

Barranca Bobcat Weekly Update

Week of January 9th

Dear Scholars, Families, and Friends

"Happy New Year!"

We hope you enjoyed the holiday break and were able to relax and rejuvenate!. We are looking forward to a successful second semester and realize it will go by quick.

This week we begin our mid year testing so, please be sure that students are at school on time each day, and to remind students that this information from the test informs our instruction as to how we can provide the best learning environment for our students to be successful, so not to stress, just do their best! :)

Next, we really want to come together as a community second semester. We had such a good turn out for our winter performances, and PTO Reindeer lane in December, we want to invite and encourage you to volunteer if you have the time at Barranca, we have many different opportunities, and the children love to see their families on campus.

Last, we are excited to announce some great resources for enrichment and support that will be coming to Barranca second semester - Paper Tutorial and Girls Who Code.

Please check out our newsletter to get more information on the events and happenings this week at Barranca.

Thank you for all you support!

All the best,

Davine Jones

Principal

Barranca Mesa Elementary School

57 Loma Del Escolar St, Los Alamos, NM 87544

Los Alamos Public Schools

[\(505\) 663-2730](tel:(505)663-2730)

davine.jones@laschools.net

Vision

All students will develop positive relationships with peers, staff and feel connected to their school community

Barranca's Mission

Building an educational foundation for our students to become independent, confident, responsible and respectful individuals contributing positively to the world.

Core Values

Kindness Support Integrity

Pledge

Be your best, Make it count, Excel today, Succeed Tomorrow



We Want and Need You!

We also have a need for noon supervision.

We would LOVE to have you Volunteer any time you have!

Copy Cats: Every Wednesday from 11:00 AM 12:00 PM - Come help teachers for an hour with copying, cutting, and any other prep work they leave us. <https://www.barrancapto.org/join>

Lunch Supervision: The lunch time supervision is greatly appreciate as it keeps or students safe, but it also develops connections with our community. We would love to have more structured activities and organized sports for our students during lunch.

K/1st/5th: 11:00 - 11:40

2nd/4th: 11:25 - 12:00

3rd/6th: 11:50 - 12:45

Show off & Inspire: If you have a special talent that you would like to volunteer and share with our students during lunch time once a week or once a month that would be fantastic! We have Flex Time at the end of the day M, T, Th, F from 2:00 - 3:00 depending on the grade level. Our Bobcats would love to show off their parents' talents.

Here is a link to a volunteer interest form: [Parent Volunteer BMES 2022/2023](#)

Paid Positions: If you have an interest in our paid positions please click on the link and apply: [LAPS job opportunities](#). Los Alamos Public Schools is hiring! We have many open positions part time and full

time through out the district and at Barranca. Open positions include Instructional Assistant positions in general education and special education. Custodians full and part time.

Or if you have an interest in volunteering please contact our front office 505-663-2730



Free Tutoring Comes to Barranca!

We are excited to announce that in partnership with PED

Barranca will receive a new [tutoring service in partnership with Paper](#) that focuses on mathematics, language arts and science. The program offers students in grades preK-8 from New Mexico [Title I Schools](#) access to free academic support from tutors on a secure platform. Participating students will receive 20 hours of tutoring at no cost to families. Features include:

- Virtual tutoring.
- Can be scheduled before, after or during school.
- All learning abilities.

Parents can sign students up [here](#). Questions? OutofSchool.Tutoring@ped.nm.gov



Girls Who Code Club Coming Soon!

What is Girls Who Code and What Will They Learn?

The short answer is: members will learn about **computer science** concepts, and just as importantly, they'll learn that they have a community in the computer science space!

To accommodate students of a wide range of ages and experience in computer science, the Girls Who Code curriculum is divided into [two programs](#): **3rd-5th grade** and **6th-12th grade**. The curricula include activities for students with no computer science experience all the way up to college-level concepts.

Throughout the Club, all members will:

- Learn to see themselves as computer scientists.
- Gain exposure to project management and problem solving techniques.
- Build sisterhood in a safe and supportive environment of peers and role models.
- Learn about other women and non-binary identifying professionals in tech around the world.
- Learn the foundational computer science concepts that form the basis for all programming languages.
- **3rd-5th grade Clubs only:** Complete unplugged or plugged challenges in Scratch after reading each chapter in our non-fiction book, *Learn to Code and Change the World*, or fiction book, *the Friendship Code*.
- **6th-12th grade Clubs only:** Learn a variety of programming languages, including Scratch, Swift, Python, and Javascript. Our Girls Who Code Projects offer a range of difficulty for beginner programmers who have little to no experience programming to more advanced learners who will engage in more advanced topics like data structures.

We will keep you update as to the days and times that we will have the club. We are excited to provide this opportunity to Barranca!



Bobcat Bonanza Will Be Here Before You Know It!

Our Reindeer Lane Fundraiser was a huge success! The Reindeer Lane is the second fundraising event that our PTO has sponsored this year. The money that is raised by PTO supports additional enrichment opportunities for our children, as well as support for teachers in the classroom, and toward enhancing our playground.

We want to give a special acknowledgement to our PTO President, Bethany Scott. Through COVID, and starting a full time job. She has led our PTO and continued to provide fun experiences for staff and students, and raised money for our playground. It is with her leadership that **we will have our upper grade playground starting in the Spring with the addition of a new play structure and Gaga Ball court that will be co-funded by PTO.**

Thank you Mrs. Scott and all of our PTO for your commitment to Barranca!

With that said, our Big Fundraiser for the year is our Bobcat Bonanza! Bobcat Bonanza takes place in the Spring, and last year was fun and a really brought our community together.

Our goal is to get at least two parents per classroom to volunteer in whatever way they can to plan and work the Bobcat Bonanza. If you are interested please let your classroom teacher know or sign up directly with our PTO: barrancamesapto@gmail.com

Something for the Kids

The **Kid Zone!** contains free, age-appropriate audiobooks to listen to, eBooks to read, and literacy-based games to play. The Kid Zone! also includes issues of the Uncanny Chronicles, a comic book produced at NCIL featuring Kayla and her adventures in reading.



Counselor's Corner

Second Step-

We are currently in the middle of the unit of Empathy and Kindness in Kindergarten- 5th Grade for the monthly counselor lessons. Sixth grade will be focusing on the topic of Thoughts, Emotions & Decisions. Below is a description of what each grade is learning.

Kindergarten is learning about the power of kindness to help people feel good. Kindergartners learn examples of kind acts and talk about why being kind to others is important.

First grade is learning about using kindness to let others know we care about them. First graders talk about ways they can be kind to people at school and elsewhere, including asking “Are you okay?” and “Would you like some company?” when they notice someone is upset. Later in the unit they practice offering to help and inviting someone to join them in play.

Second grade is learning what empathy is, how it is connected to kindness, and ways they can show empathy and kindness to others. Second graders learn that having empathy means feeling or understanding what someone else is feeling. Toward the end of the unit, students practice using empathy to think of kind acts they can do for others at school or elsewhere.

Third grade is learning how empathy and kindness can help them strengthen friendships as well as make new friends. Third graders learn the meaning of empathy—feeling or understanding what someone else is feeling—and how it can help them be kind in ways their friends will appreciate. They practice empathy in action by asking questions to learn more about what someone might want or need and then following up with an act of kindness.

Fourth grade is learning how to better understand a point of view different from their own. Fourth graders practice asking questions to understand the reasons behind someone’s point of view. For example, if one person loves being around dogs and another doesn’t, they might ask each other, “What is your experience with dogs? Why do you feel that way?” When children try to understand other points of view, it helps them work, play, and get along with others.

Fifth grade is learning how to use empathy to help make their school community a better place. For example, they might make a plan to keep the school grounds clean or to help younger students safely use playground equipment. Fifth graders practice using empathy—feeling or understanding what someone else is feeling—as a way to identify potential problems and propose solutions that could work for everyone.

6th Grade will learn how to recognize strong emotions and unhelpful thoughts, and they learn to apply strategies for managing their emotions and reducing stress. This unit’s content helps students understand that all emotions are valuable because they provide us with information about our environment. Students learn to respond to their emotions in ways that help meet their wants and needs.

Great Kindness Challenge-

Our School will be participating in the Great Kindness Challenge during the week of January 23-27. More information to come.

Winter Gear:

If your child is in need of winter boots or winter coat, please contact Ms. Romero at 663-2726 or a.romero2@laschools.net



Boots & Sneakers: Safety During P.E.

This is a reminder that as the weather changes please have some sneakers for students to wear during P.E., they cannot wear boots, or snow boots on the gym floor as a safety precaution. We appreciate your support!

Important Numbers

Barranca Staff

Office Staff

Davine Jones, Principal

2727

davine.jones@laschools.net

Audrey Juliani, Asst. Principal

2750

au.juliani@laschools.net

Kelly Saeger, Secretary

2728

k.saeger@laschools.net

Dawn Summers, Clerk

2781

d.summers@laschools.net

Sheila McClees, Nurse

2729

s.mclees@laschools.net

Alyssa Romero, Counselor

2726

a.romero@laschools.net

Emily Romero, Contact & SLP

2734

e.romero@laschools.net

Attendance Phone Number

505-663-2731

Attendance Phone Number

Transportation:

Please Review the expectations for riding the bus. Students who demonstrate unsafe behaviors on the bus may receive a citation.

First Citation is a Warning that goes home to parents

Second Citation is a Warning that goes home to parents, school is notified, and adjustments on **the bus are made**

Third Citation is a Warning that goes home to parents, school is notified, and adjustments on the bus are made. This is the last warning and the student receives a 2 week bus suspension.

Easy Reminder: Keep hands, feet, objects to self. Follow directions.

For questions about transportation, please contact Keith Rosenbaum or Chris Smith at 663-2255 or email Keith at k.rosenbaum@laschools.net.

Food Services

Click to download a copy of the [Free and Reduced Meal Program application](#). Email the completed form to j.palmer@laschools.net.

Acceptable Payment for Meals at all Campus:

- Cash
- Credit Cards (High School Only)
- BEST AND MOST CONVENIENT- School Cafe Accounts in good standing

Please manage funds ahead of time at www.schoolcafe.com and remember to keep email address current.

Elementary Prices:

\$5.00 per child meal

\$5.00 per adult meal
\$.50 per milk or water

Mark Your Calendars



1/9 - 1/20: Middle of the Year (MOY) Testing
1/10: Drill
1/10: Board Meeting 5:30 pm
1/12: Parent Council Meeting 2:00
1/12: Monthly PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
1/16: Holiday
1/18: Spelling Bee

2022-2023 School Calendar

Los Alamos Public Schools

Home of the Hilltoppers

2975 Trinity Drive

Los Alamos, NM 87544

505-963-1222

Aug 1 & 2 New Employee Orientation

Aug 3-6 & 8-9 All Staff PD & Work Days

Aug 10 First Day of School for Students

Sep 5 Labor Day

Sep 28 All Staff PD & Work Day

Oct 10 Indigenous Peoples' Day

Oct 14 End of First Quarter

Nov 11 Veterans' Day

Nov 23-25 Thanksgiving Break

Dec 16 End of Semester (86 days)

Dec 19-Jan 2 Winter Break

Jan 3 All Staff PD & Work Day

Jan 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Feb 20 Presidents' Day

Mar 8 All Staff PD & Work Day

Mar 10 End of Third Quarter

Mar 31 Inclement Weather Day

Apr 3-7 Spring Break

May 26 End of Semester (94 days)

May 27 High School Graduation

May 29 Memorial Day

Total: 180 student days

Total: 186 teacher/staff days

Notes

Open House

Aspen

Bamencia

Chamisa/LAOLA

Mountain

Pinon

LAMS

LAMS/TFA

January 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Other Events

Homecoming

SAT School Day

Apr 12

School Board Approved 04/19/22

New Employee Orientation
Teacher/Staff PD & Work Days
(no school for students)
First & Last Days of Each Semester

Holiday - No School
End of First & Third Quarters
Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences

Inclement Weather Day
Extended Learning Saturdays

LAPS Family Resources

We are fortunate to be a part of a wonderful school community. Los Alamos Public Schools has many resources available for our families from how to login to Powerschool, to parent workshops, and the latest COVID safety updates and protocols. Please check out these resources:



Barranca Bobcats

 Facebook

Barranca Elementary is a Team and a Family!

As part of the Los Alamos School Community we are committed to the LAPS Mission and Vision for our children. Here is ours:

Vision

All students will develop positive relationships with peers, staff and feel connected to their school community


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