



# DESERTFOOTHILLSNEWS

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

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**Ms. Susie Smith**  
Principal

**Mr. Steve Whyntott**  
Assistant Principal  
**October 2018**

## A Message From Ms. Smith

We are off to a fantastic school year with our students quickly acclimating to the middle school setting. Our Intervention Periods recently started with groups every Tuesday and Thursday morning during the Homeroom Period. Students are participating in an intervention based on their academic 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.

We are very fortunate to have been awarded a grant from AZ Dept. of Education for a School Resource Officer from the City of Phoenix Police Dept. Officer Kenny Angwin serves our Desert Foothills Community and teaches Law Related Education in our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies classes and during our Intervention Periods. Officer Kenny has developed positive relationships with our students and staff. He has scheduled a school-wide assembly on anti-bullying called "Don't be a Monster" on October 16, 2018. All parents are welcome to attend our assemblies. Officer Kenny promotes, "If you see something, say something." He shares the importance of us taking a stand for what is right.

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 29, 2018, and a day of campus pride at all WESD schools. At Desert Foothills, we will start our projects at 8 a.m. until noon beautifying our campus by refreshing landscaping with new gravel, painting our amphitheatre in our courtyard, 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.

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. StudentVue is also available for our students to monitor their academic grades. **The end of first quarter is October 5, 2018, and Fall Break is October 8 – 12, 2018.**

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. Thank you for your support of Desert Foothills.

Susie Smith, Principal

**"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.



## September/October 2018 Calendar

|       |   |                                   |
|-------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 9/20  | Back To School Dance  | 4:00 p.m.                         |
| 9/21  | Music Dept. Performance<br>At Diamondbacks Game   | 3:30 p.m.                         |
| 9/24  | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Interim Testing<br>After School Academy Begins<br>Cross Country @ Moon Valley | All Day<br>4:00 p.m.<br>4:45 p.m. |
| 9/25  | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Interim Testing<br>Volleyball Game DF@CH<br>Girls Soccer Game DF@CH           | All Day<br>4:45 p.m.<br>4:45 p.m. |
| 9/27  | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Interim testing<br>Volleyball Game RP@DF<br>Girls Soccer Game RP@DF           | All Day<br>4:45 p.m.<br>4:45 p.m. |
| 9/28  | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Interim testing   | All Day                           |
| 9/29  | Love Our Schools Day  | 8:00 a.m.                         |
| 10/1  | Cheer Clinic  | 4:00 p.m.                         |
| 10/2  | Cheer Clinic  | 4:00 p.m.                         |
| 10/4  | Cheer Try-outs  | 4:00 p.m.                         |
| 10/5  | Picture Retakes<br>End of First Quarter   |                                   |
| 10/16 | Don't Be a Monster Assembly   |                                   |
| 10/23 | Parent/Teacher Conference<br>Early Release  | 5-8 p.m.<br>2:30 p.m.             |
| 10/24 | Parent/Teacher Conferences<br>Early Release   | 5-8 p.m.<br>2:30 p.m.             |
| 10/25 | Early Release<br>Halloween Dance  | 2:30 p.m.<br>2:30 p.m.            |
| 10/26 | Early Release   | 2:30 p.m.                         |
| 10/30 | Fine Arts Festival  | 7:00 p.m.                         |

### Student Safety

\*Anyone coming to take a student out before the school day ends needs to **provide ID**. The office personnel will verify this individual is listed on the student's information sheet.

\*Individuals listed as emergency contacts can only pick up students **in an emergency**.

\*Only people listed on your student's information sheet will be allowed to pick up your student.

\*If you must pick up your child early for an appointment or family emergency, please pick your child up before 3:30 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 2:15-2:30 p.m. will be asked to wait until the dismissal time.

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming soon. Please mark your calendar for the change of dates and times. Conferences will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 23, 2018, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., and on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Please plan to attend conferences on either of these nights. All conferences are held in the gym. Parents will receive their child's Report Card and have the opportunity to meet with each of their child's teachers. We hope to see you there!

### School Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M.T.Th.F.  
8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Wednesday  
Attendance Line 602-896-5521  
Office – 602-896-5500

**ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN IN AT THE FRONT OFFICE  
AND GET A VISITOR BADGE.**

## THIS WILL BE OUR LAST PAPER NEWSLETTER.

**PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL WITH  
THE OFFICE SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO  
GET FLYERS AND NEWSLETTERS!**

### Peachjar Digital Flyer and Email Updates

The WESD is committed to educational excellence and ensuring that parents stay informed about

important activities and events that enhance their child's life. **Logging in to StudentVUE** in the browser, or **parent update schools.org** in the address bar, will be implementing Peachjar **newsletters directly to parents via email.**

Additional **flyers and student** will be posted to **each school's website.** Parents will be able to **click to register** their children for youth sports, **enrichment programs, and community events.** By using this new system, **WESD** has eliminated the need to **print roughly 2,688,000 sheets of paper per year—nearly 322 trees!** The

WESD will continue to communicate with parents and community members as we make the transition to Peachjar via the District Web site, social media and email. Please ensure that the WESD has a current email address on file. You will receive emails from the District in case of an emergency as well as for updates about your school and the District. Contact the front office to update your email address today!

### Sports Corner "Feel The Sting"

Congratulations to the following Scorpion who made our fall sports teams.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Girls Soccer

Julie Z., Cindy V., Mary Jane S., Caitlin O., Tania M., Wendy G., Aracely C., Alicia A., Marla S., Angelina M., Mia M. Mariana L., Morgan H., Ariana G., Rosa D.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Volleyball

Joehanna H., Grace B., Georgia P., Bella W., Emi F., Laila M., Zehraa C., Kiera C., Amer S., Ryan. W., Alexandra W., Leah H.,

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Volleyball

Bella H., Annalica W., Karla V., Kasey G., Hope B., Kaila H., Kiara K., Megan M., Maddie B., Marissa R., Alexis V., Heaven H.

#### Boys Volleyball

Tyson J., Dayton A., Brycen J., Brodey B., Cory P., Axel O., Kellen T., Xavier K., Jet W., Jacob O., CJ F.