

Cottonwood Valley Charter School
Administrator's Report to the Governing Council
October 12, 2005

Enrollment: 147 students

Waiting List: No-one

Next Lottery: As needed

Faculty:

- Holly Weinkauff led an interactive internet workshop on ProQuest, an internet research program that CVCS subscribes to and that is available to all CVCS students, faculty and parents (September 19).
- Rebecca Madrid attended the Meeting for new Special Education Directors in Ruidoso on September 28 and 29.
- Susan Brennan attended a follow up meeting on September 16 for the Technology Academy at UNM in which she participated last summer.
- Kay Fulton, a Four Blocks consultant followed up her August workshop with a two day visit on October 4 and 5 during which she observed classrooms and met with individual teachers to discuss the implementation of the 4 Block reading program.

Testing:

Students in Grades 1-3 have been screened for current reading level using the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA).

Kindergarten students were screened for reading readiness using Dibels (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) as required by the NM Public Education Department.

Open Houses:

- All teachers have held open houses for students and parents of the students enrolled in their classes.
- An All-school Open House, Book Fair and Pot Luck Supper will take place on October 11.

Facilities:

- The last public planning meeting is scheduled with EDI/RTI as a Drop in Event on Tuesday, October 11 from 3 to 6 pm. After a break for the Pot Luck Supper, there will be a wrap-up meeting from 6:30 to 7:30.
- Targeted completion date for the Socorro School District Master Facilities Plan has been extended from the middle of July to the end of November. I met with Brad Phillips on September 19 to review the first phase of the project. Results of the first phase were presented at the District School Board Meeting on Sept 27th. The second phase will include recommendations for each school in Socorro (including the charter school) and was scheduled for delivery on October 7th. Second phase recommendations will be presented to the Socorro District School Board at their meeting on October 25. Brad Phillips has agreed to meet with the Charter School Facilities Committee prior to the district school board meeting.

Gifted Education: Candy Lindquist has formed a gifted advisory committee which meets the requirements of the New Mexico Public Education Department. Members of the committee are John Benson, Delilah Vega Walsh, Doug Scott, Kate Burleigh, Ruth Milner, David Urban, Siddhartha Dhawan, and Candy Lindquist. Middle School students who have been identified as gifted (according to NM State Law) met with Mrs. Lindquist at lunch time on September 28 to discuss programs for gifted students at CVCS.

Stop-Bullying Now: Take a Stand - Lend a Hand, a program adopted from the US Department of Health and Human Services, is underway at CVCS with packets handed out to teachers at the last faculty meeting. Beginning next week, CVCS newsletters will include information for parents and students about bullying. Thank you, Candy Lindquist, for researching and implementing this program.

Participation in District Sports: At the September School Board Meeting Mr. Frank Jaramillo, superintendent, recommended to the School Board that they charge the Charter School \$3500 for Charter School students to participate on district teams. The board voted 4 to 0 to assess us this fee. Dr. Markwell was absent.

Both Dr. Kaplan and the New Mexico Coalition of Charter Schools have advised me not to pay this fee since Senate Bill 789 does not require that charter schools pay districts for their students to participate and they feel that expenses for charter schools were not in the spirit of the law. We are encouraged to write Dr. Garcia, the Secretary of Education, and Governor Richardson requesting a directive to both districts and charter schools that would clarify this issue.

Field Trips:

- The Sixth Grade just completed the first day of a five day program, “Starbase La Luz” at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Albuquerque. CVCS was awarded a \$500 scholarship for transportation. Thank you, Mr. Price, for arranging this program.
- The Fifth Grade continues with monthly field trips to monitor the BEMP (Bosque Environmental Monitoring Program) Site in Lemitar. Data collected by the class is included in a multi-year study of the Rio Grande Bosque undertaken by UNM. Thank you, Mrs. Link, for taking this on.
- Second and Third Grade visited the Sevilleta NWR on October 7. Students studied soil types, macro invertebrates, and the local flora and fauna. Eleven parents and grand-parents accompanied these students. Thank you, Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Bowman, and Mrs. King-Wren (a biologist at Sevilleta and CVCS parent) for arranging this trip.

Performing Arts:

- Grades 1, 2, and 3 attended “Los Colores”, four short plays by CREEDE, a performing troupe from Mexico. At Parkview on September 29.
- Grades 5-8 attended a one man play on Albert Einstein at Macey Center on September 30.

Parades: CVCS entered a “Las Vegas” float in the Homecoming Parade on October 7. Approximately 60 students and parents took part - riding in the back of Mrs. Bowman’s truck, on the flatbed trailer, on bicycles or walking on their own two feet. Thank you, Mrs. Burleigh, for organizing the art work. Thank you, Mrs. Bowman, for driving your truck and towing your trailer.