



# Eagle Press

*Highlighting How Students Soar to Success!*

Volume 8, Issue 4

February 2004

Desert Valley Elementary School

Member of the National Elementary School Press Association 2003-2004

## Important Dates To Remember!

By Odalys H. and Cristina H.

- **Feb. 13**      **Half day**
- **Feb. 16**      **No School**
- **Feb. 19**      **President's Day**
- **Feb. 19**      **DV Eagle Council**
- **March 15-19** **Spring Break**

## Character Counts

Trait of the Month (February)

## Fairness

## Grant given to DV Library



*Mrs. Anderson accepts a check for \$500 from Wells Fargo Vice President and Manager Mr. David Cardiff, while Principal Mrs. May and Wells Fargo Service Manager Ms. Linda Montgomery look on.*

By Zulie S. & Tiffany H.

Last month a grant of \$500 was given to our school library from Wells Fargo Bank. We asked Ms. Anderson what she would do with the money. She said, "I'm going to spend the money on a set of encyclopedias."

## School board adopts calendar

By Zulie S., Tiffany H. & Ashley M.

At the board meeting on Jan. 15, the Bullhead City Elementary School District Board of Education approved the traditional calendar for 2004-05. There were 4 calendars to choose from: traditional, year round, modified, and 4-day week.

The traditional calendar is nearly the same as this year's calendar.

More than 1,400 people voted on a recent survey to choose a calendar. Most of the votes were from the community and other votes were from school district

employees.

Out of the community, 719 people voted for the traditional, 101 people for modified, 70 people for 4-day week and 216 for the year round calendar. Out of the employees 206 people voted for the traditional, 46 for the modified, 20 for the 4-day week and 31 for the year round.

Mrs. May said she liked the calendar that was chosen by the community. "Yes I do because in the summer me and my family can travel more," she said.

Next year, school will start on Aug. 16 and will let out for the summer on June 3, 2005.



## Student government at work

*These Student Council representatives discuss issues at their weekly Monday meeting. Representatives are chosen from their classes and vote on student-related issues.*

## Cafeteria receives grant for nutrition program

By Josh C. and Dalton E.

The school district Food Service department and the Desert Valley school cafeteria received a grant from the state. The grant is for a program to help teach kids

to eat nutritious foods.

The program will run during the rest of the school year and will pay for many fun programs to help get kids into the cafeteria to eat.

## Que Pasa?

(a.k.a. "What's Happening?")

This month and next is a month of "firsts." February began with an observance of the Shuttle Columbia crash, which occurred one year ago on Feb. 1. The shuttle was in the process of landing when it broke apart over east Texas. We mourned the loss of great aeronautical pioneers.

We continue to watch what happens in Iraq. In March, we'll observe the one-year anniversary of the beginning of U.S. Military operations in Iraq. Although we try to keep the students aware of what is happening, mainly from a his-

torical perspective, some teachers try to teach their students the importance of lending our support to the troops who are there.

Mrs. Hunt's and Ms. Winkelman's classes put together several care packages and sent them to troops overseas. After sending the care packages, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Winkelman received a letter back from a soldier, thanking the students for their gifts. The editorial staff of the Eagle Press decided to run that letter in this issue.

We see that many students are enabling themselves in ways that keep them involved and in touch with the troops in Iraq. We hope that you will read this soldier's letter and remember that all of us have an important role to play in life.

## DV Teacher moves to be near family

By Jonathan M. and Eddie R.

Mrs. Kingkade teaches fourth grade. She chose Desert Valley because her husband's family lives near by. She moved here Nov. 28, 2003.

Mrs. Kingkade became a teacher because her third grade teacher inspired her to be a teacher. She went to college in Northampton, Mass.

She loves kids, and loves to scuba dive. She likes animals. She loves manatees. She loves them so much she adopted one for her class. The manatee's name is Betsy.

Mrs. Kingkade was born and raised in Minnesota. Her nationality is Spanish, Irish and German.



*Mrs. Kingkade*

Her hobbies are reading, swimming and sewing. Mrs. Kingkade loves the book *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Her favorite movie is "Shrek." Her favorite food is shrimp scampi. She likes the color red.

## Teacher follows father's footsteps

By Chynna S. and Sarai Z.

Mr. Pahl teaches Fifth Grade at Desert Valley. He became a teacher because he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. This is his first year at DV.

Mr. Pahl's home state is Minnesota. Mr. Pahl thinks each grade is a challenge. Mr. Paul used to struggle in dividing by multiple digit numbers. Also, he has a little sister who is in her fourth year in college. Mr. Pahl's favorite hobby is ice fishing. His favorite food



*Mr. Pahl*

is sirloin steak.

## Desert Valley Eagle Press 2003-2004 Newspaper Staff

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The *Desert Valley Eagle Press* is a member of the *National Elementary School Press Association* (NESPA). The *Eagle Press* is Desert Valley School's after-school Newspaper Club. This newspaper is entirely written and edited by 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. All copy is given a final proof by the advisors to ensure accuracy and correctness.

*Check out this issue's Mystery Teacher. The first person to catch Mr. Ratliff on the playground with the correct answer, gets a special treat!*

## U.S. Soldier in Iraq thanks DV students' for sending packages

The Character Counts pillar for December was Giving and Sharing. The students in Ms. Winkelman's and Mrs. Hunt's class were busy gathering materials and writing letters to send overseas to soldiers who are in Iraq.

The students were able to donate enough items to fill five large care packages. The students brought in items that would be useful to the soldiers in their everyday duty, such as, Chapstick, sunscreen, lotion, tissues, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Ms. Winkelman and Mrs. Hunt would like to thank the students and their families for their generosity. They are very proud of their classes for their hard work. Staff Sergeant Michael Hartwig of Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, responded to the classes with the following letter:

**January 8, 2004**

**Dear Students of Ms. Winkelman and Mrs. Hunt,**

I can't tell you all how much we appreciated your gift package. It's really nice to know that we are thought of back in the states. The care package you sent had really useful items. We even

had enough to hand out to the Iraqi children. On Christmas we handed them toys on our way through their village. The weather here now is cool. During the day it's around 60 degrees but at night it gets down to the 30s. In July and August it reaches 140 degrees during the day and only got down to 110 degrees at night. There was also a sandstorm in the spring that would block out the sun during the day. Our main mission here is to supervise Iraqi workers while they load bombs onto trucks. Then we escort the trucks to a safe place, unload them, and blow up the bombs. We destroy 100,000 lbs. of bombs everyday and we've been doing this for two and a half months. The Iraqi workers I supervise are really nice. Some are even ex-Iraqi military. They all are very happy that we came and kicked Saddam out of power. Once again, thank you very much for the care package. My soldiers and I are very happy that you thought of us during the holidays.

Sincerely,  
**Staff Sergeant Michael Hartwig**

P.S. Be nice to your teachers!  
(Thank you very much!)

## Program donates books to third graders

**By Courtney P. and Nancy B.**

All third grade students and some fourth and fifth graders received new "Rugrat" books from the company of First Books.

Ms. Storrs applied for a grant

to get the books and the school received about 11,000 books.

Each third grader received 3 books. There were also enough books for some fourth and fifth graders to have a book or two.

## Third Graders display patriotism in performance

**By Zulie S. & Tiffany H. & Ashley M.**

On Feb. 9 and 10, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders performed patriotic songs for parents, classmates and friends. About 12 classes performed all together. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program was separated into two nights, with six classes each night. Among the patriotic songs the third graders performed included "This is America," "You're a Grand Old Flag," and "American Tears." The performance was held in the Desert Valley Elementary School in the multipurpose room at 6:30 p.m. each night. The third graders also performed for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at 1:45 p.m. on the Monday and Tuesday of their performances.

We asked Ms. Schaefer why she separated the program into two nights and she said, "I separated it into two nights because I wanted every third grader to do a special part in the program and there is just too many."

"This way," she said, "all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders could participate in the program."

## Club donates dictionaries

**By Jesus L.**

All third grade students received a dictionary in December, thanks to the local Rotary Club. The dictionaries are very nice and contain lots of information.

The students keep them in their desks and use them a lot. They have information about planets, continents, presidents, states and the longest word in English language.

Do you know what it is?

## AR leaders at DV

As of Wednesday, Feb. 11, the AR point totals show that the school has amassed 12,245.2 points! Ms. Holmes' class leads the school with 1,000.8 points!

The leaders by grade are:

Third Grade— Ms. Verley 901.5

Fourth Grade— Ms. Holmes 1,000.8

Fifth Grade— Mr. J. Douvikas 947.4

## Miracle

A short story by Cristina M.

Once Upon a time there were two brothers named Erik and Josh. One night they went to a "Night Out." But on the television the News said that there was a tornado coming.

Josh and Eric could do something, but what? So, they waited until midnight.

The next morning Josh heard Eric yelling.

He Said: "Josh, JOSH, JOSH! They're not here!"

"Who's not here?"

"Our parents!"

"What!"

So as the year passed on, the boys lived in the orphanage.

On Christmas they made two snowmen. One was a women and one was a man. They looked very similar, like their parents.

"Eric, do you wish Mom and Dad were back?" asked Josh.

"Yeah, but we need to keep living our life. You don't want stress all your life."

The night passed. When they came out the snowmen were alive. Suddenly Josh screamed. But Eric backed away.

"Who? Who? Who are you?" They asked quietly.

"We're your parents."

"But how?" They shouted.

"We came for Christmas. Remember you wished for us."

"Oh, yeah."

So they spent the day together. Some people found it weird that kids were talking to snowmen. Now it was 10 p.m.

"Now we have to go," they said.

"Why?" asked Josh.

"Time's up."

## Valentine Word Search

By Kyle L.

### Health Alert: Be careful around people with flu

By Abigail J. and Cecilia C.

What do children mostly have? School children mostly have the flu. There has been more of the flu this year.

You can get the flu from anywhere. You can get the flu from classmates, relatives and other people who have the flu. You can also get the flu from carriers. If they are

really sick, the children will have to see a doctor.

If you are a little sick, you have to stay home and drink orange or apple juice.

So, if you are feeling sick, drink orange or apple juice. Also, remember to be careful around people who are sick, and who may have the flu.

### CALLING ALL SCIENTISTS!

**DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR PROJECTS TO THE DESERT VALLEY SCIENCE FAIR COMING MARCH 2!**

### Fifth graders have fun with Christmas program

By Nate J. and Jose R.

The fifth graders had a program the night of December 15-16. The fifth graders had a lot of fun doing it. Mrs. Schaefer decided the songs they sang.

She did not suggest the program and said it had already been planned.

She got all the songs from a magazine called K-8 (Kindergarten-8 grade). She decided that the 8:10 to 8:50 classes would hold their program on Monday night and the 8:50 to 9:30 classes' program would be on Tuesday night.

## Fifth grader places second at county Spelling Bee

By Priscila M.

Christopher H. placed second at the Mohave County Spelling Bee in Kingman, Friday, Feb. 6, and will be the alternate to the State Spelling Bee in Phoenix. If the winner is unable to attend, Christopher H. would then go. Christopher H. won a big, second-place trophy and was the second-highest speller out of 33 representatives from around the county. Christopher H. and Wendell H. were our Desert Valley Spelling Bee win-

ners last month. The two were among 42 children in the school's Spelling Bee, which has been conducted for more than 7 years.

"It's fun. It gives kids a chance to shine and to show kids it's fun to spell," said Mrs. Mortensen, who coordinated the Spelling Bee for DV.

The winner of the State Spelling Bee would go all the way to the National Spelling Bee and would get \$5,000 in scholarships and prizes if he or she won.



*Christopher H. came in second at the Mohave County Spelling Bee.*

## Committee to judge this year's DV Science Fair on March 2

By Kray L., Josh F, and Jonathan Mc.

A committee from in and out of the school will be judging the Desert Valley Science Fair this year, said Ms. Pietri.

The sign-up deadline will be Feb. 20, she said.

Mrs. Pietri said she loves Science and hopes the students will enjoy the Science Fair.

This year's Science Fair will be the evening of March 2, "Big Night." Big Night is the school's Spring Open House.

Please plan to attend this year and see all the wonderful experiments,



*Ms. Pietri*

which will be on display in the cafeteria. First place winners will receive a trophy, second place a medal, and third place a ribbon.

## Mystery teacher . . . Loves to read mysteries

By Joanna J. and Dora M.

This month's mystery teacher enjoys to read and do yard work and shop. His/her favorite color is yellow. His/her favorite foods are Chinese and popcorn. His/her favorite dessert is lemon meringue pie. His/her favorite animal is a cheetah. His/her favorite

movies are "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Chocalat."

His/her favorite books are Kellerman murder mystery books. His/her favorite sport is basketball. His/her favorite flower is a sunflower. He/she has lots of best friends.

I bet you can't guess who it is.

## Teacher Profile: On her own, teacher finds home at DV

By Diana Z. and Sarai Z.

Ms. Verley wanted to be a teacher because she loved school when she was small.

She was born in Laramie, Wyoming. But, did any one know she



*Ms. Verley*

left her parents' house when she was only 19 years old?

She went to college at Northern Arizona University.

Why did she choose Desert Valley? It was because she was looking for a third grade class. She's been a teacher 6 years now.

She's also helping kids with tutoring. Her favorite subject is math. Her favorite color is purple. Also, her favorite food is spaghetti.

Wow, for a teacher her life is amazing!

# STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DV TUTORING!



*Boy, Ms. Holmes' tutoring class is having fun. If you would like to know more about after-school tutoring, ask your teacher!*



*This is Ms. Verley's tutoring class. They are working hard. After-school tutoring is on Mondays-Thursdays, from 2:40-4 p.m.*

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## Former officer teaches kids healthy habits



*Mr. Mike Fabre*

**By Leidy B. and Brianda T .**

Mr. Mike Fabre is a health teacher because he is healthy and he wants kids to be healthy. Mr. Mike started to be a health teacher in March 2002.

He was a police officer for 13 years. Mr. Mike works across the street from Desert Valley. He wants kids to live the proper way and wants us to eat healthy food to have strong bones.

## Former technician loves teaching at DV



*Mr. Mortensen*

**By Doug H. and Bradley R.**

Mr. Mortensen went to Black Hills State University. He always wanted to be a teacher.

He graduated from college on Sept.30, 1997.

Mr. Mortensen worked in the heating and air conditioning industry before becoming a teacher. He loves knowing all the kids. He has worked as a teacher for seven years.

## JOKES

**By Carl L. and Dalton E.**

“KNOCK, knock!”  
 “Who’s there?”  
 “I don’t know!”  
 “Me neither!”

...

“KNOCK, knock!”  
 “Who’s there?”  
 “Cows go!”  
 “Cows go who?”  
 “NO! cows go moo!”

...

“KNOCK, knock!”  
 “Who’s there?”  
 “Who’s ever!”  
 “Who’s ever who?”  
 “Who’s ever there,  
 Get off my property!”

...

“Is 500 subtract 85 = 415?”  
 “I think so.”  
 “WOW! You think you must have a brain.”