



# Portales Municipal Schools Fine Arts Newsletter

September-October 2009

Vol. I, No. 1

## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND NOTABLE NOTES

**PHS CHOIR** students performed our National Anthem at district schools as part of Constitution Day activities on September 17. Bravo and thanks go to **MR. SMITH** and his choir students for helping to celebrate this great document of history and the foundation of our nation.

The **PORTALES JUNIOR HIGH ADVANCED BAND** under **BENJAMIN RAINEY** performed with the PHS Band at the halftime performance of the Raton vs Portales football game (Homecoming). The PJHS band students and Mr. Rainey are to be commended for a solid performance of *Mission Impossible*. Friday, September 18 was band night at the Homecoming football game. **MR. MARQUEZ** and the **LINDSEY BAND STUDENTS** participated in the energizers and fun with the PHS Band in the stands.

Art students of **KIP DEFOOR** and **JON BIRDSONG** are displaying their art projects at the New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque. The display is from September 12 through September 28.

Congratulations to **CINDY STONE** for organizing the gathering of alumni that marched in the Heritage Days Parade. Close to 70 alumni and current band members marched in the parade. Highlights included a cookout provided by the PHS Band Boosters, getting together with old and new friends, uniting to make music, and realizing that playing an instrument crosses all boundaries, most especially that of age. Like riding a bike, one never forgets how to play an instrument. Where did I store my instrument? Thanks to all who participated. We are looking to make this an annual or biennial event.

**PHS BAND** students travelled to Texas A&M University at Commerce, TX to participate in Drum Major Camp (Angela Mowrer and David Harberts) and Leadership Camp (Timothy Brooks, Renee Massey, Thomas Watson, and Ryan Wood). The weeklong camp provided the students with skills and knowledge that will surely transfer beyond the context of band. To share what they learned, this group organized 6 summer meetings with the PHS Band Leadership Team. Using models of peer teaching, the students worked together in learning leadership concepts, methods of teaching peer groups, and working with directors and staff. Thanks to all of these students for giving up part of their summer for the goal of maintaining high standards. Good job!

These students thank the Portales School Board for allowing them to travel out-of-state and to the PHS Band Boosters for paying costs of the camp.

Congratulations to **BENJAMIN RAINEY**. Ben was married to Portales graduate Natalie Schettino in June. We extend best wishes to the happy couple for a long, healthy, and strife-free life together filled with music, art, and laughter.

Over the summer, several of our staff transitioned into different locations in the district. **BEN RAINEY** moved from 6<sup>th</sup> grade band at Lindsey to teaching band and guitars at Portales Junior High. **CINDY STONE** moved to Lindsey Middle School to teach Choir, Music Appreciation, and Language Arts. **LEON MARQUEZ** moved from assistant director of the PHS Band to teaching band, guitar class, and music appreciation at Lindsey Middle School. **CAROL AINSWORTH** is now teaching Art at Lindsey Middle School. Thanks to Rick Segovia for aiding the transition of so many of our Fine Arts staff into his school. Thanks to Mr. Fowler and the entire administration for their commitment to keeping Portales Teachers employed and their aversion to cutting fine arts programs. We support all of these teachers as they make their new teaching homes.

Summer is for rest, relaxation, and learning! **JENNIFER JOHNSON** attended the Texas Bandmaster's Association convention in San Antonio, Texas this July. She participated in workshops focused on teaching marching band, developing beginning band programs, music education through jazz band, and effective use of technology in the band rehearsal.

## SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING



Each newsletter, we will feature one of our Fine Arts Educators. Education in the Fine Arts is an important part of a balanced and total education. We feature **Debra Hargrove** as this issue's feature teacher.



*spotlight*

Debra Hargrove was born and raised in Roosevelt County and attended school in Dora, graduating from Dora High School. She attended ENMU where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in fine arts and a minor in piano.

She is married to Mickey Hargrove and has two beautiful daughters and three wonderful grandchildren. This year she teaches music at both Brown Early Childhood Center and Steiner First Grade.

Debra has always loved children and the thought of being a school teacher. She has also loved music as long as she can remember. At age six, she began taking piano lessons. She took lessons for about ten years. In grade school, she began playing the piano for school programs, banquets, and other special events. She served as pianist for the choir and congregation at her church beginning at age 14, and continued for about 35 years. As a teenager, she began teaching children's Bible School and Sunday school classes as well as children's choir in her church. She especially loved directing children's musicals.

After her children were grown, Debra worked as a secretary in the ENMU College of Business and began taking classes at ENMU. She also taught private piano lessons during this time for approximately six years. After graduating from college, she began teaching in a regular kindergarten classroom for three years. When Portales Schools received grant money from the state of New Mexico to begin a music program in the schools, she then began teaching music classes fulltime in kindergarten. She is in her ninth year teaching for Portales Schools. She loves her job and all the children she teaches. Her goal is to instill a love for music in each and every child she meets.

Debra's students adopt her love and passion for music and the arts. They remember fondly her teaching, caring, and compassion. Thank you for your work with students through your teaching of music and the arts. At Brown and Steiner, Debra establishes a positive foundation upon which students pursue additional education in the arts. Kudos!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 12th 28th	State Fair art display Albuquerque, NM	PJHS/PHS
September 28th	Marching Band Night—Clovis HS	PHS Band
September 29th	Marching Band Clinic with Dr. BJ Brooks—PHS	PHS Band
October 3rd	Homecoming Parade – ENMU	PJHS/PHS Bands
October 6th	Pre-Contest Marching Performance—PHS	PHS Band
October 8th	Vocal Solo and Ensemble ENMU - Portales	PHS Choir
October 13th	District Marching Band Contest—Artesia, NM	PHS Band
October 15th	PHS/PJHS/Lindsey Fall Concert/ Art displayed – PAC	PHS/PJHS Choir
October 17th	Zia Marching Festival—Albuquerque, NM	PHS Band
October 23rd	All-State Auditions – Choral ENMU - Portales	PHS Choir
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lovington vs. Portales Football (Senior Night)	PHS Band
October 30th – 1st	PHS Drama presents "Dracula" PAC	PHS Drama
October 30th	Teddy Bear Day BECC	BECC students/parade