

# Communiqué



August 15, 2006



## **Congratulations to Mr. Mackie!**

Mr. Mike Mackie was selected by the NAU/NASA-sponsored Weather Balloon Project to participate in an exciting summer program in Boulder, Colorado, at which he learned how to teach the basics of weather balloon science. WATCH FOR THE AFTERSCHOOL WEATHER BALLOON CLUB FOR GRADES 5-8 STARTING SOON! (He also conducts the rocket club...wear your helmet!)

## **More Good News...**

**Bennett Academy is a Performing Plus School.** To meet the next highest level (excelling) will take perseverance by the students to increase their reading, writing and math skills.

### ***Before and After School Policies***

Parents, we know that some of you need to bring your children to school early, and leave them after school. Currently we are contracting with Touchstone Community to provide their **Journeys** program for both before and after school. We know this costs you money you may not wish to spend. We are working with Touchstone to get the school premises certified by DES in order to provide less expensive childcare for families that qualify. Still, we want you to consider seriously how early you really must get your children to school and how late you must

pick them up. Most children who get up too early do poorly in school...fact.



Here's the bottom line re: times:  
Drop-off before 8:30 will be charged to parents by Touchstone. They open at 6:30 in the lunchroom. Students need to go to the lunchroom when arriving before 8:30. Students arriving after 8:30 may go to their rooms if allowed by the teacher or play in the front yard. The gym will not be open at this time.

After school—pick up your child before 4:00 in the lunchroom, where they will be participating in a study hall. Please send a snack for your child if they stay after school. Students staying after 4:00 will be charged by Touchstone.

## The Bus Beautification Project



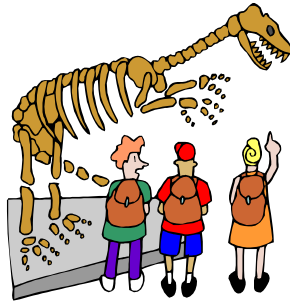
Last spring we collected change from students and parents to pay for a new paint job on the bus. Well, the paint job was too expensive so we bought a new bus instead (don't look for the logic in there...we promise it was a good deal.) With the money the students collected, including the end-of-year donation by student council, we purchased the two informative magnetic signs you will see on the buses. Unfortunately, only the new bus is certified at this time.



### BPO Meeting to be announced!

RESEARCH SHOWS.....One of the differences between "performing" schools and "Excelling" schools is the level of parent involvement. You have something to offer! Call Mr. Hyte for info.

## Field Trips



Parents, do you wonder where your tax credit donations go? At Bennett, they go to the teachers for field trips and for sports expenses. Last year different classes attended the County Fair, the Challenger Space Center, the Arizona Science Center, and *Les Miserable*' at Grady Gammage theater in Tempe. Trips for the 06-07 school year will depend on tax credit donations. The students in the upper grades help determine the field trips their classes take.

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.

Also, tax credit donations apply to the after school sports program. This year we have volunteer football coaches, but we must buy expense jerseys and trophies. The tax credit donations pay for these items.

How does that work? When you figure your taxes in April you will be

able to take your donation amount off the top of your state tax bill. It's a great deal. Everyone pays taxes...we like to pay less, and help the school.

### Did you read this?

**Parents**, cut out and send back the signature section in this column signed by *yourself*, and your child will receive 2 merits. If you send it back with a note *about one of the items in the Communiqué*, your child will receive **5** (five) merits! Please write the note in a complete sentence, in your handwriting, for verification purposes. (Merits will now buy water, school supplies and lots of fun items.)

I have read the *Communiqué* this month!

Signed. \_\_\_\_\_

Student name/s  
Comments:

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Kids...turn in to your teacher. Thanks!