

May 2006 Communique:

More Good News...



Congratulations to Mr. Mackie!

Mr. Mike Mackie, grade 5 teacher at Bennett Academy, has been selected by the NAU/NASA-sponsored Weather Balloon Project to participate in an exciting summer program in Boulder, Colorado at which he will learn how to teach the basics of weather balloon science. This is quite an honor for a first year teacher, because only 5 teachers from Arizona were chosen.

Thanks to Ms. Troiano for finding the application! Thanks, Mr. Mackie for taking the time to apply.

BPO Has Another Great Idea!

We all want to look better, don't we? So does our little bus! Our Parent organization has determined to help us get the bus painted. Previously they have held yard sales. Now, they have a campaign going in which the students will donate change and see which classes donate the most. Yes, it will take a long time to collect 5,000, but every little bit helps!

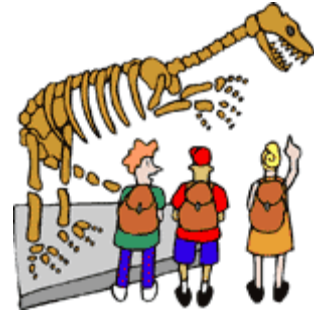


Bennett Academy has earned the rank of Performing Plus.



Every year each Arizona school is ranked as to how well they did the previous year on standardized test scores. At our previous facility we always scored well. When we moved to our new location, we became just "average" or in the words of the ranking system "performing." The ranks have been published, and **Bennett Academy has earned the rank of Performing Plus**, which means **we did exceed state standards** but do not have enough students exceeding the standards to score "highly performing."

Performing Plus is a good rank, and we plan to exceed that in coming years. Our goal is "Excelling." This, however, can only be accomplished with students who attend school regularly and take school seriously.



Field Trips

Parents and Friends of Bennett, do you wonder where your tax credit donations go? At Bennett, they go to the teachers for field trips. This year different classes have attended the County Fair, they have gone to the Challenger Space Center, they have been to the Arizona Science Center, and next month six of the theatre students will attend *Les Miserable* at Grady Gammage theater in Tempe. More trips are planned for the end of the year. The students in the upper grades help determine the field trips for their classes.

Field trips stimulate thought. They provide insight into the applied world of learning, and they make learning fun! You are welcome to join in the funding of these field trips with your tax credit donations. How does that work? I'll use our family as an example. When Mr. B. figured out our taxes this year (on April 16), he was able to take 250.00 off the top of our state tax bill. It's a great deal. Everyone pays taxes...we like to pay less, and help the school.