



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

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Ms. Susie Smith
Principal

Mr. Steve Whynott
Assistant Principal
December 2018

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 program with reading, math, fitness, robotics, and STEM classes.
- We are very proud to be the home of WESD Champions for 8th Grade Girls Volleyball, Girls Cross Country and the 8th Grade Boys Basketball. The Desert Foothills staff looks forward to 2019 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, 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 9, 2019.** If your child is failing a class, he or she will be required to attend Scorpion Pride, our After-school Academy class until his or her grades improve to a C or better.
- Parents of eighth graders, please take note of the GUHSD registration dates for future freshman attending Greenway or Moon Valley High School.

- Friday, January 18, 2019, Greenway High School will be distributing the Freshman Registration Packets at our 9:30 a.m. assembly.
- Friday, January 25, 2019, Greenway & Moon Valley register future freshman in our Social Studies classes throughout the day.

The Desert Foothills staff wishes you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

January 2019 Calendar

1/9	Quarter 2 Report Cards Go Home	
1/15	Yearbook and Club Pictures	
1/16	Site Council Meeting	5:15 p.m.
	B.E.S.T. P.T.O Meeting	6:00 p.m.
1/18	GHS Registration Assembly	9:30 a.m.
1/21	MLK Day NO SCHOOL	
1/22	Girls Basketball DF@RP	4:45 p.m.
1/24	Girls Basketball DF@CH	4:45 p.m.
1/25	GHS & MVHS Registration	
1/28	Girls Basketball MS@DF	4:45 p.m.
	Boys Soccer MS@DF	4:45 p.m.
1/29	Girls Basketball DF@PV	4:45 p.m.
	Boys Soccer DF@PV	4:45 p.m.

School Hours

8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M., T., Th., F.
8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M., T., Th., F.
8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Wednesday

Open Gym

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Important Numbers

Attendance Line – 602-896-5521 (24 hours)
Office – 602-896-5500
Health Office – 602-896-5510

Update Your Email Address

Parent communications are now send via e-mail. Please make sure we have your current e-mail address. You can call the office at 602-896-5500 or e-mail us at dfoffice@wesdschools.org.



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

Governing Board: Bill Adams, President • Aaron Jahneke, Vice President
Larry Herrera, Member • Tee Lambert, Member • Nikkie Whaley, Member

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

Checking Out a Student

1. Picture ID is required when checking out a student.
2. We cannot call your student to the office before we check ID. Always plan ahead and allow 10 minutes for your child to arrive in the office.
3. Emergency contacts can only check out students in an emergency and must be a minimum of 18 years old. Picture ID will be required.
4. Students are not released after 3:45 p.m. on regular school days and 2:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.
5. Please pick up your student on time.

SRO Challenge Coin Program Starts in January

The “SRO Challenge Coin,” is a program that instills honor, respect, integrity, and loyalty within our students and is designed to serve as a reminder of the participant's commitment to be a positive role model for other students. As part of the SRO Challenge, students sign a commitment card to be a positive role model, maintain passing grades, refrain from gang and other criminal activity, and be alcohol and drug free. To participate in this program, students must be nominated by a teacher, parent or even themselves and complete an application as well as a 250 word essay explaining how **Commitment, Honor, Respect, Loyalty, and Integrity** will help students make positive decisions and become role models for their peers and others. Students accepted into this program will receive a challenge coin, T-shirt and must be willing to assist the school with special opportunities. Additional information and applications will be available in January.

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your SRO and wish you all a happy holiday season.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am at Desert Foothills Tuesday – Friday and can be reached at 602-896-5507 or you can email me at df.resourceofficer@wesdschools.org.

Kenny Angwin, School Resource Officer

We Are the Champions!

2018 District Champions

Desert Foothills

8th Grade Boys Basketball Team

UNDEFEATED!

Desert Foothill is proud to announce our 8th grade boys' basketball team, led by **Coach Kyle Phelps**, finished the season undefeated. As a reward, they have been invited to participate in the **Greenway High School Tournament** and the **Martin Luther King Day Tournament**.

Congratulations

Daemon C., Chance D., Romeo H.,

Matthew K., Sydney L., Iziah M.,

Daniel M., Kyrell P.,

Quadir R., Antonio S., Makhi S., Ben V.

Manager: Maya L.

Coach: Kyle Phelps

Tips from the Health Office

Did you know washing your hands is one of the best infection control methods? Wash your hands while singing the Happy Birthday song two times to be sure to remove and rinse away germs. Wishing you a safe and healthy Winter Break.

Melissa Clatone, School Nurse

News from the Social Worker

The holiday season is upon us! While it can be a time of happiness and excitement for many, it can also be a time of stress and sadness for others. If you or your family need assistance, there are community resources you can access while our Administrative Center is closed for the holidays.

- **For assistance with rent, utilities, clothing, employment**
 - **2-1-1 Arizona:** Call 2-1-1 or 602-595-8700, or visit www.211arizona.org
 - **Find Help Phoenix:** Visit www.findhelpphx.org
- **For housing assistance**
 - **Family Housing Hub:** Call 602-595-8700 or visit 3333 East Van Buren Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008. Please note this is not a shelter, but they can help find housing resources that work for your family or put you on a shelter waiting list.
- **For mental health resources**
 - **Maricopa County Crisis Line:** Call 602-222-9444
- **If you are in a domestic violence crisis and need help**
 - **Local DV hotline:** Call 480-890-3039, someone answers 24/7.
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When Your Child Does Not Get What They Want for Christmas

Many children and teens have high expectations about the gifts they will receive for Christmas. When the gifts have all been opened and your child does not have the big item they wanted, it can be disappointing for everyone. Children feel bad they did not get what they wanted, or they may be jealous that a sibling or friend received a “better” gift. As adults, we may feel bad or even guilty about not being able to give the gift our child or loved one really wanted. While disappointment is an uncomfortable feeling, it is actually very normal and healthy for all of us to experience it at times. Depending on how we respond to it, disappointment can help us grow into stronger individuals, and can even strengthen family bonds. So what can you do when disappointment creeps into your home?

1. Empathize with your children; let them know you understand how they feel. “I know you really wanted a cell phone, and you're feeling sad/disappointed/upset.” Let your child know it is okay to be disappointed; it is something everyone experiences at some point in life. You can also share a time when you were disappointed and talk about how you dealt with it. Empathy includes giving them time to process how they are feeling before expecting them to be okay.
2. Practice gratitude. Start talking with your children and family about the good things you have currently. Research shows that expressing gratitude improves our mental health, physical health, and even our relationships with others. When we focus on and appreciate the good things we already have, it makes it easier to handle the disappointment of not getting what we want. A simple way to start is to have each person in your family talk about one thing they are thankful for each day during dinner.
3. Do something fun together. Start some family traditions that involve fun time together, so the focus of the season is not entirely on gifts. Having fun and laughing together can also help soothe the sting of disappointment. Play board games together, drive around to look for Christmas lights, have a Christmas-themed movie night, or play holiday themed minute-to-win-it games. Some teens may seem skeptical about family time at first, but encourage them to join in; soon they will be having fun!

Desiree Montelongo, School Social Worker