



## January 2011 Update

### **Congratulations are in order!**

SFSAS Alumnus Megan Belzner just scored in the top 20 out of more than 1,000 students (grades 8-12) statewide on the UNM/PNM State Math Contest and is in the top 10% among all invited finalists. Megan also scored a perfect 80 on both her math and critical reading on the PSAT. Megan is volunteering as a math tutor at our school as well. Way to go Megan!

**The Santa Fe New Mexican Holiday Writing Contest** narrowed their contest down to only short stories this year (they previously had categories for essays and poetry in addition to short stories) but our students still managed to win two places in the Teen Writing Contest! **Jende Cohen** won first place in the Teen Short Story Contest and **Ben Bajema** won 3rd place in the Teen Short Story Contest! Their teacher, Geetha Holdsworth, assigned the stories as part of their language arts curriculum. Congratulations! Read their great stories Pasatiempo, December 31 issue on pages 32-34. We will also have hard copies hanging in the Middle Earth lobby.

### **THANK YOU**

**Thank you to the many families and students who contributed to our Holiday Community Giving Drive! We filled two cars with food, clothing and much needed essential items for Youth Shelters and Family Services- thank you so much to everyone who donated! They were very grateful that we donated items from their wish list.**

**Thanks also to everyone who donated to the Ramirez Thomas fund! Cynthia wrote this note to everyone who donated:**

**A great big thanks to all of you for your wonderful and generous donations to the children and families at Ramirez Thomas Elementary School!!!!**

**The winter coats, clothing, blanket, toothbrush set, all the food, and much more, are all deeply appreciated and will be very well used I can assure you.**

**May you and yours receive many blessings!  
with much love and gratitude,**

**Cynthia** 



## Spelling Bee news!

This week was all about SPELLING!  
Each class held their spelling bee earlier this week.

Congratulations to the top two spellers from each grade:

Stargazers 1st Grade: Stella Odai and Cyrus Curtis

Stargazers 2nd Grade: Megan Sarkissian and Alexandra Benitez

Centaurs 3rd Grade: Jonah Zisman and Michael Carthy

Centaurs 4th Grade: Orion Curtis and Camille Bajema

Badgers 5th Grade: Sofia Bomse and Landon Tafoya

Badgers 6th Grade: Merit Willey and Alicia Stewart

7th Grade: Ian Watson and Brass Coggins

8th Grade: Pilar Valenzuela and Zascha Fox

These spellers all moved onto the final School Spelling Bee which occurred today in the Middle School. We were all especially impressed with the young Stargazer spellers who bravely held their own with the big kids through rounds one and two. The spellers were all very supportive of each other and enjoyed their bee experience. We follow the National Scripps Spelling Bee rules as the spellers all asked for word definitions, word origins and the ever popular, "Can you put it in a sentence?" The bee lasted 12 rounds! Here is a list of some of the words our spellers spelled correctly today; altruism, diorama, flamboyant, mesmerize, hydrology, rhinoceros and monotonous.

Congratulations to our School Bee Winners!

The First Place Winner was Pilar Valenzuela (8th Grade)

The Second Place Winner was Zascha Fox (8th Grade)

The Third Place Winner was Brass Coggins (7th Grade)

Pilar and Zascha will now move on to compete in the Santa Fe County Bee on January 26th 8:30-12:30 at the Santa Fe Community College Jemez Rooms. They will be competing against the top two spellers from each participating school. We will also offer to take all of our school finalists to watch the County Bee.

### Santa Fe Library Bookmark Contest

Congratulations to Lola Kark (Kindergarten)! The Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library sponsored a bookmark design contest for children in honor of the 400th anniversary of Santa Fe. More than 200 children participated in 5 categories according to grade level. Lola's bookmark won in the Kindergarten category and copies of her bookmark are now available at all Santa Fe Libraries!