

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Ranch Elementary School

43521 N. Kenworthy Ave. San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

Ph: 480-882-3530 Fax: 480-655-6412

www.ranch.jocombs.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 - 4:00



December 2016

HELP US BRING CHILDSPLAY THEATRE TO RANCH ELEMENTARY THROUGH YOUR 2016 TAX CREDIT



Childsplay is a nationally and internationally respected professional theatre company that performs for children in Arizona. We would like to integrate drama and writing skills with an emphasis on putting the language into action, body positions and facial expressions. Research shows that children retain more of what they learn when they are actually physically involved in learning.

How can I make a tax credit donation?

Take advantage of Arizona Tax Credit. Ranch front office has tax credit forms or you can go to our website at www.jocombs.org to print the tax credit form. When filling out the form please be sure to check the box for Ranch Elementary for any amount up to \$400 (joint filing) or \$200 (single filing) that will be used for extra curricular activities and you can reduce your Arizona taxes.

RANCH STAFF DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11 - Eve Heinzelman - Resource Para
16 - Brendan Stynes - Program Specialist
20 - Sue Kruse - Principal

Follow us on Twitter @
Ranchroadrunner and
[facebook.com/RanchRoadrunner](https://www.facebook.com/RanchRoadrunner)



1- Picture Retakes
1 - Orchestra Club 3:15pm
2 - Lunch on the Lawn
5-9 - PTO Penguin Patch Holiday Store
5-9 - Classroom Spelling Bee
6 - Character Counts Luncheon
6 - Math Masters 3:15pm
7 - Lunch on the Lawn
8 - Human Growth & Development
5th Grade
8 - Library Club 3:15pm
8 - Orchestra Club 3:15pm
9 - Lunch on the Lawn
13 - Math Masters 3:15
13 - Battle of the Books study session
3:15pm
13 - Student Council Mtg 3:15pm
13 - Jingle Jog (see page 10 for info)
14 - Lunch on the Lawn
15 - Character of the month luncheon
15 - Orchestra Club 3:15pm
15 - PTO meeting 5:00pm
16 - Lunch on the Lawn
16 - Principals Math Fact Test
16 - PTO Pancakes with Santa 5:30pm
20 - End of 2nd quarter
20 - Math Masters 3:15pm
20 - NO POPS Classes
20 - AM Kinder Prep Only
20 - Early Dismissal 12:00
Lunch will be served
NO SCHOOL 12/21 - 1/4/16

JANUARY

5 - School Resumes
5 - Orchestra Club 3:15pm
6 - Lunch on the Lawn
8 - Report Cards go home
10 - Math Master 3:15pm
10 - Battle of the Books study session
3:15pm
11 - Preschool Screening 8:30am
11 - Lunch on the Lawn
12 - Lunch on the Lawn
12 - School Spelling Bee
13 - Lunch on the Lawn
13 - Awards Assembly



Kinder Prep

In December, Kinder Prep has a very busy month. We will be learning all about some celebrations that happen this time of year like Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Parents are encouraged to share things from their culture about the holidays that they celebrate in their homes. We have begun our mid-year assessments, as well. We are reviewing a lot of our skills this month while still teaching some new skills. Our letters of the month are Bb, Uu, and Cc. Our numbers are 9 and 10. Our color is green and our shape this month is the star. We will be learning about length in math as well. The children will practice their measuring skills using an animal ruler that they will be making this month. Our upcoming family event, the Gingerbread House day will be on Tuesday, December 13th. We hope that you will join us. Look for more information to come home soon about this activity as well as other activities in your child's classroom.



Functional Life Skills

Here comes December with all its fun and excitement. We are going to learn about the color red and a star is our shape. It's a short month with Winter Break so we have to really work hard each day and still have time for crafts and art activities. Our room will be filled with lots of laughter and smiles and holiday sharing!

Kindergarten

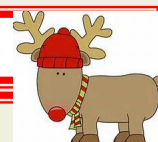
It has been a great first semester in Kindergarten. Students have made such growth and it is wonderful to see how much they have learned. Please make sure that you review the Foundations packet that is sent home every week. We will work through Unit 2 quickly. Please help your student with letter formation of both lower and upper case letters. They will be held accountable for correct letter formation. In math, we will be working on simple addition and subtraction. Please also help your child with correct number formation as well as practicing number order and quantities that numbers represent. Thank you for all you do to support your child's learning at home. Have a wonderful winter break!



In Foundations our first graders are working hard on reading and writing words with glued sounds such as -an and -am and also words with suffixes! Please continue to read with your child every

night to support their reading fluency. In math, we are working on place value. Students should be able to identify the amount of tens and ones in a 2 digit number using concrete objects, place value cards or drawings. This will build the foundation for Unit 5 where students will be expected to add and subtract 2 digit numbers. During the last weeks of November we will be discovering the journey of the Pilgrims as they ventured on the Mayflower.

POPS



The POPS preschool classrooms will be learning all about holiday celebrations in December. We will be focusing on the color green and the shape of a star. Our concepts and letter/sounds will be a review of what we have learned so far. Help us reinforce our theme and vocabulary at home by reading books about holidays and family traditions. It will be a month to celebrate! Look for more information coming about our Gingerbread house festivities on Tuesday, 12/13. Parents or Grandparents are welcome to come in and decorate a gingerbread house with their child. It will be a special day to remember.

FIRST GRADE



SECOND GRADE



It is hard to believe, but December brings us to the halfway point of school year. Second grade is busily working towards becoming amazing readers and writers, and mathematicians. Please make sure that your child is reading daily during the Winter Break. Make the most of all "teachable moments" when you are on break. Ask your child real-life math questions throughout the day. These simple tasks will ensure that your child is retaining as much as possible during the break, and will hit the ground running as soon as he or she returns to class in the new year!

Fourth Grade

It's already December! Where has the time gone!? 4th grade has been super busy preparing for second quarter Galileo testing. Testing will take place during the second week of December. Here's what's going on in **Math**-We just finished our division unit and we are now exploring the wonderful world of ALGEBRA through equations and word problems. **Science**- Fast processes that change the Earth's surface. **Social Studies**- Study of national and state government and our economy. **Reading**- Comparing and contrasting elements of nonfictional text and identifying sequence and text structure.

CHEESE!



Thursday, December 1st is picture retake day at Ranch. If you are new to the school, or were absent, come dressed for pictures and bring your beautiful smile!

If you did not like your first pictures and want to have your pictures retaken you need to return the original picture packet to the photographer on the day of retakes.



THIRD GRADE

Third grade has been learning a lot about animals life cycles and their habitats. We will be starting their biome projects this month, please keep your eyes out for the information to come home about it. In reading we will be starting to discuss literal and nonliteral language that can be found in stories like Amelia Bedelia. We will be continuing our math adventures by moving to unit 3 with rounding and discussing place value.

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students are enjoying the holiday season and continuing to earn "Holiday Cash" in class! Thank you in advance for your generous donations to our Gingerbread House Party event! December will also be a time for us to continue preparing for our Biz Town field trip in January! Students will complete job applications, interview for their preferred positions, and get ready for their big day "at work!" This month, students will also work on their "Optimist International Essay" to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship! We hope you and your families have a wonderful and safe holiday season!



Picture Retakes at Ranch



Sixth Grade

The 6th grade has had an awesome month of events! Students in Social Studies Biz Town have been learning what jobs they are going to apply for when it comes to working on our field trip day the end of January. Science has been amazing with our Green Apple Day Event with McCarthy Construction and DLR Builders. They worked with our students and their parents in putting together our, "Secret Garden!" Students have also planted the north garden beds with Mrs. Luostari's preschool class and had fun making the holes and counting out the seeds with their paired buddies. We are all working on our essays for the Optimist Society Contest, with the theme Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges. 6th grade along with 5th grade have been approved to start a new club here at Ranch Elementary, the Junior Optimist International (JOI) club under the guidance of the Gilbert Optimist Society. We are looking forward to electing officers and working on our first project(s) in January!



Title I Reading

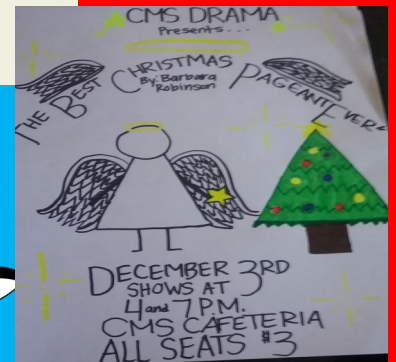
November has been a very busy month in Title 1 Reading. December promises to be busy as well as students are working towards meeting their reading goals. Here's an activity you can do at home that can be both educational for your child and fun for the whole family. Even if your child is motivated to read, you can be supporting and add interest in a variety of ways. Gather some photos and have your child create captions to go with each picture. Assemble the pictures and captions into a picture book and add speech bubbles. Your child will enjoy reading the book and sharing it with family and friends. It might also be a great gift for someone on your list. Happy Holidays!

Physical Education.

Phys. Ed. is gearing up for the holidays by making fitness fun!!! Please encourage you kiddos to go outside and play in this wonderful weather. This month is short but strong. K-2nd grades are learning fundamentals with different types of balls, footballs, yarn balls and basketballs. Many different shapes and sizes. In January we will try to play some various games with these balls. Third and Fourth grade are being introduced to the game of football and playing modified games. Fifth and Sixth grade are in full football game tournament, and will continue to play football through January. Have a wonderful Holiday Season!!!!

Combs High School & Combs Middle School Drama

This has been a great season for CHS/CMS Drama so far and we'd like to keep it rolling with the following event. On December 3rd, CMS Drama will present "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." This is a fabulous holiday family show.

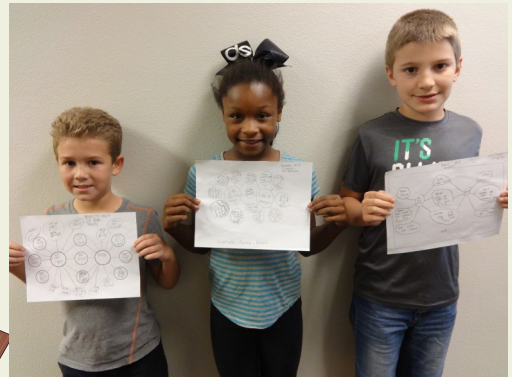




CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to Congratulate the following students for winning the Thinking Maps Contest comparing San Tan Valley to Kenya:

First Place - Branson Moak 3rd Grade
 Second Place - Nevaeh Lewis 5th Grade
 Third Place - Talen Raper 5th Grade



Kindness Means to Me



We Would Like To Congratulate:

First Place - Mya Palmer 4th Grade
 Second Place - Paislee Hatch 3rd Grade
 Third Place - Ava Hess 3rd Grade

For Winning the "What Kindness Means to Me" contest



PINAL COUNTY ATTORNEY'S ANTI - DRUG POSTER CONTEST CEREMONY



6th Grader **Lindsay Threlkeld** from Mrs. Cross' class became one of the top 10 finalist in the Pinal County Attorney's Drug Free Poster Contest. She was awarded a bag full of goodies, a certificate and picture with Pinal County Attorney and her poster featured in print on next year's poster calendar distributed throughout the county! Congratulations Lindsay for a job well done!

Semi-finalists from Ranch 6th grade; **Katherine Nevarez** and **Gage Solis**. They were part of the top 50 out of 1000 entries to the contest. Congratulations to all our Ranch participants. You did an amazing job!

Student Of The Month



Paislee Hatch

When asked which student in third grade best represents the pillar of caring, one student came to my mind, Paislee Hatch. Many memories from the first two quarters run through my head, but one in particular stands out as the most caring of them all. One

day a fellow student was having a hard time at school, not being able to pay attention or focus, as well as struggling to stay organized. Paislee overheard this student sobbing to me about his struggles, she came over and told him it would be okay. She notified me after that she wanted to move her seat to sit next to him in the hopes that she would be able to keep him on task and organized. Paislee's selflessness is amazing to see at such a young age. Besides this one moment in time, Paislee has also welcomed the new students into our classroom with open arms. She asks them to play with her and her friends, as well as sit with her at lunch, and show them around school. I have spoken to her mother about these examples on several occasions and her response is "I am so proud of her and none of these things surprise me." She continued with, "Paislee has always had a heart of gold and always wants to help kids with different needs." These details are very true of her character. She is a kind and caring soul.

Mrs. Terpay & Ms. Fischer

Caring

November Students of the Month

The following students were recognized for showing great citizenship by having lunch on the stage with a friend on Thursday, November 19. Congratulations!

Ameerah Marigny
Ashlyn Angle
Bella Davis
Charli Ruiz
Dallin Thompson
Emily Thornes
Hannah Vandersommen

Jezreel Cristobal
Kate Allred
Kendall Parker
Logan Parker
Luke Jensen
Owen Allen
Vyvyen Chieu

Employee of the Month



Keith Pennington

Mr. Pennington is an outstanding teacher! He has welcomed my students into his music class each week. Although they have varied disabilities and behaviors he has included them with patience and respect in all activities.

Blinda Mills



Employee of the Month



Holly Hipps

Ms. Holly is everyone's "go to" person. She is such a team player; she will go above and beyond to help anyone. Holly is a very positive person and you can tell she absolutely loves her job. She always keeps the front office laughing and positive. Ranch Elementary is very lucky to have such a fun loving health assistant!

Debbie Mertens



Ranch Staff Acknowledgement Form

Has a Ranch staff member gone above and beyond for you or your child? We would love to hear about it! Please share your appreciation for a Ranch staff member and turn it in to the front office.

I would like to recognize _____ for _____



Ranch would like to thank everyone that attended our Veterans Day Assembly. It was a huge success!!



*Thank you to our Ranch Veterans Day committee members:
Aaron Allen, Renee Braun, Amber Gaylord, Kara Flores, Keith Pennington and Paul LaPorte*



PTO's December Events

December 5th-December 9th our Penguin Patch Store will be open. More information to come!

December 15th PTO Meeting 5:00pm

December 16th is Pancake Dinner with Santa from 5:30-7pm - Come enjoy a free pancake dinner with your family. Take your picture with Santa (\$3) and do some holiday kids crafts (free). PTO will be selling sausage \$1 & drinks \$.50-\$1.

Don't forget about our free funds for the school. Send in all Box Tops,
& Little Caesar's Proof of Purchase labels



News from the District

Thank you for supporting the Bond Election and making this election year a win for our students! Once the sale of bonds commences in July, the community will start to see their bond dollars at work over the next several years with the construction of the Combs High School auditorium, new busses, updated technology, and a district transportation and service center. Follow the progress of these projects on Twitter @JOCombsUSD #CombsBond2016

Mark your calendars for Polarfest on December 10th from 11am - 5pm at Combs Middle School! Enjoy a fun filled day with carnival rides and pictures with Santa. Many Combs school organizations will be there with booths or student performances. Don't miss out!

On January 4th at the district professional development day, community members are invited to attend the Rejuvenation Vendor Fair at Combs High School from 12:30pm -1:30pm Help set your New Year's Resolutions in motion by visiting with representatives from colleges, gyms, credit unions, and health offices. While you're there, don't forget to stop by a food truck for lunch! We hope to see you there.

Combs is currently hiring for a number of positions including paraprofessionals, a high school science teacher, a middle school math teacher, and emergency substitutes. If you or someone you know is interested, please visit the Employment tab on the district web page at www.jocombs.org.

2017 Harkins Loyalty Ultimate Fundraiser

Name: _____

Student/ Teacher: _____

Phone Number: _____

PRODUCT

DESCRIPTION



LOYALTY CUP VOUCHER

Enjoy \$1.50 soft drink refills through the end of 2017, includes first fill FREE!

(Vouchers redeemed at theatre)

Retail Price: \$5.25

QTY

TOTAL

\$



LOYALTY T-SHIRT VOUCHER

Receive a FREE medium popcorn every time you wear your Loyalty T-shirt to the movies through the end of 2017

(Vouchers redeemed at theatre)

Retail Price: \$25.00

QTY

TOTAL

\$

Check with Mrs. Stacie for availability. If paying by check, Please make it out to Ranch PTO. Thank you

Road Runner Jingle Jog

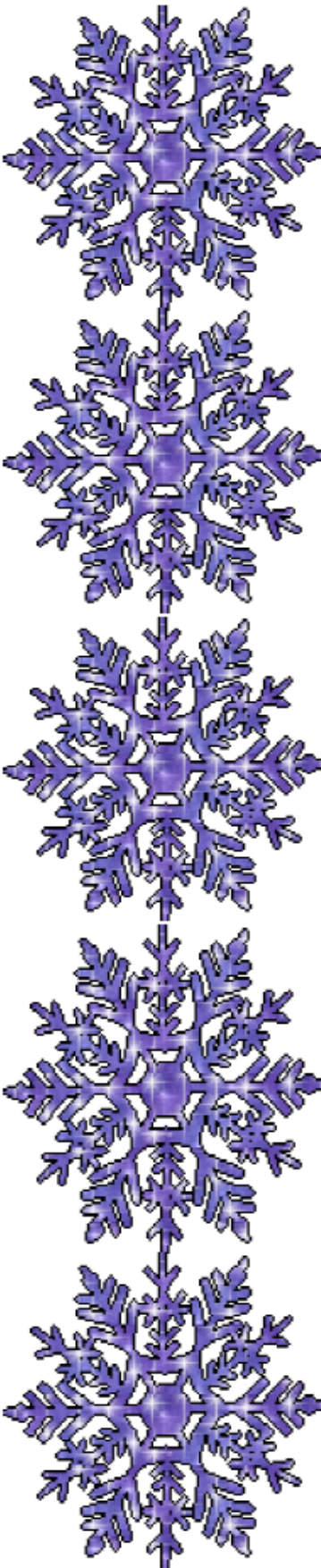
Date: Tuesday, December 13th

Time: 12:50 - 1:20 K-1st grade
1:25 - 1:55 3rd & 4th grade
2:00 - 2:25 5th/6th grade
2:30 - 2:55 2nd grade

Location: In back of the school on the grass



The Jingle Jog is a great way to start the holiday season!!! Please come out on December 13th to join Ranch Elementary and your kiddos to start the holiday break. We will have fun music, jogging and maybe someone special will make a holiday appearance?
(if raining will be moved into the gym)



Combs Kidz Winter Break Camp at Ellsworth Elementary

We look forward to a fun-filled Camp on the following dates:

Wednesday, Dec. 21

Thursday, Dec. 22

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Thursday, Dec. 29

Friday, Dec. 30

Tuesday, Jan. 3

Wednesday, Jan. 4

- \$30/full day or \$15/half day.
- 20% Sibling & Employee discount.
- DES payments are accepted.
- Register online by Dec. 16.
- www.jocombs.org website, please choose the "Community Education" tab at the top.
- For more information contact Tracie at (480) 987-5310 in Community Ed