



## Ms. Lopez's Classroom Newsletter

Tucson Country  
Day School

August 15, 2008

### What Marvelous Monkeys!

I must say, these monkeys truly are marvelous! I am pleased to report that we've had a great first week! We have a great group of active learners in this class! I have been impressed by their creativity and eagerness to learn! I couldn't ask for a better class. I sure hope the students are feeling as excited about the year ahead of us as I am! ☺

Next week we will be taking our initial benchmark assessments for the school year. As I have told students, these benchmark assessments are not used for a grade. The benchmark assessments are used to track the progress they make from the start to the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade. These assessments are a great tool for me to use in individualizing what and/or how I teach each student. So please encourage your child to do their best but not to stress about it beyond that.

We will also begin to do some "regular" work next week. Similarly, the grace period for the homework planners will come to an end on Monday. Starting on Tuesday, unsigned planners will affect a student's homework grade. (Please note that homework grades are counted separately from regular subject grades.) Please, refer back to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Handbook for more specifics about the homework policy.

Please talk to your child about their first week of school and find out how this year will differ from last. I think you will find that your child is very excited about 5<sup>th</sup> grade. At least the certainly seem to be excited about all the changes when we talk about them in class! (Feel free to let me know if I've gotten the wrong idea there! ☺)

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you parents for a great start to the new school year! I appreciate the support and communications that I have already received! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or news to share. I am looking forward to working with all of you to make this a positive and productive school year!

### Weekly Highlights



*For this first week of school, I'd like the students to write down their favorites from our week and share it with their parents.*

### Important Dates to Remember

**Skate Country**  
**August 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**\*details to follow**

**First SPA Meeting**  
**September 8<sup>th</sup>**