

# BR BUZZ

**We're off to see the Wizard!!!**



A Cowardly Lion was on the prowl for anyone interested in competing for prizes based on their knowledge of famous books. A Tin Woodman invited participants to search for clues in an Escape Room. A Chocolate Room lured curious students into Willie Wonka's Chocolate Factory. Down the hall were sights and sounds of Route 66 and Camp Read S'more. All this and more greeted parents and elementary students as they followed the Yellow Brick Road and other clues to a night of fun, food and prizes.

**The Cowardly Lion, played by Ray B. Duran, prowled the 6th grade hallway giving out clues on the way to Oz.**

The First Annual Adventure Trek at Blue Ridge Elementary drew 540 attendees of all ages. Every hallway and the cafeteria was busy with teachers in character and costume engaging students and parents in a search for clues on their way to claiming prizes.

Grades K-3 were treated to food and free books in the cafeteria which had been transformed into Camp Read S'more. The school partnered with the Three Rivers Literacy Initiative to obtain a Federal grant that awarded a free book to every child who came into the Camp. Exhibits of various kinds provided interesting encounters along the way to the kitchen where a free meal was served. Campers could receive a free S'mores treat as well as a book at the book table. A fun-filled evening culminated in Principal Dave Clark being pelted with pies.

Grade 4 participants entered a series of Escape Rooms each with a different part of the story from the book *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Each room held clues that completed the journey to a prize room

Grade 5 participants found adventures on Route 66 on their way to a prize room.

Grade 6 participants met the characters from the *Wizard of Oz* on their way to the Emerald City and prizes awarded by finding the clues along the yellow brick road.

The Adventure Trek took place from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm on November 16 at the Blue Ridge Elementary School on Porter Mountain Road.

The new school configuration for this year transferred grades K-3 from the old elementary school. Grades 7-8 are now housed in the new junior high at the refurbished former intermediate school.

## Penny Drives and Pancakes raised over \$3000 at BRES

JAMIE DORUM

In addition to the fun of Literacy Night, parents and students were able to tour the remodeled areas of the Porter Mountain School and the new locations for grades K-6. The Literacy Night Task Force was chaired by Jamie Dorum and Nicole Buckles.

Blue Ridge PTSO also held a pancake dinner.

\* Darbi's sponsored the event and donated all the food for the pancake dinner.

- Elaine Smithson is the president of PTSO. Tonya Auza was the chairperson for the committee that put on the pancake dinner.
- They raised just over \$1000.00 that night. A portion of the money goes to the teacher grant fund.



Principal Dave Clark received a few pies in the face while standing in a kiddie pool, wearing a tutu and swim fins. This was a reward for students who collected donations for Pennies for Patients. The goal was to collect \$2000.00, and the student body raised \$2122.52.



**Jessica Breinig hands out a s'more to an eager reader. Judi Bassett and John Jarchow are handing out free books at Camp Read S'more.**

### **3rd Annual Camp Read S'More**

There were 531 attendees this year up from around 275 last year.

Guests were: Smokey Bear from the US Forest Service, Dan Groebner from Arizona Game and Fish, Jennifer Volker from the Larson Memorial Public Library, John Jarchow from Three Rivers Literacy Initiative and Judi Bassett from Books for Kids-AZ.

There were 420 free high-quality books passed out that night, which was up from last year at less than 300. It was a great turnout!

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**Principal Dave Clark enters Camp Read S'more in the Blue Ridge Elementary Cafeteria before being pelted with pies.**

“This night was a HUGE success. The students took great ownership and pride in helping to decorate the school for this event. There were many positive comments by families as they exited the building after the event. Many staff members helped to make this event such a success. These nights go a long ways towards maintaining the strong partnership that we have with our families and community.”

**PRINCIPAL DAVE CLARK**

**Herwin Truax, 6th grader Maleya Lupe, 1st grader Trivill Truax, Nicolyn Ethelbah and 6th grader Alexis Sinaquah (kneeling) study the clue provided by the Scarecrow: It will be a pity if the Scarecrow and Dorothy don't get to this city. They guessed “The Emerald City” and got their points on the way to the next clue from sixth grade science teacher Stephanie Condojani.**

