



We are really at the finish line now. May is here! We are now beginning to realize just how much we have accomplished this first year. With that, we also continue to marvel at the role our S.O.D.A families have played in our successes this year. Thank you so very **much!** The support and hard-work of so many of you has made our efforts so much more successful and gratifying. For many of us, this is the first school where a "family feeling" has been experienced. We hope to see this phenomenon continue and grow.

MAP Testing Rescheduled

We have our Measure of Academic Progress assessment scheduled for next week. We apologize for the date change; we are learning that technology can be a little temperamental. We have been working to assure that both E2020 and the MAP testing can function on our server without glitches. We believe we are there now!

Summer School Reminder

We have some space remaining for our summer school sessions and encourage you to sign up without delay. We will run two sessions to meet the needs of summer travel plans. These sessions are as follows:

June 7-18 and July 12th-23rd

Each session is two week's long, however, a commitment of only ONE week is required. Hours will be 9:00a.m.-1:00 p.m. Sign up forms are in the front office area.

Your child will be able to work from home this summer on their e2020 courses. Our school-based sessions offer students the support from teachers that they may require. ***Courses must be completed in order for your child to be promoted to the next grade.*** We are

trying to make this possible for all of our students. If you have questions, we encourage you to make an appointment with either Ms. Castillo (principal), or Mrs. Conroy (counselor). They can share with you your child's progress in school and help you determine what amount of time commitment this summer may be required for your child to finish their courses.

Hats off to the Student Council

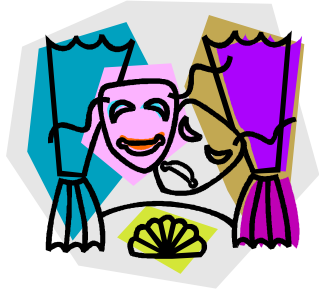
This past Saturday the student council held their first yard sale. They raised more than \$200.00 and are quite pleased with their success. They are now preparing their big ***semi-formal dance*** slated for May 14. All grades are welcome! The evening will begin at 7 p.m and end at 11 p.m. and will be held at the Bosque Farms Rodeo Association Cowboy Hall (1045 Arena Rd., Bosque Farms). TWO non-perishable food items are required to enter. Chaperones are needed. Please call Pam Bell, Student Council Sponsor, to indicate interest in volunteering (999-8132)

Clasé de Español Heads to Albuquerque!

Our two Spanish classes travelled to Albuquerque today for a field trip. Their plans were to take a walking tour of Old Town to discover some of the history of the city and to gain a clearer understanding of the concept of "town square." The class has been studying vocabulary related to our trip; they are using words such as "iglesia", "autobús", "tren", "tienda" (church, bus, train, store) in preparation for their journey. After the walking tour, the group was to proceed to the National Hispanic Cultural Center to participate in a cultural-dance workshop that was to be conducted by a professional in the field. The workshop's theme centered around the "Cinco

de mayo" celebration. We look forward to hearing all about their day. Kudos to Señor Romero for taking the learning to unique and exciting places!

First Annual Arts Fiesta Next Week!



On May 11th S.O.D.A invites you to come join us for an Open House. Our band, choir, drama, art's program, and service learning will feature some of the highlights of their work from recent weeks. Come see some of the videos student groups have worked on for service learning. Support their effort to provide financial help to the Valencia County Animal Shelter with a small donation. The fun will begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring the whole family!

Run For the Zoo 5K a Great Success!

Coach Chavez and Mrs. Greenley report that a wonderful, albeit chilly, day was had by our S.O.D.A. runners. This year's event had a record 11,000 + participants. Our students were thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful event. Many enjoyed some time visiting the animals afterward. We bet the Polar Bears were happy Sunday...burrrr.



Runners Share Their Thoughts....

"What I thought about our run is that it was a life- changing experience. Let's do it next year. If we could get at least twenty more people I bet we can raise over \$1100 for the zoo. Next year I hope I can do the 5k and continue until I'm 16 - then I would do the 10k. Thank you!"
-Jose Montoya

"Yesterday was so fun, I loved it. I loved running with all those people and then they were so nice to be giving us all those snacks and stuff. It was neat to see how many people care about the zoo, the aquarium, and the botanical gardens. I was so surprised to see so many babies, moms with strollers, and small children. Also the part where we went into the zoo was so fun. I loved seeing all the animals that we were helping. The best part was seeing all my friends there."

-Cerisa Chavez

Thoughts on Service Learning

Our service learning/experiential education class last week was quite special. Three students (and parents), shared with us about their lives in other nations. Our students truly enjoyed this experience and indicated interest in future endeavors such as this one.

"Today was the greatest Friday because I got to learn about different countries, what their cultures are like, and the foods they eat. My favorite guest speakers were Yanira and her mom, because their country sounded very interesting and now I would like to go visit Peru sometime in my life. More than anything, my favorite part was that I got to learn more about these three kids."

-Demi Gonzales

"Today was a lot of fun. I liked how we got to learn about different countries and what goes on there. It was really nice of all those people to come in to talk to us about their country of origin and what they think of our country. I really dislike all of the prejudicial views about Mexican people that exist and I feel it is really ridiculous how people treat each-other sometimes. I am still really glad to know more about some of these other countries. For example, it was interesting to learn how two of

the students came from countries that have wonders of the world! I really enjoyed the S.L. project today and hope that we can learn about more nations!"
-Giuliano Riccio

Students of the Month!

Jose Montoya and Maria Troyer were both chosen this month as exemplary students at the School of Dreams Academy. We continue to be awed by the academic commitment and good character of so many of our students and thus it was a pleasure to be able to sit down with these gems to learn about their lives, their interests, and their goals for the future.

Jose Montoya, a 7th grader at S.O.D.A, tells us that he has lived almost all of his life in Los Lunas. He is a huge fan of baseball, a sport he has played for quite some time. His other interests include singing, performing, and, as he puts it, "anything active". We certainly witnessed Jose's stamina Sunday in the Run for the Zoo! Jose is a student that brings a smile to our faces with his kind nature, HUGE love of learning, and his endless curiosity. He recently asked one of us if he could start on his 8th grade courses if he finishes before the end of the year. Naturally the answer was yes! He then added, "Great, because you know I want to get ahead so that I can be ready for high school and college." Priceless.

Jose tells us that he likes S.O.D.A because he feels it is a school that allows students more opportunities to prepare for their high school and college courses. He added that he believes e2020 teaches more than other schools and that he feels that the teachers are more understanding and take time for their students. Jose has many goals for his life. He can see himself as a priest, a sport-reporter, and athlete, or a coach. He is already researching universities. He wants Mrs. Howe to know that he will NOT attend Ohio State. However, he is very curious about some out of state universities. We know Jose is on a path to success, whatever route he takes.

Maria Troyer, an 8th grader at S.O.D.A, comes to us from the Good Shepherd Montessori. She has impressed us from day one with her warm, good-natured personality and her unwavering commitment to her studies. Maria tells us that she loves to swim, spend time with her friends, and read.

Her classmates recently reported that without Maria, they don't know how they would have pulled off their video for a service learning project. She was the rock that kept them on target, with her quiet, steady manner.

Maria says that what she appreciates about S.O.D.A. is that she can work at her own pace. Fridays are also a day she enjoys for the variety of service learning activities coupled with the fact that we are released early. When asked what service learning project she enjoyed most, she indicated that it was the cleaning up of the illegal dump site near UNMVC. For Maria it was the sense of accomplishment that came with finishing that job that was most rewarding.

Maria is still exploring ideas about her future career ambitions, but does have an interest in being a crime scene lab detective, "like on CSI", she says. Studying chemistry at New Mexico State in Las Cruces may just be the path she takes.

Volunteers of the Month

When our staff at S.O.D.A. sat down to share ideas of which parent we should acknowledge as our "volunteer of the month", we realized that we have so many yet to celebrate and only this month to do so. For that reason we have decided to send a very heart-felt thank you to ALL the parents whom we have not officially acknowledged yet this year and tell you that we are grateful for your time, energy and support.

PTC News

Our next scheduled meeting has been moved to Monday, May 10th due to the Arts Festival on the 11th. Please join us to elect the next year's PTC officers.

Important Dates/Mark Your Calendars!

- *May 11th, Spring Art's Fiesta (6:30-8:30 p.m.)
- *May 14th, Student Semi-Formal Dance (More news on its way!)
- *May 20th, S.O.D.A Fun Day!
- *May 21st Last day of school
- *Summer School June 7-18 / July 12th-23rd