



## Press Release Rio Rancho Public Schools

---

500 Laser Rd. NE • Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
(505) 896-0667 • Fax (505) 896-0662

April 21, 2009  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Kim Vesely at 896-0667 ext. 219  
Trish Pope at Lincoln Middle School, 892-1100

### **Lincoln Middle School Students Become Mascot “Zoo Parents”**

If you're a middle school and your mascot is the leopard, what better way to celebrate the connection than to adopt a real leopard?

That is exactly what students at Lincoln Middle School are doing, to boost school spirit and (a little belatedly) celebrate Earth Day. The lucky leopard adoptee is Bhutan, a snow leopard born at the Rio Grande Zoo last July.

On Tuesday morning, April 28, Cecily Peterson from the Zoo and BioPark will present a certificate to Lincoln students officially certifying them as “Zoo Parents.” The ceremony will be held at 8:15 AM in conjunction with the school's televised morning announcements so all “Lincoln Leopards” can participate.

Students have been collecting money to cover the “adoption” fee, and have exceeded their goal of \$250. In conjunction with the adoption, students have also been learning about Bhutan and about snow leopards in general. The funds support procurement and care for animals at the BioPark, enrichment items to provide stimulation and exercise, and education and conservation programs.