

Conejos Connections

October 2023, Issue #32

5401 Homestead Dr NW Albuquerque, NM 87120505-897-5174 @ChamizaConejos on Twitter

Principal - Mrs. Heidi Dudley Dean of Students - Mrs. Christine Aguilar

AIM - Accept. Identify. Move.

Supporting our children's social and emotional well-being is such a crucial component of overall success in life. There are many ways we can do that as parents. A key thing to remember is to stay calm. There are several ways to reduce stress:

- Asking for help
- Building time for enjoyable activities as a family
- Allow plenty of time in your schedule (children take longer)
- Implement systems - don't solely rely on memory
- Say no (when you say yes to something, you are saying no to something else)
- Sleep and exercise are crucial to overall health
- Be Kind to yourself

Educational Involvement

This coming November we have an election upon us, and one of the topics will be close to Chamiza. Chamiza sits in District 2 - which means we get to elect our School Board Member. We have three candidates running for our district:

- Peggy Muller-Aragon
- Adrian Nogales
- Ronald K Tome

If you didn't have a chance to watch the APS Forum where these candidates spoke, you can watch it by accessing the recording on the APS Board of Education Youtube Channel.

Thoughts from the Principal

Happy October Chamiza Families!

Finally! Cooler weather! Just in time for our cooling systems to be working strong! Please make sure to send your students with a light sweater in case they get cold in class. This month is a different month than any October we've had. While we still have days off for Fall Break or Conferences it's a bit different of a pattern than in years past, so make sure to check out the calendar below. I'm so excited to see everybody on Friday, October 6th for our Annual Balloon's Aloft session! Make sure to bring a warm jacket and some hot cocoa for a spectacular view! Gates will open at 6:45 a.m., to allow the balloon crew to arrive. PTA is sponsoring this event with a treat on a first-come, first-serve basis. PTA continues to support your student's education and needs your feedback and insight. Please share your thoughts in the survey and upload your pictures for the yearbook.

I was recently asked what I do as a principal - and it got me thinking - how many people truly understand what a principal does? So, in short, I'm the instructional leader of Chamiza. I manage the day-to-day runnings of the school, I support teachers in teaching their students - both academics and behaviors; I manage the budget of the school which encompasses salaries, material needs, and professional development opportunities; I get to meet with parents and other community members; I collaborate with various teams to keep the school safe; and a few other items. I hope you all have an excellent October and get to enjoy the beauty of New Mexico.

Principal Dudley

Upcoming Calendar Events

- 10/6 - Balloons Aloft - 6:45 am
- 10/9 - Indigenous People's Day - No School
- 10/12-10/13 - Fall Break - No School for Students
- 10/17 - Fall Pictures
- 10/17 - Instructional Council
- 10/19-10/20 - Parent-Teacher Conferences - No School for Students
- 10/23-10/27 - Red Ribbon Week
- 10/23 - 5th Grade SNMHM Field Trip
- 10/24 - PTA - General Monthly Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 10/27 - Trunk or Treat @ 6:00 pm

Chamiza Mission Statement

At Chamiza Elementary, our mission is to instill the love of learning to create lifelong learners who are academically, socially, and emotionally strong and who know how to advocate for themselves. We achieve this through purposeful communication, consistent teaching, and providing life experiences that help our students grow.

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Volunteering Guidance

There are two categories of volunteers who receive differing levels of background check clearances and badging: Unsupervised School Volunteers and Supervised School Volunteers.

If you want to help out in the classroom and support school-wide PTA events, such as Jog-A-Thon, then you'll need a Supervised School Volunteer Clearance. You can apply for this clearance online at <https://www.aps.edu/community/volunteer-with-aps>. You can attend field trips as a sponsor with this clearance.

If you want to volunteer in the above ways AND attend field trips as a lead/preferred volunteer then the best option for you is an Unsupervised School Volunteer Clearance. You can apply by emailing Principal Dudley @ Heidi.dudley@aps.edu the following information and she will initiate the application process:

- Name
- DOB
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Street Address
- Last four of SSN

Safety Supports

A friendly reminder of processes that are in place to ensure student, staff, and community safety.

Cross-Walks - We've had an increase in parents walking (with/without their children) in the street and drive-throughs to get to their cars. There are numerous crosswalks both on and off the campus. Crosswalks indicate locations for pedestrians to cross and signify to motorists to yield to them. Please make sure you are modeling safety for all of our students by utilizing the crosswalks available.

Accessible Parking Spaces - We have numerous families who have handicap placards and aren't able to park in accessible parking spaces due to non-handicap placard vehicles parking in the spaces. These marked parking spaces allow people to park closer to the school building, which can be very convenient for those with limited mobility, a chronic lack of energy, or those who require the use of a wheelchair. Regardless of the time of day, please park in an appropriate parking spot for your ability.

End-of-Day Plans - When students know what to do after school, they are often able to better execute those plans. When their plans change unexpectedly students often struggle with the execution because they are trying to process the change, the reason for the change, wonder the 'what ifs', and unfortunately they end up missing pieces - which has left some of our students lost for a period of time after school. To ensure our students' safety, please do not make changes after your child has arrived at school. We understand that emergencies do occur. If there is an emergency that requires an after-school change the following process will be reinstated: parent/guardian will need to text site administration (505-373-4608) to share the name of the student, the teacher of the student, what the emergency is, and what change is occurring. Once the administration receives the message they will confirm receipt AND will then send a second message once the student has received the message. If two messages are not sent back from the administration - that means it is not guaranteed that your change has been communicated to your student. The office staff has been directed not to communicate after-school changes going forward. Only changes in an emergency will be communicated through the above steps.

Safety Duty Assignments - As many of you have heard our before and after school safety duties have drastically changed. I have an unfortunate update to share. The back gate by the field will no longer be an option for students to arrive in the morning. Due to a limited number of duty assignments a change had to be made and this was the assignment that impacted the least amount of students' safety. I apologize for the inconvenience I know this will make on some of our families. This change will go into place Monday, October 2nd.

Successful Conejos read for at least 15 minutes each day! You can read a magazine, a comic book, a cook book, directions for video games. What's your favorite way to read? Write Principal Dudley a note to share your favorite way for a chance to win a \$15 Barnes & Noble Gift Card!



Submit Yearbook Pictures!



Password is
Chamiza23-24