

North Ranch Elementary School  
Principal's Challenge  
2009 -2010

Dear North Ranch Families,

Are you ready to take the challenge? The Principal's Challenge is an opportunity for each student who chooses to participate. Students are able to learn about a recommended subject or topic that peaks his/her interest. Students decide to participate simply for the challenge and joy of learning. A student may choose any subject that is of interest to him/her. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to learn together.

The Principal's Challenge becomes an extended learning opportunity for families to learn together and complete projects that are of special interest to the student. Be creative in what you desire to learn more about. The variety of activities may extend as far as you wish. All paperwork and journal summaries must be submitted in either one 3-ring binder or another method of binding. The binder should have the student's name, homeroom teacher's name, and project title. Visit the North Ranch webpage <http://cmweb.pvschools.net/nresweb/> for the specifics about developing a project.

Projects are evaluated based on the number of activities a student chooses to complete. The activities must be **neatly** done. There must be a **variety** of activities completed showing that a student has had some unique experiences. All documents must be **contained** in a binder. The **learning log** must be completed and neatly written or typed. Students may print or write in cursive.

Exemplary projects in each grade will be recognized with a blue ribbon. The sixth grade students who complete the Principal's Challenge a trophy will be given. I am excited to see your projects.

Wishing you the joy of learning,

Dr. Sarah S. Hartley  
Principal

Possible topics for the Principal's Challenge are on the reverse. These are just ideas to get you started. Ideas for activities may be found on the website.

**Topic Ideas**  
**You are not limited to those listed below.**

|                       |                     |                    |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| airplane              | electricity         | names              |
| an animal             | Europe              | National Parks     |
| archeology            | explorers           | oceans             |
| architecture          | famous people (any) | ocean animals      |
| Arizona               | FBI                 | paper making       |
| art                   | Fire Department     | pets               |
| athletes              | flowers             | Phoenix            |
| artists               | food                | photography        |
| baseball              | football            | piano              |
| basketball            | government          | Police Department  |
| birds                 | gymnastics          | pollution          |
| cactus                | hobbies (any)       | planets            |
| cameras               | holidays            | plants             |
| camping               | horses              | Presidents         |
| candy                 | houses              | reptiles           |
| cards                 | human body          | rocks and minerals |
| careers               | Indians             | schools            |
| cats                  | insects             | scientists         |
| clothing              | inventions          | snakes             |
| city (any city)       | law                 | soccer             |
| circus                | machines            | space              |
| country (any country) | magnets             | states (any)       |
| cowboys               | mammals             | stamps             |
| dance                 | maps                | swimming           |
| deserts               | medicine            | theatre            |
| desserts              | Mexico              | tornadoes          |
| dinosaurs             | military            | transportation     |
| diseases              | mountains           | trees              |
| dogs                  | motorcycles         | volcanoes          |
| earth                 | music               | Washington D.C.    |
| earthquakes           | musicians           | weather            |
| energy                | mysteries           |                    |

## Sample activities may include:

- reading a book
- researching on the Internet
- visiting a related place
- engaging in a related activity
- creating a project
- writing a report, song, or poem
- creating an iMovie to share the information
- taking photographs
- teaching the information to someone else
- collecting information about the topic
- collecting items that relate to the topic
- playing a game about the topic
- watching a movie or program
- conducting an interview
- volunteering in a related activity
- using CD or software related to the project
- drawing pictures or making a model
- developing a colleague
- writing a letter to a person related to your research
- making a model (take a picture for your binder)
- (use your imagination - this is just a sample list)

### **What may an activity be? Here are some examples.....**

If you are planning on visiting a place that pertains to your study some examples of different activities that you might complete may be:

1. Calling to arrange the tour
2. Conducting an interview
3. Taking the tour
4. Reading an article about the place you are visiting
5. Writing a 1 paragraph summary about your visit
6. Sending a thank you note for the visit

If you were to complete each of these, you would have completed 6 activities. Again, the goal is to learn and enjoy learning. The activities may involve anything you did to learn.

Be creative. You may complete any number of activities you wish. For each activity you must complete an entry on the "I Took the Challenge" learning log.

***Projects are due: March 26, 2010***

### **Just the FAQ's!**

***Principal's Challenge*** is a great building block in learning organization and presentation of a student's hard work. Any topic, no matter what it might be, can be presented in an organized and interesting fashion. Included below are the few requirements necessary to organize your project, along with several ideas on how to present your other activities.

#### **What happens after I turn in my project?**

After all your hard work and creativity is turned in; it is reviewed by a committee who checks to see if the requirements have been met. The Challenge may then be reviewed by your teachers to make sure your best effort has been given. Finally, the Principal reads through every Challenge and takes into account the requirements, the teacher notes, and then makes her own comments. Your project will be returned to you at the end of the year awards ceremony. Congratulations! You accepted a challenge and saw it all the way through!

#### **Can I do it on any subject, or must it be from the list included with the Challenge?**

You may do it on any topic you wish. Those listed are suggested topics only. Many are topics that you cover in school in specific grades, and are only suggestions. If you are taking a trip, or wanting to learn about something not on the list – do it! And have a great time doing it!

**Do I have to do it all by myself, or can my family participate?**

We want you to come up with a topic that you want to know more about. We also want you to have fun! And that means your parents, grandparents, friends, and others may participate as well. For example, maybe you visit a museum or something related when you visit your grandparents. Collect some information, take a picture with them, and write a report or story on what you did and what you learned. Maybe your parents spot a news article in the paper and save it for you. You can **mount** it, **highlight** it and **summarize** what the article says and how it helps you with your subject. This counts as **3** activities.

**If we do something in school on my topic, can I include it in my Challenge?**

You may include it for the sake of keeping interesting information about your subject, but we do not include it in the activity count or part of your project so there is no need to include it on your learning log. Why? So many of you work hard throughout the year independently of your school work, and it's not fair to those who would include some or most of their school work and have it be counted twice. It's like double dipping. We want this to be a unique learning experience, something that you might not regularly study in school.

You may start at anytime. We give you this information before school is out so you can use the summer to do some really neat activities that you may not be able to do during the school year. But if you decide in the middle of the school year to participate, that's great too! In fact, if you decide to do it a month before it's due, you can do that as well. However, we do recommend that you treat this as an adventure and take the time to be creative and do many different activities to learn about your topic. One month would really limit you.

**Do I have to handwrite my project, or can my parents help me write it? Can I type it?**

We encourage all students to complete your own work. However, for Kindergarten through 2nd grade, your parents may help you with the title page, learning logs and labeling. For grades 3-6, students must complete the project themselves, either by handwriting, typing or a combination of both. Remember, although you may have done family activities regarding your subject, it is your project. So you need to let us know what you did and what you learned.

**Can I use the Internet?**

Yes, I encourage the use of the Internet and with parental supervision. There are many wonderful sites to help you learn about your topic. However, printing off the information is not the same as reading it, highlighting key points, summarizing or writing in your own words what you liked about the site and how it helped you learn more about your topic. If you want to print off a page or so, that's fine, but it's not necessary to print off 20 pages and do nothing with it.

**What if I find 20 news articles that I want to include? Is that 20 activities?**

If it pertains to your topic and helps you learn something, then include it. For each article to be included as an activity, you must complete one learning log per article for it to count as a separate activity. But remember, you must show that you have completed a variety of activities.

**What are the awards?**

We have a variety of awards that correspond to the number of activities you have completed. Awards include: certificates, ribbons, trophies and gift certificates. One of the greatest rewards is the satisfaction of a job well done. The Principal loves to share in your hard work and celebrate with you.

**What if I still have questions?**

You are encouraged to talk to classmates who have taken on the challenge in the past. They have some exciting topics they have studied and you will find they are very enthusiastic to share their work with you.

**Most of all.....** Enjoy the process of learning!

## Once more, for the record... a few important points

### Challenge Requirements:

1. **Title Page** – must be thoroughly completed
2. **Learning Log** – each activity must be recorded on ONE portion of the learning log that states “I Took The Challenge!” These should all be listed together on full sheets and kept at the front of your binder. Please do not separate the slips.

### Example:

#4 Name: Ima Student

Activity: Underwater Life Date: July 27, 2009

What I did: I went snorkeling in the ocean and saw 5 different fish.

I learned: there are many kinds of life underwater.

(Students in grades 4-6 will want to give more specific information about each activity.)

3. Must have at least **6 different** types of activities.
4. Must be in a **bound notebook**, preferably 3-ring. Some families have continued with a spiral bound but if you are just starting, a 3-ring is preferred. Please send pictures of large projects rather than sending in the project itself.

### Challenge Ideas:

- pictures – label them
- drawings – color them
- news articles – mount and summarize
- internet – highlight and summarize
- visits – collect ticket stubs, brochures, take pictures, draw picture
- reading a book – write a short report or story about the book
- creating a project – put name and activity number on project
- watching a movie or program – write a short report or poem about movie (remember: this counts as two activities...watching the movie and writing a poem etc)
- conducting an interview – include your preparation questions, thank you note and a write up of the interview, take a picture and label
- computer Keynote or PowerPoint presentation – include disk with program for committee review
- video – include with some type of summary for committee to review
- dioramas or 3-D projects – may be displayed for all to
- create an iMovie with your own script, music, and props – include the disk with program for committee review
- write a song and create the music on GarageBand

Use your imagination! What made your project interesting for you? We will be impressed at what you have done and how much you have learned! Did you make it clear as to what you did and what you learned? Will the reader learn something from your hard work and organized presentation? Remember well presented activities are more interesting to read.

Your entries do not have to be long. You are simply asked to show that you have learned something and that you have enjoyed your learning.

**North Ranch Elementary School  
Principal's Challenge  
2009-2010**

*Title Page*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Title of your Principal's Challenge \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Activities you have completed \_\_\_\_\_

Have you written a journal entry for every activity? \_\_\_\_\_

Circle all of the years you have completed a Principal's Challenge.

K   1   2   3   4   5   6

Circle all of the years you have attended North Ranch.

K   1   2   3   4   5   6

Are you proud of your project? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your favorite activity? \_\_\_\_\_

Did your family learn too? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel you did your very best? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like me to know about your project? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I TOOK THE CHALLENGE!!!**  
**Learning Log**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Activity \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#\_\_\_ On this activity I (describe what you did) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I learned \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Activity \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#\_\_\_ On this activity I (describe what you did) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I learned \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Activity \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#\_\_\_ On this activity I (describe what you did) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I learned \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***(You may copy this form or more forms are available in the office.)***  
*Please keep your learning logs in the front of your binder. Do not cut this page apart.*