



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

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Ms. Susie Smith
Principal
Vol. 35 No. 5

Mr. Steve Whynt
Assistant Principal
January 2017

A Message from Ms. Smith

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are in the third quarter now as time goes by so quickly. We have several important dates and events upcoming. As a reminder of common practices that we have in place at DF to keep our students safe and successful, please be aware of the following rules and procedures.

- No student should be walking, riding a bike or a skateboard across any major streets (35th Ave., Greenway or Thunderbird). WESD provides bus transportation for students outside our walking attendance area.
- All bus riders are required to use their bus pass, Z Pass, for transportation. Students should have their ID and Z Pass at all times at school and on the bus. If a student forgets the ID/Z Pass at home, Temporary IDs are available for a one-day use. All Temp. IDs should be returned the following day. IDs and Z Passes can be purchased for \$5.00 in our library.
- WESD is responsible for all of our students, door to door. Students are to report home after school and not stop at friend's homes, the parks nor stores before going home. If you are giving your child permission to ride on a bus to go to a friend's house after school, a written note of permission needs a signature with principal approval to be given to the bus driver.
- Per Arizona Revised Statute Section 15-802. Attendance is mandatory. **IN SCHOOL, ON TIME, EVERY DAY.**
- School is from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday's schedule is 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Thank you for supporting us as we strive for student safety, academic success and social growth.

As we begin our third quarter of the school year, I encourage you to support your child in participating in any of the extra-curricular activities offered at Desert Foothills to ensure your child's ownership at DF. The teachers and staff are working diligently to provide each student with the very best classroom instruction in preparation of the AzMERIT the week of March 27, 2017, and they are providing many opportunities for social development.

Scorpion Pride

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 or their homework.

Our after-school class, Scorpion Pride, has been formed specifically to meet these students' academic needs. Scorpion Pride is held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 – 5:15 p.m., and provides students with missing assignments and an opportunity to improve failing grades. Students will be selected for Scorpion Pride 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 Scorpion Pride until his or her grades improve to a C or better.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Please mark your calendar for our P/T Conferences to be held on **Wednesday, February 8, 2016, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in our gymnasium.** Midterm Grade Reports will be distributed at conferences for third quarter. Your presence is strongly encouraged and appreciated to continue the communication and partnership for your child's success at Desert Foothills.

High School Registration at a Glance

- **Future Freshman Night** is Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at all GUHSD sites including Greenway and Moon Valley High School in their gyms.
- **GUHSD registration packets** will be sent home on Friday, January 20, 2017.
- **8th Grade Parent Workshop**
It's a new event that is sponsored by Greenway High School to support parents in completing the High School Registration Packets and addressing any questions or concerns. GHS counselors will be offering two different sessions to accommodate parents' schedules. Monday, January 23, 2017, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Desert Foothills cafeteria. All eighth graders and their parents should attend this workshop.
- **Tuesday, January 24, 2017, Registration Packets are due!**
All eighth graders going to attend Greenway or Moon Valley will be registering during their social studies class at Desert Foothills with high school representatives. **Students will need to bring the completed registration packet along with a copy of their birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residency such as a rental agreement or utility bill.** Thank you for your support in compiling all of the needed forms to make your child's high school registration a positive experience. Please don't hesitate to contact our office with any questions or concerns.

Yearbooks! Yearbooks! Yearbooks!

There isn't much more time to purchase your yearbooks. There are only about 100 left to purchase out of the 250 total that we will be receiving in May. Last year we sold out and many students missed out on receiving a yearbook.

We are also asking for student/parent help to complete two different pages in the yearbook. We will have a Snap Chat filter page and a DF on break page. Specifically, pictures of students/families doing interesting things while out of school. Students or parents can send their pictures to df.yearbook@wesdschools.org along with a description of who's in the picture and what they're doing.



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

January 2017 Calendar of Events

1/10	Wrestling DF @ RP	4:45 p.m.
1/11	Report Cards go Home	
1/12	Wrestling DF @ RP 4:45 p.m.	
1/16	MLK Jr. Day NO SCHOOL	
1/17	Wrestling DF @ CH 4:45 p.m.	
1/18	Club & Group Pictures	
	Site Council	5:15 p.m.
	BEST P.T.O.	6:00 p.m.
1/19	Future Freshman Night	6:30 p.m.
1/20	HS Registration Packets go home	
	Wrestling Tournament @ MS	4:45 p.m.
1/23	ASA Starts	
	Parent Workshop for Eighth Graders	
	7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and	
	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	
1/24	MV & GW Pre-registration	
	Girls Basketball DF @ RP	4:45 p.m.
1/25	Girls Basketball CH @ DF	4:45 p.m.
1/26	District Spelling Bee	9:00 A.M.
1/31	Sixth Grade Students to DF	9:15 a.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.

Students of the Month

Team Eclipse

- Ms. Chesebro - Michelle G.
- Mr. Drewis - Faythe S.
- Mr. Hrovat - Kirstin C.
- Ms. Knott’s - Hayden T.

Team Champions

- Isabella I., Grace C., Zac L.
- Ayesha I., Jesus M. Jordan D. Sierra T.

Team Venom

November and December

- Ms. Fredley – Diana E. & Samantha H.
- Mr. Nichols – Tatiana F. & Zachary C.
- Ms. Weppler - Sierra W. & LeAnne R.
- Mrs. Naylor- Michelle S. & Arianna M.
- Ms. Valdez – Nathan S. & Harley H.

Emergency Contact Information

At the beginning of the school year, you were asked on the Student Profile form to provide the names and contract information for individuals who may pick up and care for your child in case of emergency. Those individuals will not be required to show written permission from you if/when they pick up your child for emergency reasons, e.g. illness, injury, family emergency. However, the individuals you list will not be permitted to pick up your child during the school day for non-emergency reasons without prior **written permission**. We cannot accept a phone call it **MUST** be in writing. Please keep this in mind when designating individuals with whom to entrust your child’s care.

Picking up Students Early

We do not release students or relay messages during the last 15 minutes of the school day unless it is an emergency. This can be a difficult time as students are often moving from one class to another. It is also an important time for the teachers to give instructions for the following school day.

After School Changes

Students are required to ride their bus home after school unless we have prior written permission from a parent. We cannot accept phone calls from parents to request a bus change or give permission for a student to go home with a friend. Students need to bring the written permission slip from their parent to the office in the morning.

Absences

In order for absences relating to illness, doctor appointment, bereavement, family emergencies and observance of major

religious holidays of the family’s faith to be counted as excused absences, the school must be notified of the absence prior to the absence, or the day of the absence by the parent or legal guardian who has custody of the student. Absences that are not reported will be unexcused. Desert Foothill Junior High School maintains a 24-hour attendance line where absences can be called in at any time of the day, or night at 602-896-5521.

Tardies

School starts at 8:53 a.m. Please make sure to have your students to school on-time. When your student comes in late it interferes with student instruction for all the students in that classroom. Please be considerate and help make sure your student is to school on time. Starting second semester students with five or more unexcused tardies will receive after school detention.

Spelling Bee Winners!

First Place - Krisanda W.

Mr. Stefanic’s Language Arts Class

Second Place - Cristal S.

Mrs. Valdez’s Language Arts Class

Third Place - Aron H.

Mrs. Arney-Peterson’s Language Arts Class

Holiday Festival

What an amazing performance the Desert Foothills Orchestra, Band and Choir students had at our annual Holiday Festival. There were nearly 500 family members in attendance enjoying the talents of our students conducted by Mr. Mike Glynn and Mr. Mike Durnavich. Your support and attendance is greatly appreciated!

Orchestra

Arianna O.	Gabrielle A.	Zoe Z.	Avery R.
Diana T.	Hannah S.	Abbey R.	Lovely M.
Rose S.	Alena H.	Vlera S.	Victoria N.
Vivian H.	Shelby V.	Daisy C.	Zoey A.
Anthony D.	Joanna V.	Jacey W .	Jaden S.
Christina T	Jenessie G.	Hailey C.	Kyle B.
Makenzey M.	Jessica P.	Jonah M.	Rylee H.
Madilynn A.	Edward O.	Aeysha I.	Daniel H.
Cameron J.	Hailey C.	Dylon G.	Tacoma R.
Michaelangelo M.			

Band

Berenice O.	Alexa G.	Brianna S.	Ryan H.
Alexander K.	Jose O.	Gwendolyn C.	Crystal D.
Anthony R.	Ashlyn F.	Yesenia O.	Julieta G
Bernadette V.	Attayneka M.	Bernardino S.	Allysa B.
Kyle R.	Modesto G.	Mikalsh P.	Connor V.
Christian J.	Madison J.	Fernando H.	Orion S.

Choir

Taylor B .	Celeste C.	Amaya E.	Hugo M.
Marian F.	Jasleen G.	Alina G.	Aiden B.
Jordan G.	Maylin H.	Shade J.	Jazlyn W.
Samantha L.	Donna M.	Maral O.	Kailey S.
Jenika P.	Sanaii P.	Kaitlyn R.	Faythe S.
Kiany M.	Brianna W.	Michelle S.	Nina M.
Elizabeth S.	Kenna V .	Madison W.	Sara N.
Mackenzie A.	Danielle A.	Grace C.	Janeth Q.
Arianna C.	Emma D.	Alyssa E.	Elaina Y.
Angelina F.	Jazzlyn G.	Jade H.	Daziane J.
Katelynn M.	Rebecka S.	Cheyenne V.	Sara R.
Krisanda W.	Nicholas R.	Cameron S.	

