



THE TRAILBLAZER TIMES

February 19, 2008, Explorer MS, Arizona Excelling School, PVUSD



TRAILBLAZERS OF THE MONTH

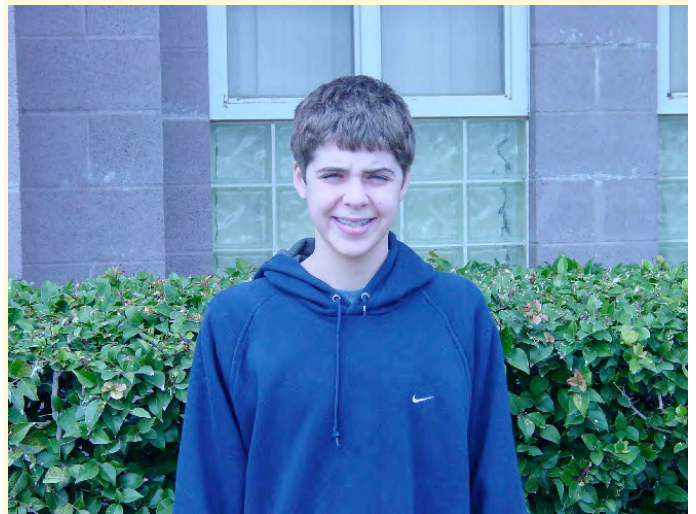
Congratulations Students of the Month

Explorer would like to congratulate Ryan Blaser and Josh Braaten for being selected as January's "Students of the Month". They were nominated by the Fine Arts Department for this



honor. Ryan and Josh were selected as soloists for an upcoming 8th Grade Chorus concert and their academic accomplishments this year have been impressive. Both, Ryan and Josh participate in several hobbies and interests outside of school. Josh is a sports fan and prides himself on being technologically savvy.

He has written several computer programs, designed his own website and is currently an anchor on Explorer's Broadcasting show. Ryan is a big fan of sports too and he particularly enjoys basketball. When he's not on the



hardcourt, he's behind the keyboard playing the piano and singing for fun. He's been a pianist for the past seven years and already has his sights set on college where he wants to major in music with a business minor. The advice these two fun-loving individuals would like to give their classmates is to "Stay in school and follow your dreams". Congratulations Josh and Ryan and remember to dream BIG Explorer.

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE ELITE TEAM

Edited by

Sarah Freeburg and Alexa Rosenblum

"At Explorer Middle School, we learn many things every day. Each teacher helps us learn and use our knowledge a lot."

–Sarah Freeburg

"Mr. McEndree always makes jokes in class and knows so much about not only English, but about what is happening in the world, too. He always listens to what you have to say and gives great advice."

–Matt Jackson

"Mr. McEndree is the funniest teacher at Explorer. He tells us stories, but teaches us, too. If it wasn't for him, I would have never known my dependent and independent clauses!"

–Manda Silverman

"Mr. McEndree takes us to the library or computer lab every Thursday. This is really helpful because it helps us finish our Study Island and AR quicker."

–Hanna Asmis

"Mrs. Angel is a great teacher. She has great ways of teaching. She even lets us make up games on our Latin stems to help us memorize them. She really makes English fun!"

– Cheyenne Stiegmann

"Mrs. Angel is my favorite teacher because she is nice and she lets us make games and talk to each other and I love her very much because she is a good teacher and she makes me feel good about myself."

–AnnMarie Neil

"Mrs. Angel is a great teacher. She has to be one of my favorite teachers. She makes English really fun."

–Vanessa Wallace

"Mrs. In-Albon is an excellent teacher because she never leaves anybody confused. She explains things very well and teaches us about things that she knows we are interested in."

–Alexa Rosenblum

"Mrs. In-Albon works hard to help us succeed, though most take it for granted."

–Paige Clark

"Mrs. In-Albon is really sweet, and cares for all of her students. She is a great teacher and also a wonderful person."

–DiAndrea Jurewicz

"Mrs. Suchin makes class so fun! We learned about many things such as the Preamble, Constitution, the Civil Rights Movement, and WWII."

–Andi Teufel

"Everyone feels comfortable walking into Mrs. Suchin's classroom because we

know that she is in there waiting for us. We are all eager to learn in her class."

–Jhio Mollena

"Mrs. Suchin is a little on the odd side, in a good way. She has a unique way of bringing Social Studies to life. With her creative and unusual ways of teaching history, this class is always fun."

–Mike Larson

"Mrs. Stryk is awesome. She helps us to understand how to do many things in math, and why it is important in our lives. Many do not like math, but they do not understand how important it is."

–Alexa Rosenblum

"In Mrs. Stryk's Pre-Algebra class we learn things from graphing to percentages. We also have fun worksheets that teach us and the same time."

–Bryttney Diaz

"Mrs. Stryk always explains every part of the lesson and when you have a question, she will help you figure out the answer. She is really nice, too."

–Sarah Freeburg

"Ms. China is always full of energy and she brightens up my day."

–Jhio Mollena

"Ms. China is great at helping us understand the concepts and is very good at

explaining the lessons. She teaches us lots of tricks to memorize formulas."

–Jessica Willie

"Whenever we have questions, Ms. China answers all of them with a great explanation. She is a fantastic math teacher."

–Lizzie Smith

"Mr. Vogensen puts a lot of hard work into the activities we do in his class. I appreciate the sports we do in P.E. because Mr. Vogensen is a great teacher."

–Dale Samson

"Mr. Vogensen is funny and everyone likes him. He is a teacher who knows the kids and can joke around with them without them getting mad. He is awesome!"

–Jordan Garvey

"Mr. Becke is a lot of fun. He taught us a lot about designing websites and digital photography."

–Shayla Salvione

"Mr. Becke is so cool. We even get to design the school's website! He really makes the class interesting."

–Andrew Ogden

"Mrs. Brownfield is a very good teacher. She ties fun into education by making the mural by the bus lanes. It was a lot of fun and we learned about what media we needed to use."

– Cheyenne Stiegmann

"Mrs. Brownfield is really fun. It was fun working with pastels and painting fish and the Chinese art."

–Francisco Sales

"Mrs. Schmid puts a lot of time and devotion into the yearbook class. It takes a lot of time to create and put together the yearbook."

–Alec Martin

"Mrs. Schmid's chorus class is a lot of fun. We play games that tie into music, such as Name That Tune. She has a good style of teaching music to us."

–Josh Braaten

"Mrs. Hazard is great at teaching improv, acting, and stage movement. We play fun acting games and act out scenes with different characters, settings, and partners. She also helps us understand the basics of staging."

–Nevada Chavez

"Mrs. Hazard puts a lot of time into her broadcasting class. The announcements this year are really funny and good."

–Paige Clark

"Mrs. Bertrand is a great Spanish teacher. She is funny, and teaches well. She is a fluent Spanish speaker, which helps us learn the pronunciation."

–Matt Jackson

"¡Hola! Señora Bertrand's español class is mucho fantastico and you learn a lot. You learn everything from vocabulary words to all of the verb forms. Spanish 1-2 is a great class."

–Andi Teufel

"Mrs. Leininger is a 'fantastique' teacher! She is very kind, and she is one of the French teachers at Pinnacle. She helps you get the pronunciation down-pact."

–Paige Clark

"Mrs. Leininger makes learning French very fun. We play whiteboard games and have songs to help us learn about conjugation. We also have French Movie Fridays, when we watch French movies and try to see how much we can understand."

–Aditi Jain

"Mr. Hatler is our school's awesome band teacher. He is very educated in the field of music. A wide variety of music is given to you in his class. Most of the school's spirit comes from Mr. Hatler's band class. He is a fantastic teacher."

–Connor Caniglia

"Mr. Hatler is one of the nicest teachers I have ever met. He may seem a

little harsh at first but once you get to know him, he is really a great person to know."

–Mike Larson

"In Mr. Wilson's class, we are assigned to a station on a computer. The class is challenging, but fun."

–Leah Scarsone

"Mr. Wilson is a funny person and in his class, we do not only play computer games, but learn things about building objects with Lego's, K'NEX, and other shape things."

–Alexa Rosenblum

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR

SOCIETY UPDATES

The students have been very busy the last three months with community service activities. In December they collected one hundred and forty pairs of socks for Shoe Box Ministries. At the same time, they very generously supported the school's drive to provide Holiday gifts for families in need within our community. In January they raised almost two hundred dollars for the Arizona Chapter of ALS in honor of Joe Harris, the brother of one of our staff members. Hundreds of students signed a banner which was carried at the ALS Walk on January 19. This month we are working in conjunction with Student Council selling Valentine candy grams to raise money for the Make-A-Wish

Foundation. The proceeds will be presented to the Foundation at the Walk for Wishes on Saturday, March 8. Students are encouraged to participate in the walk which will be in Tempe. As always, we are grateful to the students, parents and staff who support our efforts to help the community!

UNITED PARENT COUNCIL

MONTHLY MEETING:

BOYS ONLY

What happens when you have a class of only boys? How does that affect learning and classroom management? Does it make a difference with performance? United Parent Council invites you to listen as PVUSD Mentor Teacher Jeff Abbott shares his experience as a classroom teacher with a class comprised only of boys. He will discuss research in the area of gender differences in education, how his teaching was modified for this class, and his experiences when he taught a "boys only" class at Desert Shadows Middle School. If you have ever wondered about the success of single-gender classrooms, join us for this singular meeting!

Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Time: 8:45 a.m. Meet & Greet, 9:00 a.m. Superintendent's Remarks, 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting, 10:15 a.m. Program

Location: PVUSD Administrative Center, East/West Conference Room, 15002 North 32nd Street (south of Greenway Road)

FESTIVAL SPORTS NEWS

Starting on January 7th we began our Volleyball and Passing League (Football) Festival sports season with a wonderful turn out. Out of 330 girls on our campus, 90 of them signed up for volleyball and represented us at the district Festival tournament coached by Kay Gaydosz and Laura Bertrand. For boys passing league we had 70 boys out of 336 male students sign up and coached by Dana Zupke (head football coach at Pinnacle) and Pat Hurley (assistant head football coach at Pinnacle). This means 25% of Explorer's student body participated in this student centered after school sports program. Wow...how exciting!!!!

The festival went off with great success having 1,400 students from around the district attend the Festival at Shadow Mountain H.S. and Shea MS. Our Explorer athletes did a wonderful job of participating, representing our school with pride and dignity, and bringing home some medals for placing first or second in their assigned region. Starting last week we began the "All Star" phase of this program and are very excited about this portion of the season. Below you will see a list of student who placed at festival and who will be representing Explorer as "All Stars".

Girls Basketball will begin on March 3rd and Boys Wrestling will begin on March 31st.

Festival Passing League 7th Grade Team

Saguaro Division, First Place Medal:

Alex Birk, Tyler Crain, Matt Haines, Travis Kirschman, Ryan Levins, Michael Sanders, Judson Stoddard, Sean Tiglas, and Evan Tompkins

Mesquite Division, 2nd Place:

Trey Bower, Michael Ellertson, Brett Hill, Faraz Khairi, Brent McFarlane, Tre Pogue, Kevin Treadwell, and George Wootten

Festival Passing League 8th Grade Teams

Cactus Region, 2nd Place:

Bryce Colceri, Hudson Garcia, Brandon Gray, Jackson Harley, Mike Larson, Austin Markley, Zack Skeen, Brandon Sutton

Ocotillo Region, 2nd Place:

Shane Allor, Brooks Brennan, Nick Cappellini, George Janko, Brian McFarlane, Wyatt Sem, Mac Desenberg, Jason Teich

Festival Volleyball 7th Grade

Explorer team #2 won the consolation bracket in the Ocotillo Region

Team Members: Brittany Davault, Allison Gargaro, Rachel Kraige, Lizzie Marr, Megan Nolan, Bella Quni, Kierra Dixon, Jordan Schiffler, Monica Swartz, Olivia Van Dyk

Explorer team #4 placed first in the Mesquite Region

Team members: Greyson Dalmolin, Kalie Favia, Alexa Fourlis, Carli Green, Courtney Lukan, Elena Jurca, Daniella Shank, Nikki Tate

Festival Volleyball 8th Grade

Explorer team #2 placed second in the Cholla Region

Team members: KK Abarikwu, Carissa Wyke, DiAndrea Jurewica, Victoria Geske, Stephanie Solheim, Andi teufel, Kaley Nowaczyk, Melanie Shuba, Bridget Dobbs, Katie Jones, Sara Mosedale

NOTMYKID PROGRAMS

Not MY Kid, Inc., a comprehensive approach to prevention, comes to Explorer Middle School. Not MY Kid, Inc. is a non profit organization dedicated to facilitating improved understanding about youth behavioral health issues including suicide, drug abuse, eating disorders and depression. This is accomplished through a few fundamental objectives.

The first objective deals with the P.E.A.K. (Parent Education and Action for Kids) program. This is an interactive program for parents and adults designed to promote increased awareness about youth health issues and behaviors that can affect children and families. The presentation includes a one hour educational PowerPoint and questions and answers. No teen is immune from mental or behavioral problems; the objective of PEAK is to dispel the "not my kid," mentality.

The second objective is to train the staff. Teachers received training in the fall which equipped them with tools to recognize common signs and symptoms of teen mental health issues.

The third objective is working with the students through the Clear Choices Program. This is a program designed by teens for teens. Clear Choices speakers facilitate outreach education by sharing real-life struggles, peer-to-peer, emphasizing how consequences and responsibility relate to individual choices. Clear Choices presents on topics ranging from substance abuse, eating disorders, bullying, depression, safe dating, and internet safety.

If you would like more information, their website is filled with a wealth of information for parents. The website address is www.notmykid.org. Also, keep the date, April 15, 2008, Cox will be presenting a 30 minute presentation on the dangers of Meth. Please check you local listing for the time.



PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Mackenzie Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Gabriel Araujo, Ameena Arekat, Nicholas Arndt, Brandon Bartels, Darian Blackburn, Ryan Blaser, Laura Blodgett, Kurtis Boon, Elizabeth Boudewyns, Connor Caniglia, Jessica Carpenter, Courtney Caughran, Alexis Cervantes, Alex Chamberlin, Julie Charlton, Tyler Crain, Thai Dao, Shruti Dasgupta, Danielle Davis, Brandon Dawson, Savannah Day, Alexandra Dersch, Matthew Dwight, Haley English, Emily Faucher, Alexa Fournalis, Ashleigh Frankel, Thomas Frankel, Miranda Fry, Jennie Galindo, Allison Gens, Victoria Geske, Nicole Gianoulakis, Madison Ginis, Allison Golsch, Alexandra GriffithsJenkins, Matthew Haines, Lauren Hall, Courtney Hamilton, Cassandra Hanevich, Jackson Harley, Taylor Harper, Shannon Headley, Travis Hernbroth, Caylie Hilgart, Shelby Hoebee, Mary Horan, Matthew Jackson, Aditi Jain, Rachel Kaplan, Dylan Kline, Bobbie Le, Brittany Le, Matthew Leahy, Jordan Leclair, Heather Lee, Ryan Levins, Melissa Lim, Joseph Lindenberg, Alexandra Lixandru, Michelle MacKnight, Nathan MacKnight, Steven MacKnight, Elizabeth Marr, Sarah Mattke, Eric McGuire, Benjamin Meek, Connor Middendorf, Paulo Miro, Michelle Mitchell, Alison Molnar, Chad Montz, Trevor Moul, Rebekah Mozilo, Connor Nightingale, Megan Nolan, Mackenzie Northrop, Kaley Nowaczyk, Shweta Omkaram, Brandon Osgood, Parth Patel, Jordan Powell, Ravi Prathipati, Paris

Prynkiewicz, Eric Qi, Christopher Ramsell, Zachary Reinstein, Calum Robertson, Alexa Rosenblum, Kaitlin Ruby, Dominique Ruiz, Niharika Saumya, Jordan Schiffler, Rachel Sinadinos, Elizabeth Smith, Trevor Smith, Julie Spoehr, Alexandra Stimmler, Mathew Stockman, Wade Stutz, Hanna Swick, Jordan Tarr, Nicole Tate, Jason Teich, Sean Tiglas, Jennifer Toomey, Hayley VanDyk, Olivia VanDyk, Shanthi Veeramachaneni, Brionna Verse, Carly Victor, Lauren Wasser, Jazzlyn Wilder, Ryan Wilson, Michael Wolfus, Johnathan Wright

A-B HONOR ROLL

Tyler Abrams, Gilberto Aleman Jr, Shane Allor, Lee Andari, Sofia Angeles, Madison Ard, Hanna Asmis, Tate Avey, Vanessa AyalaMiranda, AnnMarie Aziz, Christopher Bailey, Natalie Barbera, Sierra Bay, Sargon Benjamin, Alexandra B e t z , Alexander Birk, Molly Blake, Ashley Bohinc, Katelyn Bouise, Trey Bower, Travis Boyer, Joshua Braaten, Karlee Bratcher, David Brennan, Delanie Brooks, Sydney Brown, Christian Burns, Carissa Cabrera, Allegra Campagna, Marisa Campo, Nicholas Cappellini, Courtney Carlson, Alexander Casados, Hector Chong, Juan Chong, Paige Clark, JakeC o l v i n , Danielle Cote, Sarah CoulterKhan, Blake Crane, Ashley Custer, Brittany Davault, Victoria DeLorme, Mac Desenberg, Kierra Dixon, Kevin Do, Kailee Dodson, Katherine Dorch, Lauren Doud, Angie Duncan, Luanne Dunn, Angela Eichmeier, Randel Eng, Annie Eshelman, Emily Espinosa, Eric Espinosa,

Kaitlyn EverettGault, David Ferrara, Haley Fierro, Micah Florez, Alexa Foster, Quincy Foster, Sarah Freeburg, Matthew Freeman, Lindsey Furr, Kaili Galbraith, Haley Galler, Hudson Garcia, Bryana Gardner, Allison Gargaro, Ashley Gastineau, Emily Gingras, Lauren Goodwin, Samuel Grandaw, Carline Green, Patrick Gresko, Amanda Hall, Stephanie Hanback, Kara Hansen, Maximillian Havre, Alexa Heiser, Scott Hendrixson, Joel Henry, Robert Hill, Katelyn Howard, Whitney Howson, Edward Husarcik, Jason Hyman, Zachary Jackson, Kyle Jakobs, Robert Jansen, Lawaun Johnson, Patrick Johnson, Katherine Jones, Shannon Jones, Tanner Jones, Brent Judd, Elena Jurca, Andrew Kennedy, David Kephart, Faraz Khairi, Rachel Kraige, Mackenzie Krajenke, Erika Krall, Ryan Kroener, Ryan LaPointe, Jennifer LaPorte, Adam Larsen, Michael Larson, Anna Lee, Victoria LeiningerHalpern, Anthony Lepore, Talia Lerer, Jordan Levine, Matthew Littleton, Brian Lupea, Rorianne Madden, Eden Malki, Austin Markley, Alexander Martin, Brandon Martinez, Stephanie Masterson, Austin Matyas, Katherine McCallister, John McCulley, Brent McFarlane, Jacob McWhorter, Anca Micu, Elizabeth Mok, Ramsey Moore, Brittany Moralez, Kaitlyn Morast, Jared Moreland, Shivani Narang, William Nesbitt, Ryan Nowak, Dustyn Owsley, Amanda Parillo, Grayson Payne, Kristi Peco, Kelly Podolak, Alix Polson, Olivia Poutre, Kaikala Prasad, Michael Prem, Mackenzie Quinonez, Tyler Rhoades, Jordan Ribadeneira, Hunter Rickert, MadisonRinehart, Sarah Ritter,

Baily Roberts, Joshua Roper, Kelly Rosenbalm, William Rosenbalm, Nicole Ruggiero, Collin Russell, Dale Samson, Alison Sanchez, Meredith Sanders, Michael Sanders, Mickaila Sandre, John Santoro, Peter Santoro, Kenneth Saran, Butros Sayegh, Leah-Kate Scarsone, Taylor Schaefer, Natalie Schellbach, Cory Schueneman, Alexandra Scoville, Julia Seidner, Alexander Seitz, Phillip Shelton, Melanie Shuba, Steven Shuler, Amanda Silverman, Bree Smith, Jessica Smith, Marco Soberanes, Stephanie Solheim, Ashley Stein, Matthew Stellino, Morgan Stewart, Steven Stierman, Judson Stoddard, Cameron Stodghill, Dana Stull, Monica Swartz, Andi Teufel, Dylan Thompson, ParkerThurston, Khali Titsch, Casey Tompa, Evan Tompkins, Kevin Treadwell, Jaron Trentman, Tammy Trotti, Trevon Turner, Williams Uriarte, Austin Urlocker, Alex VanGorp, Emily Vedder, Kira Vinogradov, Kristen Vitale, Emily Wahlberg, Daniel Wall, Vanessa Wallace, Charlotte Ward, Evangelina Weisgerber, Zori Wickander, Jessica Willie, Taylor Wilson, George Wootten IV, Jerry Worsham, Catherine Worth, Tara Wray, Carissa Wyke, Tehtena Yonas

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
OF OUR ACADEMICALLY
EXCELLING STUDENTS!!**

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED
AUTHOR AND SCULPTOR TO
VISIT EXPLORER MIDDLE
SCHOOL

Students in English and Art classes will have a unique and special opportunity to meet Lynne Reid Banks and her husband Chaim Stephenson on Thursday, February 21st. Banks is an internationally bestselling author and Stephenson is a critically acclaimed sculptor. Banks and Stephenson, who currently live in West Dorset in the United Kingdom, are vacationing in Scottsdale.

Lynne Reid Banks is an award winning playwright and author of adult, young adult and children's books. She has written fifteen adult novels, twenty-nine books for children and young adults, thirteen stage plays and numerous articles for magazines and periodicals. Two of her books were adapted for major motion pictures—The L-Shaped Room (adult) and Indian in the Cupboard (children's).

Banks' novel, Broken Bridge, is currently on the PVUSD middle school literature list. A seventh grade Honors English class recently finished reading the book and will be discussing the novel with Banks. Several other English classes will have an opportunity to meet Banks and discuss her other books.

Chaim Stephenson has worked as a sculptor for over forty years. His works have been exhibited throughout Europe and in the United States. His works are also in private collections in Britain, United States, Israel and Austria.

Stephenson had the honor of creating a bronze sculpture to commemorate the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa in 1994. The commissioned work is permanently on display in St. Martin-in-the-Fields church in London's Trafalgar Square.

Stephenson will be demonstrating techniques for working with clay to several of Mrs. Brownfield's art classes.

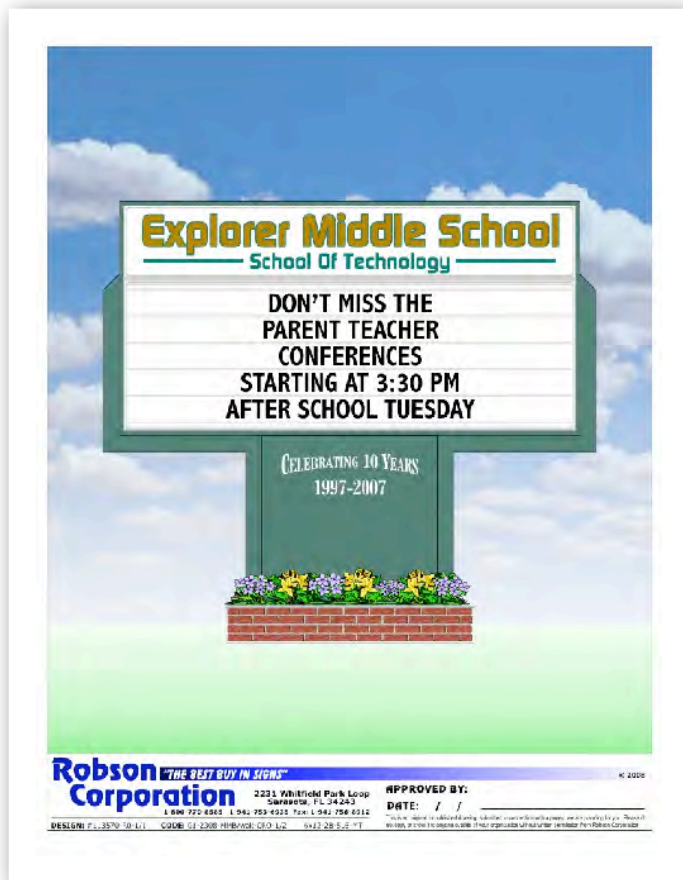
Arrangements for the opportunity to meet Lynne Reid Banks and Chaim Stephenson were made by Mary Wong, Explorer Middle School's library media specialist.

To learn more about the author and sculptor, visit their websites at www.lynnereidbanks.com and www.chaimstephenson.com

Lynne Reid Banks



NEW SCHOOL MARQUEE PROJECT



The Explorer P.T.O. invites you to become a part of the school's history through the purchase of a brick that will be used to create a brick planter at the base of our new school marquee. Yes, Explorer MS is installing a new marquee on the south lawn. We will unveil our new marquee at our 10-Year Anniversary Celebration on April 22 (Earth Day). There are only 150 bricks for sale. The funds received will go toward the purchase of the new school marquee. Each brick will be engraved with your student's or family name. Your

engraved brick will become a part of our school's history FOREVER. Contact Stefanie LeClair at (602) 826-3799. Please make check payable to EMS PTO.

STUDY ISLAND COMPETITION BEGINS!

On Wednesday, February 20, Mrs. Bursi will announce to Explorer's students that the competition is on to complete the Study Island Program. Eighth graders...here's the challenge: As an entire class, you need to complete more of the Study Island program than 7th grade. Currently, 7th graders have completed 69% of the program and 8th graders 60%. The winning grade will earn an ice-cream party. Get on your computers and start earning ribbons for each unfinished topic. Student Council will provide an Olive Garden lunch to the class that has the highest percentage of students who have completed 100% of the reading, math, and science program. A total of three classes can earn the luncheon, highest math, highest reading, and highest science for 8th grade. Deadline: March 24 at 9:00 AM! Log on, earn blue ribbons, finish 100% of SI. NOW!