

# Mountain Lion Minute ★ October 2012 Edition

a monthly publication showcasing school information and highlights.

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## Principal Message

Dear Parents and Students,

What a pleasure it is for me to be a part of Mountain Trails Elementary. I love working with our teachers and staff and each one of the students at the school. Every day I have what I consider a unique opportunity to rub shoulders with people who make a difference. From staff and teachers to students, I see so much impact for good in the lives of others. I have always liked the account of the "Star Thrower":

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied,

"Well, I made a difference to that one!"

The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved. - adapted from the Star Thrower by Loren C. Eise

Often times, the task ahead of us seems daunting and we may question whether or not our effort makes a difference. I have seen what can happen when small efforts are combined over time and from many working together: the outcome is phenomenal. I applaud your efforts as parents to be involved in your child's education. I realize that schedules can get very complex and family life can be taxing and even stressful. A few minutes each day connecting with your son or daughter can make all the difference in the world to them. Reading with your child can provide a rich opportunity to make that connection and will often lead to further discussion about life experiences, both yours from the past and what your own child is experiencing now.

Your effort makes a difference to us. Whether it be formalized volunteer work at the school or in the classroom, help with homework, contributions to fundraisers, or your commitment and partnership in efforts to keep students safe traveling to and from the school, every effort combines to make a spectacular learning environment for all of our students at Mountain Trails Elementary.

Thank you!

David Turner, Principal

## Upcoming Events

11-12 & 15 October Fall Break—No School

16 October Picture Make-up Day

18 October Parenting Class @ 7:00

19 October Reflections Entries Due—The Magic of a Moment

19 October PTA/SCC @ 1:00

31 October Halloween Parade @ 10:00 in the gym—costumes

encouraged. Please, no masks, cross-dressing, weapons  
(real or fake)

## ROAD TO SUCCESS

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D

**EVERY** KID—**EVERY** DAY

Catch the Fever!

Pick up a book 😊

Blazing a Trail of LEADERSHIP and LEARNING

Mountain Trails Elementary—providing inspiration, belief, and hard work to empower a learning community to discover its limitless potential.

## REMEMBER:

Slow down, reduce distractions and be alert when driving near the school. We appreciate everyone's commitment to ensuring our students are safe traveling to and from the school each day. As drivers, we all have a responsibility to be on the look-out for students in a school zone as well as throughout the neighborhoods. Thank you for joining our effort to keep kids safe!

## C.E.R.C.

Come check out the Caregiver Education Resource Center at Mountain Trails Elementary. There are tons of free games and materials that help not only entertain, but boost learning skills. Items can be checked out, used and returned. The C.E.R.C. is opened Tuesday, Wednesday from 9:30-12:00 and Thursday from 12:30-3:00. Please plan to stop by.

## From our PTA

Mountain Trails has launched "Get on the Box-Top Bus". Every class will be collecting Box-tops this year as part of a school-wide competition. Box-tops collected equate to a certain number of miles each class's bus will travel and prizes will be earned for the class as mile markers are met. We ask that you collect box-tops and send them to the school with your child. Please make sure that the box-tops are clipped from the package and that they have not expired. Thank you!! Our goal is to collect 50,000 box-tops this year which would bring in \$5,000 for the PTA to provide wonderful things to enhance your child's education.

## School Community Council/PTA Meeting

October 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00

District Community Council Representatives and Alpine School District Officials will be visiting as well as Scott Sumner, the principal for the new middle school to open this fall. Mr. Sumner will be discussing boundary proposal for the middle school and be available to answer questions. Anyone is welcome to attend.

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