

# Cat Tracks for October

Do you ever wonder...how good is my children's school? What does my child's school do to maintain a high educational standard? What does my child's school think is important? How do I get involved in my child's school?

I think all of the questions above are good, simple and honest questions that all parents ponder but often don't ask. Of course there is no simple answer to any of them. There is NO perfect school. I know this because during my seven years as Principal I have talked with countless parents from every school you can imagine (private, charter, online, large public and small public) and I will tell you that all schools face challenges and you can find unhappy parents and children in any school. I can also tell you with complete confidence that test scores are not the measuring stick to judge a school's effectiveness. We are *very* proud of our students' academic achievement but of course there will always be schools that score higher.

Comparing and evaluating schools based solely on test scores is a sad trap that is way too easy to fall into. Test scores are largely an individualized measurement, meaning that if a school is filled with naturally high achieving students that school will have high test scores no matter what they do. I am much more concerned on the growth I see student by student. I had a student enroll here a few years ago that came from a school whose test scores were off the charts high. Guess what? That individual student's scores were not high at all. His parents will absolutely tell you that our school is the best thing that EVER happened to him. At our much smaller school this student received loads of individualized attention as well as a great curriculum and teachers that helped improve his academics and confidence dramatically over time. To me this example is what it is all about.

So what do we do to be a great school? We look for ways to get better in every area. If you look at our school over the last several years you will see massive changes for the better in what we offer academically, socially, athletically and even our school's physical appearance. It is our goal for parents and students to be able to see for themselves positive changes every time they walk on our campus. I think this is what we do best and why I think your children attend a great school. We are innovative, positive, creative, and use our limited resources to their fullest to create a full and well rounded program for your children.

We have an academic accelerated program that really works! Lots of schools will tell you they have high expectations but do the same thing as everybody else. We have accelerated programs that are unique to our school, like our newly created 5/6 super accelerated combination class that is one of a kind, our connections learning center open three nights per week, our math program that allows students to earn high school credit while here and much more. This year we created **band**, a one of a kind **hand bell choir**, a new and improved athletic program with tackle football and a league with a very high level of competition. My personal goal is to offer our children the world in a small, friendly setting. We never stop improving or think we are good enough...and that is what makes a good school great.

*Dennis Blausen*

Dennis Blausen

email: [dblause@osd2.org](mailto:dblause@osd2.org)

Principal Mountain Vista School "Cougar Pride"

# October Students of The Month



**Back Row Left to Right**

Grethel Johnson, Hannah Smith, Cassee Otero, Ramon Romero, Brittany Olmos, Alyssa Ollson


**Second Row**

James Colwell, Caitlin Baird, Gilbert Castaneda, Edward Vindiola, Jacob Manriquez, Breanna Chargualaf, Sammy Buckler

**Front Row**

Nicholos Herrera, Zackary Riddle, Reagan Martin, Tessa Kissick, Britney Johnson, Gilberto Pinedo, Allison Soule, Javier Sanchez

# October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Fiesta De Las Calabasas 10:00-5:00 Oracle State Park
4	5	6 PTO Meeting Pot-Luck 6:00-8:00	7	8 School Board Meeting 6:30	9 Hope Walk	10
			Early Release	HOPE WEEK (Prevention, Safety, Awareness)		
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
	Fall Break					
18	19	20	21	22 Parent-Teacher Conference	23 Parent-Teacher Conference Fall Dance 6th-8th Grades	24
			Early Release	Early Release	Early Release	
25	26 Honors Breakfast 4th: 9:00 5th: 9:30 6th: 10:00	27  Picture Day	28 Honors Breakfast 7th: 9:00 8th: 9:30	29 Honors Ceremony 1st-3rd In Classrooms	30  PTO Halloween Costume Contest	31
			Early Release			

# SCHOOL NEWS

## EARLY DISMISSALS

As you know students are dismissed early on Wednesdays. Students in grades 1-6 are dismissed at **12:45** p.m. and students in grades 7-8 are dismissed at **1:45** p.m.. Lunch is served prior to dismissal.

## CONNECTIONS LEARNING CENTER

The Connections Learning Center will be open on every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Library **when school is in session**. This is open to students in grades 4 through 12. High school tutors will be available to assist in Reading, Writing, Math and Science. Please note that Connections Learning Center is **not** open when school is not in session. For more information you may contact: Connections Learning Center director: **Rick Benavidez @**



## COUGAR DAY

Don't forget that every **Friday** will be **COUGAR DAY!** We ask that all students and staff wear their Cougar T-shirts or blue T-shirts to school. Let's show our school

## NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In order for absences relating to illness, doctor appointment, bereavement, family emergencies, or district approved family vacation to be counted as excused absences, the school must be notified of the absence prior to the absence or when the absence occurs by the parent or legal guardian who has custody of the student. This can be done by a phone call to the front office at 896-3000. Upon returning to school from an excused absence, the student shall submit a note stating the date and reason for the absence signed by the parent/guardian.



Monday thru Friday- The computer lab will be open from 7:30 to 8am for students to come in and work on assignments, check e-mail or just have some fun before school starts. This is for all grades 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Mountain Vista students are doing a great job of collecting box tops, but we can never have too many box tops, so remind friends and family to collect for our school. Please check out the General Mills website @ [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for participating products. Thank you for your participation!

## TAG TESTING

TAG is a state mandated program for students with exceptional reasoning skills. Students who test will be pulled from the regular classroom for part of the test day. Test results will be mailed to parents upon request, or if a student has tested into TAG. Test results are not announced and are confidential. The three areas in which a child may test are: 1) verbal (word power), 2) quantitative (number power), 3) non-verbal (spatial reasoning). Students may test for TAG based on either teacher or parent recommendation. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher for a permission slip. Feel free to address any questions or concerns regarding TAG testing to Michele Gagnon @ 896-3023.

## CHILD FIND

Child Find is a process to "find" children who may have a delay in development or a disability. Oracle School District can help children with disabilities from birth through 21 years of age. We provide special education services for eligible children. If you have concerns about your child's development or progress in school, contact the Oracle School District Special Education Department @ 896-3052

## CLOTHES NEEDED!

If there are any pants, shirts, t-shirts, or shorts that are taking up space in your closet-could you send them my way? I like to have a few extra pieces of clothing in case the students need to change. Unfortunately, the few I had last fall were loaned to students and never returned. **PLEASE** call me first with what you can donate, so that I don't get a truck full. Space is very limited.

I can only accept the above clothing as I find that these will fit everybody. Please keep the health office in mind when you are clearing out outgrown clothes. Donations of new socks and underwear are accepted. Please make sure all clothes are clean before bringing them to the office.

Thank you,

Lydia Smith

## BUS PASSES AND YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY

A reminder to parents, students are required to bring a note to the office if they need a bus pass. For your child's safety, phone calls will not be accepted.

It is extremely difficult and disrupting to the classroom when parents call with last minute changes. Please send a note with your child if he/she has any change in their regular drop off.

## CHILD PICK UP

Parents, if you need to pick up your child before the end of the day you always need to sign them out in the office. After you have signed them out one of the ladies in the office will call the classroom and request the child be sent to the office. This is for the safety of the child.

## LOST AND FOUND

A reminder to parents/students; there are *many* articles of clothing in the lost and found. Numerous jackets, sweaters, shirts, etc. have been turned in and are waiting to be claimed. Please feel free to come and look through it. Anything not claimed at the end of the school year will be donated to Goodwill.



## *Kid's CLOSET INFORMATION*

**The Fall season for Kid's Closet begins in October.**

**Mountain Vista will be sending a bus to Kids' Closet on the following dates:**

**Thursday October 22, 2009**

**Monday November 2, 2009**

**Monday November 9, 2009**

**Thursday December 3, 2009**



**If you would like your child/children to visit the Kid's Closet please stop by the front office and fill out the proper paperwork as soon as possible. Please remember that students must be on the free/reduced lunch program in order to participate. We also need chaperones to accompany the students on each of these dates.**



As many of you know flu is spreading easily from person to person and school-age children are among the groups most affected. We are taking steps to prevent the spread of flu in the Oracle School District. Currently, flu conditions in Pinal County are increasing. We want to keep the school open and functioning as normal for as long as possible. **We need your help to do this.**

We are working closely with the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Pinal County Health Department to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take.

Please visit our school's website for additional information [www.OSD2.org](http://www.OSD2.org)

**Cougar Club Season Passes Available Now**  
**(Mt. Vista's Booster's Club)**

The Mt. Vista Cougar's sports seasons are about to begin! We are excited about being new members in the *Central Junior High League* with more of our neighboring schools including San Manuel, Hayden and Ray. Please check out the schedules listed in this edition of the Cat Tracks for game days and times.

Gate fees for volleyball and football are as follows: \$3 Adults, \$2 Children and for students who wear a cougar t-shirt on game day only \$1.

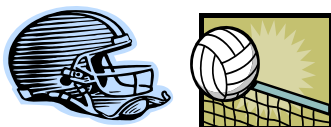
OR check out the season pass offer below.

Football and volleyball have 4 home games this season

The **individual season pass** is being offered for \$10

The **family season pass (3 persons)** is being offered for \$20

These passes are available now and at the first home games next week. Please contact Michele Gagnon, MVS Athletic Director, at 896-3023 for any questions or to obtain a pass early.



## **Football:**

10/6 Mt. Vista @ Globe game 6:00

**10/13 San Manuel @ Mt. Vista 4:00** (game during fall break)

10/20 Mt. Vista @ Eloy game 6:00

10/27 FB championships

## **Volleyball:**

10/5 Mt. Vista @ Hayden game 4:00 and 5:00

10/9 Girl's 8<sup>th</sup> grader team players vs. MVS staff 2:45

10/14 Mt. Vista @ Eloy 4:00 and 5:00 (game during fall break)

**10/19 San Manuel @ Mt. Vista 4:00 and 5:00**

10/24 VB championships

**Meal Prices:**

Mountain Vista Campus  
 Breakfast.....\$1.00  
 Lunch.....\$1.75

Oracle Ridge Campus  
 Breakfast.....85cents  
 Lunch.....\$1.50

Adult Breakfast....\$1.25  
 Adult Lunch.....\$2.50

Ala Carte Milk .35 cents

**Breakfast Includes:**

The daily special plus assorted cereals, juice and milk.

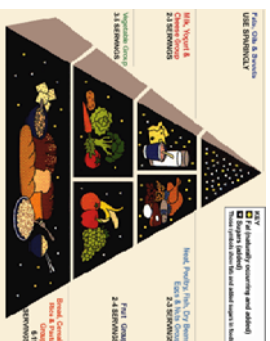
**Mon. and Wed.:** Cream of Wheat  
**Tues. and Fri. :** Oatmeal

**Offered Daily at Lunch:**  
 1% or Fat Free White Milk  
 Fat Free Chocolate Milk  
 1% Strawberry Milk

Fruit and Vegetable are offered at all lunches.

**Mon., Wed., and Fri.:**  
 There will be an alternate choice of salad with assorted toppings and low fat dressings.

In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, Color, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability.



**Oracle Elementary District  
 Breakfast Menu  
 October**

Halloween should be filled with surprise and enjoyment. The following are some common sense practices that can keep kids safer and have more fun:

1. Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks, not in the street.
2. Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars and low flying brooms.
3. Wear light colored and reflective clothing. Use reflective tape on Bikes, skateboards and brooms too! Carry a flashlight
4. Visit homes with the porch light .
5. Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating.
6. Be cautious of animals and strangers.
7. Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
8. Plan your route and share it with your family.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Cinnamon Roll	2 Pancake w/syrup	3
4	5Churro	6Breakfast Bagel	7Popart	8Strudel Stick	9Waffles w/syrup	10
11	12 Fall Break	13 Fall Break	14 Fall Break	15 Fall Break	16 Fall Break	17
18	19Break. Cookie	20French Toast	21Yogurt	22Cinnamon on Roll	23Egg and Cheese Burrito	24
25	26Choc. Chip or Blueberry Muffin	27Pancake and Saus. On a stick	28Nutri-Grain Bar	29Strudel Stick	30French Toast	31

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 Lunch.....\$1.75

Oracle Ridge Campus  
 Breakfast.....85cents  
 Lunch.....\$1.50

Adult Breakfast...\$1.25  
 Adult Lunch.....\$2.50

Ala Carte Milk .35 cents

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The daily special plus assorted cereals, juice and milk.

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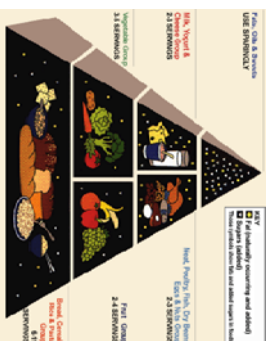
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 Fat Free Chocolate Milk  
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**Oracle Elementary District  
 Lunch Menu  
 October**

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4. Visit homes with the porch light .
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chili Dog and Tater Tots or Chicken Salad Sand.	2 Deli-Sandwich, Chips, Lett, Tom., Pickle	3
4	5 Hann & Cheddar Sand. Oven Fries	6 Chick. Nuggets or Sloppy Joes	7 Hot Wings, Rice Pilaf	8 Pizza Roll or Tuna Salad Sand.	9 HoPe Weck BBQ Hamburger or Hot Dog	10
11	12 Fall Break	13 Fall Break	14 Fall Break	15 Fall Break	16 Fall Break	17
18	19 Nachos, Jalepenos Ranch Beans	20 Chicken Crispito or Beef Fingers	21 Spaghetti w/ meat sauce	22 French Dip Sandwich or Chicken Patty Sand.	23 Pizza	24
25	26 Corn Dog	27 Congar Burger w/ cheese or Grilled Chick. Sand.	28 Grilled Cheese Sand. Tomato Soup	29 Bean Burger or Soft Taco	30 Deli-Sand., Chips, lettuce, tom., Pickle	31