



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
January 2019

A Message from Ms. Smith

We are busy as can be at Desert Foothills with many events!

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** Please mark your calendar for our **P/T Conferences to be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 from 5:00 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. (Early Dismissal February 5, 6, 7, and 8, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.)
- 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.
- **Future Freshman Night** and high school registration was a huge success for our eighth graders at all GUHSD schools.
- **Future Scorpion Day** was awesome for all current 6th graders at Acacia, Ironwood and Sunburst on January 29, 2019. Students participated in a great assembly with performances by the DF Choir, Orchestra, Band and our Cheerleaders. The tours of our campus led by the Leadership Class of students was a highlight for all.
- **ASA, After School Academy**, started last week with students enjoying Robotics, Kodu, Drama, Fitness, STEM, Math and Reading classes.
- **Valentine Dance** is Thursday, February 14, 2019 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- **WESD Canned Food Drive is coming soon!** Please encourage your child to participate and contribute canned food to the homeroom teacher to support St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance. We will be having a "2 Can Dance" for all students who bring in two cans of food.
- **The eighth grade panoramic class photo** is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2019 during homeroom. Students will receive their picture envelopes in homeroom for the opportunity to purchase this photo memory.
- **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. 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 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.

- **Student Safety** 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 \$2.00 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, parks or 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.
- **Our teachers are busy preparing students for the AzMERIT assessment the weeks of April 1 and April 8, 2019. Please mark your calendar for these very important dates to assist you when making any appointments for your child.**

These, along with many other events, keep us very active and allow us to continue to provide the outstanding academic and social environment that we are very proud of at Desert Foothills. Thank you for your partnership with the support of your child, our school and teachers. As always, my door is open to discuss any concerns or issues to assist with your child's success at Desert Foothills.



February 2019 Calendar

2/5	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
	Parent/Teacher Conferences	5:00 p.m.
	Quarter 3 Midterms @ Conferences	
2/6	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
2/7	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
2/8	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
2/11	Winter Sports Pictures	4:00 p.m.
	Boys Soccer DF@CH	4:45 p.m.
	Girls Basketball DF@CH	4:45 p.m.
2/12	Boys Soccer DF@MS	4:45 p.m.
	Girls Basketball DF@MS	4:45 p.m.
2/14	Valentines Dance	4:00 p.m.
2/18	Presidents Day – NO SCHOOL	
2/19	ASU Dream Academy	9:00 a.m.
	Boys Soccer DF@MS	4:45 p.m.
	Girls Basketball DF@MS	4:45 p.m.
	ASU Dream Academy	6:00 p.m.
2/20	NAEP Testing	
	Site Council Meeting	5:15 p.m.
	B.E.S.T. P.T.O Meeting	6:00 p.m.
2/21	Boys Soccer PV@DF	4:45 p.m.
	Girls Basketball PV@DF	4:45 p.m.
2/26	ASU Dream Academy	9:00 a.m.
	ASU Dream Academy	6:00 p.m.
2/28	Boys Soccer DF@RP	4:45 p.m.

SRO Corner

I hope all is well as we continue moving forward. I thought it would be a good idea to remind our students about some of the issues they might encounter in our community.

Curfew

Any child under the age of 15 must be home or with their legal guardian after 10:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m.

Any child under the age of 16-17 must be home or with their legal guardian after 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m.

Any child over age 18 is an adult and there is no curfew.

Truancy

Up to 5 unexcused absence or a combination of 18 excused or unexcused absences combined or 10 % of the school year.

Cigarette's, Vapes and Tobacco products

No child may possess use or purchase anything related to tobacco products until the age of 18.

Alcohol

No child can use, possess, purchase alcohol until they are 21 years of age.

Any violations of these Laws can result in citations, fines, jail time, community service, or the driver's license suspended until the age of 18.

Reminding your children to do what they are suppose to, when they are suppose to, how they are suppose to will help them avoid problems as they grow up.

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

Tips from the Health Office: Did you know?

The American Academy of Pediatrics published an article stating that, "Top-selling energy drinks contain high, unregulated amounts of caffeine, as well as other stimulants that can enhance the effects of caffeine. Caffeine can produce anxiety, insomnia, digestive problems, dehydration, and others."

February is American Health Month! Stay active, drink plenty of water and avoid energy drinks!

Melissa Clatone, School Nurse

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.

News from the Social Worker

I hope your new year has been off to a great start! I would like to remind you all that I am here to assist if your family is facing hardships. There are many community resources available to help when you are facing financial hardship, struggling to put enough food on the table, or facing a loss of housing. If your family lives in any of the following situations, your school age children may qualify for certain rights under the federal McKinney-Vento act:

- In a shelter
- In a motel or campground
- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus/train station
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

If you believe your children may be eligible, please contact me to find out what services and supports may be available.

There are resources available to help with social and emotional issues your child or family may be experiencing. I am also available to talk with you or child, and to help you come up with a plan to get the any additional help your child or family may need.

If you need any of the resources mentioned above, please call me or come by the school. I'm happy to talk with you!

Desiree Montelongo, School Social Worker

Read Across America 2019

It's time to break out the infamous red-and-white-striped, stove-pipe hats and your favorite books because the annual Read Across America celebration is nearly here! Read Across America is celebrated every year on March 2, Theodor Geisel's birthday – better known to millions as Dr. Seuss. This year, the celebration will take place Friday, March 1. Now in its 22nd year, Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program sponsored by the National Education Association that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on or around Dr. Seuss's birthday. The event's purpose is to motivate children to read and focus the country's attention on the importance of reading. This year's theme is "Grab Your Hat and Read With the Cat." To help us celebrate, the Washington Elementary School District is inviting parents, community leaders and neighborhood partners into the classroom to read to students. If you love to read and enjoy children, then Read Across America is the volunteer opportunity for you. Whether you bring your favorite book or need a book provided for you, we invite you to share your love of reading with our students. For more information, please contact **Alex Alba at 602-896-5509**.