



# DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

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**Ms. Susie Smith**  
**Principal**  
**Vol. 38 No. 8**

**Mr. Steve Whycott**  
**Assistant Principal**  
**April, 2017**

## A Message from Ms. Smith

AzMERIT testing went very well for us. We are proud of our students' great effort and dedication to the state testing. The support of your child's attendance during testing was greatly appreciated as well. **Please note that AIMS Science assessment will be for eighth grade only on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, during homeroom.**

**NJHS Induction Ceremony** was a wonderful event for Desert Foothills. All inductees were honored and celebrated with family and friends on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 in our gym. Greenway High School principal, Mr. Jon Vreeken, was the keynote speaker and shared in our honoring of such fine students. We are very proud of the Desert Foothill's National Junior Honor Society.

The excitement of summer approaching brings new behaviors. As we come to the end of another school year, please support us in finishing the year strong with our **students' dress code, attendance and academic standing.**

As a reminder, please no short shorts, tank tops, spaghetti straps or bare midriff shirts as well as no shirts with inappropriate slogans or designs.

Students are required by law to be in school at least 90% of the school year. Students are allowed no more than 18 excused absences (5 unexcused). Once a student exceeds that allowed number of absences, we are expected to file a citation with juvenile court and/or with the WESD Truancy Prevention Unit.

**Desert Foothills students must meet the WESD minimum academic requirement of a D average in all five core classes. Letters and enrollment forms in our after-school class, Scorpion Pride, have already been sent home to families who have a student in danger of not promoting. Scorpion Pride provides students with an opportunity to improve their current grades in the class(es) that they are in danger of not passing.**

**For seventh grade students who do not meet the promotion criteria, summer school at Desert Foothills is mandatory. Eighth graders will have the option of attending Project Sharp with their high school in GUHSD for free. There is no cost for summer school and bus transportation will be provided for all regular bus routes.**

**Please make sure that you are accessing your child's grades on ParentVue to get an up-to-date grade report and are communicating with your child's teachers.**

**More information will be provided soon on our Summer Academy.**

**Promotion Ceremony for our eighth graders is Friday, May 19, 2017, in our gym.** The transition from middle school to high school is an important milestone in every student's life. We look forward to celebrating this achievement with you this year. Each student will be given five tickets for the ceremony. If your family would like more than five tickets, your child can request additional tickets in his or her homeroom. If your child does not need five tickets, please return the extra tickets to your child's homeroom teacher. More information will be coming home soon.

**9:15 a.m. Promotion Ceremony: Team Phoenix & Team Wolves**

**10:45 a.m. Promotion Ceremony: Team Phoenix**  
Principal Susie Smith

## April 2017 Calendar of Events

4/6	Girls Softball DF vs. RP	4:45 p.m.
4/7	Team Venom Field Trip to Wildlife World Zoo	
	Band & Orchestra Field Trip to Chase Field	
	Field Trip to Diablo Stadium	11:30 a.m.
	PTO Chipotle Night	5:00 p.m.
4/11	Track Meet @ Moon Valley H.S.	4:45 p.m.
	Girls Softball DF vs. Cholla	4:45 p.m.
4/13	Team Eclipse Field Trip to AMF Bowling	
	Girls Softball MS vs. DF	4:45 p.m.
	Track Meet @ Sunnyslope H.S.	4:45 p.m.
4/18	A-Team Field Trip to Great Skate	
	Girls Softball DF vs. PV	4:45 p.m.
4/19	Site Council	5:15 p.m.
	B.E.S.T. P.T.O.	6:00 p.m.
4/20	Spring Dance	4:00 p.m.
	Track Meet @ Cortez H.S.	4:45 p.m.
4/24	NJHS Field Trip to Great Skate	
4/25	Girls Softball DF vs. RP	4:45 p.m.
	Sixth Grade Parent Night	6:30 p.m.
4/27	Girls Softball DF vs. Cholla	4:45 p.m.
	Track Meet @ Greenway H.S.	4:45 p.m.

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



4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • [www.wesdschools.org](http://www.wesdschools.org)  
Governing Board: Bill Adams, President • Larry Herrera, Vice President  
Aaron Jahneke, Member • Tee Lambert, Member • Nikkie Whaley, Member  
Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

## 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year



Mrs. Dena Kolstedt, Science & Leadership teacher, AZ Middle Level Association

Dena Kolstedt is an outstanding educator and an amazing person. She creates high student interest lessons and delivers the instruction with rigor and high expectations. Dena inspires her science students and her leadership students to take pride in themselves and guides them with their character development. No task is too big like organizing our school dances, spirit weeks, recycling program and student activities with her leadership class or providing rigorous lessons to raise the level of critical thinking or providing one on one science instruction. Dena goes over and above every day at Desert Foothills.

## 2016-2017 Lamp of Learning



Mr. Phil Drewis, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science & 7/8 Grade Leadership teacher

Mr. Drewis is the recipient of WESD's most prestigious award, Lamp of Learning, for his strong dedication and commitment to excellence for students, staff and Desert Foothills Community. As a science teacher, student leadership teacher, member of the DF Teacher Leadership Team, coach of Cross Country & Track & Field, and Site Council Member, Phil Drewis inspires students and staff to be their very best and to be accepting and collaborative with others so that we may all reach our potential every day at DF. Phil represents DF and WESD with parents and community members with the highest regard of professionalism and respect as an educator.

## "The Middle School Color Battle is coming to Desert Foothills on Friday, May 5, 2017!"

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support of Desert Foothills Middle School and the investments you make in your children's lives. We're so excited to introduce you to this semester's only major fund-raiser, the **Middle School Color Battle!** A group of student leaders at our school have worked very hard to organize the Color Battle fund-raiser and are pumped to be able to host this event on **Friday, May 5.** We kick off our Color Battle fundraiser on Monday, April 24 with a fun-packed Pep Rally and each student will receive an **Access Code Sheet** to enter and track donations online. Students are challenged to get donations over the next two weeks from family and friends to help our school. **Funds raised this year will be used to purchase technology, supplies, field trips, equipment, rewards.** We'll end the two-week fundraiser with a celebratory Color Battle event for students who participate in the fund-raiser (think lots of color powder, participant t-shirts, loud music, high energy, and FUN!).

**How the Color Battle fund-raiser works:** Log on to Anython.com using your student's access code found on their Access Code Sheet and enter and pay donations online. This is the preferred method. Or, for those that don't want to pay online, please send cash or check to the school no later than **Thursday, May 4** and the donation will be manually entered into the Anython system so your child receives credit for it. All checks should be made payable to: Desert Foothills B.E.S.T. PTO. **Students must raise a minimum of \$30 in total donations in order to participate in the Color Battle event.**

Students will also earn prizes for every \$30 in donations received, including a Color Battle T-shirt, color packets to use at the event, and the chance to win their very own **Beats Headphones, Visa Gift Card, or Bluetooth Speaker!** In addition, we'll be announcing fun daily challenges with prizes for the class that raises the most each day.

You can help make our Color Battle fund-raiser successful by connecting your student to potential donors (family/friends) to acquire donations. The easiest way is to use the **"Share Wizard"** feature on your child's donation page at Anython.com. **Using the Share Wizard, you can send a link to your child's donation page via text message, email, Facebook and Twitter.**

Thank you again for your continued support!  
Sincerely,

Susie Smith, Principal



**Disclaimer/Release of Liability:** The Color Battle activities will involve running and other forms of exercise that may be physically exerting. Students will also be dusted with color powder. If your child has preexisting conditions such as heart conditions, allergies, asthma, immune disorders, susceptibility to bleeding or broken bones, or other illnesses or conditions that require limited physical exertion, please consult with your doctor before allowing your child to participate. If parents or guardians allow their student to participate, you are representing and warranting that your child is healthy enough to participate safely in the activities and you agree to hold Anython and the School harmless for any possible accident or injury. You are also agreeing that you are assuming all responsibility for your child's clothing and shoes during the activity.

**Color Powder:** The color powder used during the Color Battle is non-toxic and biodegradable. All materials are FD&C grade, made from cornstarch and food-safe coloring. Color powder may stain clothing. If your child is participating, please have them wear old shoes and bottoms that are ok if they get stained and bring a change of clothing for after the event.

### 2017 NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

David A.	Kalen A.	Ana A.
Lydia B.	Josue C.	Grace C.
Stevie C.	Sierra C.	Harerimana D.
Chloe F.	Jenessie G.	Caitlyn G.
Elizabeth G.	Shyanne H.	Fernando H.
Vivian H.	Peyton H.	Oscar H.
Lindsay L.	Shanandra L.	Lovely M.
Daniel M.	Bianca M.	Bernice O.
Arianna O.	Tammy P.	Sara S.
Kelly S.	Kristina S.	Everett S.
Lillian T.	Serena V.	Jordyn W.
Sydney Z.	Zoe Z.	