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Tres Amigas

Face painting, dancing, tortillas, churros, games and more were part of the festivities at the annual Amigos Fiesta. See pages 7 and 8 for more photos.

PTO: Thanks for All Your Help This Year

By Fran Shimp
PTO President

Kids going stir crazy in class... Parents at pick-up in flip-flops and shorts... Ms. Tripi collecting vacation brochures (not that she'll ever take one...) The signs are upon us - the final bell of the 2009 school year is about to ring.

Whether you think this year flew by, or slowly trudged on like your child at bedtime, one thing is for certain, it was jam-packed. Kids rocked out to a DJ at the Back to School Family Picnic; parents rocked out to Goldfish at the Gala; and who could forget Ms. Tripi and the teachers rocking out at the Talent Show? We supported our school library at the Book Fair, met new kindergarten families at the Kinder BBQ, watched

See PTO, Page 2

Tripi: We Have Much To Be Proud Of

By Donna Tripi
Principal

Thank you for another exceptional year at La Jolla Elementary School. I have enjoyed working with you to ensure a quality education for our students. It truly is a labor of love for all of us - we love our children and want them to have a rigorous academic program and enriching experiences that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Our school community has accomplished many things this year and we should all be very proud of our efforts. The teachers and I continually work on refining our practice to help all students exceed the standards at their grade level. This year, we worked on using new assessments and the new data system the district provided to determine student needs and to use that information to plan instruction. We also provided more intervention for students who were at risk of not meeting standards, through our resource room, an early intervention room and computer software to reinforce reading and math skills.

The first year of our PTO was a successful one. Through "e-blasting" and our new web site, we were able to communicate with you better than ever before. We had our usual family events, but I think they even came up a

notch this year (if that was possible) and we had record attendance for each one - the Family Back to School Picnic, the Family Dance, the Family Movie Night, the Talent Show, Amigos Fiesta and the Family Science Night. The chairs for each of these activities made them so special

See Tripi, Page 3

Yes, School's Out for Summer! ...But Will Your Child Be Ready for Fall?

By Donna Tripi and LJES Staff

We know children benefit from continued reinforcement of their skills over the summer, but they also feel emotionally more confident coming into the new grade if they know their skills remain strong.

How do you set the stage for successful work this summer? Here are some simple steps to guide you in this task:

- Ensure that your child understands the reasons that he/she must continue doing school work over the summer. Explain that adults work throughout the year, taking

See Use, Page 3



► PTO: Thanks For The Memories

continued from page 1

Ratatouille at Family Movie Night, danced with our children at the Family Dance, did hands-on experiments at Family Science Night, enrolled our children in new after-school Wednesday classes, socialized with other families at Pizza and Ice Cream Wednesdays, played carnival games at the always successful Amigos Fiesta, read insightful articles in Tidings, sang holiday carols to our neighbors and are about to watch our promoting 5th graders say good-bye to LJES for the last time.

None of the above mentioned (and unmentioned) events and programs could have happened without you. One hundred and fifty-six parents signed up to volunteer through our new, web-based, volunteer managing program, PTOManager.com. That's over half of the families enrolled at LJES (and doesn't include all the parents who helped in classrooms and chaperoned field trips!) I realize simply saying "thank you" does not suffice, but purchasing spa treatments for each one of you is financially not an option at the moment. And I certainly don't want to forget all the parents who work fifty-hour weeks but still find time to read to their children at bedtime, help them with their homework, feed them nutritious



meals and show up to their Spring Sings and Recognition Assemblies.

One goal of the PTO this year was to make things easier for all parents at LJES, hence the introduction of online purchasing. Logo Wear items, Amigos Fiesta bracelets, Family Picnic dinners, Gala tickets, Yearbook Lovelines, PTO Membership dues and most recently, the Summer Connection Workbooks, were all purchased by parents in the comfort of their own home or office – no more dropping off checks in the front office. The weekly Wednesday eblasts kept everyone informed of upcoming events and the new website has been an amazing resource for school information and will continue to be updated throughout the summer.

Thankfully, most of the 2009-2010 Chair positions for our programs have been filled, however we are still in need of a few more willing parents. Please see insert on Page 3 for a detailed list (open spots are in bold). If you are interested in one of these positions or would simply like to hear more about them, please email Maia at kevin_maia@yahoo.com. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions regarding LJES PTO, please don't hesitate to email me at FranandTodd@aol.com. We hope you all have an incredible summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Letters To The Editor

Yoga for Our Children

DEAR EDITOR:

Does it seem like people everywhere are talking about the rotten economy, business failures, the high cost of living, and whatever other doom and gloom is out there? Kind of depressing isn't it? Yet, when I walk into a yoga class for kids, there's laughter, music, sharing, joy, humor and lots of moving around. I realize that kids have the innate ability to be present, have fun and care about each other. And their natural joy is why I love teaching yoga to them. Sure, kids can get stressed, angry, and depressed, but when we come together each week and experience the power of yoga, something magical happens. They open up, drop their frustrations, learn to focus, smile a lot, and I'm reminded why teaching yoga to kids is one of my passions.

As we near the end of this school year, I want to express my gratitude to the parents and children who have supported Yoga World bringing after school classes to La Jolla Elementary for the past nine years.

Michelle Frandsen
Yoga World

Rock Band for Moms?

DEAR EDITOR:

It is often joked that when men hit middle age, they buy a red Corvette, trying to recapture what they have lost after years of work-stress, kid-rearing and impending-baldness. But what is there for middle-aged women? Although "Desperate Housewives" might come to mind, I prefer to think there is a more productive solution: Start an All-Girls Rock and Roll Band.

That's right ladies, I am a 40-something, married, mother of three little ones, with a dream of finding others like me who are ready to face their middle-aged crisis head on. What's needed is an ability to play an instrument, sing and a knowledge that somewhere deep inside you is a Rock Goddess!

I have been in amateur rock and roll bands for years, always with men, and now want to make music with some sisters. You may not have experience, and you may think you are only mediocre, but I can take you there. Want to give it a chance? If so, call Karen 619-846-8152 (LJES mom).

Karen R. Dobkins, kdobkins@ucsd.edu



Singing for Spring

2nd graders and 3rd graders entertained a standing-room only crowd at the annual Spring Sing.

Special Thanks

Thank you to:

- Katie Riveroll and Mary Perrine for once again hosting the unbelievably amazing Amigos Fiesta event.
- the dozens of parents who volunteered to help make Amigos Fiesta the success that it was.
- Susan Walker and Valerie Juboori for hosting the delicious PTO Teacher's Luncheon as well as their assistants - Marina Youngdale (yummy chocolate torte), Larry Michaels (chef du jour for sandwiches), and Barbara Resley, grandmother of the McCormick children at our school.
- all the PTO Executive Board Members for their hard work and dedication throughout the year: VP Programs - Laney Alexander; VP Volunteers - Maia Clewley; VP Ways and Means - Michelle Campagna; Secretary - Sandra Munson; Treasurer - Shi Deng; Auditor - Hiroko Wilson; Historian - Katie Riveroll; Parliamentarian - Natascha Vossen; Teacher Representative - Debbie Balmat.

5th Graders Take the Plunge

The 5th grade Pool Party was a big success with 160 students attending the event. The kids were excited to connect before starting Muirlands Middle School in the fall. Thank you to Candace Gibbs from Torrey Pines Elementary, Suzanne Robertson from La Jolla Elementary, and Amy Porche and Jennifer Clark from Bird Rock Elementary for organizing the party. Thank you also to the businesses that contributed: DJ Clank, The Cookie Lady, Jonathan's, Subway, and Vons. The pool party was held at the Coggan Aquatic Center, a public pool attached to La Jolla High.

Tidings Staff

Editor: Sharon Jones, sharonlj@san.rr.com

Layout: Lisa Goodin, lisastarr@cox.net

Photography: Stephen Simpson



► Use Summer To Have Fun, Build Skills

continued from page 1

only short vacation breaks from time to time. Children need to continue to practice with all of the important concepts they have learned this year.

• Set up a schedule with your child of when he/she will work (around camp times, lessons, play dates) and what types of learning activities he/she will perform each day. This will give her/him some ownership and responsibility toward the tasks. It will also alleviate some of the "power struggle" involved when a decision comes from parents alone.

• Encourage reading activities over the summer. Many of us enjoy extra reading time on beaches, parks, or while on vacation. Make consistent (weekly, biweekly) trips to the library or bookstore to diversify the reading. Look for a

my program.

• Throw in some writing activities. It is fun to keep a journal of summer activities. Children can write about visits from friends and/or family, camps, classes, special trips or just things they do each day. They can begin a Writer's Notebook and fill it with ideas and stories. These can be brought to school in the fall for a head start on ideas for Writing Workshop. Writing postcards while on a trip is also a wonderful way for your child to see the importance of writing in his/her life.

• Ensure that there is a mixture of activities. While daily reading is essential, working on math facts and problem-solving activities are also important.

• If you purchased a "Summer Connections" workbook, make sure your child does a page of reading/language arts and mathematics each day.

• If your child has been receiving speech and language services or occupational therapy services, find time to practice the skills the child has learned in the year so that they will be maintained.

We hope you will continue to read to your child, have your child read to you, share reading, but READ! READ! READ!

Ms. Tripi can be reached at dtripi@sandi.net.

'It is fun to keep a journal of summer activities. Children can write about visits from friends and/or family, camps, classes, special trips or just things they do each day.'

reading incentive program or create your own. I always ask children to complete a summer reading log and return it the first week of school. They earn a small gift (bookmark, pencil) and an ice cream certificate. The public library also offers a summer incentive reading program. You can also make up your own, e.g. for every three books read, the child gets to choose the family dessert. Please note that the log that you keep of the books your child reads can be used for each program -- your child can bring me his/her library log and it counts for

Advertise in next year's Directory

Advertise your business to our wonderful LJES families in next year's Directory and Handbook. For more information, please contact Kiley MacDonald at kileyb@alum.dartmouth.org or 858.822.8652.

► Tripi: We Should Be Proud

continued from page 1

and will be such fond memories for our students.

Though all projections were down for our fund raising, thanks to Friends of La Jolla Elementary, Inc. and the wonderful efforts of the fund raising chairs (and their committees), our fund raising efforts were almost as successful as prior years. Our revenues came from the Annual Giving Campaign (fall), eScrip, the Open Aire Market (which celebrated its tenth anniversary in October), and our annual gala. We appreciate that our families, even in tough economic times, make education one of their top priorities. Friends allocated the budget to supporting enhancements to the curriculum as well as basic needs this year -- an extra teacher at the upper grades to reduce class size, classroom supplies, math and science supplies, salaries of: Technology Director, art experts, choral music ex-

perts, and the library technician.

Bloom, our site beautification committee, has had another successful year. After completion of the Legacy Walkway at the end of last school year, they set to work planning a new front of the school with the same design concepts as the Girard Avenue Welcome Plaza, the Kindergarten Terrace and the Legacy Walkway. The project will begin after school ends and we hope to have it finished by start of the new school year.



Thank you for another great year! Have a wonderful summer of rest, fun and relaxation.

Ms. Tripi can be reached at dtripi@sandi.net.

2009-2010 PTO

General Board Positions

Advertising Sales: Kiley MacDonald

Assembly Photographer K-3:

Jackie Newman

Assembly Photographer 4-5:

Haleh Bolour

After School Programs: Laney Alexander

Amigos Fiesta:

Katie Riveroll & Mary Perrine

Art Show Coordinator:

Elise Kjos and Erica Wortham

Auditor: Hiroko Wilson

Book Fair: Paola Avila

Box Tops: Dolly Webster

Charity Programs: Cynthia Kronemyer

Database Comm. (eblasts): Barbara Hagey

Directory: Kiley MacDonald

Family Picnic: Dolores Hickman

Family Dance: Melinda Gaffney

GATE representative: Kristee Pauker

Handbook: Garth Conboy

Health & Safety: Marie Browning

Hospitality

Susan Walker & Valerie Juboori

Kindergarten Liaison: Alexa Scoma

Ice Cream Sales: Janna Elliott

Office Volunteer Coord.: Monica Simpson

Movie Nights: Laurie Weiss

Logoware: Wendy Hamilton

Partnerships With Local Shops:

Julie MacDonald

Public Relations: Sheri Starko-Jones

PTO Membership: Michelle Campagna

Pizza Sales: **Vacant**

Read Me A Story Coord.:

Adrianna Issakov

Recycling: Laryssa Hackbarth

Room Parent Chairs:

Sally Martin & Jenna Wittkow

School Supply Kits: Fran Shimp

Science Fair Coordinator: Lisa Goodin

TB Tests and Forms: **Vacant**

Tidings Editor: Sharon Jones

Design and Layout: Lisa Goodin

Talent Show: Robin Whaley

Website: Mr. K/Fran Shimp

Yearbook: Sandra Munson

5th Grade promotion:

Natascha Vossen & Carrie Morris



Teacher Feature

Ms. Jessica Sandoval: A Lover of Books, Plays, and Dance

By Barbara Hagey

Have you been lucky enough to see the musical performance of Eric Carle's "The Grouchy Lady Bug" put on by our LJES Kindergarten classes? It's a delightful production complete with costumes, narration, acting, singing and dancing. There's a part that's right for every child, from the shy kids you never thought you'd see in front of an audience to the bold ones who like to be center stage. And it's the brainchild of Kindergarten teacher Ms. Jessica Sandoval.



"Each year it is such a treat to see each class take it on and make it their own," she said. "Most kindergartners have no fear and they have fun becoming their characters."

Ms. Jessica has been teaching Kindergarten at LJES since 1997. She is a San Diego native who attended district

schools and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from USD. She grew up in a neighborhood surrounded by younger children and recalls constantly rounding them up to play games or lead them on a trip around the block. "I'm not sure why, but trips around the block were an exciting event," she said. "I'd be on my bike or my roller skates with a parade of little bikers, roller skaters or big wheelers behind me." She remembers telling her first grade teacher, Ms. Clay, she was going to teach. Years later she ran into Ms. Clay at a teacher's conference. "I walked right up to her and she knew exactly who I was! It was great to be able to tell her that I was now a teacher, too."

She grew up in a neighborhood surrounded by younger children and recalls constantly rounding them up to play games or lead them on a trip around the block.

Ms. Jessica's favorite subject was and still is, English. "I fell in love with reading in third grade," she said. "We were allowed to take home the book, Island of the Blue Dolphins. We were only supposed to read one chapter, but once I got started I just couldn't put it down and read the whole thing in one night. It was the first book to make me cry and I didn't realize that books could have that strong of an impact on you." She still believes in the power of books and encourages parents to take the time to read to their children every night.

Ms. Jessica feels parents can best support their child's school experience by



Not So Grouchy

Fireflies danced in the moonlight during a recent performance of Eric Carle's, "The Grouchy Ladybug," by Ms. Jessica Sandoval's class. The play is performed separately by all LJES Kindergarten classes.

finding opportunities to demonstrate how we use reading, writing, and math on a daily basis so children can better understand the authentic need for these skills. Parents should also be on the watch for their child's unique interests. It's too easy for a parent to assume that his/her child will have the same interests as the parent. This isn't always the case and each child deserves the opportunity to explore his/her own personal interests and unique abilities.

Ms. Jessica feels parents can best support their child's school experience by finding opportunities to demonstrate how we use reading, writing, and math on a daily basis so children can better understand the authentic need for these skills.

What does Ms. Jessica like to do outside school? She loves to dance -- line dancing, West Coast Swing, and the Two Step are her favorites. She also enjoys relaxing on the beach with a good book, shopping to update her wardrobe, and spending time with her mom, who is a fantastic cook. And not surprisingly, she loves the theatre. "I'm excited that "Wicked" is coming back to San Diego this summer," she said. Who knows -- maybe we can look forward to a LJES Kindergarten production of Wicked next year?

Ms. Hagey is the mother of Carolee, a second grader. To submit an idea for a Teacher Feature, email her at bhagey@pisces.cts.com Kelly's column



Volunteers Make Things Happen

By Donna Tripi and LJES Staff

On Wednesday, June 3rd, our school community will recognize all of the volunteers who have so generously donated their time and efforts this year at our Volunteer Thank You Breakfast. We hope that all of the parents, who volunteer in our classrooms, are members of our school organizations (Friends, PTO, SSC/SGT, Technology Committee, Bloom, Read Me a Story Program), and who help for special activities are able to attend this special event.

Special thanks to the following parents and community members:

- Haleh Bolour, President of our Friends of La Jolla Elementary, Inc., and the entire Board of Friends (Kelly Albence, Sherry Ahern, Dina Buckley, Randi Hegeler, Melinda Mahoney, Aaron Roberts) for a successful year of fund raising efforts and supporting the work of our school
- Fran Shimp, President of our newly founded PTO, and the PTO Board (Shi Deng, Natascha Vossen, Maia Clewley, Laney Beres, Katie Riveroll, Sandra Munson, Hiroko Wilson, Michelle Campagna, Debbie Balmat) for supporting our programs and organizing the many wonderful activities for our children and families.
- Sigurd Kallhovde, Chairperson of our Technology Committee, and parent volunteers to the committee: Haleh Bolour, Garth Conboy, Francoise Keefe, Rick MacDonald, and Larry Michaels for their work on the Technology Committee. The committee is responsible for planning for all of the technology and technology support for our school.
- Our Site Governance/School Site Council Co-Chair, Adrienne Berlin, and Johanna Weber, Stephani Halloran, Sonia Teder-Moore, Amy Christiansen and Haleh Bolour -- parents who served on our Site Governance Team/School Site Council this year for their work in shaping the future of our school.
- Dina Buckley, Marcie Holthus, Carrie Morris, Alexa Scoma and Jenn Spengler, for their work on the site beautification committee, Bloom, for the incredible projects that have been completed: Kindergarten Terrace, Girard Avenue Welcome Plaza, Legacy Walkway and the new Marine Street Entryway.
- Sharon Jones and Lisa Starr Goodin, our Tidings editors, for an outstanding monthly newsletter. Our newsletter is interesting, fun to read and surprising – you never know whose pictures will pop up or what fabulous things you'll read about our school.
- Mara Martin and Amy Christiansen for their work with traffic each and every day.
- Our room parents who help with a myriad of classroom projects and activities. Thanks for all of your help and support with the gala projects as well.
- Our classroom volunteers who help our students daily and do "behind the scenes" work for our teachers.
- The volunteers who work with our students for the Read Me a Story program. The children in the program gained so much from their efforts.

We could not have the programs and the support we have for our children without all of you! Thanks!



4th graders Billy Riveroll, Isabel Blanco and Patrik Kjos brought honors to LJES recently by writing award-winning essays.

Essay Contest Winners Announced at the La Jolla/Riford Library

This year marks the 12th year of the Annual Student Writing for Literacy Essay Contest, sponsored by the Friends of the San Diego Public Library, the San Diego Public Library (SDPL), and the San Diego Unified School District Library Media Teachers. We are pleased to announce that the following students, all 4th graders in Debbie Balmat's class at La Jolla Elementary School, were named local winners of this year's essay contest: Isabel Blanco, Patrik Kjos, and Billy Riveroll.

Isabel Blanco's excellent essay about the book, Riding Freedom, earned her the Overall Winner distinction in La Jolla. She was also chosen as a Grand Prize Winner for the City of San Diego. Local winners were honored at a ceremony at the La Jolla/Riford Library on April 22nd, and Grand Prize winners were invited to a special ceremony at Balboa Park on May 7th. Attendees enjoyed listening to these students recite their essays and the winners received certificates and prizes. Congratulations to all La Jolla student participants and to our local winners.

The Annual Student Writing for Literacy Essay Contest is open to students in 4th, 8th and 10th grade. Essays are due to your local San Diego Public Library in mid-February and winners are announced in April. For questions about this essay contest, please contact Marta Thiele (mthiele@sandi.net) or your San Diego Public Library Youth Services Librarian.



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Kelly's Column

Help LJES Show Its Strength, Speed At Jr. Olympics

By Kelly Wiskus, P.E. Teacher

The students have been working hard these last few weeks of school on baseball skills including throwing, catching and fielding, as well as Track and Field events such as long jump, running and relay races.

Many of our students are also getting prepared for the annual Junior Olympics which will be held at La Jolla High School on Sunday, June 7. I would like to wish all of our students who will be participating good luck and also give a special thanks to the 5th grade students for turning in some great T-shirt designs. (Even if you are not competing, come to cheer on your friends.)

Field Day is also coming up on Friday, June 12. This school-wide event is always a blast as students rotate through over 10 stations of fun. If you would like to volunteer to run a station or rotate with a class, please let me know.

Students are encouraged to remember the following for Field Day: bring a labeled water bottle, wear plenty of sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, wear clothing and shoes that are appropriate for games being played on the blacktop and on the field (and that you don't mind getting wet).

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of the students who have participated in Run Club over the year as well as the 5th grade students for all of your work on the Fitnessgram and Presidential Fitness Tests. You have truly shown dedication to leading a healthy lifestyle.

As summer approaches here are some tips for a safe and healthy break:

- Sun Safety: sunblock, hats, sunglasses, drink plenty of water.
- Water Safety: never swim alone, always have adult supervision, take rest breaks.
- Bicycle, Scooter and Skateboard Safety: Protect your brain and your bones.
- Eat lots of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Work on PE skills that will get you prepared for next year! A complete list of California State PE Standards can be found at cde.ca.gov/ci/pe.



There are many great camps offered during the summer, but most of all just get out and play.

Thanks again for a great year!

Ms. Wiskus can be reached at kwiskus@sandi.net.

A Letter To Future Muirlands Students

By Madeleine Aguilar

Muirlands 8th grader and former LJES student



Dear graduating 5th grader,

Despite the comments you hear about Muirlands, you should have nothing to fear. For those of you freaking out at the idea of having 6 different teachers, more homework, and the large school itself, I am here to say that my 6th grade year was one of the most fun. Going into middle school was unbearably exciting!

On the first day of school, the staff set up areas for picking up your own schedule of classes. All of the 6th grade teachers - no sorry, most - are hilarious. Of course, if you're one to get on a teacher's bad side, then you'll be in for a rough year.

Also, don't be intimidated by the 7th and 8th graders, we aren't that bad. For those of you who are excited like I am, well, then, good for you. Confidence is one of many necessities to passing 6th grade, along with respect, cooperation, productivity, preparation, and A's (as in a grade).

6th grade was my easiest and most fascinating middle school year. As an 8th grader now, I speak from experience that I know how you feel about going to a new school. Gosh, the idea of going to La Jolla High just excites me out of my wits! I hope this letter will convince me not to be so afraid, as I hope it will convince you. Have a most wonderful 6th grade year, and enjoy your summer too!

Summer Harvest
at the **La Jolla Open Air Market**

Now in Season:
Melons, Grapes, Berries, Sweet Corn, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, and so much more!

Always in Season at the Market:
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Library Acquires Nearly 200 New Books

Get Reading!

By **Marta Thiele**, *Library Technician*

It has been another fabulous year at LJES. Thank you to those students who participated in the Public Library Essay Contest. Isabel Blanco from Ms. Balmat's class is a Grand Prize winner representing the fourth grade. Ask her about the book, Riding Freedom, by Pam Munoz Ryan.

A very special thank you to Mara Martin (Mel and Charlie's Mom) for shelving books throughout the year.

We have acquired 148 new books and another 197 on order as a result of our annual Bookfair and Partnership with Warwick's, "Books for Schools." The titles we have received this year from Warwick's Partnership are:

Read all about it! By Laura and Jenna Bush
Countdown to Kindergarten by Allison McGhee
Dragon in the Sock Drawer by Kate Klimo
Houndsley and Catina by James Howe
Adventures According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney

From Russia with Lunch (Chet Gecko) by Bruce Hale

We are Extremely Very Good Recyclers by Lauren Child

Remember in your summer visits to thank them for the partnership.

The Library link is up and running on our new school website: <http://www.ljes.org/education/page/40/homepage>. You can find me under About LJES >TEACHERS & STAFF or by a link

in SCHOOL WEB PAGES >LIBRARY. If you need remote passwords to World Book online or ProQuest please contact me by email (mthiele@sandi.net). I will respond throughout the summer.

Please remember to sign up through the LJES website to volunteer in the library next year (to help with the bookfair and other tasks throughout the year). The link can be found under PARENT INVOLVEMENT> SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER



Have an enjoyable summer. Read to your child, take a paperback to the beach, come to the Open Aire Market.... I'll see you all in the Fall.

Mrs. Thiele can be reached at mthiele@sandi.net.

Amigos Fiesta Rocks Campus

By **Katie Riveroll and Mary Perrine**

It was great to see so many children and families enjoying activities at last month's Amigos Fiesta. The goal of this event was to build community, friendship and pride in the school and to highlight the culture and admiration for our neighbor to the south. We believe we met that goal, thanks to all of you.

To each person who attended the fiesta, donated prizes, made posters, distributed flyers, baked cupcakes, sold tickets, worked in a booth, lent us needed supplies or volunteered their time in any way, we extend a great big thank you. We're so lucky to have

such a fantastic and dedicated school community.

We send special thanks to: classroom representatives who oversaw the fiesta booths; classroom teachers for helping students make decorations; Ms. Wallace, Ms. Cole, Ms. Rice, Ms. Wood, Ms. Ruzsala and Ms. Nicolaidis for teaching children to perform typical

Mexican dances; 3rd grader Rex Navarro for his wonderful solo guitar performance; Ms. Balmat for serving as our teacher liaison; Aida Flores for bringing her festive dance troupe to perform once again; "Los Corporales" Mariachi Band for coming for their 6th year in a row to entertain us with their wonderful music; Stephen Simpson, Sandra Munson and Jacqueline Newman for capturing in photos some priceless memories; PTO President, Fran Shimp, for e-blasting "Fiesta News" and arranging



Please see pages 1 and 7 for more Amigos Fiesta photos.

online ticket purchasing; Deanna Andrews, Dina Buckley, Janine Davey, Wendy Hamilton, Nicole Repp, Dolly Webster, and Veronica Valdez for help with pre-sale tasks; Chuck and Janine Davey, Guill-

ermo Riveroll, Dolly Webster, Nicole Repp, Dawn Villela, Niko Strom, Cindi Stratton, Christina Andrews, Liz Roemer, Adriana Issakov, Haleh Bolour, Gilberto Curiel, Miguel Angel and custodians, Jesse and Angel for helping set up; Taco Express for providing great Mexican food; California Gourmet Snow Cones for providing snow cones and churros; Fran Shimp and PTO Treasurer, Shi Deng for attending to a multitude of important details; Siguard Kallhovde and Mark Collins for guarding the school gates; and everyone who stayed afterwards to help clean up.

One final and very important thank you goes out to Ms. Donna Tripi for her continual support of this event.

We already have new and fun ideas for next year. If you would like to join our organizing committee, please contact us: Katie Riveroll at 858-551-6061, or Mary Perrine at 858-459-6514. Muchas, muchas gracias a todos!