



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

3333 W. Banff Lane • Phoenix, AZ 85053 • Office: 602-896-5500 • Fax: 602-896-5520
Nurse: 602-896-5510 • Attendance: 602-896-5521

Ms. Susie Smith
Principal
Vol. 34 No. 4

Mr. Steve Whycott
Assistant Principal
December 2016

A Message from Ms. Smith

What a wonderful first semester we have had at Desert Foothills. Our students have represented Desert Foothills well with boys and girls volleyball, girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, boys basketball, cheerleading, wrestling and the After-school Academy (ASA) program with reading, math, robotics, KODU and STEM classes. The Desert Foothills staff looks forward to 2017 being a year of academic and social growth with all of our students. One of the issues that we have at Desert Foothills is common among all middle schools – students who are failing classes and not meeting the minimum requirement of a D average in their core academic classes. Part of the problem is the transition to middle school from sixth grade. Our concern is students who are developing poor habits of not doing their work in class and not doing their homework. ASA has been formed specifically to meet these students’ academic needs. Students who have not met the minimum requirement of a D average will be selected for ASA based on their first and second quarter report card grades. We want all of our students to be on the right track with good study habits before they go to high school. **We will send home second quarter report cards on Wednesday, January 11, 2017.** If your child is failing a class, he or she will be required to attend ASA until his or her grades improve to a C or better. The Desert Foothills staff wishes you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

24-hour Attendance Line 602-896-5521



Please go to our Facebook page, Desert Foothills Junior High School, and like us. Also, remember to visit the Desert Foothills Junior High School website for school events / activities and sport schedules. Go to www.wesdschools.org, click schools, and scroll down to Desert Foothills. All of Desert Foothills Junior High School staff are listed with their e-mail addresses as well as other great information.

December 2016 Calendar of Events

- 12/7 Greenway Jazz, Band, and Choir Concert
Early Release 2:30 p.m.
- 12/8 Wrestling Meet DF @ MM 4:45 p.m.
Cheer Event at RP 5:00 p.m.
Best Buddies at Glendale Glitters 6:00 p.m.
- 12/9 Best Buddies at Phx Dizzy Saturday
- 12/12 Rachel’s Challenge Meeting 4:10 p.m.
Boys Basketball Tournament
- 12/13 Boys BB Semifinals at Cholla 4:45 p.m.
- 12/14 Early Release 2:30 p.m.
Site Council 5:15 p.m.
BEST (PTO) Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 12/15 Boys Basketball Championship
Game at Cholla 4:45 p.m.
- 12/16 Team Champions Field Trip to
AZ Science Center 9:30 a.m.
- 12/19 Seventh and Eighth Grade Play
for ASA 4:00 p.m.
Rachel’s Challenge Meeting` 4:10 p.m.
Eighth Grade Play 7:00 p.m.
- 12/20 Spelling Bee 2:00 p.m.
Band/Orchestra/Choir Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 12/21 Early Release 2:30 p.m.
Seventh Grade Play 7:00 p.m.
- 12/22 Last Day for 1st Semester ASA
End of Second Quarter
- 12/23 Grading Day - No School for Students

12/26 – 1/6 WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL
School Resumes January 9, 2017

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.

Signing your student out of school
before dismissal?
The office staff will ask you for your **photo ID.**
NO EXCEPTIONS

Teacher Interview Fairs
Washington Elementary School District
4650 West Sweetwater Avenue
Glendale AZ 85304

Saturday, December 10, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 28, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 25, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Apply at jobs.wesdschools.org. Questions? Call 602-347-2622



4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • www.wesdschools.org
Governing Board: Aaron Jahneke, President • Clorinda Graziano, Vice President
Bill Adams, Member • Larry Herrera, Member • Tee Lambert, Member
Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

TAX CREDIT

You can do something great for the students at Desert Foothills Junior High School and reduce your tax liability at the same time by making a tax credit donation.

You decide where your money goes! When you make a school tax credit donation you're enhancing the education of a child. Your donation can go to the program you specify, or you may permit the school to designate which of its extracurricular programs your donation will support – athletics, after-school classes, character education, field trips, music programs.

State Department of Revenue Guidelines

- The tax credit program gives a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state income taxes. The credit is \$400 for married taxpayers that file a joint return and \$200 for single taxpayers or heads of households. If married taxpayers file separate returns, each spouse may claim one-half of the credit that would have been allowed.
- Public education tax credits may only be used to the extent that they reduce a tax liability to zero. Any unused amounts may be carried forward for not more than five consecutive years.
- You do not need to have a child enrolled in a school to take advantage of this tax credit.
- If a program is not designated by the contributor, the school will choose a program based on greatest need.
- Checks must be made payable to the individual school of the taxpayer's choice.
- Tax credit donations must be made on or before April 15 to be applied to the prior year's taxes.
- When the school receives the check, a receipt will be issued for the individual's tax record. The District will also submit notification to the Arizona Department of Revenue.

To make a donation, simply go to the WESD Web site, www.wesdschools.org, Quick Links. Print and complete the tax credit form and return it to the school office or to the WESD Administrative Center at 4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304. Remember, tax credit donations must be made on or before April 15 to be applied to the prior year's taxes.

For further information, contact Desert Foothills Junior High School office at 602-896-5500 or Chris Wing at 602-3472631.

Join Fry's Community Rewards Program

Sign up to join the Fry's Community Rewards Program. Please link your Fry's card by going to the following link and registering.

<https://www.frysfood.com/topic/new-community-rewards-program> and click on Enroll Now. Our organization is Desert Foothill Junior High Organization # 84283.

Cold or Flu?

The weather is changing and with that comes cold and flu season. If possible, please send in a box of tissues or antibacterial wipes for your child's classrooms. What is the difference between a cold and the flu? The flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. In general, the flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms such as fever, body aches, extreme tiredness and dry cough are more common. Colds are usually milder than the flu. People with colds are likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. If you have any questions, please call our Health Office at 602-896-5510.

Theater Spotlight

The Desert Foothills Fine Arts Department is proud to present this year's fall play, What Happened After Once Upon a Time.

After quite a few years, theater has come back to Desert Foothills and we cannot be more excited to share our hard work and new program with you! Come out on the following dates to see your favorite fairy tale characters create all kinds of drama in this fun send up of many different story book tales. There will be **Excitement!** **Romance!** And even **Talking Homeless Pigs!** So come on out and support your fellow classmates and fine arts students. All performances take place in the Desert Foothills Gym, are open to the public, and 100% free!

Monday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Eighth Grade Drama Class Cast

Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Seventh Grade Drama Class Cast



**Desert Foothills
Spelling Bee
December 20**

The Music Note

Come out and enjoy our wonderful Desert Ensembles! On at 7:00 p.m. in the Band, and Choir will of music for your have been hard at



cannot wait to share our music with you. Thank You for your continuing support of music and the arts at Desert Foothills!

evening of music from Foothills Music Tuesday, December 20 Gym, the DF Orchestra, be performing a variety of enjoyment. Our groups work this semester and

STUDENT ID CARDS

The safety of students traveling to and from school, as well as their safety at school, is of primary importance to the Washington Elementary School District. With this in mind, WESD has implemented technology to make it easier to identify students when they are on campus and to verify when and where students enter and exit a school bus. Students were provided a picture ID at the beginning of the school year at no cost.

If students deface, destroy, render their ID unreadable or lose their ID, they will be required to purchase a replacement ID.

Students must have their ID with them to ride the bus. If a student does not have his or her ID card in morning, the student will be asked to sit in the front of the bus or his or her assigned seat. No student will be denied a ride TO school.

- The student will then be instructed to go to the library during homeroom and obtain a new ID. If he or she cannot purchase a new card that day, the student will receive a temporary bus pass for that day only. **The temporary badge must be returned to the library the next day**

- The student must get a new ID by the following day or he or she will be refused boarding the bus to go home. Parents will be notified to pick up the student.

A TEMPORARY BADGE IS GOOD FOR ONE DAY ONLY

- Replacement cost for the ID cards is \$5.00 (Lanyards are 50 cents).