

# RIO REPORTER

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CHARTING A NEW COURSE OF EXCELLENCE

QUARTER 2

NOVEMBER 2012



## **COSTANZO'S CORNER**

Rio Norte Junior High School is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year and we have adopted the idea of a “Decade of Excellence”. It has been a fast 10 years with wonderful events happening every year. Several years ago when we switched our intervention program from credit recovery to targeted intervention, we set a goal to score 900 on the annual STAR testing. We are very proud to announce that we scored 900 on the test which was given last April. It is truly a tribute to the support that all parents give to their children, dedication of the entire Rio Norte Staff and outstanding efforts of all of our students.

Our Red Ribbon Week was successful as we encourage our students to make the correct personal decisions as it relates to their lives. The next week included our Halloween festivities on October 31 which included dress-up day, a costume contest during physical education, surprise Halloween performance by the PE teachers and of course, our Halloween Dance.

The PTSA sponsored a very impressive Reflections Gala and we had a most dignified CJSF Induction Ceremony in which we celebrated student achievement. We had a similar celebration during our academic awards ceremonies. In addition, we were treated to a very nice and well planned Fall Drama Show.

Thanksgiving is right around the corner with no school on November 22 and 23. On November 21, we will have our Turkey Bowl in which the eighth graders will play flag football including our cheerleaders. Seventh graders will be involved in a special program during the game. Also, mark your calendars because our choir and band will be performing on December 13 and 14.

The last day of school for students prior to Winter Break is December 19. School resumes on January 14, and students will report to their Advisory class at 7:45 a.m. to receive their second semester classes. It is most important that every student does the best they can because it has an affect on their class selection for next year. Eighth graders have a special challenge so they are eligible to participate in their end of the year activities. A new event added this year is the eighth graders are going to Magic Mountain on May 10<sup>th</sup> instead of Disneyland. Eligible eighth graders can't have more than 30 demerits and must have earned 92.5 credits by the end of third quarter.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and please refer to our website or call the school if you have any questions.

John M. Costanzo  
Principal

## **PTSA**

Reflections is a nation-wide arts appreciation program sponsored by the National PTA. Since the program began in 1969 over 10 million students have participated. Rio Norte PTSA is proud and delighted to report that this year we had 133 students' submitted entries in five different categories, capturing this year's theme "The Magic of a Moment." Thank you to the many teachers who helped supports our students in their creative endeavors, especially to Mr. Bibicoff. Our celebrated artists, whose works are moving on to compete at the regional level include Emma Drew for her photo titled "Sunset" which captures the magic of a very special sunset; in the Literature category Allison Angelidis' vivid story recalls the fateful events of September 11; Caryn Johnson's original song "I Will Find Myself Some Air" received the Award of Excellence in the Musical Composition Category; in the Film Production Category Christian Ferrene's short film "From My Eyes to Yours" moves on; and in the Visual Arts Category top honor was awarded to Kayla Brick for her untitled pencil artwork capturing the magic her little sister sees when she encounters a butterfly in the garden. Congratulations to all our Rio Norte artists.







Rio Norte PTSA is proud to present "Tween to Teen: Insight Into the Adolescent Brain," an informational panel exploring your teenager's physical and emotional development and parenting tools for managing this unique time in your child's life. Our guest panelists will include Josh McDonald, Hart District School Psychologist; Dr. Sunanda Vadapalli, Pediatrician; and our own Rio Norte Junior High School Counselors. The panel is on Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am, immediately following a brief PTSA Association meeting.

It is always encouraging to me that whenever we put out a request for volunteers, Rio parents show up in force and get the job done. Your contributions make all the difference and we genuinely appreciate all that you do. If you'd like to get involved, contact me: [kadahlquist@gmail.com](mailto:kadahlquist@gmail.com) or our volunteer coordinator at [riortonertePTSA@gmail.com](mailto:riortonertePTSA@gmail.com).

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and I hope to see you at the next PTSA Association meeting at 9:00am on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Kari Dahlquist  
PTSA President

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Progress Report "Posted to Portal" November 20<sup>th</sup>. 
- Turkey Bowl - "C" day November 21<sup>st</sup>. 
- Thanksgiving Break is November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Report Card "Posted to Portal" December 20<sup>th</sup>. 
- The Winter Dance is on December 18th from 5:30-8:30 pm ( Dress code enforced)  
Students with a "groove pack" do not need to purchase a ticket.   
The cost is \$10-\$25 depending on when the ticket is purchased.  
Water and Goody donations appreciated.
- "E" Early release days are December 5, January 17, 30 & February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Winter Break December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 11<sup>th</sup>. 
- Classes begin January 14<sup>th</sup> (A1 day)
- Martin Luther King Holiday January 21<sup>st</sup>. 

## **“SIX FLAGS EIGHTH GRADE EXTRAVAGANZA” INFO**

May 10, 2013

Eligible Students in the eighth grade may purchase a ticket from ASB for \$50.00 (no passes will be accepted). Eligible Students are those that have at least 92.5 credits at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and by May 10<sup>th</sup> have 70 merits.

The ticket includes the following:

- Transportation to the park departing each school about 12-1 PM on May 10, 2013
- Entrance into the park to enjoy the rides until 6:00 pm
- Continued park entrance after 6:00 pm when the park is closed to all guests, other than 8th grade students
- Catered meal
- Kodak Photo Souvenir
- Extravaganza T-Shirt
- DJ/Dance/Prizes beginning at 6:00 pm
- Select rides from 6-10:15
- Transportation back to the school beginning with first schools at 9:45 and last schools at 10:15

Parents may purchase a ticket to attend the event with their child. (Siblings can't attend this event).

Parents will need to transport themselves to and from the park.

Parents can pick up their child after the event at the school. Parents may not transport students directly from the park.

**DRUG FREE YOUTH IN TOWN, DFYIT**, is a club at Rio Norte. DFYIT specializes in exactly what it says: keeping the community, especially schools, drug free. DFYIT teaches students about different kinds of drugs and how not only will they affect you in the moment, but also in the future. Not only do we discuss these issues, we also do fun, trust building and leadership games to bring the members closer together. Recently, DFYIT encouraged runners in the Santa Clarita Marathon because DFYIT members also offer community service. DFYIT gives students the knowledge to help them in the future, but also so they can help themselves become better people. Come join today! You can go to B1 during brunch or lunch to sign up.

Written by Mikayla Tamboline, President of DFYIT



## **ELECTIVES DEPARTMENT**

The Electives Department will once again be selling the Rio Norte Discount Card for 2013, starting in January! The card is still only \$10 with reusable discounts for many of your favorite businesses in Santa Clarita. The cards will be sold through student's elective classes in January or through Patty Tucker at the ASB window! And we will have the same special, buy 2 cards, get one FREE! So stay tuned!

The Elective's department is also continuing to collect Cd's and DVD's that we can exchange for new technology for our department. They must be in their original cases with all original cover art. Students can turn them in to their elective teacher. See Mrs. Moore or Mrs. Petrovich if you have any questions!

Mindy Moore  
Rio Norte Junior High  
Exploring Culinary I & II  
Electives Department Chair

## **PE NEWS**

The **Dodgeball Tournament** finished up with Child Please in 1<sup>st</sup> place, Dream Team in 2<sup>nd</sup> and The Winners in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We will continue with our lunchtime **Volleyball** after the Turkey Bowl.

**Lunchtime 3 on 3 Basketball** will be starting sometime after Winter Break. And the district wide Track and Field Meet is scheduled to take place in the Spring.

We had over 400 students running at the **Cross Country Meet** at Central Park this year! Thank you to all who participated! Thank you also for all the donations that helped make the day such a success!

### **Here are the Rio Norte top medal winners**

7<sup>th</sup> grade girls - 1<sup>st</sup> place – Abby Davis

8<sup>th</sup> grade girls - 1<sup>st</sup> place- Kaylee Thompson

8<sup>th</sup> grade girls - 10<sup>th</sup> place- Ashlee Ane

8<sup>th</sup> grade boys- 7<sup>th</sup> place Brandon Peregrino

The **8<sup>th</sup> grade Turkey Bowl** is here! The football teams and cheer are ready for the big day! Come out and support you favorite Rio Norte student on Wednesday, November 21 at 12:45.

## **TEAM COLUMBIA**

Columbia teachers are looking forward to a strong end to a demanding Quarter 2! Thanks for all the effort that you put toward the Spirit Drive, too--we will be announcing our Spring team activity soon!

## **TEAM THUNDER See the lightning; feel the THUNDER!**

Quarter 2 is when the true seventh grade curriculum really kicks in, and it can be quite a challenge. It is very important to use all the available tools such as the binder reminder, websites, blogs, study buddies, etc. to stay strong. Let's work for the best quarter yet!

## **TEAM ZAMBEZI**

Zambezi Science is working on the Cell Cycle and Genetics during the second quarter. We have some fun and interesting labs coming up like building a baby Reebop using different traits to explore genetics and heredity and extracting strands of DNA from strawberries. Learning through fun and thought provoking lessons is our goal!

In Mrs. Norris's English class, we have begun to read our first novel, Stargirl. The students are enjoying our discussions and learning about a unique individual who is not willing to trade her true personality for popularity. We will also begin our journey into research this quarter. Using some topics from Stargirl, our class will learn about bibliography and how to use MLA style to write about subjects they are interested in.

Mrs. FrithSmith's English class will be focusing on writing during Q2. Students will write several one-chunk response paragraphs to short stories in the English literature book and then slowly graduate to writing a researched, persuasive, six paragraph essay, which will then be debated against a partner in-front of the class.

In math class, students have learned about fractions, decimals, per cents, commissions, discounts, mark-ups, interest, and profit. Next up are exponents and irrational numbers.

In Mrs. Ratliff's History class, students enjoyed learning about the candidates and the process of electing a U.S. President. We are completing our unit on Mesoamerica, the Maya, Inca and Aztec and on to China and Japan.

**TEAM SPIRIT** - In history we have finished the Constitution Unit and our coverage of the Presidential Election. We have started our unit on the first few presidents of the United States. English classes are finishing up Call of the Wild and will begin their Hero's projects and our Science Classes are studying atoms and molecules.

We are gearing up for the annual Turkey Bowl.. since our team has so many amazing football players we are The Blue Team and The Red Team. We wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

### **TEAM NILE**

In science we are starting to study chemical equations, including a unit on organic chemistry and acids and bases. There will be many hands on labs for this quarter.

Most history classes have just finished reading and taking notes on the Constitution! We've studied Washington's term as president and the important decisions he made regarding establishing a government and an executive branch. After a short study of John Adam's term as president and his impact on history we will continue with Thomas Jefferson, the Louisiana Purchase, and the beginning of international policy.

In English class, we are debating the answer to the age old question of whether our natural instincts are stronger or does the environment we live in have more of an influence. By reading The Call of the Wild, students will be exploring the concept of nature versus nurture and because this novel takes place in the wild, students will also be answering the question of whether or not we were meant to be civilized.

### **TEAM RIO VERDE**

Team Rio Verde is having an interesting quarter 2. Although Mrs. Robb has been learning to teach one-handed, our students are still working hard learning Chemistry while Mrs. Kaplan and Mrs. Bonilla classes are finishing the Outsiders, and zooming through US History.

<http://www.teacherweb.com/CA/RioNorte/TeamRioVerde/newsflash1.aspx>