



Monday, January 2, 2017

Dear Indian Oasis Families,

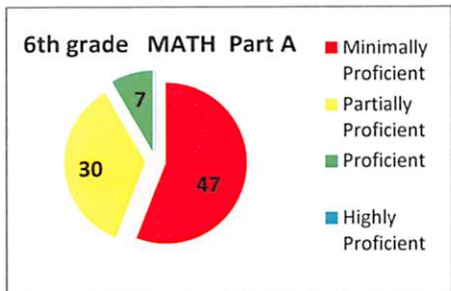
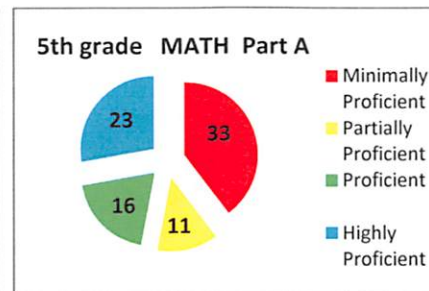
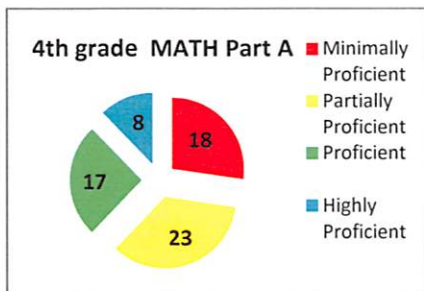
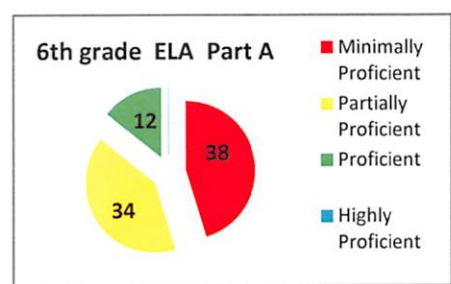
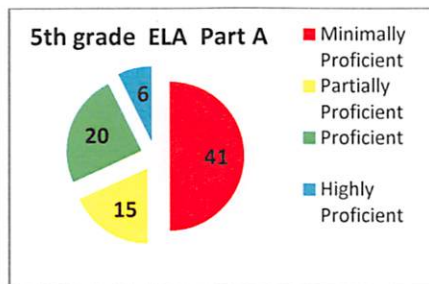
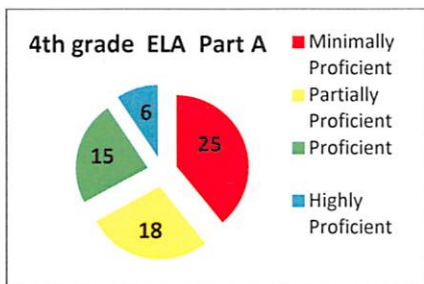
Happy New Year! I hope you and your family enjoyed a relaxing and fun-filled winter vacation and shared lots of hugs and laughter with your children and loved ones.

Welcome back to the school. As the teachers and administrative team return to our important educational work and planning, I would like to share with you some important timelines and expectations for our continued successes at our school.

As you know, **academic testing is at the core** of all that we do at our school so that we have continuous and “real-time” knowledge of all of our students’ skills and abilities regarding their learning. We must continue to assess the students so that we know which concepts we can craft rigorous learning plans and curriculum maps which lead all students to mastery and/or growth. Of course, once all the teaching and learning are done, we assess. Then, we celebrate. **We will continue to celebrate the academic achievement and growth throughout the second semester.** This is our chance to say, “Job well done! And, “We’re proud of you!” to all students. We also look forward to celebrating all students who have never had any behavior referrals with fun in the sun days, playing kickball, having relays, and playing a variety of fun outdoor games with the staff.

During our **December testing, here’s how our awesome students performed:** (Keep in mind, each test assesses a large collection of standards. Each test assesses a different set of standards. What remains the same is that the tests are difficult. They are built with the same challenge that the students will face when taking the state mandated AzMERIT.)

These pie charts indicate the **NUMBER OF STUDENTS** in each performance category:



We are proud of our students once again, as they have put forth their best effort to pass these challenging assessments. They are doing their best for us, and we are doing our best for them as well. Our teaching team will

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continue to teach using the most effective teaching practices, pull students into small groups for close reteaching lessons and challenge those who need the opportunity to engage in individual work to meet their potential.

The pie charts provided do not show you your specific child's achievement, only clustered data. Although we are pleased to see that we are keeping the “red category” at a minimum, you should know that many of the students in the “red category” or “minimally proficient” have made prideful gains as well. **Every child in our school maintains their own personal data binder and their teachers expect them to chart and record their progress.** I encourage you to ask your child how he or she is doing and to share their data charts with you, as they are kept in their AVID binders.

We invite all students to fun “testing celebrations” at the end of each quarter. **We will be celebrating all students who met their testing goals on the December “Green IA” this Wednesday as they make “winter cottages”** using graham crackers, icing and candies and drink hot chocolate, while they listen to some of their favorite songs. Below demonstrates to you the incredible individual achievement of many of our students:

“We have 127 students attending! Eight students earned 100%, 21 students were in the 90% -99% range and 69 were in the 70% - 89% range. That’s 98 proficient students (41% of the school!) and 29 Exceptional Education students who made at least 10% gains from the Pre-Test.”

We will have our **Academic Awards Assembly this Thursday, January 5th from 8:30-9:30 in the gym.** We will have a small reception in the library for the parents of the winners of Student of the Quarter. All parents are invited to attend the assembly. At the end of this assembly, we will have a special treat! The Thee Royalty student dancers are scheduled to perform at this assembly. They take the stage at 9:15 sharp! We hope to see you join the fun and celebration!

Last, but not least, **I would like to THANK the wonderful Tohono O’odham Nation Education Department, specifically the Johnson O’Malley team once again for their INCREDIBLE support and partnership with our school.** They supported a purchase of customized banners and posters for our school, which will proudly be displayed on our school for years to come. This customized posters and banners project brands our school PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) programming and motto of “SUCCESS; NO LESS That’s how roadrunners run at our Intermediate School!” The artwork and design was done to match our school’s environment and the natural surroundings in a fun and colorful presentation.

Please join us during the second semester to visit our campus, your child’s classroom, or to just join a fun event. We look forward to seeing you on campus and appreciate your partnership and support.

Kind regards,


Ms. McIntyre, Principal

Below are some upcoming dates you will want to keep track of on your calendars:

Jan. 16: Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday – No School for BUSD

Jan. 23: Short Cycle Assessment #4 Week.

Feb. 6: Short Cycle Assessment #5 Week. (Tentative)

Feb. 20: President’s Day – No School

Feb. 27: PINK IA Testing week

Mar 20: Short Cycle Assessment #6 Week. (Tentative)

March 27-April 7: PAPER BASED AZ MERIT TESTING week

(ADE AZMERIT info linked here – including resources: <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit/>)

March 27 or 28: AZ MERIT WRITING TEST (must occur on one of these two dates)

April 17-21: Spring Break

May 8: BUSD Post Test to be administered this week.

May 26: Last day of school for students. (Half day)

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