

Panther Parent Newsletter

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December 2016



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Panther Parent Updates

Panther Parents and Grandparents have been busy supporting our students and teachers. We started the month off with hosting a Santa Secret Shop, thanks to Panther Parents. NHS and FFA members assisted students with shopping and wrapped gifts. This event helped students learn budgeting skills and encouraged the Christmas spirit of giving to others. Nearly \$400 was raised for Panther Parents.

Panther Parents also supported Maker Day activities. They were also instrumental in coordinating the Christmas Tree Festival and Decorating the State for the Christmas Program.

Elementary and Middle School staff treated our students to Christmas Around the World. Panther Parents jumped in to help make the event a success. The students traveled to Mexico, Ireland, Australia, Germany, China and Paraguay to learn about holiday and cultural customs.

January and February will bring more opportunities to become involved. January 23 will be a Career Fair. Parents and Grandparents are invited to participate. Please contact Mrs. Rudiger at 575-548-2296 ext. 227 if you are interested. In February, Panther Parents will host the 100th Day Celebration and help the students to Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. We hope to have at least one parent or grandparent from each grade level help lead these events.

Around Campus

Animas Elementary and Middle School staff finished the semester strong and can't wait to get the Spring Semester rolling. School Staff are very appreciative of the many things that our Panther Parents and Grandparents are doing to support learning both in and out of the classroom. We love our Parents and Grandparents! Please see the following pages for news from all the exciting activities.



Spelling Bee



The top three from each class participated in School Wide Spelling Bee. The four School finalists will advance to the Hidalgo County Spelling Bee in January. A Special thanks goes to Mrs. Jarvis for coordinating the event.

Finalists are:

Hailey Elias – 3rd place, Carson Potter – 2nd place,
Angel Pintor – 4th place, Sisaly Krick – 1st place



Mrs. Hayes – Pre-K

Students learned about the letter
Z and built a Zoo.

Mrs. Johnson- Preschool

Our students helped make
decorations for our tree for the
tree festival.





Sheriff's Department
delivered coats from
"Coats for Kids."

Students of the Month

Gracie Muncy – Kindergarten

Scarlett Laupola – 1st grade

MaKayla Jarvis – 3rd grade

Moz Mullen – 6th grade



Secret Santa Shop

NHS and FFA students
helping students shop and
wrapped presents.



Upcoming Panther Parent Events

- School Semester resumes – Wednesday, January 4, 2017
- Student Movie Trip – Thursday, January 5, 2017 (Tentative)
(Students who have earned 50 AR points will be treated to a movie,
compliments of Panther Parents)
 - Career Fair – January 23rd
 - February – 100th Day Celebration



Christmas Program



Top Left: Preschool; Top Right: PreK; Right: Kindergarten; Below: 1st grade; Below Right: 2nd grade.



Right: 4th grade; Below: 3rd grade;

Below Right: 5th grade



Tree Festival



Trees were decorated by different classes and organizations.

Maker Day at Animas Schools



On December 7, the Portal Myrtle Kraft Library conducted a Maker Day at the Animas Schools.

This is a part of a year-long creativity project that is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

As a part of this day, grade K-2 students participated in a Marshmallow Challenge. This creativity exercise has been done nationwide with school children, as well as Fortune 500 business executives. The challenge is to make a self-supported tower that is as tall as possible using the following supplied materials: 20 sticks of spaghetti, one yard of tape, one yard of string, and one marshmallow.



These students also made their own puppets and put on puppet shows as an exercise in storytelling. Students also created their own books.



Later in the day, grade 3-5 students took part in a Game Jam, in which they learned about the elements of game design and then went on to design and produce their own games. Students worked in teams to create a variety of unique games and then took turns presenting their games and getting feedback from other classmates.

According to educational developer Karen Fasimpaur who facilitated the day, “Maker activities like this are a great way to encourage creativity, collaboration, and out of the box thinking.” She went on to say that “the kids had so much fun doing these activities, and we know they also learned a lot that they can use later in life.”

In addition to days like this with local schools, the Portal Library is also holding monthly creativity workshops at the library and making “Creativity in a Box” kits available for check out at the library. More information is available at www.makingandsharing.com/



Christmas Around the World



The kids had a great time traveling "Around the World". They visited Mexico, Ireland, Australia, Germany, China and Paraguay. They tasted food, made crafts, and learned about Christmas traditions.



Reading Corner

Even if your child is motivated to read, supporting her with a variety of ways and options will keep her momentum going. Here are 2 tips to open up the wonderful world of reading for your child.

Reading Tip for Parents: What's "Just Right"? Children feel confident and competent when they read books that are "just right." But how do you find a "just right" book? Have your child read the back and front cover, and first page of the book. If there are more than five words that he cannot pronounce or understand in context, the book may be too challenging. Be supportive about finding a more perfect fit. Choosing the right book will help your little reader feel successful.

Reading Tip for Parents: Map it Out It's important to provide your child with a variety of fiction and non-fiction reading. A fun way to do this is to get a map and show them the way from your house to the grocery store or another familiar destination. Have your child write out the directions, street by street, and then read them to you as you walk or drive to the store – like a living GPS!

Math Corner

Are you confused by your child's math homework now that US schools are shifting to [Common Core Standards \(CCS\)](#)? You are not alone! The changing emphasis to increasing problem solving, critical thinking, and deeper understanding have led to homework that looks different than what we brought home when we were children.

Here are some of the ways that the new Common Core Math Standards have changed from our time in school and tips to help you support your child in completing their math homework.

Before we get into those differences, be careful to [Watch Your Own Attitude About The Work](#). It is really easy to express your initial frustration and confusion about a homework question in front of your child. What you want to avoid is giving your child the impression that you think the work is impossible to do or inappropriate to complete. Even if you have [concerns about Common Core Standards](#), your child's assigned homework is something you want to support your child doing. The rigor of the new Common Core Standards is meant to teach our children how to think critically and deeply.



Happy Holidays from ICAN! Just a few tips for the busy holiday season; try to model your child's plate with My Plate in mind. The 5 basic food groups are proteins, grains, fruit, vegetables and dairy. Limit the added sugar intake with fresh fruits and fruit juice readily available. Make sure your child gets enough exercise throughout the holiday break by running and playing outdoors as much as possible. Last but not least, take advantage of the extra family time! See you next year!