



# DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

*Home of the Scorpions • The higher we climb, the better the view!*

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**Ms. Susie Smith**  
Principal

**Mr. Steve Whynott**  
Assistant Principal  
January 2021

## *A Message from Ms. Smith*

Happy New Year to you and your families! May 2021 be a year filled with good health, healing and hope for all of us to return to some normalcy and traditional school life. Your understanding and support of our Desert Foothills community are greatly appreciated during this COVID pandemic. As always, we try to find the positives and silver lining in troubling situations. Your support of our teachers and distance learning model, while partnering with us for your child's success, has definitely been a positive for us. The Desert Foothills staff and I are committed to you and your child to progress through these troubling times and learn and grow from it. We have hope that we will be able to return to in-person learning when it is safe, especially with the vaccine being available for educators and staff.

In a recent DF Staff meeting, I asked the teachers and staff to think of one word that they have for 2021 and the list was encouraging with their passion for nurturing, supporting and educating our DF students.



- **Parent/Teacher Conferences**  
**At this time, we are still planning to have virtual P/T Conferences.** Please mark your calendar for our **P/T Conferences to be held on Tuesday, February 9 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in a virtual setting.** Midterm grade reports will be discussed at conferences for third quarter. Your attendance in the online conference is

strongly encouraged and appreciated to continue the communication and partnership for your child's success at Desert Foothills. **(Early Dismissal February 9 10, 11, and 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.m.)**

- Please remember to stay informed on your child's grades by using our online **ParentVUE**, available 24 hours a day, and encourage your child to check their StudentVUE daily. If you need assistance with your activation key, please call the office.
- **Future Freshman Night** for Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD), including Greenway and Moon Valley High Schools, was virtual and high school registration has begun online for our eighth graders at all GUHSD schools.
- **ASA, After-school Academy**, starts Tuesday, January 19, 2021, in the virtual model. Spaces are still available for registration. See our Website for more details.
- Please encourage your child to attend learning every day in the Distance Learning Model and communicate with your child's teachers, as needed, for support.
- For weekly updates, please be sure to view the email sent from our WESD Superintendent's Office for current information.
- Grab 'n Go Bags are distributed every Monday from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the DF parking lot in a drive-thru COVID careful manner. With no school on Monday, January 18, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Grab 'n Go Bags will be distributed on Tuesday, January 19 from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Thank you for your partnership with the support of your child, our school and teachers. As always, my door is open to discuss any concerns or issues to assist with your child's success at Desert Foothills. We are only an email or phone call away for any support needed. We are in this together!

**Principal Susie Smith**



4650 W. Sweetwater Ave., Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • wesdschools.org

Governing Board: Bill Adams, President • Nikkie Whaley, Vice President  
Jenni Abbott-Bayardi, Member • Larry Herrera, Member • Lindsey Peterson, Member  
Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

## A Message from our Social Worker

### WESD District Programs

Washington Elementary School District offers services to families through the federal McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The act requires that children and families who are in a temporary living situation be offered services and supports. Services provided can include enrollment assistance, nutrition services, clothing or school supplies, community referrals, and in some cases transportation. If you are living in any of the following temporary circumstances: with another family or friend due to financial hardship, living in a shelter, transitional housing, in a hotel/motel, you **may** fit the criteria for assistance under this act. Please contact our Desert Foothills school social worker Mrs. Montelongo, at 602-896-5536 to inquire further about qualifying for this program.

### Programas Distritales de WESD

El Distrito Escolar Washington ofrece servicios a las familias por medio de la Ley Federal 'McKinney Vento' de Asistencia a las Personas sin Hogar. La Ley requiere que los niños y las familias que están en una situación de vivienda temporal se les ofrezcan servicios y apoyos. Los servicios provistos pueden incluir ayuda con inscripciones, servicios de nutrición, abastecimientos de ropa o escolar, referencias comunitarias y en algunos casos servicios de transportación. Si ustedes están viviendo en cualquiera de las siguientes situaciones temporales: con otra familia o amistad debido a una dificultad económica, viviendo en un refugio, vivienda transicional, en un hotel o motel, **podrían** calificar bajo el criterio para ayuda bajo esta ley. Favor de comunicarse con trabaja de social Mrs. Montelongo al 602-896-5536 para recibir información adicional acerca de cómo calificar para este programa.

**Desiree Montelongo, School Social Worker**

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## From Our School Resource Officer

Just wanted to remind you that even in this ever-changing world we still need to make good decisions! I want to give you another tool to use as you make those good decisions for your future. I call them the 3 C's.

When faced with a decision or choice you must first:

**Clarify:** What is the decision you want or need to make?

Secondly, **Consider:** Look at the different possibilities, which will give you the best outcome or solution to the challenge facing you?

Finally, **choose:** What solutions will give you the best result?

After you have met and conquered that challenge, it is always best to reflect on the situation, evaluating the process and outcome. This will benefit you as you face future challenges.

That's it for now Scorpions. See you soon!

**Officer Kenny Angwin**

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## News from the Health Office

### COVID-19 Symptoms and Risk

If you are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms, you may feel like you need to be tested for COVID-19, to ease your mind. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

- o Fever or chills
- o Cough
- o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- o Fatigue
- o Muscle or body aches
- o Headache
- o New loss of taste or smell
- o Sore throat
- o Congestion or runny nose
- o Nausea or vomiting
- o Diarrhea

Check the CDC website for the latest list of symptoms associated with COVID-19.

In some instances, people infected with COVID-19 have no symptoms or symptoms are so mild they don't feel sick. That is why it is so important for all of us to stay home as much as possible, avoid gatherings of 10 or more, and practice social distancing to help slow the spread of the virus.

For most of us with mild symptoms, being tested will not change our treatment. Whether you have another flu-like virus or COVID-19, the vast majority of people do very well recovering at home and symptoms can be treated with over-the-counter medicines.

You can check your symptoms using the CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker tool. Adults over age 65 and people of any age with underlying health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease are at higher risk of serious illness due to COVID-19.

It is important EVERYONE take prevention steps to help stop the spread:

- o Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- o Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- o Stay home when you are sick.
- o Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- o Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you are a household member or a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you should stay at home and away from others (quarantine) for 14-days after the last time you had close contact with the sick person. Close contact is being within 6 feet of the sick person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period\* starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. You will be asked to quarantine for 14-days because that is the maximum time period from the day a person is exposed to an infected person to when symptoms appear for COVID-19. If you do not have any symptoms after the 14-day period, you can continue with your daily activities.

If you have any questions or need information please call the health office at 602-896-5510.

**Christie Padilla, Health Technician**

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### Tax Credit

Giving back is easy! Make a tax credit donation to Desert Foothills Junior High School and receive a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your state income taxes! Taxpayers may receive up to a \$400 tax credit if filing jointly (\$200 if filing single) on their State income taxes by contributing to one of Washington Elementary School District's extracurricular activity programs. For more information, please visit [wesdschools.org/taxcredit](http://wesdschools.org/taxcredit). Thank you for your continued support!



Congratulations to DF spelling bee winners:

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade - Solisa S.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade - Addyson H.

We are so proud of you! Good luck at the district competition. Thank you, Mrs. Valdez for all you did to coordinate this fun and exciting event for DF students!

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### **2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration**

The WESD is currently enrolling kindergarten students for the 2021-2022 school year. If your child is turning five, be sure to stop by our Kindergarten Drive-Thru event Tuesday, January 26 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. You'll have the opportunity to meet the teachers, pickup packets and even receive fun giveaways, all from the safety of your vehicle! The WESD will also be hosting a Facebook Live event on Tuesday, January 19 at 4:30 p.m. to share information about kindergarten and answer parent questions.

Our free, full-day program offers research-based curriculum that addresses reading, writing, math, science, social studies, Physical Education and art with time for fun! Our dedicated teachers encourage peer-to-peer relationships and collaboration while supporting each student's unique needs. You can learn more about our kindergarten program, meet the teachers and take a virtual tour by visiting [www.wesdschools.org/kindergarten](http://www.wesdschools.org/kindergarten).

Please be sure to share with your friends and neighbors who have little ones! Open enrollment is accepted! For more information about kindergarten enrollment, please visit [www.wesdschools.org/registration](http://www.wesdschools.org/registration) or call 602-896-6950.

### **Inscripción para Kindergarten 2021-2022**

Actualmente, el WESD está inscribiendo estudiantes de kindergarten para el año escolar 2021-2022. Si su hijo cumplirá cinco años, asegúrense de pasar por nuestro evento de Kindergarten Desde su Vehículo el martes, 26 de enero de 4 a 6 p.m. ¡Tendrán la oportunidad de conocer a los maestros, recoger paquetes y hasta recibir obsequios divertidos, todo desde la seguridad de sus vehículos! El WESD también patrocinará un evento en Vivo en Facebook el martes, 19 de enero a las 4:30 p.m. para compartir información acerca de kindergarten y responder preguntas de los padres.

¡Nuestro programa gratuito de día completo ofrece plan de estudio basado en estudios que se dirigen a lectura, escritura, matemática, ciencias naturales, estudios sociales, Educación Física y arte con tiempo para diversión! Nuestros maestros dedicados animan la asociación y colaboración entre compañeros de clases mientras apoyan las necesidades únicas de cada estudiante. Pueden aprender más acerca de nuestro programa de kindergarten, conocer a los maestros y tomar una gira virtual al visitar [www.wesdschools.org/kindergarten](http://www.wesdschools.org/kindergarten).

¡Favor de asegurarse de compartir con sus amistades y vecinos quienes tengan pequeños! ¡Se acepta inscripción abierta! Para más información acerca de la inscripción en kindergarten, favor de visitar [www.wesdschools.org/registration](http://www.wesdschools.org/registration) o llamar al 602-896-6950.



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## Calendar of Events

1/15	Freshman registration	
1/18	MLK Day – NO SCHOOL	
1/20	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
1/25	100 <sup>th</sup> day of school	
1/27	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
2/3	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
2/9-2/12	Virtual Parent/Teacher conferences – EARLY RELEASE	2:30 p.m.
2/15	Presidents Day – NO SCHOOL	
2/17	Site Council meeting	5:15 p.m.
2/17	B.E.S.T PTO meeting	6:00 p.m.
2/25	Governing Board meeting	7:00 p.m.

Conference Week  
Early Release Days  
February 9, 10, 11, 12  
Dismissal Time: 2:30 p.m.

To view Desert Foothill's online calendar, insert the URL address below into your Internet browser, <http://desertfoothills.wedschools.org>; click on Desert Foothills Calendar.

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### **School Hours**

8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M., T., Th., F.  
8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays

### **Office Hours**

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M., T., Th., F.  
8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Wednesday

### **Open Gym**

**(temporarily cancelled due to CO-VID 19)**

7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

### **Important Numbers**

Attendance Line – 602-896-5521 (24 hours)  
Office – 602-896-5500  
Health Office – 602-896-5510



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**@**

**<http://desertfoothills.wedschools.org/>**