

## Emerson Elementary School celebrates success

Emerson Elementary, just Northwest of the Gibson Gate at 620 Georgia Southeast, is a member of the Highland Cluster and has 483 students.

With the start of the school year, the school is celebrating that they have been removed from the Public Education Department's probationary list after having been rated as meeting Annual Yearly Progress. The school had been at risk for being placed into corrective action before the 2003-04 school year.

This was temporarily postponed when the school was rated as "meets standards" one year ago. Recently being named again, as a school that met AYP, the school has achieved the state required two years in a row of success and has averted corrective action.

This accomplishment had its foundations in the commitment that the school made six years ago to improve student achievement. With this commitment the staff, students and parents of the school have been involved in an effort to support all students.

At the time, the school adopted a research-based reading curriculum called Success For All. At the end of the first year of implementation, the school had 8 percent of first-fifth grade students reading at grade level or above. As Emerson implemented SFA the school also developed a strong focus on teacher professional development, building high attendance rates and low tardies, and on having all children participate in nightly reading at home with parents.

Intense reading instruction in the classroom, along with these other initiatives has caused the number of students reading at grade level to greatly improve. After year two of SFA implementation the

school had 11.4 percent of students reading at grade level or above. At the end of year three the school made an incredible jump to 41.6 percent of students reading at grade level or above. During the 2003-04 school year, Emerson was recognized as a Pinion Level Recipient by Quality New Mexico, for its use of quality tools to improve student performance. As the 2004-05 school year begins, the school is starting with 45.3 percent of students reading at grade level or above.

Emerson intends that the new tradition of high expectations for student achievement will continue to propel it towards meeting AYP each year. Although the Emerson community is pleased that rather than moving into corrective action they have been removed from the "No Child Left Behind" list of low-performing schools, the community also recognizes that now is not the time for celebrating alone.

The principal, Jacque Costales, and staff will continue to be highly focused, since the AYP target will continue to increase each year. The administration and teachers at Emerson are working to move more students to reading at grade level or above and has set a goal of having 60 percent of students doing so by the end of the current school year. Eventually, though, the school wants all students to be reading at grade level or above.

While the school celebrates this second year of meeting AYP and the accomplishment of being removed from the state probationary list, the principal, staff, students and parents still continue to focus on improved academic performance.

*(Courtesy of the Emerson Elementary School)*

## Highland High School seeks volunteers

Under the Public School Initiative, Highland High School has requested Kirtland AFB support for the HHS Career Fair and Pathways Week to prepare youths in the local community for future possibilities.

Kirtland AFB organizations will man various career booths to share information with students on possible career opportunities as a civilian or military government employee.

The focus is to vector students along career pathways to help them make decisions about attending college or entering the work force. This event offers an excellent opportunity for TEAM KIRTLAND and the local community to provide valuable support to young teens transitioning into adulthood.

Pathways Week is scheduled for Sept. 27-30 from 7:30-9 a.m. and 9-11 a.m. and will include short speeches in the classrooms from TEAM KIRTLAND personnel. The Career Fair is scheduled for Oct. 1, 8-11 a.m., with booths set up in the school gym. Both events will be held at HHS.

For more information or driving directions, contact 2nd Lt. Devanie Bridges at 846-1820 or Maj. Lisa McColgan at 846-7296.

# POWs, MIAs remembered for their service to America

BY JENNIFER E. WEST

Nucleus staff writer

A “missing dad” table with mom and two sons was part off the ceremony Sept. 17 observing Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Day at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park. Representing family members praying for the safe return of their hus-



**Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center and the New Mexico State Veterans Association cosponsored a 24-hour vigil run at Hardin Parade Field to commemorate the annual Prisoners of War/Missing in Action observance. Runner concluded the vigil, arriving at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park where a ceremony honored past and present war veterans.**

band and father were Master Sgt. Melinda Goken as the mother and wife and Brandon Adamski and Steven Sanders acting as sons of a POW/MIA.

The ceremony included a flyover by the 150th Fighter Wing in F-16s and of a 58th Special Operations Wing helicopter that circled to the forefront of the nearby mountain range before passing above the ceremony.

Guest speaker John McWaters, the state Department of Veteran Services deputy cabinet secretary and a former Army Ranger in the Vietnam War, spoke on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, a condition that can affect military members serving in combat conditions. He explained that while a military member may return physically, the person “doesn’t return emotionally” every time. He urged those listening to be sure to give a sincere “welcome home” to our fellow Americans serving in support of war on terrorism.

Musical selections by vocalist Senior Airman Keith Loudermill, who also sang the national anthem, the Southwest Edition Quartet and the 44th Army Band interspersed readings of scripture, presentations and a bagpipes rendition of “Amazing Grace” by retired a Airman, Bill Barnes.

Also participating were the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Multi-Service Color Guard, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Detachment 3, Chap., Maj. Thomas Porter of



Photos by Dennis Carlson

**Defense Threat Reduction Agency Multi-Service Color Guard presented colors at the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Day ceremony attended by local veterans, active duty military, Guardsmen, Reservists, Gold Star Mothers, Kirtland AFB leadership and representatives of the city of Albuquerque and state agencies.**

the Chapel, Ray Larribus of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and the American Legion Post 49, which provided a rifle salute.

Runners from a 24-hour vigil on Kirtland AFB entered the ceremony carrying the POW/MIA flag that was posted at the ceremony.

This year’s special ceremony was coordinated by Capt. Kimberly Adamski.