

September 2016



# Rio Vista Elementary Newsletter



Principal Siobhan McCarthy  
Assistant Principal Marlene Bennison

*Mustang Success, Nothing Less!  
We Bee-lieve in you!*

## Tax Credit Program Helps Rio Vista!

### Letter from Principal McCarthy

To Our Rio Vista Family,

Please join us in "BEE"-lieving in our 10,000 students and reducing your tax bill by giving to the tax credit program in the Pendergast District. You can help us raise much needed funds for extracurricular programs for students. No administrative costs are involved, just money straight into the hands of schools for programs for students!

The Arizona Legislative House Bill 2074 was enacted in 1998, enabling taxpayers to designate up to \$400 (for a married couple filing taxes jointly) or up to \$200 (for single filers) on their State income taxes by contributing to Arizona school extracurricular activity programs. The tax credit program gives a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state income taxes. This law allows you, the taxpayer, the opportunity to denote your tax dollars to directly benefit schools and students in Pendergast Elementary. The best part is...you do not need to have a child in school to participate. We welcome, friends, relatives, anyone who "BEE"-lieves in our students. If a specific program not designated by the contributor, the school will choose a program based on greatest need.

According to the law, this money must be designated for extracurricular activities that supplement the educational program. For our students who often come from homes with limited income and who participate in the free and reduced lunch program, the tax credit program provides them with meaningful activities and program that include: Field Trips, Basketball, Volleyball, Track, Ballroom Dancing, Soccer, Band, Choir, Cheer-leading, Play Productions, Music Festival and our Art Festival.

Students love being part of the award-winning Ballroom Dance program that gives them self-confidence and grace and also the Running Club where students train for a half-marathon and the

money is used to purchase running shoes and clothes for students who could not otherwise participate. Research tells us extracurricular programs provide positive learning experiences for children and your tax credits make that possible.

It is easy to give and doesn't cost anything. For staff members, we offer payroll deduction so it is simple to give. Contact the Payroll Department at 623-772-2226 or simply download the form linked below. You will be issued a receipt to send in with your taxes. For further information visit the Arizona Department of Revenue guidelines.

Tax credit contributions must be received by April 15, 2017. Contributions received from January 1, 2017 through April 15, 2017 can be claimed on your Arizona State Tax Return for either 2016 or 2017.

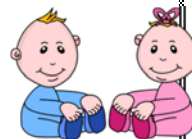
Please consider this donation for Rio Vista!

Your partner in education,

*Siobhan McCarthy*

### Family Resource Center now at Rio Vista!

Rio Vista is proud to be  
the new home of  
Pendergast's Family  
Resource Center!



The Pendergast Family Resource Center will host a variety of classes for parents and children ages 0-5. Please be on the lookout for their flyers and come join us! The resource center will also be a great place to come in contact with services in and around the Avondale area. For more information about the Family Resource Center please call 623-772-2339.

## Upcoming Events in September:

1st and 2nd	<b>NO SCHOOL for Students: Teacher Professional Development Days</b>
5th	<b>No School: Labor Day</b>
6th	Yankee Candle Sale ENDS- Please send in your order forms and money.
7th	<b>Early Release</b> Story Time for Toddlers: 9:45, for Preschoolers: 11:00am
8th	PESD Parent Luncheon at the Pendergast Community Center, 11:00am  PTA General Meeting, 5:00pm
13th	PESD Community Partners Breakfast at the PLC, 7:30am
14th	<b>Early Release</b> Story Time for Toddlers: 9:45, for Preschoolers: 11:00am  3:30pm School Improvement Plan Meeting (Library)
16th	Fall Picture Day!
20th	Governing Board Meeting at Desert Horizon, 7:00pm
21st	<b>Early Release</b> Story Time for Toddlers: 9:45, for Preschoolers: 11:00am
28th	<b>Early Release</b> Story Time for Toddlers: 9:45, for

## School Counselor's Corner: Bullying at School

All students started the year participating in an assembly to talk about bullying at Rio Vista. The assembly was presented by Mr. McNamara, Ms. McCarthy, and Mrs. Bennison. The presentation focused on the definition of bullying, what to do if you are being bullied, and how to report this at school. You can encourage your child to do the following to help keep them bully free at school.

Avoid bullies	Stay calm	Travel in a group
Act confident	Keep a safe distance	Use humor
Look confident	Use "I messages"	Tell an adult
Be observant	Be assertive	Say, "Stop it!"
Tell a friend	Walk away	Join a group/activity



We have a process at Rio Vista for reporting bullying. A student can anonymously fill out a bullying report form and submit it to the bullying box in the library. A student and/or parent can also make a report to any staff member about a situation or contact Mr. McNamara. You can also report bullying that occurs on the internet to [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) or if you feel that something illegal is occurring, you can always contact local law enforcement.

When students leave campus, unfortunately the bullying does not stop there. Many kids are cyberbullied at home on the computer through e-mail, social networking sites such as Facebook or Instagram, IM, and chat rooms. Instruct your child to "block" bullies or delete your child's current account and open a new one. If your child is being bullied via text and phone messages, change the phone number and instruct your child to only share the new number with trustworthy people. Also, check out phone features that may allow the number to be blocked or check with your cell phone provider to see if anything can be done.

If your child is a victim of bullying or is the bully, there are steps you can take as parents. The websites [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov) or [www.netismartz.org](http://www.netismartz.org) are great resources for parents and kids for more information on bullying and cyberbullying.

Mr. McNamara

School Counselor

