

August, 2009



# THE STALLION PRIDE



Mr. Nathan Ballard

## STALLIONS WELCOME NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**Nathan Ballard has already made an impact with students and faculty with his energy and commitment to the traditions of Slider Middle School**

By Deanna Tellez & Damian Barraza

Slider Middle School has always had great assistant principals and this year is no exception. Joining the team is Nathan Ballard. Mr. Ballard most recently was at El Dorado High School, where he taught AP courses and World Geography. He was also an assistant coach for Varsity Football.

Mr. Ballard has high expectations for the students at Slider and wants the students to know that he will be there for their academic, athletic, and extracurricular success. "Don't be intimidated to come and approach me," Mr. Ballard said. He is very pleased with the "Super Stallions," as he likes to refer to the students, "I want to become a part of the successful Stallion tradition and work with the Super Stallions," Mr. Ballard added. He will be in charge of Athletics, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Special Ed, and the students with the last names from M-Z. As a sports fan, he promises to attend as many sporting events as possible to support the teams.

The youngest of six children, from Colorado, he loves boxing, football, and basketball. His favorite professional football and basketball teams are the Denver Broncos and Denver Nuggets. Other than watching sports, he enjoys coaching his ten-year old son's football team, the Spartans. Mr. Ballard spends time with his two dogs Evander and Angel, and watching different types of movies such as *Remember the Titans*. He also enjoys reading motivational books, and is currently reading *How Full is Your Bucket*. He likes unique food and loves to chow down on Chinese cuisine. His musical tastes vary, but he prefers listening to Reggae and Rhythm and Blues.

In his short time at Slider, Mr. Ballard has shown an amazing degree of energy and is looking forward to being a part of the Stallion team for a long time. Stallions should feel comfortable talking to Mr. Ballard, and when you see him, give him a pound.

## SLIDER STAFF TREATED TO FAMILY FUN DAY

By Mikaela Orozco

Jumping balloons, bubbles, and water guns were just a few surprises that the faculty and their families enjoyed at Slider's Family Fun Day for the faculty and staff.

The idea for the gathering was the brainchild of Mrs. Ayala. It was modeled after an event that used



to be held each year at the Socorro Activity Center, but was stopped when the district grew so large as to make it impossible to get all the schools in one location.

This year, she and Mr. Ferguson decided to set aside an afternoon where everyone could be together and have a good time. They chose a Saturday just as the teachers were reporting back from summer break. With the help of the PTO, the event was a huge success. While Mr. Ferguson helped with the cooking, Mrs.



Ayala and P T O president, Bea Hernandez spent the day making scrumptious

coke and root beer floats. Teachers brought their favorite side dishes along with their families and were entertained by music provided by Mr. Hamilton along with games and fun for the kids.

Mr. Ferguson has said for many years that Slider's reputation as the top Middle School is due, in part, to the teachers and staff creating such a family atmosphere and this type of event gives everyone a chance to meet teacher's children and at the same time build the team spirit that will be needed for the upcoming school year.

Special thanks goes out to Mrs. Ayala for making the day so memorable.



## SEVENTH GRADE ADDS TWO NEW TEACHERS

### Mrs. Caley Morales and Ms. Emily Thompson bring new enthusiastic ideas to Reading and English classes

By Georgina Salas and Victoria Carreon

Two new seventh-grade teachers have joined the Slider Middle School family. They are Reading teacher Mrs. Caley Morales and English teacher Ms. Emily Thompson.

Mrs. Morales enjoys teaching seventh-grade at Slider, and said "It feels very natural." She loves to do fun activities with her students to keep her class from boredom. She likes to show videos and the students have an interactive notebook that they can decorate instead of doing the traditional note taking. Seventh-grader, Eddie Weems, said, "I like the way she teaches, she keeps the class interested in our lessons and its never boring. She talks to us as if we were her age, but we still respect her. She always wants us to be ourselves."

Outside of school she loves to spend time with her two year-old daughter Camryn, her husband, her family, and her two dogs Jaxon and Miller. Her favorite book is *The House of Scorpions* and her favorite movie is "Pirates of the Caribbean". Mrs. Morales is a University of Texas at El Paso graduate but never saw herself teaching, instead she wanted to be a Veterinarian.

Inspired by her parents who were both educators, Ms. Thompson knew in middle

school that she would one day teach school. She loves writing and says "You have to be passionate about what you teach to be good at it."

Outside of school she likes to read, run, play with her dog Sydney, swim, and spend time with her family. During her school years, she was a cheerleader and played the French horn in the band. Sporting a great sense of humor Ms. Thompson said, "Teaching is what I expected it to be, but I didn't expect for my feet to hurt and the kids to be so funny!" English student Alana Muñoz added, "On the first day we played two games and right now we are writing a story on whatever we want."



Mrs. Morales and Ms. Thompson

She attended Texas State University in San Marcos and she is currently working towards her Masters in Education at UTEP.

She feels very fortunate to start her first year here at Slider. Her favorite book is *Eat, Pray, Love* and her favorite movie is *Dumb and Dumber*. She likes to do fun activities with her students. They get to decorate their own notebook and write fun stories. She feels if her students are having fun in class they can improve.

Both Mrs. Morales and Mrs. Thompson feel very happy to be teaching. And we wish them the very best.

## STALLIONS WELCOME NEW YEAR WITH DANCE

By Adrian Welsh and Adrian Carmona

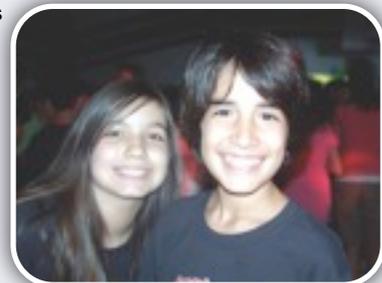
The Starlets, Slider's award winning cheer squad, began fundraising to be able to compete in an out of state championship in either San Diego, Orlando, New York City, or Las Vegas. One of their efforts was hosting a back to school dance recently with all profits going towards their trip.



Back To School Dance

Judging from the turnout, the dance was very popular. A unique ticket was used which made the dance even more exciting. Most students attending the dance excitedly bought glow sticks. Once inside the dance everyone popped their glow sticks and started dancing. The glow sticks, in colors purple, green, orange, and yellow, made the dance wildly colorful and even more fun. Students also got together for big group dances such as The ChaCha Slide and YMCA. Once the dancers needed a break they went outside of the cafeteria to the concession stand run by Starlet parents. Everything from candy and cookies, to soda and pizza, was available for hungry and thirsty dancers.

Starlets sponsor, Mrs. Sierra, explained, "It is a good way to raise money for the Starlets, and to lift up the moods of students missing their summer." Slider's students couldn't agree more.



# ORCHESTRA TEACHER ALSO POPULAR MUSICIAN

## Mr. Hamilton knows what its like to get on a stage in front of people and perform

By Michael Ramirez and Zach Aguilar

When students first see Mr. Hamilton they wonder why he isn't in a rock band instead of the orchestra room. As an accomplished cellist, Mr. Hamilton is all business when it comes to his orchestra students.

Since he was 10 years-old, Mr. Hamilton has been in orchestra and choir. Graduating from UTEP with a degree in Music Education, Mr. Hamilton has led Slider's Orchestra into a variety of difficult competitions each year. His students see the passion he has for music and his demanding style has spilled over into his students.

Outside the walls of his orchestra class, Mr. Hamilton lets his hair down, so to speak! Once the final bell rings, Mr. Hamilton transforms himself into the hard rocking, bass banging backbone of the most popular band in the Southwest...Fungi Mungle.

Since its inception, Fungi Mungle has been named "Best of The Border" and "Best of the Best" for a combined seven times. As a backup vocalist for the group, Fungi Mungle has played venues across the country and has shared the stage with some of rock music's superstar acts. With their signature style and disco-era wardrobe, Mr. Hamilton has earned a reputation as one of the premier bass players in rock and roll.

In addition, Mr. Hamilton is a signed recording artist with the band Seventh Rize who released their album *Full Moon* earlier this year.

"The first instrument that I mastered was the cello and from that I learned how to play every other instrument in a rock band", Mr. Hamilton added, "I try to show my students that although you don't see a cello in Aerosmith, being in the orchestra will teach them fundamentals that they'll need as they progress in music."



Mr. Hamilton (center) with Fungi Mungle

Mr. Hamilton considers himself very fortunate to be able to perform live shows and teach orchestra. "I've played so many musical genres that its hard to pick just one and focus on it. Without a doubt, though, live performances are the best", he concluded.

Mr. Hamilton also has enjoyed musical theatre and has lent his considerable talents to some of the award-winning performances staged by Slider students in the Theatre program.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Welcome back Stallions and a special welcome to our new students, faculty, and staff. Each new school year brings opportunity for achievement and the Slider Stallions always seem to break through and make every year even better than the last one.



Mr. Ferguson

We are fortunate to be able to welcome Mr. Ballard to our administration. He is enthusiastic about our school and the success of our students so I hope each

of you will stop by and make him feel welcome. Don't forget to give him a "pound".

We have so much to do this year and I am very grateful to all of you for making our first few weeks back in class so easy. Each and every one of the teachers are eager to help the students achieve greatness. I want to challenge each of our students to get involved in your school. Take part in UIL activities, participate in one of the sports teams we have, or get involved with community service projects. The tradition of Slider Middle School students is based on our students excelling in everything they do! Get active...be involved! Together we can make this school year the finest one yet.

I also want to ask every student to put a greater emphasis on reading. Not just when you have to, but make time at home to just read something that interests you. As we say all the time, reading is so important in everything you do. No matter what class you're taking or what you plan to do later in life, reading will be the one thing that you will use each and every day of your life. So why not be really good at it?

As we begin our journey together this year, let's all set our goals and one of those should be to enjoy your time at Slider Middle School. I know we'll all work hard throughout the year, but let's also take a few minutes each day and enjoy our time together as Stallions!

## NEW ART TEACHER, LIBRARY AIDE JOIN STALLIONS

By Vianey Reyes

Slider Middle School welcomes the addition of Art to our list of elective classes and Mr. Reymundo Lara will be teaching the course.

Mr. Lara is married to our counselor, Mrs. Angela Lara, and they have three boys and a dog. His hobbies include painting abstract art, an art form that seeks representation by showing different forms and color, and he likes to listen to 70's and 80's rock and roll.

He studied at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and received a Bachelor's degree in Art Education. He also went to Sul Ross and received a Master's degree in School Administration. "Art is in some ways complicated, but the students have so much passion for this class," commented Mr. Lara.



Mr. Lara

Mrs. Veronica Gomez is our new library aide. Mrs. Gomez studied at El Paso Community College and the University of Phoenix. She is married and has three children and two dogs. Her hobbies include crossword puzzles and reading books. The best books she has ever read are *How to Steal a Dog* and *The Outsiders*. Her favorite author is Stephenie Meyer and she listens to all types of music. Mrs. Gomez has been a library aide for three years working at O'Shea Keleher and Myrtle Cooper. "The students and staff have been wonderful to work with; they are so polite and very nice," said Mrs. Gomez.



Mrs. Gomez and Mrs. Mounsey

# FOOTBALL TEAMS DOMINATE EARLY SEASON GAMES

Aside from winning the district championship, the coaches want their players to excel in the classroom

By Warren Redix

Both Coach McNeil and Coach Frischmann made it clear to the seventh- and eighth-grade football players that winning the District Championship is the number one goal of this season.

According to Coach Frischmann, "The eighth-graders will need good training, technique, and expert advice from the Montwood High school football coaches." He also added

that he doesn't worry so much, because most of his top athletes are straight A students,

meaning they are well disciplined. Not only does Coach Frischmann have his returning players, but also key first year players Raymond Medina,



Tyler Crout, and Zach Ruiz. These players have decided to play this year and are showing they can be great additions to the team.

"This year I believe we have all the right pieces to the puzzle and are working hard to make a run for the championship," explained returning player Larry Gamboa. The eighth-grade team proved that with a convincing victory over the Hernando Cavaliers, 22-0. Jacob Aguilar, Sergio Estrada, and Devin Cabral-Benitez each scored a touchdown.

The following week they faced and crushed the Socorro Bulldogs, 44-0. Warren Redix had an impressive game, scoring three touchdowns. The defense was outstanding, forcing six turnovers.

Coach McNeil credits his seventh-graders as very athletic, but they will need a great deal of work to get more experience. Aside from winning district, Coach McNeil wants his players to achieve the goal of passing all their classes.

In their first game against Paso Del Norte, they blew out the Jaguars 36-6. A standout in the game was Brett Winnegan who scored three



touchdowns. After the game Coach McNeil commented, "Our offensive line dominated, the running and short passing game was outstanding, and the defense broke down sometimes, but overall we did well."

In their second game it was similar victory as they also stomped the Sybert Scorpions, 36-6. As the offense struggled, the Special Teams scored four touchdowns, which proved critical to the victory.

# VOLLEYBALL TEAMS BEGIN SEASON WITH TOUGH EARLY VICTORIES

By Paige Pelletier, Hollie Wilson and Madison Luevano

This year's Lady Stallions played their first game against Ensor Middle School on Thursday, August 13. The first game of the night was played by the seventh-grade team who started off well by beating Ensor 25-19. Their next match was a little rocky, but their last match turned out great when they came back and beat them 25-10.



Seventh grade Volleyball

the second game, the Stallions finished with a score of 25-11. The following week, the seventh- and eighth-grade B teams had their first games. While the eighth-graders and

the seventh-grade A team played at Slider, the seventh-grade B team played at Socorro Middle. They were a little nervous on their first game, but turned it around in the last two matches. The eighth-grade ladies were ready to play, and it showed when the game ended with scores of 25-17 for the first match and 25-23 on the second.



Eighth grade Volleyball

Both A teams came away victorious once again. The seventh-grade had a rough start losing their first match by only two points, but they made a comeback. The Stallions defeated Paso Del Norte on the last two rounds with scores of 25-20 and 25-18. After the games, both seventh-grade and eighth-grade teams proved that the season holds much promise!

## STALLION PRIDE SHIRTS

Get your Stallion Pride shirts from Mrs. Reyes in room 208 or during lunch.

The shirts are only \$10 for the t-shirt or \$15 for the v-neck style. Supplies are limited so get yours today!



## THE STALLION PRIDE

William D. Slider Middle School

11700 School Lane  
El Paso, Texas 79936-5400  
(915) 937-5400

Mr. Mitchell Ferguson, Principal  
Mrs. C.C. Schwartz, Advisor  
Email: [mschwa@sisd.net](mailto:mschwa@sisd.net)

This newspaper is produced by the students of the Journalism class