

# Sonoran Sky Elementary School Principal's Challenge 2008 -2009

August 2008

Dear Sonoran Sky Families,

Are you ready to take the Challenge? The Principal's Challenge is an opportunity for students to participate in intensive and on-going learning activities about topics that pique their individual interests. Students decide to participate simply for the challenge and the joy of learning.

The Principal's Challenge becomes an extended learning opportunity for families to learn together and complete projects that are of special interest to our students. Be creative and pick a subject about which you genuinely wish to learn. The types of learning activities in which you can participate are limited only by your imagination.

For the Principal's Challenge, the following guidelines apply:

\*All paperwork and journal summaries must be submitted in either a 3-ring binder or another method of binding. The binder should have the student's name, homeroom teacher's name, and project title. The attached title page should be completed and placed in the front of the binder.

\*Projects will be 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 papers must be **contained** in a binder.

\*The **learning log** must be completed and neatly written or typed. Students may print or write in cursive.

The following list indicates the number of activities that will be recognized:

- 10 - 20 activities - Certificate
- 21 - 30 activities - Ribbon
- 31 - 41 activities - T-shirt – "I Took the Challenge"
- 41+ activities - Gift certificate from a participating sponsor

Exemplary projects in each grade will be recognized with a blue ribbon. For sixth grade students who completed a Principal's Challenge each year they have attended Sonoran Sky, a trophy will be given.

**Due dates: Friday, April 3, 2009 for Grades 5 and 6**  
**Friday, April 10, 2009 for Grades K through 4**

The specific guidelines for the Principal's Challenge are on our website: <http://cmweb.pvschools.net>. Click on Sonoran Sky Elementary and look for the heading Principal's Challenge. Please utilize the website to get all forms necessary and specific requirements. I look forward to reviewing your projects and expect to learn much in the process.

Wishing you the joy of learning,

Patrick Sweeney

**POSSIBLE TOPICS**  
**(These are simply examples and you are by no means limited to the topics listed here)**

airplanes  
alternative energy  
animals  
archeology  
architecture  
Arizona  
art  
athletes  
artists  
baseball  
basketball  
birds  
cactus  
cameras  
camping  
candy  
cards  
careers  
clothing  
cities  
circus  
continents  
countries  
cowboys  
dance  
deserts

desserts  
diseases  
earth  
earthquakes  
electricity  
explorers  
FBI  
Fire Department  
flowers  
food  
government  
hobbies  
holidays  
houses  
human body  
insects  
inventions  
law  
machines  
magnets  
maps  
medicine  
military  
mountains  
motorcycles  
music

musicians  
mysteries  
names  
National Parks  
Native Americans  
oceans  
paper making  
photography  
piano  
Police Department  
pollution  
planets  
plants  
presidents  
rocks and minerals  
schools  
scientists  
space  
sports  
states  
stamps  
theatre  
tornadoes  
transportation  
trees  
volcanoes

Some activities to consider include:

- reading a book
- researching on the Internet (**This should include a student written summary of Internet research material, not simply downloaded material**)
- visiting a related place
- engaging in a related activity
- creating a project
- writing a report, song, or poem
- taking photographs
- teaching the information to someone else
- collecting information
- collecting related items
- playing/creating a game
- watching a movie or program
- conducting an interview
- volunteering in a related activity
- drawing pictures or making a model (take a picture for your binder)
- developing a collage
- writing a letter
- 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 activities that you might complete may be:

1. Calling to arrange a 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.

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

*Principal's Challenge* is a great building block in learning to organize and present the results 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 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?**

A committee reviews each project to see that 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 his 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!

### **What if I just came to Sonoran Sky in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, can I still participate?**

Yes! All students are encouraged to take part and accept the Challenge! If you are new to Sonoran Sky, we take that into account. If you participate your first year and each year thereafter through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, you are still eligible for the trophy.

### **What if I only started taking the Challenge in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, but I was still here in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade?**

We waive Kindergarten although it is still highly encouraged. Even though you did not do one in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, you are still eligible to receive the yearly awards each year. The trophy given in 6<sup>th</sup> grade is for those who completed a Challenge each year they attended Sonoran Sky.

### **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.

**Do I have to start at the beginning of the school year, or can I start anytime?**

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.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, we encourage the use of the Internet 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, and 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 they pertain to your topic and help you learn something, then include them. For each article to be included as a separate activity, you must complete one learning log per article. 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, t-shirts, 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 previously taken part in the Principal's Challenge. 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: Doug Kenyon  
          Activity: Underwater Life              Date: July 27, 2008

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 – provide the URL and summarize your findings in your own words
- 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 presentation – include disk with program for committee to review
- video – include with some type of summary for committee to review
- dioramas or 3-D projects – may be displayed for all to

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?

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.

<p>Sonoran Sky Elementary School Principal's Challenge 2008-2009</p>
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***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

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?

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*Please keep your learning logs in the front of your binder. Do not cut this page apart.*

## **I TOOK THE CHALLENGE!!!!**

### **Learning Log**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*(You may copy this form.)*