



# Sombra del Monte Elementary School

Our Mission – Working hand in hand with our families and diverse community, Sombra del Monte is committed to the nurturing of our students as they learn. Our common goal is to guide the whole child on his or her journey to develop into an inquisitive, actively engaged and valued member of society.

## Dear Sombra Community,

In the next couple of days the remodeling of both the main school buildings will begin.

The south side of the East building will be remodeled first and then the north side.

The West building will be renovated late spring and through the summer. The renovations consist of new windows, flooring, ceilings, paint, wood treatment, etc. in each of the classrooms.

The new windows will alleviate the cold classrooms on the north side and the extreme heat in the classrooms on the south side. The student restrooms will be remodeled and new staff restrooms will be added to the east and west buildings. The outside of the buildings will be re-surfaced and painted, and the deteriorating soffits will be repaired. The remodeling will be accompanied by a much needed re-roofing project for the entire school. Our safety committee will be working with the contractor to assure you that your children will be safe through all phases of the remodeling. The students will be entering and exiting their classrooms from the outside doors only. The hallway will be closed. The staff and I are very excited about the changes happening at Sombra del Monte.

## Teaching Credentials...

Within sixty calendar days from the beginning of each school year, every school is required to issue a notice to parents that they may obtain information regarding the professional qualifications of their children's teachers, instructional support providers, and school principals. That request to obtain information is part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002. Please contact the school office in writing to

request information regarding professional qualifications.

Sombra del Monte has four teachers on Level I licensing, eighteen teaching on a Level 2 license, and nine on a Level 3 license. Licensing is based upon years of teaching, additional coursework and the completion of a professional dossier.

One of our teachers is Nationally Board certified and one is waiting for the results of her national board exams. Many of our staff members have attained advanced degrees in accounting, psychology, and business, as well as education.

Sombra del Monte has had some staff changes this year due to over enrollment. We would like to welcome the following educators to our staff;

- Shelly Rose, fifth grade teacher
- Cynthia Wallick, kindergarten teacher
- Jodi Aragon, Pre school Educational Assistant
- Renee Marion, substitute
- Meagan Moriarty, substitute
- Tracy Coronado, moved to Kindergarten Educational Assistant
- Eddie Scurlock, Health Assistant

Please join us for the Balloon Launch on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:45-7:30. The weather will be chilly so dress appropriately. Every parent must accompany their children to this event. The balloon launch will end at 7:30, therefore each child will need to go home and return at 8:30.

Thanks for all of your support!

Donna Key, Principal

# URGENT STUDENT SAFETY \*\*\*CONCERN\*\*\*

**We are still having many students arriving at school too early in the morning.**

**START TIME – 8:45**

## ALLOWED ARRIVAL TIMES

**EATING BREAKFAST – 8:20**

**NOT EATING – 8:30**

**Do not allow your children to arrive or be dropped off prior to this time as there is no supervision and we are very concerned about their safety. Please refer to the APS Student Behavior Handbook page 9 for APS policy.**

## BIKE RACK NEWS...

Due to the construction beginning on the east building the bike rack that was available near that building will not be available for use due to safety concerns. If your child rides their bike to school they will need to use the rack near the cafeteria. Please remind them that they cannot ride their bikes on the school ground that the need to be walked when on campus. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

## MATH CORNER...

Sombra del Monte teaches math using the *Investigations* math program. This program teaches math in a way that is probably different than the “traditional” way most parents learned math. We will use these newsletters to address common questions that parents have about these new methods.

**Why change the way we teach math? The old way worked for me.**

The traditional method stressed memorization of procedures presented by teachers. For many people, math “worked for me” because they had memorized the procedures successfully. But many other students were not successful. If the

one method that was taught didn’t make sense to them, they were unable to find a way to work a new problem. These are the students who grew up saying “*I wasn’t good at math.*”

The way we are trying to teach math is based on building understanding. Our goal is children who can do math efficiently and accurately, but who also understand the numbers and their relationships. They can use this understanding to develop efficient, accurate ways to approach problems in a way that makes sense to them, and can apply this deeper knowledge to new situations. We want accuracy and efficiency, but we also want children to have understanding, flexibility, and confidence in their math abilities.

## Community Opportunities...

Don’t forget to check out the Community News area just outside the office for activity opportunities for your children and family. We do not send flyers home with each child but have them available in the Community News area.

## CALENDAR...

9/26	Picture Orders due
10/3	Balloon Launch on grass field
10/8	Health Screening
10/10	Fall Break – No School
10/17	Professional Development No School for Students
11/4	Election Day – No School
11/11	Professional Development No School for Students
11/21	Holiday Meal for Primary Students
11/24-26	Parent Teacher Conferences
11/24	1:00 Dismissal
11/25-26	No School for Students
11/27-28	Thanksgiving Break