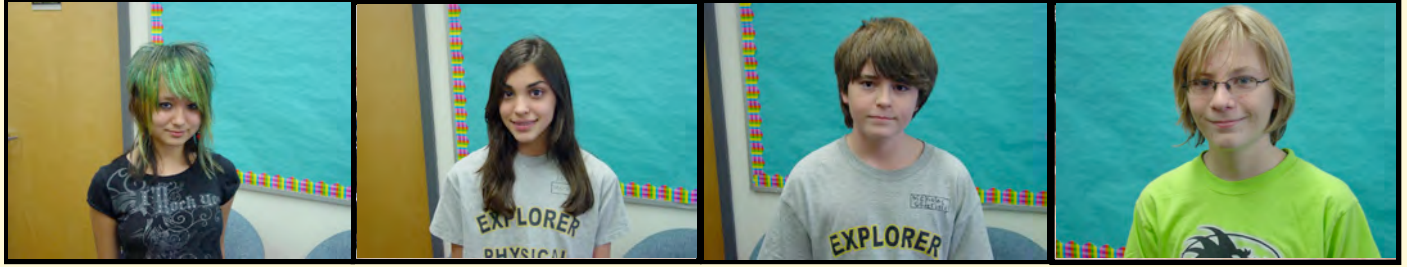


THE TRAILBLAZER TIMES



Message from Mrs. Bursi, Principal

This is our last *Trailblazer Times* newsletter for the 2007-2008 school year and I want to thank all of the members of our learning community for a successful and productive year. We made significant accomplishments again this school year, and we will continue to move forward with our commitment to meeting the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of all of our students. We are saying good-bye to several teachers and our assistant principal, Mr. Woller, who is relocating to his home state of Minnesota. Ms. Kentzelman is also relocating to Minnesota, Mrs. In-Albon will be teaching at a school outside of our district, and Mrs. Nesbitt and Mrs. Shefska will be pursuing other teaching opportunities within our district. We will miss each one of these dedicated and talented educators. I want to wish all of you a safe and memorable summer with your family and friends. We will welcome all of our returning and new students to EMS on Monday, August 11. Please make a note of our new school phone number (602) 449-4200 effective July 1. Our office will reopen on Monday, July 21. Mark your calendars for our Back To School Ice-cream Social on Wednesday, August 6 at 5:00 PM. Enjoy every minute of your vacation!

Message from Mr. Woller, Assistant Principal

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the students, parents and school district personnel for three great years at Explorer Middle School. I have accepted a position as an Assistant Principal in District #112 in Chaska, Minnesota, so this will be my last year at Explorer. I am moving with my wife and two children to the Minneapolis area this summer to begin looking for a house. We will truly miss the people in Arizona, our jobs, and the sunshine (especially during a Minnesota winter), however, we are excited to move "back home" to be closer to our families. We look forward to giving our sons the opportunity to visit with their grandparents more and play with their cousins on a regular basis, not to mention cheer for the Vikings in person! I'm proud to have worked at Explorer and I wish you all the best.

Every Day Counts!!

Explorer MS families value a great education and we want to thank all of you for your continued support of our instructional programs and classroom teaching. Every day of school, including the first day, is important if we are to reach our goal of helping each child be successful. Please be sure that your student is in his or her first period classroom on Monday, August 11, 2008 when we begin another exciting school year.

New Phone Numbers at Explorer MS

In order to comply with Arizona State procurement rules, and in an effort to streamline operations and reduce utility costs even further, PVUSD has to change their phone numbers across the district. Phone traffic will be routed across our internal microwave network, thereby significantly alleviating the cost of leased lines from phone providers. Funds provided through what is called "Excess Utilities" is being legislatively terminated in the '09/'10 school year, requiring costs like phone and data services to be absorbed by the General Maintenance & Operations funds of school districts. PVUSD is preparing for this action by converging and converting our phones now. We appreciate your patience during this transition. Our new phone number, effective July 1st, 2008 is **(602) 449-4200**. Our school web site also provides this information. Thank you for allowing us to serve.

Change Maker Day Over the Top!

Thursday, May 1 was Change Maker Day and Explorer MS raised \$1,633.78 which demonstrated huge support by our students and parents. The event was sponsored by The foundation for Public Education supporting PVUSD and the Foundation tripled the amount it raised last year. Monies will be used to stock and refurbish SEPUP Science Lab Kits our 7th and 8th graders use in their science classes. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Change Maker Day!

Trailblazers of the Month

Explorer Middle School would like to congratulate Molly Blake, Michelle MacKnight, Nicholas Soderberg and Joel Henry as "Students of the Month" for April and May. These students have demonstrated a strong dedication to academics and citizenship at Explorer this year and deserve special recognition! Molly was selected by the Art Department for this honor because of her abilities and accomplishments in art. She is also interested in music and just started learning the bass guitar with hopes of being in a band. She is a current member of the International Wolf Research Center and would like to be selected for an internship there in the future. Michelle was selected by the Technology Department for this award. She enjoys reading and states that her favorite books are the Twilight Series by Stephenie Meyer. Did you know that she is a triplet and wants to tour Europe in the future? Nicholas was selected as "Student of the Month" for his efforts in band. He likes solving the Rubik's Cube and racing his friends to finish first. He aspires to pursue a career as a veterinarian. Finally, Joel was selected by the Technology Department as well. He likes biking, hanging out with friends, and reading fiction. He was born in Australia and sees himself as a game designer someday. Congratulations again! We are so proud of each of you and your efforts at Explorer this year!

Have a Great Summer Explorer!