

## February 2017 Newsletter

February is month that is symbolic for new directions, tenacity, leadership and the love all of that requires. The CORE Team celebrates and supports the leaders within your school community for their hard work, dedication, guidance, and love they provide daily to the next generation - the future leaders of tomorrow!

**Happy February!**

~CORE Team

### Teacher Spotlight

Shannon Mounyo is a 2nd grade teacher at [Magdalena Elementary School](#) in the rural community of Magdalena, New Mexico. That is not the only hat she wears though. Due to budget shortfalls, the elementary principal position was cut 4 years ago, and she was asked to be the Lead Teacher for the school's pre-school through 5th grade levels. In this role, she is responsible for scheduling all elementary activities such as field trips, performance programs and fund raising opportunities.

She attends weekly administrative meetings as well as monthly School Board meetings presenting the activities going on at the elementary level. She also sponsors and organizes the District Spelling Bee and Declamation Contests. Recently, she acquired her CDL and is also a substitute bus driver when needed to deliver students who live as far as 35 miles north of Magdalena on the Alamo Indian Reservation or heads west 30 miles towards the county line.

Shannon is a 1996 graduate of NMSU where she student taught under CORE Math Coach Christine Woods. Later she earned her Masters through Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and received her reading and TESOL endorsements. In her spare time, Shannon enjoys riding horseback, camping, and spending valuable time with her family.

*Thank you for all you do Shannon!*

### Events this Month

**February 2**  
*Groundhog Day*

**February 14**  
*Valentine's Day*

**February 18**  
*Coaches Meeting*  
*@NMSU Albuquerque*

**February 20**  
*President's Day*

**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."**  
~Nelson Mandela



# A Good Day to be a Coyote!

San Jon Elementary

San Jon, NM

There's a lot to be proud of in Coyote Country. At San Jon Schools they build a proud community, motivate their children to succeed, and ensure learning for all. On Tuesday, January 17, San Jon Elementary held an Elementary Awards Ceremony to motivate students to succeed. Students in grades K-2 were awarded medals for demonstrating growth in their iStation scores from December-January. Students who showed growth from their Beginning of Year scores to their Middle of Year Scores received zipper pulls. Students in grades 3-5 were awarded honor roll certificates. January 17, 2017 was a good day to be a COYOTE!

~Submitted by Denise Briggs

## What's the Buzz?

In keeping with the theme of togetherness in February, the Buzz this month is about the importance of professional collaboration. In [The Missing Link in School Reform](#), University of Pittsburgh professor Carrie R. Leana, reminds us of something the we at CORE already know – amazing things happen when teachers are supported with structures that allow and encourage them to work together to improve student learning. Dr. Leana states, "In trying to improve American public schools, educators, policymakers and philanthropists are overselling the role of the highly skilled individual teacher and undervaluing the benefits that come from teacher collaborations that strengthen skills, competence, and a school's overall social capital." The article goes on to explain why social capital in teaching is important and how it supports students' academic success. We hope you enjoy this food for thought and as always, let us know what you think.

## The BIG Five

### Effective Vocabulary Instruction

With PARCC quickly approaching many of you may be focusing on vocabulary. Here are 5 things you can do for effective vocabulary instruction.

- 1. Provide multiple exposures to new words. Use the new vocabulary often.**
- 2. Provide opportunities for students to create non-linguistic representations for key words.**
- 3. Focus on academic vocabulary for instruction (Tier 2 and Tier 3 words).**
- 4. Choose "Read Alouds" from a variety of genres. Reading aloud exposes students to higher level vocabulary.**
- 5. Teach students independent word learning and understanding strategies. Make sure strategies are applicable (e.g., context clues, word parts, reference tools).**

Ideas from [Dr. Kimberly Tyson](#)

### Editor's Note:

Big thanks to Jana Ward for providing the January newsletter's School Spotlight, she was not referenced for the submission.



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