



As tomorrow is our Veteran's Day holiday, our Wednesday newsletter comes home a day early. As we will not be together tomorrow, we ask that students, while at home, consider that more than 50 U.S. soldiers lost their lives in Afghanistan last month alone and that since our operation in Iraq, more than 4,100 U.S. soldiers have perished. We hope to be starting a service learning initiative soon that will allow our students to write letters of support to our servicemen/women overseas.

Please note that we will have a five day holiday for Thanksgiving, Wed. Nov. 25th - Sun. 29th. This will be an important window for students who need some catch up time on E2020. Again, when your child misses school due to illness, etc., a **minimum of 3 \_ hours** of E2020 time needs to be applied at home or elsewhere to keep up.



**Parent Volunteers** continue to shower us with their help and support. Thank you! We have recently acquired several donated picnic tables and a basketball hoop. Help with Service Learning on Fridays, and a most impressive show of support for our Halloween dance by volunteers, has been greatly appreciated. We remind parents and grandparents who volunteer to remember to sign in, as each hour you spend at S.O.D.A fulfills the 20 hour per year **volunteer commitment** we ask of our S.O.D.A. families.

#### **S.O.D.A Students Impress Valencia County**

Last Wednesday a group of our students shared their own powerpoint presentation and their powerful letters about their concerns in the county

at the County Commission meeting. A standing-room-only forum gave our students a very memorable experience from which to see that their voices are important and that adults do value their opinions. A heart-felt congratulations for a job well done goes out to Marcus Talmadge, Faith Lucero, Bailey Keelee, Stormie Sanchez, Kailee Bryant, Emma Clara-Gelinas, Yanira Montaldo, and Emilie Carpenter.

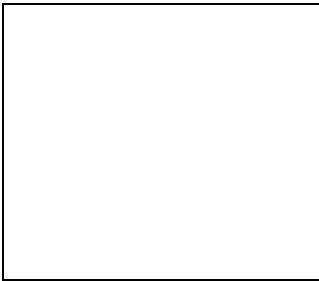
**Adventures in Literature** students have been studying American heroes in recent weeks so as to help name the rooms in our building after heroic figures. They successfully taught each other about their assigned heroes and conducted engaging discussions about noteworthy Americans from Jane Addams, to Benjamin Franklin, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Elie Wiesel, Yo Yo Ma, and many others. If your child is currently taking this course, please ask them about the hero they studied and others they learned about.

**Spanish Classes** enjoyed their field trip to the National Hispanic Cultural Center earlier this month. Mr. Romero wishes to thank the many parents who helped make the trip a big success.

#### **E20/20 Update**

Students' journal entries in their Language Arts program are in the process of being evaluated on the merits of whether students are making adequate attempts to answer their work thoroughly. All students must R.A.C.E their answers. **R.A.C.E** stands for: **Restate, Answer, Cite and Explain**. When students fail to show suitable effort to answer their work, they must submit their second attempts in writing to Mrs. Greenley in order to receive credit. Your assistance in checking for the quality of your child's work is appreciated. Grammar and Spelling ARE important. We find that students often write their school work in the manner of their

text-messages to one another. Academic excellence requires that writing conventions are learned and followed.



### **Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District**

personnel joined us for a talk, and later a walk into the bosque last week. We expect more partnership with them as we work to “adopt” the entry to the bosque near our school. We hope to ensure that it is a clean and inviting area for which we may all enjoy. On a recent Service Learning Friday students tried their hands at being amateur landscape architects, planning how they would like to transform the entry area to the bosque. Here is a sample “quick write” following this session we had together:

Today was a lot of fun, though it looked deceptively simple. I really have to give a hand to landscapers doing that every day. I mean, who would think that drawing landscape plans for the bosque would take that much effort? If you think about it, drawing designs isn't easy when you're looking to make it look good and be practical while considering the fact that people still need to use it for certain things. It will be exciting when we go back to vote on the best plans, because that is what we will be working on for years and years, so it had better be good. I really appreciate that the teachers really take the time to stop and listen to what the students think is best at least once a week. That is really not something you'd see in all schools. I am really grateful for all the opportunities S.O.D.A. has given us. Can't wait until next week,  
-Joseph Orna

### **Food For Thought**

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

**Mahatma Gandhi**



Walks in the Boque are always fun. It's especially fun if you can share it with others. I am glad that we are able enjoy the beauty of the Bosque and it is sad that others don't think it worthwhile to keep it clean. I hope we can show others what a beautiful, fun, and relaxing place the Bosque is.  
-Rachel Burden

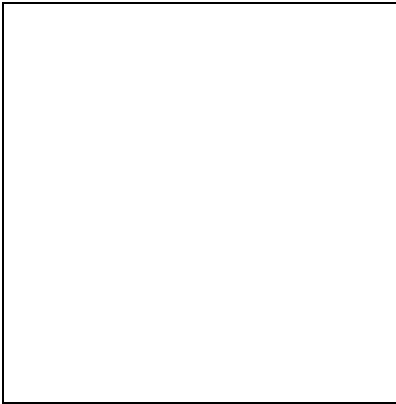


**Thanks to Tierra Bonita** we now have our recycling receptacles in place. Teaching the kids to throw their aluminum and plastic bottles inside, not in the trash can, is harder than you would think. We hope to establish S.O.D.A as a model campus of Green Initiatives. Any support in this area is appreciated.

### **Request for Paint Brushes and Paint**

Tierra Bonita has donated metal trash cans for our school that we now wish to paint and decorate. We must start with some white primer and move onto our colorful creations. Brushes and paint donations would be most appreciated (used materials are just fine!)





## Fall Festival

Please remember that our Fall Festival is November 18<sup>th</sup>. Parents and students are asked to show support and join us for an exciting evening of games, food and fun. If you are able to volunteer to lend a hand, please contact our PTC president, Kerra Howe at 866-SODA, or if you would like to indicate interest with a note to us, please cut the bottom off from this newsletter and return with your child.

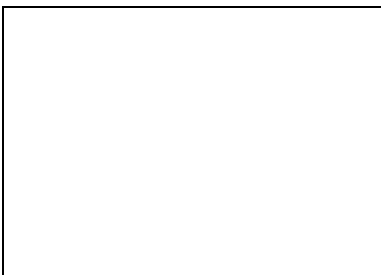
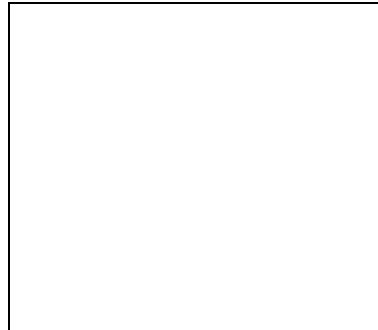
### Art Corner

SCHOOL OF DREAMS ACADEMY STUDENTS SHARE THEIR ARTWORK WITH THE WORLD!

Los Lunas, NM -- Move Over Famous Artists! School Of Dreams Academy artists are taking over the spotlight! I have teamed up with Artsonia, [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com) -- the world's largest online kid's art museum -- to display the students' artwork.

Anyone can view the school gallery online at: [www.artsonia.com/schools/Dreams2](http://www.artsonia.com/schools/Dreams2). Visitors can browse the artwork in the school gallery by grade level, or by specific exhibits. School Of Dreams Academy students join thousands of students from over 100 countries whose artwork is showcased on Artsonia. I would say that this program is a wonderful way to get parents and family members more involved in Art Education.

All of Artsonia's artwork (nearly 5 million and counting!) are viewable online. Artsonia provides several online features such as fan clubs and personal guestbooks, as a way for families to encourage the creativity and imaginations of our young artists. In addition, family members can purchase keepsakes imprinted with the child's artwork, with Artsonia donating 15 percent of our annual product revenue back to school art program.



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Yes, I would love to help. I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_ (tel #).  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent of \_\_\_\_\_