teachers set out expectations and plans for the day. In addition, we have our daily live morning announcements from 7:50-8:00 am and students see and hear about things their day will bring, such as announcements from music and PE, individual and class recognitions and celebrations, and school wide incentives and events. Please do all that you can to have your children here on time each day.

**MANY THANKS** to all for the wonderful **Harvest Festival** last Friday! What a fantastic event! Thanks to our PTO and the many volunteers who made it possible, especially Arfe Ozcan, chairperson of the festival this year! More on the Harvest Festival in later editions of Challenger News too!

As always, thank you for your partnership in your child's education at Mariposa School!

**Dr. Marianne Lescher**



**Reminder:**

**NO SCHOOL NOVEMBER 11 in observance of Veteran's Day**

## Up Coming Dates to Note

Wednesday Nov. 11	No School to Observe Veteran's Day
Thursday Nov. 12	PTO Fundraiser – Fresh and Easy Night 4-6 pm
Friday Nov. 13	Fourth Grade Field Trip to Sonora Desert Museum
November 19	Third Grade Musical Performance
Tuesday Nov. 24	Turkey Trot (flyer will be sent home with grade levels and times)

## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! \$\$\$ Tax Credit Reminder : Mariposa Students Need Your Support!! \$\$\$

Tax credits provide our school with critical funds to support extracurricular programs, activities, and projects. Each and every year, money from tax credit donations help provide field trips for each and every student (usually 2-3 per grade level) and special events such as author visits, science assemblies, dramatic presentations, and tutoring programs. Using tax credits, we are able to fund enhanced educational field trips such as the trip to Karchner Caverns for fifth grade and the trip to the Sonora Desert Museum for fourth grade. The fifth grade trip, for example, would cost about \$75.00 per student. However, with tax credit funds, we are able to off-set the cost of the trip and ask for just a \$15.00 donation from parents. Both the fourth and fifth grade trips are expensive since they require the use of the coach style buses that cost over \$1200 each, per field trip. All students benefit from the famous author visits, Child's Play Theater, and other fun presentations across content and curriculum areas. Your donation (in any amount) is a direct 100% tax credit for your state tax return for 2008. You may donate up to \$200 if filing singly and up to \$400 if married and filing jointly. Donating is easy! Come to our school office, or you can donate online at [www.kyrene.org](http://www.kyrene.org) by using your Master Card, Visa, American Express, Discover or Pay Pal, or electronic check. Thanks so much for your generous support of our students and programs! Remember this is a direct tax credit and you receive a full 100% credit to your state income taxes!

## Mariposa KARES Charitable Drives

Did you know that Mariposa School is in our second year of school-wide efforts for charitable organizations and causes, all supported by students and all grade levels? This is our **Mariposa KARES** program (Kids Assisting, Respecting, Educating, Serving). So far, we had a very successful **book drive**, sponsored by our first grade classes! They collected over 500 books that will be donated to the Friends of Tempe Public Library for distribution. Second grade sponsored the "**Random Acts of Kindness**" initiative, where students were encouraged to recognize their friends for kind acts. There is a display near the library! **For November and December, we are sponsoring a school wide canned food drive!** Boxes are already around the school and the Student Council is co sponsoring this effort! Be sure to read all the details in this newsletter and support your children in their efforts to show they care about our community!



### Principal's Math Challenge

We just started this wonderful program again this year and have enhancements for students who met the six levels of math challenge last year! This is a GREAT opportunity for students in grades 3-4-5 to practice their math facts and earn great prizes!! Here's how it works: Students will have the opportunity to take a timed math computation fluency test about 2 times per month. If students achieve mastery on the timed test, they earn a prize at each level. There are now seven levels and the prizes are cool! When students master 6 levels, they get a Principal's Math Challenge T shirt! This is another great program all supported by funds from Tax Credits!

#### **Math Challenge Levels and Prizes:**

Level 1	All addition facts	Math Challenge Ribbon Award
Level 2	All subtraction facts	Math Challenge Badge
Level 3	Mixed facts	Math Challenge Plastic Bracelet
Level 4	All multip. facts	Math Challenge Notebook
Level 5	All division facts	Math Challenge Dogtag
Level 6	Mixed facts	Math Challenge Trophy and Special T Shirt

#### NEW THIS YEAR:

Level 7	Mixed facts/more challenge	School Store Coupon
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### Spelling Bee Events and Dates

Mariposa will hold our annual Spelling Bees for grades 4 and 5. Students who are the winners of our school bee participate in the district wide bee in January 2010.

Here are the dates and times for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade bees:

Thursday December 3	Grade 4	3:00-3:45 pm
Monday December 7	Grade 5	3:00-3:45 pm
Thursday December 10	Final School Bee	3:00-3:45 pm

Students will receive a flyer and permission form to have parents sign later this month. Parents must provide transportation after the bee is over. If your child signs up to participate, more information will be provided.



### Fresh and Easy Night for Mariposa School!

Come on down to **The Fresh and Easy Store on Ray/Kyrene on November 12 between 4-6 pm** and see your teachers and staff members helping to bag groceries and to have fun! A percentage of your purchases that night will go directly back to Mariposa School! Come on down and do your **Holiday Shopping** now!!!! Keep saving your receipts!



### **Traffic and Safety Updates and Information**

- We are seeing a significant increase in parking on the south side of Knox Road. **THIS IS DESIGNATED NO PARKING!** Tempe Police do monitor this and do write tickets! Please set a good example for your children and do not park in 'no parking' areas.
- Adjacent to each entry/exit to our school parking lot, there are designated 'no parking' curb areas that are painted RED. These are to provide a safe access for cars entering and leaving. **DO NOT PARK** in painted RED areas!
- Please **END CELL PHONE CALLS** when you are in the drop off and pick up lane. It is for the safety of your child and all of the children at Mariposa School. You must be 100% attentive to the traffic flow and if you are on a cell call, this is impossible.
- Please continue to honor the '**Buses Only**' signs in the front parking lot. This lot is for buses only between 7:15-7:45 am and 2:15-2:45 pm. It presents a safety hazard to students when cars are competing with buses and day care vans.

### **\$\$\$ Capital Improvements to Mariposa School \$\$\$**

Have you noticed the many improvements to our school in the last year or so! As a school that is over 20 years old, it is great to have these improvements that enhance your child's environment and our entire school. Many of these projects at Mariposa and throughout the entire district are a direct result of YOU! Our community has had a strong history of supporting our overrides to financially support schools and we continue to be grateful and want community members to know how the money is benefiting the students and schools. Here is a quick summary of improvements and the funding sources that made them possible:

- Addition of two new classrooms, student bathrooms, and storage. Removal of portable classrooms. Funded by Kyrene School District capital override funding
- Redesign and enhanced landscaping around the entire school, including redesign and improvement to fire lanes and concrete open areas.
- Technology enhancements in all classrooms, including smart boards, document cameras, presentation systems, and laptops. Funded by Kyrene School District technology override funding.
- State of the art technology improvements to the MPR, including a drop down screen, speakers throughout the ceiling and presentation system for DVDs and CDs. Funded by the technology override.
- Redesign of some existing space within the school to allow for two new small teaching and tutoring classrooms. Funded with district and capital override funding.
- Addition of two outdoor classroom spaces, with shade and tables/benches. This was sponsored both from the Kyrene District funding and YOUR PTO fundraising efforts for the tables and benches.
- Replacement of older and damaged benches around the school grounds. Funded by PTO fundraising in the past 12-18 months.
- New carpeting throughout the entire school. Funded with district funds.

- Addition of two shade structures at parent drop off/pick up. Funded by district capital improvement funding.
- In the planning stages are improvements to both front and side parking lots...work to be done throughout winter and spring 2010. More details to follow.

**ASU Mariposa Student Math Lab**

From: Jeanette Vanderah, ASU Faculty

Due to the Kyrene School District Thanksgiving Break – there will not be ASU Math Lab on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

The last day for ASU Math Lab will be Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

School Funding Update

The State of Arizona’s budget continues to make headlines in all of our local media markets. In Arizona, K-12 education accounts for approximately 43% of the State budget, which means since the State budget is facing reductions, it is likely that school districts will see reductions as well. Kyrene School District has continued to develop conservative strategies to prepare for these impending reductions, while at the same time ensuring instructional programs remain a top priority. According to the 2008, Auditor General Report, Kyrene dedicated 9.7% more to classroom spending than the state average.

Last year Kyrene received 75% of our expected funding from the State of Arizona. In July we received part of the remaining 25% and in early November, we are expected to receive the final payment. Even though Kyrene is one of the most fiscally responsible districts in the state, we recently needed to borrow funds to ensure appropriate cash flow. Because of our past and current conservative financial practices we remain on stable financial ground. School districts across the entire state had to take this unprecedented action because no one would have predicted that the state would withhold these required payments.

**Kelly Alexander**

Director

Community Education and Outreach Services

**NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:**

Since our weather is cooling down, we have need for jeans/pants in sizes 5 through 10’s in the Health Office. The smaller sizes are always appreciated. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Lorraine Patriquin

Mariposa Health Assistant

## **Parent Superintendent Council Meeting - October 20, 2009**

### **Override Status Report**

Parent Superintendent Council had their monthly meeting on October 20 at Estrella Elementary School. Karin Smith, Director of Business Services, gave a status report on Kyrene's override elections. We currently have an M & O (Maintenance & Operations) Override, Capital Override, K-3 Override and voter approved bonds. Our M & O Override goes back to 1984 and allows us to budget above our RCL (Revenue Control Limit) by 10%. This additional funding is integrated into funding all programs across the school district. The K-3 Override allows us to exceed the RCL by an additional 5%. We have used the funds from it for K-3 class size reductions, K-3 instructional assistants and the math coach program. The capital override has been used for capital items to support our technology plan and a small percentage supports the replacement of our maintenance vehicles. Without our overrides our budget would be severely impacted.

Our M & O and K-3 Overrides are in effect for seven years, and at year six they begin to decrease by 1/3 until they disappear. Next year will be year four for ours, so we will seek voter approval to renew them before they start to decrease. Approval will not raise taxes, as it will be a renewal of existing overrides. The Governing Board will decide whether to seek voter approval in March or November of 2010. Once they call for an election, the District cannot try to influence the outcome. Parents and community members can form political action committees to generate support, and can write pro statements for the election brochure.

### **Innovative and Alternative Program Possibilities and Implementation Process**

Last spring a committee met to brainstorm innovative educational ideas. The world of education is changing and offering more choices, and Kyrene needs to do the same in order to meet the needs of our diverse community and stay competitive. We are moving forward with a task force that will meet in November to take next steps. It includes people with a passion and expertise about various ideas, as well as people with a global perspective and a good sense of what is going on in education and the community. The task force will be charged with designing both short-term and long-term plans. There may be some things that could be implemented next fall, and others may take longer. We will keep parents and staff informed as this work progresses. The next PSC meeting is November 17 at Aprende Middle School.

## **Homework Requests**

We appreciate the many parents who request homework for students when they are out and we want to take this opportunity for a few reminders:

- If a child is out sick, please call the office or teacher (or email) early in the school day to confirm that you would like work for the day. Please come to the school office no later than 3:45 pm to pick up the work, or direct the office if it is to be sent home with a sibling or neighbor.
- When requests are made for an anticipated absence in advance of the absence, please make that request *at least* a week ahead of time to give the teacher time to prepare work.
- When teachers put in the extra time and effort to prepare work for extended absences, it is expected that parents will work with the child to complete the work. Unfortunately we have had instances when none of the work was completed after extensive preparations. PLEASE do your part at home to complete and return the work to the teacher, as he/she has made the extra efforts to prepare it for your child.

**Kyrene de la  
Mariposa**

# PTO News

**October 30, 2009  
Newsletter Issue #6**

[www.mariposapto.org](http://www.mariposapto.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 4	Italian Dinner Staff Hospitality
Nov. 5	Sally Foster Delivery Date
Nov. 10	PTO Board Meeting
Nov. 11	Veterans Day No School
Nov. 12	Mariposa Shopping Night at Fresh & Easy
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Break No School

## Fresh & Easy Mariposa Shopping Night November 12th



Save your big grocery shopping and start stocking up for the holidays!! Join us Thursday November 12th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at Fresh & Easy (SE corner Ray/Kyrene) for the Fresh & Easy Mariposa Shopping Night! Our school will earn 5% of ALL PURCHASES between 4:00-8:00 p.m. (no flyer needed) **and** we will earn \$1 for every \$20 on each receipt we collect. Mariposa Faculty will be at the store to



help bag your groceries and collect your receipt! AND... the Mariposa class with the most participation will earn an ICE CREAM PARTY - compliments of Fresh & Easy!

## DON'T FORGET!!

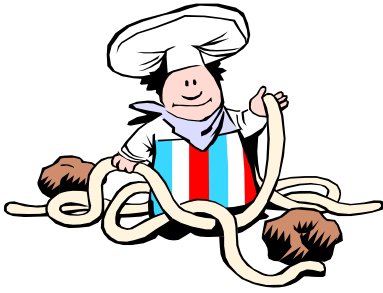
Show your school spirit and wear your Mariposa t-shirt every Friday!

## Wrap it up! The orders are here!

Sally Foster orders will be coming home with your student on Thursday November, 5th. Thank you and if you have any questions please contact Lynn Engel at [l.engel@cox.net](mailto:l.engel@cox.net).



  
**Sally Foster**<sup>®</sup>



## Italian Dinner Night for Staff November 4th

**Hospitality Committee needs your help supporting our teachers this Wednesday, Nov. 4th...**

As a community, we do a great job of supporting our teachers at Mariposa and showing them we care. On Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Hospitality Committee is hosting an Italian dinner for the staff during conference night. We are looking for volunteers to donate food/drinks/supplies or help set-up for this event. We would love your assistance! If you want to be added to the hospitality volunteer distribution list, please email your information to [bauer25az@yahoo.com](mailto:bauer25az@yahoo.com). We appreciate your support for our staff at Mariposa and I know they are very thankful!

**Gracias! Thank You! Gracias! Thank You!**

Thanks to everyone who joined us for a delicious dinner at Macayo's Mexican Kitchen! It was great to see so many Mariposa families. We should have a total of the money raised that night by the next newsletter.

Our next Restaurant Night is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2 at Barro's Pizza. The class that orders the most pizzas will win a class pizza party! Hope to see you there!



*Thank you to all of our Harvest Festival volunteers. It was through your hard work that everyone was able to have a wonderful time!*

*Special thanks to our committee chairs,*

*Arfe Ozcan & Arzuhan Kavak!*



Save Your Box Tops  
So Your Class Can  
WIN a pizza party!



**PUMP IT UP**  
"THE INFLATABLE PARTY ZONE"

## Box Tops For Education Prizes 2009/2010 School Year

**Dec. 15th:** The class that brings in the most box tops from Aug. 10th through Dec. 15th wins a **FREE Hungry Howie's** pizza party in your classroom.

**March 15:** The class that brings in the most box tops from Dec. 16th through March 15th wins a **FREE Weekday Classic Party at Pump It Up** including pizza and drinks from **Hungry Howie's**.



### Hungry Howie's Pizza

Call 480-940-PUMP (7867) for further details

Keep those  
Box Tops  
coming!!

*Thanks to all of you  
who helped out with  
the Scholastic Book  
Fair!*

*Once again our  
committee chairs,  
Vicki Wilcox and  
Penny Dragon did a  
great job!*

# Thank You!

# OTTeR POPS

**Thank you!**

To all those who donated to our Otter Pops fundraiser, especially Corrie Henderson and Tyler Davis, our Otter Pop Chairpeople, a big icy Thank You!!!