



# The Mustang Messenger

## Message from the Principal

Can you believe that May is already here? It has been another exciting year at McCartney Ranch watching all the student growth, academic success, and educational fun. Thanks to everyone that has supported our efforts this year.

As you may know, May 7-11 is teacher appreciation week. Please join me in celebrating the efforts and hard work that our wonderful staff has put in to each and every student this year. If you have a teacher in mind that has positively influenced you or your child(ren), this is a great time to get reconnected and say Thank You!

As the year comes to a close, we have several events and activities that we can look forward to. Some of our upcoming events include: 7 Mindsets Assemblies, Awards Celebrations, Mother/Son BMX Event, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Social, Kindergarten Programs, Volunteer Tea, Talent Show, Water Day, Middle School Visits, Exploration Week, and the Spring Band Concert. We have a lot of great things happening to close out the school year. Please contact our school office for more information about any of the exciting events.

As the year comes to a close, so does my time as Principal at McCartney Ranch. As most of you know by now, I

will be moving to Cactus Middle School next year. Before I begin my next journey, I want to take a moment to say thank you. I have spent a total of 9 years at McCartney Ranch. My first 5 years occurred as I taught PE when the building first opened. The last 4 years I have spent working with staff, students, and families as our Principal. Regardless of my assignment at McCartney Ranch, I have always felt that I am part of the Mustang Family. I have memories that I will cherish well into the future. I love the people that I have met and the interactions that we have had. I have been complimented and I have been challenged; but I am truly grateful for both types of interactions. We have been able to learn and grow together. Our success is evident and I owe so much of my personal happiness to all of you and the time that I have spent here. As we move into the future, I hope the relationships that we have forged become lasting. I will remain part of this family as a parent and when the sun sets on that chapter, I will be part of this family as a community member. Thank you for all of the love and support that you have given to me. I wish you all nothing but the best in the future. You are in great hands with our staff and we are all in even greater hands with these children as our future. Be well!

## Reading Makes a Difference

Reading 20 minutes a day makes a huge impact on your child. Whether they read to themselves, or are read to, they will see benefits that will carry over into all aspects of their life. Studies show that reading 20 minutes a day increases vocabulary, promotes brain development, helps them gain an understanding of a world outside of their own, strengthens family relationships, and helps them do better academically. With all of the benefits of reading, take advantage of the time you have with your children this summer and grab a good book to enjoy together!

### Upcoming Events for May

5th Grade Band Concert	1
Early Release	2
Teacher Appreciation Week	7-11
Mother/Son BMX Night	11
Early Release	16
Brown Bag Lunch	17
Water Day	18
Talent Show	21
Awards Assemblies	23
Early Release/Last Day of School	25

## Kindergarten



Wow! Our kindergarten year has flown by. As we head toward summer break we will continue to work on learning as many high frequency words as we can. Please read every night with your child, and sign their reading envelope. We will take our last DIBELS benchmark test soon. Continue to read with your child, and have them read to you throughout the summer. The Casa Grande summer library program is worth checking out. Practice with addition and subtraction problems would also be of benefit. All kindergarten classes will hold end of the year programs during the last week of school. Be sure to check your child's folder for their specific time.

## First Grade



We are almost there! It has been a spectacular year. The students have grown so much, it's going to be hard to watch them go to second grade. We still have some major events coming this month, such as benchmarks, water day, exploration week, and many more new topics to explore. Watch your child's folder for these special events. Please continue to read each night for least 20 minutes and continue to read over the summer. Thank you for always having your child here and on time. We thank you for all that you do that makes what we do possible!

## Second Grade



Hello Second Grade families,

Wow, it is MAY! We are in our last month of school and have so many fun and exciting activities planned for our soon to be third graders. They have achieved so much this year and we are very proud of all their accomplishments. This month we will taking our benchmark tests for the end of the year. Please get plenty of rest and pack healthy snacks for your child. As always, we encourage our student's to read nightly for at least 20 minutes. Please continue to practice your math facts and take some time to go outside and play! Let's make our last month fun, engaging, and memorable. Thank you for your generosity and continued support, we are forever grateful for it.

Thank you,

Second Grade Teachers

## Third Grade



We are in the final stretch of third grade! Can you believe it?! This year has flown by! During our last month of school, we will continue to work on our reading skills. We will also be learning about the holiday of Cinco de Mayo & different explorers and their contributions to the world in Social Studies class. We will also continue to review different math strategies that we have learned this year. There will be many different activities going on during this last month of school, so please check your student's backpack for any important papers that come home from school. Students will still receive homework and should complete it as well as read 20 minutes every night. We are so proud of all the hard work our students have accomplished this year and want to thank you all for your support!

## Fourth Grade



For our last month of school, our journey will conclude with the fourth graders preparing for fifth grade. We will continue to review the standards during the month of May. Fourth graders will take the District Benchmark Test on May 8 and 10. Please ensure that your child gets a good night's sleep, eats a healthy breakfast, and feels confident in their abilities. Students may also bring a healthy snack to eat mid-morning.

As the students look forward to summer break, we want to remind families of the importance of reading, writing, and practicing math during the rest of May, June, and July! Students can take advantage of the local summer reading program through our public libraries, flash cards, and technology resources (i.e. apps, Internet, games) to prepare for fifth grade.

We wish all of our fourth grade students success on their lifelong journeys!!!

## Fifth Grade



April has gone by in a flash and we have one month to go! 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been busy reviewing math topics from the whole year (think fractions) and working on math projects.

We have been learning about the events leading to the American Revolution and the impact those events still have on our lives today.

5<sup>th</sup> graders are working on their Biography projects as well. They will be taking part in a Wax Museum in May. They should be reading, researching and writing at home. It is going to be amazing to see the 5<sup>th</sup> graders dressed as the famous individuals they researched, with their backdrops behind them and then to listen to the information filled oral presentations that each will give.

May is going to be a fun-filled month for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Band concert, trip to Middle School, Talent Show, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Social are just a few of the upcoming events for our students. Please help students do their best to be in school so they don't miss out on these year-end events! Let's finish the year strong!

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## Warm Weather reminders



As the year winds down and the temperatures heat up, we ask that you keep a few things in mind: the need for hydration, proper sun protection, and appropriate student dress code. Students will be provided water breaks at school but we suggest that they also bring a sealable water bottle. Students will also be allowed to wear hats and sunglasses outside to keep themselves protected from the sun. Lastly, students should continue wearing school appropriate clothes (providing proper coverage and meeting length requirements). In addition, safe shoes should be worn at all times. Flip-flops can be a dangerous tripping hazard. Sneakers are the preferred recommendation, especially for running and playing.

## PTO News

The **Mother/Son BMX Night** will be **Friday, May 11th** from 5-7:30 pm. There will be light food, a cool treat, and lots of fun! You will also get a chance to take a picture with the bikers!

We hope everyone had a great time at **bingo night!!** This is always a family favorite at McCartney Ranch and we look forward to it every year. Thanks for sending in those donation items for prizes and for all those who helped run the event!

There is **no PTO meeting in May**. Enjoy your summer and we will see you back in August!

As the 2017-2018 school year comes to a close, we would like to give a special **thank you** to all those businesses and individuals that have donated for all our PTO events this year. We had prizes, gift certificates, food, services, and **hundreds** of hours of time all donated by parents and business owners over this school year. The PTO is able to do so much for the teachers and students at McCartney Ranch because of your generosity. Thank you!

**Have a great summer!!**