



THE PAW PRINT

Dear Combs Families,

As we begin second quarter, we are focusing on improving the success of our students in the classroom, in the hallways, before school, after school and during lunch. We want our students to learn to focus on the reason they come here each and every day and to make the best of every opportunities they are given.

We are excited to tell you we will be making a change in regard to our weekly schedule. Students will be participating in a Study Skills program twice a week beginning Oct. 21. During the Study Skills class, students will be involved with daily study skill objectives that will help them in all academic classes throughout the school day. The schedule is in this issue of the Paw Print. This program is aligned to our school-wide goal of improving student performance in reading, writing and mathematics. We feel this new program will be beneficial to all students at Combs Middle/High School.

We are also focusing on improving communication between school and home. We have made some changes to the school websites. You can now access the middle school website at www.combscougars.org, and www.combscoyotes.com for high school. We are making an attempt to keep a school-wide calendar updated weekly available on the website. You will be able to access the handbook, athletic forms, Site Council information, PTO updates, etc. It is a work in progress so bear with us; however, we do want to keep you informed.

I am beginning to send out mass emails as a communication tool. I have downloaded all the emails that we currently have in school system. If you provided an email at registration you received an email over the fall break. If you did not receive an email then we do not have an email for you. If you would like to be added to our mass email system please send your email address to receive regular communication. Email to sgarcia3@jocombs.k12.az.us

As always, my door is always open and I am interested in what is on your mind as a parent. Please drop by to see me or send me an email. Keep reminding your students that education is the key to their success.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding that your child's education is our number one priority.

Sincerely,
Brenda Mayberry
Principal

JO Combs Middle School

Volume 5, Issue 3

October 2008

Coming up....

November

- 4 Election Day
LIBRARY CLOSED
- 11 Veterans' Day
NO SCHOOL
- 12 Board Meeting 5:30
- 20 Bus Evacuation Drill
- 26 Early Release
- 27-28 NO SCHOOL

December

- 12 Board Meeting 5:30
- 19 Early Release
- 22-1/2 Winter Break

January

- 5 Prof. Development
NO SCHOOL
- 12 Board Meeting 5:30
- 19 MLK Day
NO SCHOOL

FYI...J. O. Combs School District has a \$35 fee for all returned checks!

COYOTES/COUGARS THEATRE IS HAVING A SEE'S CANDY FUNDRAISER TO RAISE MONEY TO BUY SCENE BOOKS, MYLAR CURTAINS AND A DRY ICE MACHINE. PRODUCTS RANGE FROM \$5.00 TO \$30.00. PLEASE CALL MRS. BROWN AT EXTENSION 1457 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE SOMETHING FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE. OUR FIRST ANNUAL LIP SYNC CONTEST WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. WE HAD STANDING ROOM ONLY.



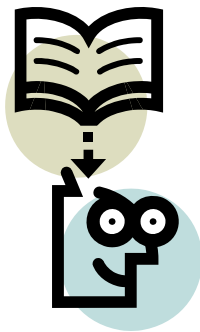
WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR WINTER SHOW ON

DECEMBER 9TH AT 7:00.

COLLEEN BROWN, THEATRE DIRECTOR

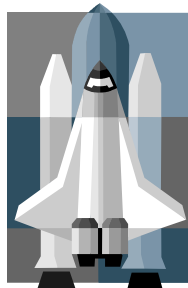
CONGRATULATIONS to the following students for winning 2nd place in the Lip Sync competition!

Ezri Umana
Sonia Perea
Danielle Kizzee
Heather Blahlak
Antonio Cisneros
Lucio Leon
David Barajas
Chris Morales
Elijah Russel
Joey Salas
Jacob Perez
Beau Bellefeuille
Way to go!!



CRITICS WANTED!

Have you read a good book lately? Want to share your opinion about it? See Mrs. Romero in the library for your Book Review form. Every person who completes the form will be entered into a drawing for a **free book!**



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION!!!

Our school collects Box Tops for Education (the little pink tickets that can be found on brands such as Ziploc, Betty Crocker, General Mills, Yoplait, Pillsbury, & Old El Paso) to redeem for cash to be used for supplies, materials, and equipment. Please cut or tear out your box tops and send them to Mrs. Romero with your student. Thanks for supporting CMS!

Peer tutoring has started!
See Ms. Furman for more information.



There is an art contest about the six pillars of character. It's from the National Art Competition Grand Canyon State Games: "Portray how practicing one or more of the six pillars of character makes you a better person." All youth are invited to enter. All entries must be 2-D art no larger than 16"x20". Only the following materials may be used to create the artwork: paper, tempera and watercolor, crayons, colored pencils, markers, glue, collage materials such as magazine cut-outs, fabrics, beads, etc. Turn in work to **Mr. Wolff by October 29, 2008.**

We are continuing to work on our Space Unit in 7th grade Science. We are still in need of 2 liter soda bottles. Please send them with your 7th grader as soon as possible!

In addition to collecting **Box Tops** for Education, we are expanding our collections to **Campbell's soup** labels, **Tyson's Project A+** labels, and **Fast Classics Home Team Rewards**. Please take a minute to look at your grocery packaging before throwing it away. If it has a label on it that may benefit our school, please send it in! We will also be recycling paper goods and ink cartridges. It's not just good for our school—it's good for our planet!

Thank you!



Study Skills Schedule

1 st hour	8:45-9:45
2 nd hour	9:49-10:43
3 rd hour	10:47-12:17
	1st Lunch 10:43-11:13
	2nd Lunch 11:16-11:46
	3rd Lunch 11:49-12:17
4 th hour	12:21-1:15
5 th hour	1:19-1:49 (study skills)
	1:49-2:43
6 th hour	2:47-3:42

Next Sports Season is Coming Up!

Try-Out for these **Middle School Sports**:

- Co-Ed Track and Field (10/22 – 10/24 **4-5pm**)
- Girls 7th & 8th Grade Softball (10/22 -10/24 **4-6pm**)
- Boy's 7th & 8th Grade Basketball (10/21 -10/24)
- Cheerleading (Combined Grade Level Team - (10/22 – 10/24 **4-5pm**)

Turn in Physical Paper Work and Proof of Insurance to the school nurse!

All paperwork must be in before the first try-out, and informational letters are available in the front office for each sport!

Ms. Smyth's 7th Grade Science has taken a "Blast Off!" into the solar system. Recent topics included explaining the relationships among objects in the solar system. Objects like comets, meteoroids, meteors, meteorites, asteroids have been studied. We also explored how Earth's orbit and axis create its seasons. When we return from break we will study the phases of the moon, eclipses, tides, and identify major constellations visible from the Northern Hemisphere. Students also completed a research project to identify a compatible career which uses science. Parents - - - Remember that Monday and Thursday are tutoring days after school. There is a late bus at 5:00 p.m. Also, if a student misses a test, he or she needs to make it up after school on the day of return. Many thanks to those of you who have called or emailed regarding your students. I'm always happy to hear from you. ~Ms. Smyth



RED RIBBON WEEK

Student Council, along with NJHS, will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week at school **October 27th - 31st**. Students will be able to pledge to stay drug free and post their name on a ribbon to be displayed in the cafeteria or in the library. We would like to see everyone's name on a ribbon! Please discuss with your child what it means to make a pledge to stay drug free and encourage them to publicly display their pledge on a ribbon at school.



UNITED FOOD BANK DONATIONS



CMS Student Council will be hosting a food drive from November 1st to December 19th. The food will be picked up before Thanksgiving and again on December 19th. The United Food Bank will be delivering it to different non-profit organizations throughout our community. Please watch for more information to follow.

HALLOWEEN EVENT

CMS Student Council will be hosting a carnival booth at the Desert Mountain Park for their annual Trunk-or-Treat Festival. The event begins at 6pm and goes until 9pm. This is a family event. There will be over 30 carnival booths as well as food and fun for everyone. Come support your CMS Student Council!



J.O. Combs Middle/High School

2008-2009

Vision

Cultivating creative, caring, contributing, champions in the community, one person at a time.

Mission

Combs creates motivated life long learners and socially responsible individuals.

Values

Trustworthiness-“We demonstrate courage, honesty and loyalty to support family, friends and school.”

Respect-“We recognize the dignity and worth of each individual with acceptance of diverse cultures, talents and skills that each individual brings to our community.”

Responsibility-“We acknowledge, accept and meet our obligations in an environment dedicated to lifelong-learning, accountability and perseverance.”

Fairness-“We treat people equally without prejudice or favoritism.”

Caring-“We demonstrate concern for others, showing empathy and compassion for all individuals.”

Citizenship-“We work for the common good by volunteering, protecting and participating in our community, while respecting authority and the law.”

School Goal

Students will improve their performance in reading, writing and mathematics with the support of all subject areas.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS! The Paw Print is no longer mailed to each family. You will still be able to view the Paw Print on the school website—www.jocombs.org. If you would like to receive the Paw Print in the mail, please fill out the slip below and have your student return it to Mrs. Romero in the library. Thank you!

STUDENT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

