

**PARENTS!**  
1/8/2015

## **THURSDAY FOLDER – NVA WEEKLY COMMUNICATION**

### **And so it begins...**

Welcome to the new year! We hope all of our NVA families found time to enjoy each other and all of the wonderful things that a little time off and a break from the routine can offer. Back to business!

**First and foremost for you – we have a **schedule change** coming in March. As many of you know, the PARCC testing window is throughout the month of March. We have derived a schedule for testing and we believe the impact on our learning will be minimal and the benefits (what we learn and assessing what our students know) maximal. Here is the change-**

**March 9, 10 & 11 are *regular* school days with **no early release** or student-led conferences being held. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report cards will go home on March 13.**

**April 15, 16 & 17 **will** be early release days (1:00) with student-led conferences being held.**

### **Just a reminder –**

- Our monthly assembly will be tomorrow, Friday, January 9 and the theme for the month of January is *Science and Technology*.
- There will be a **Saturday School** session this Saturday for students who have not yet fulfilled the Science Fair requirements.
- We are seeking **judges** for the Science Fair – availability during the day on January 22. NVA Science Night will be held that evening with fun discovery activities for families and all science projects on display. Let your child's teacher know; contact Tammy Hernandez at x 126, or contact admin.
- Do you have an **old door or two** taking up space? We would love to take it off your hands and give it the important job of displaying student art work for our annual Doorway to the Arts in February. Contact the front office.

Remember – NVA is not an APS school. We utilize an annual calendar designed for our school community and it may not always correspond to the surrounding districts. The calendar can be found on the back of your child's Thursday folder, or on the website. When in doubt, check it out!

The December regular Governing Council meeting included a "State of the School" report and all were pleased by the growth NVA has shown in academics over the first semester. Contact admin or a Governing Council member if you want details. We also participated in many constructive and positive school community projects. NVA is the place to be! And we couldn't be more pleased to share positive information with our families, the Public Education Commission and the community at large. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we continue to "grow kids" with your help.

If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or kudos, please feel free to contact any of us.

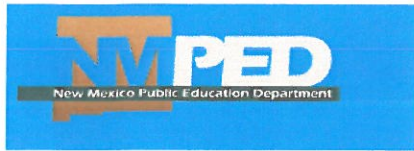
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Chief Operations Officer





Partnership for Assessment of  
Readiness for College and Careers

December 2014

## COUNTDOWN TO PARCC FOR FAMILIES

### SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN READING AND WRITING

English language arts (ELA) standards identify what students need to know in reading and writing at each grade level and can be found at <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA>. While teachers introduce and teach concepts in school, students should also practice reading and writing at home. See <http://literacynewmexico.org> for parent resources to assist students with improving literacy.

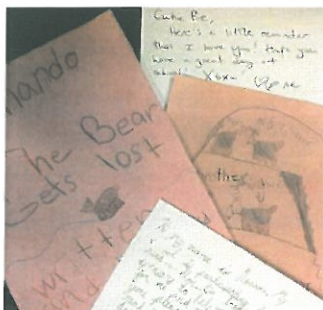
#### HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR KIDS IMPROVE LANGUAGE SKILLS?

- **Provide a quiet place and ample time for doing homework.**
- **Increase conversation time.** Ask your child questions about school, friends, activities, and interests. Encourage your child to offer details by providing the same information about your interests and activities.
- **Ask your child to teach you what s/he's learning in school.** Ask questions and encourage detailed responses.
- **Write silly and affectionate notes to your child and hide them where he/she will find them.** Encourage your child to write and hide responses for you and other family members!



#### HOME ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE READING SKILLS

- **Have your child read to you or others!** They can read stories, recipes, grocery lists, or instructions.
- **Set an example!** Children who see adults reading at home are more likely to be proficient readers.
- **Make it meaningful!** Talk to your child's teachers to determine his/her academic strengths and interests. Read books, magazines, and articles in those subjects with your child.
- **Play The Alphabet Game (and other word games) to expand vocabulary!** Choose a letter and a theme. To begin, Player 1 offers a word in that theme that begins with "A." Next, Player 2 offers a B-word in that theme. For example, if the theme is fruit, player 1 might say, "A – apple." Then player B might say, "B – banana." Continue through the alphabet. Switch up the game to think of words that end, instead of start, with the letter. (This is a great game to play in the car!)
- **Take a day trip!** Visit the zoo, museums, or historical sites to increase exposure to new words.



#### HOME ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE WRITING SKILLS

- **Gift Idea!** Have your child write a story with pictures and a book cover. You can even add a biography and binding!
- **Holiday cards and thank you notes!** Ask your child to write holiday cards to friends and relatives, and thank you notes for gifts.
- **Publish an opinion!** Read a newspaper article together and then have your child write a response. Submit it to the "opinion" section of the local newspaper to see your child's words in print!

# Joy Jumpers is back!!!!!!

Calling all 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders!!

If you love to jump rope or think you want to try it out come see me. There will be a team formed and the 1<sup>st</sup> 20 get to join in on the fun.

When: Tuesdays starting in February\

Time: 3:00 to 4:00

Where: Center of the arts

To sign up and receive more information please see Ms.Summer in the PreK Classroom.Once all 20 slots are filled a waiting list will be started.



Summer Brown (Ms.Summer)

Sbrown@nvanm.org

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