



DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

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Ms. Susie Smith
Principal
Vol. 34 No. 3

Mr. Steve Whyntott
Assistant Principal
October 2017

A Message from Ms. Smith

We are off to a fantastic school year with our students quickly getting acclimated to the middle school setting. This year, we implemented a 30 minute Intervention Period every Tuesday and Thursday morning during the Homeroom Period. Students are participating in an intervention based on their academic need and/or social behavioral needs. These interventions are fluid and students change their intervention based on their need. We look forward to each student's progress.

Desert Foothills is participating in the Chief Science Officers program for AZ, and we are proud of our officers. Representing Desert Foothills are seventh graders, Roxanne M. and Xitlali V. and eighth graders, Tammy P. and Zane B. All four Chief Science Officers attended a two-day training with officers from across the state learning about the many programs and careers that are science based. They will be leading all DF students in extra-curricular science opportunities.

After-school Academy, ASA, offers all Desert Foothills an opportunity to strengthen their math and reading skills, as well as an opportunity to enjoy a course in Robotics, KODU, Theatre, Fitness, Novel Bunch or SPED Science. Registration is still open for students interested in participating in this free program. Snacks and drinks are provided to all students and bus transportation is provided for all regular bus routes. With boys and girls volleyball, girls soccer, boys and girls cross country in full swing, the staff and I are hopeful that every student is participating on a team, ASA class or a club like Best Buddies or Friends of Rachel.

Love our Schools Day is Saturday, September 30, 2017, and a day of campus pride at all WESD schools. At Desert Foothills, we will start our projects at 8 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. beautifying our campus by refreshing landscaping with new gravel, fresh paint on the lockers, and organizing our Family Clothing Closet. Your participation in loving our Desert Foothills campus is greatly appreciated by our staff and students. This is a great opportunity for students to receive service hours for their NJHS application.

Save the date for our **Chipotle Night** at the Metrocenter location on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. sponsored by the Desert Foothills **Best Buddies**.

As the first quarter draws to an end, please be sure to use ParentVue to monitor your child's academic grades. If you have not logged on ParentVue and need your activation key, please contact the front office. We are happy to support all parents with ParentVue. Parents can monitor current grades with the same access code for all of their children who are WESD students.

Please know that my door is always open for parents to join us in supporting every child at Desert Foothills in academic and social growth.

Principal Susie Smith

Gifted Services Testing Opportunity

Washington Elementary School District provides a continuum of services for students identified as gifted. Testing for placement in the gifted program takes place three times a year on ALL campuses. If you feel your child demonstrates the traits of a gifted learner, please complete the screening form found on the Gifted Services website (www.wesdschools.org/Page/18) or contact your child's teacher to arrange for testing. A brochure describing services provided to gifted students and a list of common characteristics can be found on the website as well. Feel free to call or email the Coordinator of Gifted Services, Dr. Jason McIntosh, with any questions you may have (Jason.mcintosh@wesdschools.org / 602-347-2651). The gifted teacher on your campus can be reached by email at chuck.raynak@wesdschools.org or by phone 602-896-5516 as well.

Thank You Safeway/Albertson's Companies

Desert Foothills was the recipient of the Albertson's Company Employee Community Drive. Employees of the Albertson's Company Donated over \$1,800 and lots of school supplies. The school supplies will be put to good use supporting our students in the classroom. The money will be used to support our character development program, Rachel's Challenge, with an assembly and team-building activities, which directly affects all 700 Desert Foothills students. Their generous donations will have a direct impact on our student's success academically and socially.



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

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

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent



Important Dates to Remember!

Fall Break October 9-13 – NO SCHOOL

Early Release October 25, 26, & 27

Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 25 4-7 p.m.

October 26 4-7 p.m.



October Calendar of Events

10/2	Volleyball Tournament	4:45 p.m.
10/3	Volleyball Tournament	4:45 p.m.
	Girls Soccer MZ@DF	4:45 p.m.
10/5	Volleyball Tournament	4:45 p.m.
10/6	Picture Retakes	
	End of First Quarter	
10/9	Fall Break Begins	
10/16	Color Battle Begins	
	Girls Soccer Tournament	4:45 p.m.
10/17	Girls Soccer Tournament	4:45 p.m.
10/18	Site Council	5:15 p.m.
	B.E.S.T. PTO Meeting	6:00 p.m.
10/19	Girls Soccer Tournament	4:45 p.m.
10/20	Halloween Dance	4:00 p.m.
10/21	Kiwanis WESD Walk-A-Thon	
10/23	Book Fair Begins	
10/25	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
	Parent/Teacher Conference	4:00 p.m.
10/26	Early Release	2:30 p.m.
	Parent/Teacher Conferences	4:00 p.m.
10/27	Early Release	2:20 p.m.
	Book Fair Ends	
10/31	Boys Basketball Game DF@ MS	4:45 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.



Student Safety

Student safety is very important at Desert Foothill Junior High. Anyone coming to take a student out before the school day ends needs to provide the office with identification. The office personnel will verify this individual is listed on the student's information sheet. Only people listed on your student's information sheet will be allowed to pick up your student. 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 nonemergency reasons without prior written permission. Please keep this in mind when individuals with whom you entrust your child's care. If you must pick up your child early for an appointment or family emergency, please pick your child up before 3:45 p.m. On early release days, please pick your child up before 2:15 p.m. Parents who arrive between 3:45-4:00 p.m., or 2:15-2:20 p.m. on early release days, will be asked to wait until the dismissal time.

Positive Thought

"If you have not slept, or if you have slept, or if you have headache, or sciatica, or leprosy, or thunder-stroke, I beseech you by all angels to hold your peace, and not pollute the morning...Love the day."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882 American writer & activist)

4 Ways to be ComplainLess....

- 1. Be aware.** Recognize your typical paths to complaining – what (who) sparks your tendency to gripe. Minimize your exposure to them (eliminating those "sparks" altogether may not always be realistic or the best thing.) Know that you grumbling is a complete waste of time.
- 2. Be thankful.** Regularly reflect on all the good in your life (people, opportunities, things) Understand and enjoy how lucky you really are. Be entitled to nothing.
- 3. Pause before you begin.** Clip a complaint before you feel it coming. Put a smile or thoughtful statement in its path. Blame no one. Blame nothing.
- 4. Be accountable.** Focus on solving problems rather than having them (especially with customers). Set the example for others and recommit when you slip. Care for yourself and create a positive habit.

"I have this theory that if one person will go out of their way to show compassion, then it will show a chain reaction of the same."

~ Rachel Joy Scott

Attendance Updates

Pursuant to A.R.S. 15-901(A) (1):

Effective July 1, 2016, all absences in excess of a cumulative 10% or 18 absences will be reported to the Arizona Department of Education as unexcused.

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 Foothills 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.

ID BADGES

The safety of students is of primary importance to the Washington Elementary School District. With this in mind, All WESD students are required to have an IDs while on the school campus. Students will be provided a picture ID at the beginning of the school year at no cost. Students that ride the bus **MUST** have his/her ID Badge to get on the bus from school. They will also need them to check out books from the school library and when they go through the cafeteria for lunch. They all received the first set for free. Replacements will be \$5.00. If students deface, destroy, render their ID unreadable or lose their ID, they will be required to purchase a replacement ID for \$5.00. Replacement lanyard and pouches are 50 cents.