



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

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Ms. Susie Smith
Principal
Vol. 35 No. 4

Mr. Steve Whyntott
Assistant Principal
December 2017

A Message from Ms. Smith

What a wonderful first semester we have had at Desert Foothills!

- Our students have represented Desert Foothills very well with boys and girls volleyball, girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, boys basketball, cheerleading, wrestling and the After-school Academy program with reading, math, fitness, robotics, KODU and STEM classes. Student Leadership has promoted the DF Spirit with Spirit Weeks, Dances, and the A Team field trip.
- The Desert Foothills staff looks forward to 2018 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, After-school Academy, and Interventions in Homeroom have 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 the Homeroom Interventions and 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 10, 2018.** 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.
- **Rachel’s Challenge Day is Friday, January 12, 2018.** We will have the Rachel’s Challenge Assembly in the morning followed by a day of team building and character

development activities as we focus on the chain reaction of showing compassion and care toward others. As always, parents are welcome to attend our morning assembly.

- **Dates for 8th Graders:**
 - **GUHSD Future Freshman Night is Thursday, January 18, 2018** at all Glendale Union High Schools including Greenway and Moon Valley at 6:30 p.m.
 - **Friday, January 19, 2018, GHS Administration will be at DF for our High School Registration Assembly.** Packets to be distributed to all future GUHSD freshman.
 - **Friday, January 26, 2018 ~ High School Registration Packets Due!** Greenway and Moon Valley High School counselors will be on our campus collecting the Registration Packet to register all 8th graders during their Social Studies classes.
- The Desert Foothills staff and administration wishes you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a 2018 full of good health and happiness.

**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.



4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • 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

December 2017 Calendar of Events

12/13	Best Buddies Hot Chocolate Sales Early Release	2:30 p.m.
12/14	Best Buddies Hot Chocolate Sales ASA Ends Wrestling Meet RP @ DF 7 th Grade Boys Basketball @ CH	4:45 p.m.
12/15	Best Buddies Hot Chocolate Sales	
12/16	District Hosted Recruitment Fair	
12/18	Theater Play Performance	5:00 p.m.
12/20	Early Release Site Council B.E.S.T. P.T.O. Meeting	2:30 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
12/21	End of Second Quarter Team Phoenix Field Trip to Country Gables Holiday Dance	4:00 p.m.
12/22	Grading Day - No School for Students	

12/25 – 1/5 WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL
School Resumes January 8, 2018

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

Kids and Technology: Tips for Parents in a High-Tech World



As time is stretched with schoolwork and after school activities parents and children may talk less and fall back on timesavers, like notes or text messages. When it comes to your child's safety in the virtual world, parents should not rely on one strategy alone. According to a study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, children say they know how to get around home and school filters to access social media pages such as; Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Musically. Children also admit that they will access blocked sites from friends' computers who do not have limits on their Internet access. Experts recommend parents use multiple strategies to keep kids safe in the virtual world. Unfortunately, prohibiting access to technology or sole reliance upon blocking or filtering software are often not enough to prevent electronic aggression," says Marci Hertz, a health scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "Kids are savvy and can get around filters and blocking software. Just like putting a seatbelt on before starting the car, there are some fundamental strategies parents should observe to make sure use of electronic technology is a safe experience.

Here are some strategies to help monitor and discuss safety and technology:

- 1. Talk to your child.** Parents ask their children where they are going and who they are going with whenever they leave the house. They should take the same approach when their children go on the Internet—where are they going and who are they with?
- 2. Develop rules.** Together with your child, develop rules about acceptable and safe behaviors for all electronic media.
- 3. Explore the Internet.** Visit the websites your child frequents, and assess the pros and cons. Most websites and on-line activities are beneficial. They help young people learn new information and interact with people who have similar interests.
- 4. Talk with others.** Talk to other parents about how they have discussed technology use with their children.
- 5. Connect with the school.** Parents are encouraged to work with their child's school and social worker/counselor to help keep an open line of communication about safe technology.
- 6. Educate yourself.** Stay informed about the new devices and websites your child is using. Continually talk with your child and explore the technology yourself.

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.

- 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.