



Private Education in a Public School Setting

## Riverside Elementary School No. 2 1872-2010

Mesquite School, located at Lower Buckeye Road and 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue, was District #1, established March 4, 1872. The name was changed to Riverside in 1873. The school became District #2 on May 20, 1873. On this date there were 70 children enrolled. The money in the General Fund on this date was \$231.18. School funding was predominantly derived from the State of Arizona and Maricopa County. In 1873, Maricopa County became the sole funding source for the Riverside Elementary School District.

In 1905 Riverside School District #2 moved to its present location. At one time during this period the school was threatened with closure due to lack of students. A zealous rancher, who incidentally was a board member, hired several large families as laborers, thus increasing the enrollment and saving Riverside School.

Often time County funds were so low or depleted completely that teachers were asked to hold pay vouchers until funding was available in the county coffers. In the 1918-1919 school year there were two young teachers, Ms. King and Ms. Boylson who were hired to teach the children. They moved onto the school grounds, where a small house was provided for them. The classes were held in two small classrooms. Ms. King and Ms. Boylson were paid \$95.00 per month plus \$5.00 for doing the custodial duties and making wood burning fires in pot-bellied stoves.

Many children rode their horses to school and hitched them to a post where now stands the school marquee. On the first day of school older children on horseback chased the younger students around the school yard, frightening them into running up on the porch of the school as a means of entertainment. When these older students were reprimanded for their actions, they quickly responded by saying that they always did this. They were promptly informed that this custom would cease that very day and hence the Riverside Elementary School District strict student code of conduct was born.

Riverside has a long prestigious history of educating students from its humble beginning in 1872 to currently being recognized as an educational leader in providing students a high caliber private level education within a public school setting.