

# The Seed

Seeds of Wisdom from the Office

## Upcoming Events

Sat, 5/1 May Day 8am-noon

Sun, 5/2 Garden Workday 8am

Thurs, 5/6 Class Rep Meeting  
6:15pm  
Parent Council Meeting 7pm

Fri, 5/7 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Musical  
7pm  
(7/8 students need to arrive by  
6:30)

Mon, 5/10 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip  
to Washington State

Wed-Fri, 5/12-14 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Pen-  
tathlon in Flagstaff

Sat, 5/15 Board Meeting 8:30am

Sun, 5/16 Garden Workday 8am

Thurs, 5/20 Rubios Fundraiser  
Dinner

Fri, 5/21 8<sup>th</sup> Grade returns

Sun, 5/23 Garden Workday 8am

Sat, 5/24 End of Year Concert



Please feel free to drop by the office and read our Community Bulletin Board where you will find details about all community events and other local events of interest not listed here in the Seed.

## Announcements

**There are only 3 weeks left to buy the ticket that wins either \$15,000 CASH or a new Toyota Prius!!!! The drawing will be held on Monday May 24th, 2010.**

Tickets are only \$20 each. All proceeds go to support your DMS Parent Council. Purchase tickets in our office or on our website at [www.arizonawaldorf.org](http://www.arizonawaldorf.org)

Tell all of your family and friends!

Buy your tickets today!!!!

### **Did you know that May 2-8 is Teacher Appreciation Week?**

The UPS Store at 19th Ave and Baseline Rd would like to thank our teachers for the incredible work they do. Our store always offers low price black & white and color copies for teachers, and in honor of our teachers this week we offer a 10% discount on fingerprinting and passport photos. So, pay us a visit and bring your school ID or a form of teacher ID! Many thanks! Amy Weibel and David Baker and The UPS Store 5910, 2030 W. Baseline Rd Ste 182, 602.268.9399.

## Gratitudes:

Thank you to our many crosswalk guards who have volunteered their time throughout the year:

Colleen Pope, Jill Thomas, Jim Gustafson, Paul Brenner, Lorie Miller, and our many student volunteers. Thank you for helping to keep our campus safe.

## Animal Care

A friendly reminder that After School Muck Out is **Thursday May 6 at 1:00 - 2:30 pm**. Our chores go by faster and we have a lot more fun when everyone pitches in. I know that some families have made special accommodations to get their kids involved in this important activity - thank you for placing value in what we do! We will have one more After School Muck Out day on **Wednesday June 2 at 1:00 - 2:30 pm** in honor of the end of the school year. This is the day before the last day of school, and **EVE-RYONE** has a half day, so we hope that 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students might join us. Our goal for our final muck out will be to get the entire barnyard cleared of composting piles of manure.

We have some new residents as of Tuesday. One of our semi-domesticated ducks has successfully hatched 10 ducklings. Ducklings are darling, and if mama duck and babies are willing, you may get some up close and personal time with them. Please remember that if you happen to catch one of the ducklings and hold it too long, it can become stressed and lose sight of its mama - and mama won't wait for it to catch up! So, please try to refrain from holding the ducklings! On a more serious note, though we have a lovely fenced in pond, our water fowl live in a dangerous neighborhood, especially for ducklings. Ferral cats, snakes, hawks and other predators often target babies. Six strong and healthy ducklings have managed to survive as of today. Natural predation is an important process in a natural environment, so we can forgive the snakes and hawks for being snakes and hawks. Ferral domesticated animals, such as cats and dogs, can have a devastating impact on natural populations of birds, so it is important to spay and neuter dogs and cats to help keep the ferral populations under some semblance of control.



In addition to our new ducklings, we also have other interesting residents at our pond. The large black bird is a Cormorant. This is a diving bird that can swim under water for nearly the full length of the pond! When it swims, most of its body is underwater. Cormorants will eat plants but it likes a fish once in a while, too! You may often see it sunning itself with outstretched wings along the banks of the pond. We also have a few wild ducks, but mostly our ducks are domesticated mallards. To keep our ducks healthy, please do not feed them bread. Bread can have devastating effects on the ducks' digestion making them very sick. A duck's natural diet consists mostly of grasses and other plants that grow in and around the pond. We help supplement their diet with some cracked corn. If you are compelled to feed the ducks, please give them torn up greens or stick to corn!



If you have any questions about the animals or would like to become more involved with animal care, please contact Amy Weibel (Baker) at 602.237.2186 (home) or 602.373.6344 (cell) or [ac-weibel@msn.com](mailto:ac-weibel@msn.com).

## Pet Wellness Clinic a great success

As you have gathered from my recent emails regarding the Pet Wellness Clinic and conversations on campus I am a veterinarian. I have been involved in the pet-overpopulation aspect of veterinary medicine for 18 years now. I have spayed and neutered family pets and feral dogs and cats across the Southwest US and Internationally.

Seeing homeless or roaming dogs is always concerning to me for the dogs sake and the people that live nearby. Roaming dogs that form a pack can be dangerous and it was very upsetting last summer to have a pack of dogs that were continually causing problems on campus, to the point of killing all our beautiful chickens. (Ms. Butterfly nursed two of these chickens in her own bathtub!) It was equally distressing to me and many people at the school that the only alternative we were left with was to have the County come trap these dogs and take them away. Some of these dogs were rescued from the County shelter, some were reclaimed by their owners, but a portion of these dogs were euthanized.

One we did save was a young black and white Pit Bull who was injured. Ms. Buschmann and her daughter Bastienne fed him and medicated him until we could catch him and take him to my shelter where we fixed his wounds, vaccinated, neutered, and named him Arnie. He was adopted to a young family.

We do not want to have to call the county out again and are hoping to help the neighborhood keep their pets from roaming the neighborhood, which is why we held the Wellness Clinic last Sunday. The event was designed to provide the neighborhood around our school support with their pets and education about the school overall.

The week before the event a group of us distributed 100 bilingual fliers to our school neighbors about the problems roaming dogs cause and ways we can help. (Thanks to Nicole Somers for the translation help and Cindy Bartholomew and our young helpers for distributing the fliers!)

At the event we spayed and neutered seven pets from our school and placed microchips and administered life-saving vaccinations to family pets within the school community as well as neighbors and friends. We raised over \$1000 for the Arizona Animal Welfare League. A community member even got to practice her suturing technique (on her own dog, of course!) I had the opportunity to take my coworkers on a tour of the school, they were very impressed with the garden and our campus overall.

So with a grateful sigh I thank the community for their participation in our First Pet Wellness Clinic last Sunday! It was a good start and I hope to be able to continue these clinics, look for info about the next clinic, hopefully this Fall! And Thank you!

Kim Hayes, DMS parent

