



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

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Ms. Susie Smith
Principal
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Mr. Steve Whynt
Assistant Principal
January 2018

A Message from Ms. Smith

Happy New Year! 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 in early April, and they are providing many opportunities for social development.

Rachel's Challenge Day was a huge success for our students and staff with our morning assemblies on Friday, January 12, 2018. This character-building program has been our focus each and every day at Desert Foothills promoting kindness and compassion toward others. Students participated in team building and character education throughout the day. We love the chain reaction of compassion that is building at DF. ***"I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how a far a little kindness can go."*** –Rachel Joy Scott

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 will begin on Monday, February 5, 2018, from 4:00 – 5:10 p.m. The class provides students with missing assignments an opportunity to improve failing grades. Students will be selected for Scorpion Pride based on their 1st & 2nd Qtr. 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 registration forms for Scorpion Pride with the Midterm Report at P/T Conferences on Wednesday, January 31, 2018.** 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.

High School Registration at a Glance

- **Future Freshman Night is Thursday, January 18, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at all GUHSD schools including Greenway and Moon Valley High School in their gyms.**
- **Friday, January 19, 2018, - 8th Grade Assemblies with Greenway High School Administration and Guidance Counselors in DF cafeteria.** Registration packets will be provided at this assembly. Parents are welcome to attend the assembly.
- **Friday, January 26, 2018, Registration Packets are due!** All eighth graders who are 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.

Future Scorpions – 6th Grade Day at Desert Foothills

- Sunburst, Acacia, Chaparral and Ironwood sixth graders will visit Desert Foothills with a Pep Rally and campus tour on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

- Please mark your calendar for our P/T Conferences on Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 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.



Tax Credit Donations

- It's not too late to make your Tax Credit contributions for your 2017 AZ income taxes. Tax Credits can still be submitted to the front office until you file your taxes or April 15, 2018. Checks should be payable to Desert Foothills School. Tax Credit donations have made a huge difference for programs at Desert Foothills including the funding of our Open Gym every morning from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., uniforms for our athletic teams and our amazing music department. Your contribution is greatly appreciated at Desert Foothills.
- **ASA, After School Academy**, begins Monday, February 5, 2018, with morning classes at 7:45 a.m. and afternoon classes from 4:00 – 5:10 p.m. Registration is now in progress. Contact the ASA Coordinator, Julianne Steward at julianne.steward@wesdschools.org for more information.

Susie Smith

January 2018 Calendar of Events

1/17	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
	Site Council	5:15 p.m.
	Best P.T.O.	6:00 p.m.
1/18	Club & Group Pictures	
	Future Freshman Night	6:30 p.m.
	GUHSD Schools	
1/19	Greenway Assembly	1:00 p.m.
	Registration Packets Provided	
	Wrestling Tourn. @ MS	4:45 p.m.
1/20	District Recruitment Fair	
1/23	100 th Day of School	
1/25	Girls Basketball DF@CH	4:45 p.m.
1/26	GW Registration/Packets Due	
1/29	MV Registration/Packets Due	
1/30	Sixth Grade Students to DF	
	Boys Soccer MS@DF	4:45 p.m.
	Girls Basketball MS@DF	
1/31	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
	Parent Teacher Conferences	4:00 p.m.
2/1	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
2/2	Early Release	2:30 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.

Yearbooks! Yearbooks! Yearbooks!

Don't delay, purchase today!

There isn't much more time to purchase your yearbooks. The price is \$30!! 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.

Emergency Contact Information

At the beginning of the school year, you were asked on the Student Profile form to provide the names and contact information for individuals who may pick up and care for your child in case of an 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.