



Rio Hondo Newsletter

Be Safe

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

Homework hotline number 626 - 258-4124

STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Last year was very successful in many ways but we still have a lot of challenges this coming school year. We are happy to report that Rio Hondo met the API goal with an increase of 16 points over last year's score. Rio Hondo's new API score is 735. We also met the 2007 *No Child Left Behind* mandated targets for each subgroup. In fact, 5 out of 6 subgroups have already met the 2008 mandated targets in Language Arts. After two years of concentrated focus in writing, we've witnessed a tremendous increase in the writing scores from two years ago.

Because of our past focus in the areas of Language Arts, the math scores have been flat for the past two years. Although each of our subgroups met the *No Child Left Behind* targets in math for 2007, we still have a long way to go if we are to meet 2008's targets. Mr. Lawson, Ms. Garcia, and the entire staff are dedicated to increasing the math scores, and at the same time continuing the growth in Language Arts.

RIO HONDO'S GOAL FOR 2008 IS A 7% INCREASE IN BOTH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATH, AND AN API SCORE OF 750. THIS WILL BE A 15 POINT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR.

Each grade level is currently developing goals for Language Arts and math. The staff has been trained on working in collaborative teams which are called *Professional Learning Communities*. Over the course of the year the teams will meet regularly to determine the extent of student learning. The teams will use student achievement data to help determine how we can help the students improve their progress.

We will continue to refine our interventions. This year two retired teachers will work with grades 1 through 5 on helping students with specific needs. Special intervention material has been purchased for this intervention. In the upper grades the teachers developed an elective

called EXCEL. EXCEL helps a small group of students with organization and study skills. It is taught by language arts teachers who give additional guidance in that subject. Our AVID students are using AVID strategies in each of their classes. The AVID teacher will meet with the other teachers to receive guidance on how she can help her students in their classes.

Unfortunately, we have almost 100 less students than we had planned. Because of that, we will be losing a teacher. Mrs. Sleight is transferring the Cleminson School. She is a very good teacher, and Cleminson is extremely fortunate to be getting her. Some students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades will be changing teachers on October 15th, which is the trimester half-way point. The welfare of the students has been our primary concern in planning the moves. The parents of the students being moved have been notified, and Mr. Lawson will meet with any of those parents who have concerns about the move.

Finally, we compared the scores of the students who had over 10 absences with the rest of the students. Depending on the grade level, the students who had excessive absences scored between 9% to 16% less than those who came to school more often. Clearly we can't teach the students who are not here. It is increasingly important that parents get their children to school! Parents are asked to make all appointments for after school. If appointments must be made during school hours, please bring your child back to school right after the appointment. It is very important for your children's education to be at school everyday.

We are looking forward to a very successful school year. Mr. Lawson, Ms. Garcia, and the entire staff thank you for your support.

October 2007 Events Calendar

Oct	5	Primary Student of the Month
Oct	5	Free Dress
Oct	10	School Site Council
Oct	10	PTA Fund Raise Begins
Oct	12	Upper Grade Student of the Month
Oct	12	1 st Trimester Mid-way Point
Oct	13	Rio Hondo Carnival (Lot's of Fun)
Oct	16	PTA Meeting
Oct	17	6 th Grade Outdoor Science Meeting
Oct	22	PTA Fundraiser Ends
Oct	22 - 26	Parent Conference
Oct	22 -26	Red Ribbon Week
Oct	31	Halloween Parade and Bake Sale

Consolidated Days

Oct. 22 nd through 26 th	-	Kindergarten thru 8 th
Oct. 17 th	-	Kindergarten
Oct. 3 rd and Oct. 17 th	-	Grades 4 and 5

Shortened Days

Oct. 17 th	-	Grades 1 though 3
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Please make arrangements to pick up your child on time. See the monthly calendar for release times.