



**For Immediate Release**  
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**LET THE GAMES BEGIN:  
RIO SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES JOIN IN FOR A SECOND YEAR**

OXNARD, Calif.–Rio Games began as a way to boost employee morale, build relationships and have fun. Now in its second year, the games are doing just that for Rio School District staff. More than 250 district employees are participating in this year’s Rio Games, which run through March 20.

“The more fun we have at school, the more we’ll want to be there – this affects our students in a positive way,” said Jeff Linder, Rio Real third grade teacher and organizer of the Rio Games. Linder came up with the idea in 2007 when he and a couple dozen Rio del Norte teachers and staff participated in the county’s corporate games.

Teachers and staff members at each school and the District Office form teams, and then compete in various events at different locations, including puzzle building, softball, bowling, Scrabble, Wii tennis, volleyball, sandcastle building, a chip and dip cook-off and tug-of-war. An awards ceremony will be held March 20 at Harbor Cove Beach, when final scores are tallied and teams find out which one will receive the award for best spirit.

“It is wonderful seeing people laughing and having fun at each of the events and the lift in morale that comes back to the work sites,” said Superintendent Sherianne Cotterell.

The Rio School District encompasses six elementary and two middle schools and the Community Day School. There are more than 4,400 students in the district, which serves the unincorporated community of El Rio, the RiverPark development and portions of the city of Oxnard.

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