



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. 37 No. 7

Mr. Steve Whycott
Assistant Principal
March 2017

A Message from Ms. Smith

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to student success at Desert Foothills!

As we complete the third quarter of our school year, we are so proud of our students for their social and academic development.

- Two Can Dance or Two Can Recess? Lots of fun was had by our seventh and eighth graders as we participated in the **WESD Canned Food Drive** to support St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance with a "Two Can Dance." All students who brought in two cans of food were eligible to participate in our dance on the afternoon of Friday, February 24, 2017, but with the beautiful weather, most of our students opted to go outside and play games. It was fun for all!
- Please remember to stay informed on your child's grades by using our online **ParentVue** 24 hours a day. If you need assistance with your Activation Key, please call the office.
- A big congratulations goes to eighth grader, **Krisanda Williams**, for her advancement to the **Region Spelling Bee** on Friday, February 25, 2017. Krisanda represented DF very well and we are so proud of her!
- **February Site Council and CAFÉ**, Community and Family Engagement, was a huge success for the Desert Foothills region with attendance and participation including principal **Rhonda Warren from Sunburst, Rich Morris from Chaparral, Polly Schultz from Ironwood and John Vreekan from Greenway High School**. The instructional practices and academic expectations at DF were presented by teacher leaders, **Juli Steward, Phil Drewis, Heather Bycroft, and Program Coach Chuck Raynak**. The Desert Foothills Region and community is very fortunate to have such strong and compassionate leaders. The parent perspective and input from **Stacy Bauer, Deb Zellner and Christie Padilla** is greatly appreciated.
- **Chipotle Night!** Please join us for the **BEST/PTO fundraiser at Chipotle** restaurant at Metrocenter (31st Ave. & Peoria) on Friday, March 3, 2017, from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

- Our teachers are busy preparing students for the **AzMERIT** assessment the weeks of March 27, and April 3, 2017. Testing will begin the Tuesday after spring break this year. Please mark your calendar for these very important dates to assist us with **your child's attendance and when making any appointments for your child.**

Principal Susie Smith

March 2017 Calendar of Events

3/1	Eighth Grade Class Picture Early Release	9:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m.
3/2	Boys Soccer DF vs. RP @ LM	4:45 p.m.
3/3	Field Trip to Sunburst Field Trip to Diablo Stadium P.T.O Chipotle Night	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
3/6	Girls Basketball Tourn. @TBHS	4:45 p.m.
3/7	Girls Basketball Tourn. @ TBHS Boys Soccer DF vs. CH Conocido	4:45 p.m. 4:45 p.m.
3/8	Early Release DF Area Band Festival	2:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
3/9	Girls Basketball Tourn. @ TBHS Step Up Concert @ Greenway H.S.	4:45 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
3/15	Site Council Meeting B.E.S.T P.T.O. Meeting NJHS Induction Ceremony	5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
3/17	End of 3 rd Quarter	

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.

Spring Break: March 20- 24
No After-school Academy: March 27-31
State Testing: March 28 – April 4

Important Numbers

24 Hour Attendance Line 602-896-5521
Office – 602-896-5500
Health Office – 602-896-5510



Information concerning AzMERIT testing that will be administered on March 28 - April 4, 2017, is provided below:

Desert Foothills AzMERIT Testing Schedule 2017		
Date	AzMERIT Test	Bell Schedule
Tuesday, March 28	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing	AzMERIT Testing Schedule 9:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
Wednesday, March 29	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Part 1	AzMERIT Testing Schedule (Early release at 2:30 on 3/29/17) 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Thursday, March 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Part 2	AzMERIT Testing Schedule 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Friday, March 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Make Up Testing	Regular Bell Schedule
Monday, April 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Math Part 1 – 7 th grade <input type="checkbox"/> Math Part 2 - 8 th grade <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra Part 1	AzMERIT Testing Schedule 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Tuesday, April 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Math Part 2 – 7 th grade <input type="checkbox"/> Math Part 1 - 8 th grade <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra Part 2	AzMERIT Testing Schedule 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday, April 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Make Up Testing	Regular Bell Schedule

- **Regular school start time at 8:45 a.m.**
- **Buses will pick up and drop off as normal time all week.**
- **AzMERIT testing will be Tuesday – Tuesday.**
- **Dismissal will be at 4:00 p.m. each day, except for early release Wednesday, March 29.**
- **There will be no before or after classes during the week of AzMERIT testing.**

The faculty and staff of Desert Foothills, along with parents and community members, take great pride in our students and in their tradition of high academic achievement.

Please speak with your child about the importance of doing his or her very best.

As always, we welcome your calls and questions at 602-896-5500 or visit our website

<http://desertfoothills.wedschools.org/>



AzMERIT testing is approaching.

What parents can do to help students succeed.

–From March 28 to April 4, Arizona students at the 7th and 8th grade levels participate in the new statewide achievement test, AzMERIT. The Arizona Department of Education has created helpful resources to help all stakeholders at <http://azmeritportal.org/>

We need all students to be in school when AzMERIT tests are given, unless they are ill. We encourage parents to schedule appointments and other activities outside of school hours.

What a parent can do to help a student do his or her best?

- Be sure your child gets a good night’s sleep, generally eight to 10 hours.
- Maintain a normal schedule and keep distractions to a minimum.
- Become familiar with the test your child will take.
- Avoid putting too much pressure on your child.

Testing is a normal part of students’ schooling and the goal is to do one’s personal best every day, whether it is state testing or daily classroom activities.

Test-Taking Strategies

- **Be physically prepared.** Get plenty of rest the night before. On the day of the test, eat a healthy breakfast.
- **Be mentally prepared.** Try to relax and do your best. View the test as an opportunity to truly show what you know and are able to do.
- **Listen to directions** as the teacher explains them. Ask about any directions you do not understand.
- **Read the directions carefully.**
- **Look for key words** that will help you identify what the question is asking you to do.
- **Take your time** and work at your own pace. AIMS is not a timed test, but you do want to use your time well.
- **Move on** to the next item if you are stuck. Be sure to return to it later.
- **Make educated guesses** if you are unsure of an answer: first eliminate choices that are obviously incorrect, then logically select from the remaining choices.
- **Take the time to review your answers** when you are finished. Re-read your written responses to check that they are clear.