

Parent Engagement Happenings Around BCS



April 2017

La Merced Hoopsters



The La Merced 6th grade basketball banquet was held on Sunday, March 19. Coach Matthew Loo and Coach Alex Navarette planned and organized the event. 6th grade boys and girls basketball

players and their families were invited to attend. Players and their families enjoyed visiting with each other as they ate pizza, salad, and other refreshments. After the meal, players were recognized and given trophies. The principal and assistant principal took a moment to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the players and coaches, and then it was time for cake and ice cream! The banquet was a wonderful opportunity for parents, students, and school staff to visit with each other and build community.



The evening ended with cookies and punch, music students signing the “Read Across America” song, raffling off five media/literacy baskets, and taping Educational Assistant Nancy Saiz to the wall. Thank you to local Belen tutoring company “H2 Solutions” for donating a \$500 gift certificate for private tutoring.



Simple Machine Challenge at BMS



In Science last quarter, 8th grade students in Mr. Layman’s and Ms. Hedrick’s classes at Belen Middle School studied about Laws of Motion and Simple Machines. The students were encouraged to get help from their parents to come up with ideas on how to get a tennis ball from the ground into a box 3 feet high using simple machines. All

the work needed to be done by the machine without the student touching either the ball or box. Students had the option of working with a partner or individually. After designing their machines, students brought the necessary parts to school and assembled the machine in the classroom on the day of the challenge. Many parents came in to see their student’s contraption operate. Other students shared with their teachers stories of the fun they had being resourceful and creative. One student had his dad’s help in welding together a high-powered catapult. Another said she and her dad built a rather effective trebuchet!

Reading Fun at Central

On March 2nd Central Elementary held their 2nd Annual Read Across America Celebration. With about 75 families attending, students and their parents participated in various literacy activities. Fun with reading was experienced in read-alouds, a library scavenger hunt, book walk, family gym play, face painting, and making “obleck and truffula seeds.”





Science Fair at Gil Sanchez Elementary



On March 8, 2017, the second grade class of Gil Sanchez Elementary proudly displayed their science fair projects. All students, guided by parents and teachers, researched and prepared a science fair project. The goal was to create an opportunity for parent involvement, teacher-parent collaboration, and to allow the students to show what they have learned from the common core standards of asking and answering questions, research and data collection, supporting their findings with textual evidence and practice their language skills.

The students project topics ranged from learning about the earth's core to discovering how seeds are spread from one place to another. We had AP BHS Science Students, 1 teacher from Infinity High School, and 1 Academic Facilitator judge our students projects. It was a tough choice but in the end we had our winners.

Gil Sanchez Elementary 3rd Annual Second Grade Science Fair



Ms. Rankin:

<i>Student</i>	<i>Finish</i>	<i>Project</i>
Barrina Holloway	First Place	Travelling Seeds
Alijah Boozer	Second Place	Tornados
Santana Arellano	Third Place	Fool your senses
Matthias Romero	Honorable Mention	Matter changes in a Bag
Aldo Campa	Honorable Mention	Chemical Changes –Mentos and Soda

A Sanchez:

Linsey Sanchez-	First Place	How does nitrogen affect corn plants?
Pablo Aguilar	2nd Place	What medicine dissolves faster, tablets or gel?
Jason Pareo	3 rd Place	Germy Surfaces
Josiah Medina	Honorable Mention	Does liquid affect magnets?
Jorge Castillo	Honorable Mention	Obleck-Is it a liquid or a solid?

Students Participating in STEM at DCE



Students and parents had an opportunity to engage in hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities. Some activities included; dry ice bubbles, Mission to Mars habitat, animal petting zoo, worm farm, geo-board task cards and many more family engaging opportunities. Community

members also played an important role in the success of the event. Tropical Fish-N-More brought a variety of reptiles and animals for the families to enjoy, while Kona Ice was available to sell and donate part of the profit to benefit student activities. Parents provided positive feedback about the event and are looking forward to next year's event.

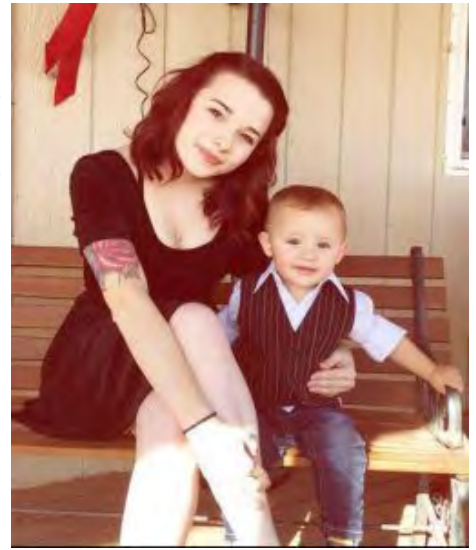


Parents were invited to join in our Literacy Day celebration. Students participated in a door decorating contest, principal and teacher read-aloud, hands-on literacy activities such as making oobleck and book marks. Students were able to take Dr. Seuss related pictures and meet the Cat in the Hat. This event provided parent, students, and teachers with a positive literacy experience.



BHS Student Parents

Belen High School GRADS students and former BHS GRADS students participated in a Town Hall Meeting at Hotel Albuquerque on Tuesday, March 28th. Former GRADS student, Destiny Graham (class of 2016), was the keynote speaker, Ashli Hampton (class of 2014) was on an inspirational youth panel. Chris Orphal (class of 2017) teen dad, was selected to be on a panel for young fathers with other teens. Cody Sprague, teen dad, was chosen to facilitate a round table discussion. One of our GRADS objectives focuses on teen leadership, and we are proud that our students were asked to participate in this event.



For those of you who may not know, GRADS (Graduation, Reality and Dual Role Skills), is a program based at Belen High School that has been operating since 1991. Our graduation rate across the state for all programs (located throughout the state of NM) is 81% opposed to 50% of teen parents who do not participate in GRADS.

In addition to providing services and Child Development classes for our teen parents, we also provide daycare services for staff members from throughout the Belen Consolidated Schools District. Parenting classes for both teens and staff are provided as well. Our many focuses are to help students develop the skills necessary to be successful parents and productive community members as well as develop college and career readiness.

