

Ramblin' On - Continued

☺ **Admit when you don't know.** It's hard to say, "I don't know," but it's an honest answer. Parents and children can then look for answers together from other sources.

☺ **Don't leave big gaps.** Parents don't need to fill in every detail, but they shouldn't leave big gaps either. Otherwise, children will simply fill in those gaps themselves.

☺ **Use age appropriate language.** Simple short words and straightforward explanations are always best.

☺ **Get feedback.** After parents talk about a subject, wait a little while, and then ask their child to tell them what he remembers. Say it again and again. Most children take in information in bits and pieces. Ask them to repeat back what you said in their own words to check for their own understanding.

WHAT'S IN A TEST SCORE?

What does a SAT-9 score mean? When students take the SAT-9 test, they get questions that range from easy to very hard. This design is called "discriminating," because it intentionally has questions that a certain percentage of students will, or will not be able to answer. Students rarely get all of the questions right, but when they get the hard ones, they are answering more like a typical student would at a higher grade level. A certain number of items represent the typical performance for a student at their grade level. Half of the students in the sample group score better than typical, and half score less than typical.

These are where the grade equivalent and percentile scores come from. This also helps explain why students who do not know English are at such a disadvantage. They don't even have a chance to answer the easier problems if they don't understand the question, and they certainly aren't typical of the sample group. The table shows what Echo Mountain's percentile rank scores were two years ago and last year, both with and without non-English (NE) language students scores.

Year/Grade	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
2000	46	58	57	54	54
2001 with NE	30	44	42	43	49
2001 without NE	43	51	53	56	58

These scores show that our students start out behind the sample group, but eventually pass up the average the longer they are at Echo Mountain. They also show the big impact of non-English language students on the school's average. Over-all our students are at, or above average, but we think our scores would improve if more of our students were better rested and had more regular attendance.

FUTURE DATES

4-08 - 4-12	SAT 9 Testing
4-18	PTSA Star Night
4-19	Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL
4-23	Early Release schedule for staff training
4-24	Midterm
4-29 - 5-3	AIMS Testing Grades 3 & 5
5-3	PTSA Cinco De Mayo Dance
5-15	PTSA Elections/General Meeting
5-13 - 5-22	Scholastic Book Fair
5-27	No School
6-4	Last Day of School

2 IN '02

Thank you to everyone who completed the last parent survey. We will recommend the new names and colors to the school board in April. Our second parent survey results also show high parent support for the question asked:

1. K-3 school MASCOT
64.3% in favor of COYOTES
2. K-3 school NAME
71.8% in favor of Echo Mountain PRIMARY School
3. 4-6 school MASCOT
72.5% in favor of RAMS
4. 4-6 school NAME (best of the three-way vote)
53.9% in favor of Echo Mountain INTERMEDIATE School
5. School COLORS
62.9% in favor of Primary uses BLUE and SILVER
Intermediate uses BLUE and GOLD
6. Congestion is a serious problem before and after school
73.7% AGREE
7. Staggered days will work if students from both schools can come and go together
69.7% AGREE
8. Staggered days will work if students could participate in adult supervised activities
74.7% AGREE

CLASSES for PARENTS

Project NUESTRO will offer ESL classes for parents who are interested beginning on April 15th. There will be morning classes from 9 - 11:00AM or evening classes from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Classes will be held two times weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays. Childcare will be available. For information and to reserve a place in the classes, call **Project NUESTRO** at 493-6110 ext 2060.

Testing - Continued

Third and Fifth graders are also taking the AIMS assessment about a week after the SAT-9's get turned in. It's a little scarier because it has so many different parts, and students are not always sure what to do. By now, most parents have received information on the AIMS test.

You can get more information on the AIMS test from the next column or from the Arizona Department of Education's website at:

www.ade.state.az.us/standards/AIMS/Default.htm

We appreciate the contributions of KINKO's Copy, 7th Street & Greenway, for supporting this communication with our community.