



# Moon Mountain School

## Newsletter

Nurture the Spark \* Cultivate Potential \* Guide the Journey

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### Message From the Principal

Happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed the winter break and found time to rest, relax and rejuvenate. I hope this New Year finds you well and eager to get started on the second half of the school year. I wish a warm and hearty Happy New Year to you and your family.

In this week's Go Home Folder, you will find your child's report card for the second quarter. Please review the report card with your child; contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Save the date – Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, February 8 from 1:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, February 9 from 1:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Conferences requesting translation services will be available on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. You will be receiving an e-mail invitation from your child's classroom teacher providing you with a link allowing you to select a time and date for a Parent/Teacher Conference by the end of the week. If your e-mail address has changed or if you did not receive an e-mail in the fall for conferences, please contact the school office with your e-mail address. To reduce the class size we will be adding a new section in first and fourth grade.

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Lori Schlomer will be joining our first grade team and Ms. Jordan Krueger will be joining our fourth grade team. Ms. Schlomer and Ms. Krueger are both recent Grand Canyon University graduates. They are looking forward to joining the staff here at Moon Mountain and partnering with parents to support student needs.

You will also be receiving information in the Go Home Folder about a PTSA sponsored STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) Evening scheduled for Thursday, January 19. Students and parents will enjoy this unique evening of exploring science, technology, engineering, art and math through a variety of hands-on, interactive activities. This event is being funded by our Moon Mountain PTSA and is free for participants. We hope you will come out and join us for an evening of learning full of fun for the whole family. As always your help is appreciated as adult family members are responsible for the safety and supervision of their children during this event.

Sue Brown



4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • [www.wesdschools.org](http://www.wesdschools.org)  
 Governing Board: Aaron Jahneke, President • Clorinda Graziano, Vice President  
 Bill Adams, Member • Larry Herrera, Member • Tee Lambert, Member  
 Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

### Calendar of Events January 12, 2017

- 12 Report cards go home
- 16 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
**NO SCHOOL**
- 17 Student Council meeting – 2:40
- 18 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 19 Birthday table  
6<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting for Tonto Creek Camp – 5:30 in the Library  
Notary will be available  
PTSA STEM Night 6 – 7:30
- 25 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 26 Student of the Month breakfast – 7:30  
District Spelling Bee – 9:30  
Cookies with Cody – 1:45

### FEBRUARY

- 1 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 6-10 Valentine Grams for sale during lunch
- 7 Student Council – 2:40
- 8,9,10 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 9 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**  
Late conference night – 1:20 – 7  
PTSA Cookie Dough Fundraiser starts and ends February 23
- 10 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 13 Districtwide Food Drive Begins to February 24
- 14 HAPPY VALENTINE/S DAY
- 15 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**  
Progress reports go home  
Translator conferences – 1:20 – 7:00
- 16 Birthday table during lunch  
Block Watch – 7 pm
- 20 **Presidents Day**  
**NO SCHOOL**
- 21 Student Council meeting – 2:40  
Site Council meeting – 4:30
- 22 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 23 Cookie Dough ends  
Delivery 3/15
- 24 Student of the Month breakfast 7:30  
Regional Spelling Bee – District Office - 9:30  
Cookies with Cody – 1:45  
Districtwide Food Drive ends

## **MOON MOUNTAIN SPELLING BEE**



Congratulations Tessa N. from Ms. Auten's fifth grade class! Tessa correctly spelled the word precursor in round 14 to become our School Spelling Bee Champion. Tessa will compete in the Washington Elementary School District Spelling Bee on Thursday, January 26, 2017.

Lexi L. from Ms. Dower's fifth grade class and Jessica G. from Ms. Flores's sixth grade class "spelled it out" for four more rounds to determine our second place winner. Jessica will be the alternate for the District Spelling Bee in the event that Tessa is unable to represent Moon Mountain.

## **HANDICAP SPACES/APPLE AWARD/CARPOOL SPACES**

Handicap spaces in the front of the school are reserved for those displaying a handicap license plate or placard.



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We have parents, guardians and/or students who may need access to these spaces at any given time. We expect respect to be paid to the students and families needing access due to a disability. Maricopa County requires carpool spaces be reserved for those participating in the trip reduction program. We appreciate you leaving those spots available for carpooling staff. Moon Mountain recognizes outstanding staff members through the Apple Award Program. Winners receive the privilege of parking in a reserved spot. We appreciate you leaving the designated space available for employees receiving this honor.

## **REMINDER TO PARENTS**

Please remember that students are not to be dropped off in the morning before 7:10. There is no teacher supervision before that time.



Also in the morning, please either park your car and walk your student into the building or drive along the drop-off route and let him or her off on the sidewalk. Do not drive between the rows of cars and let your student off, it is too dangerous with cars driving through and other parents backing out of spaces. Students and parents need to cross at the crosswalk in front of the school.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in the matter.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS**

We are so excited to be starting second semester in sixth grade. Seventh grade is just around the corner and we can't believe how fast time has gone. We are looking forward to our big STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) camp in April. If you have not submitted your intent form, please do so as soon as possible with a payment. We will be having a second informational meeting on January 19, 2017 from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars accordingly. We are also looking forward to meeting with you to discuss academic progress at our spring conferences. Thank you all again for being so supportive and we hope to see you soon.

## JANUARY VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

### PTSA BOARD MEMBERS

Sandy Trader- PTSA President

Bianca Thompson – Vice President

Lillian Lucatorta – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Liz Cromack – Treasurer

Dawn Planty - Secretary

Our members do a great job volunteering and organizing our community events. One of the events that we all love organizing is our School / Community Dances. This year will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual dance with a specific theme. We have everyone involved from teachers to parents to students and community members as well. All participants enjoy free treats like cookies and juice. We, as members, also love the Family / Community Movie Nights that we put together at the school. This is an opportunity to have the children with their loved ones enjoying a special movie that might have either an educational or social/ emotional message to receive. This year our organization was able to provide tickets for the **entire** school- students, staff and teachers- to attend the second half of The Nutcracker Ballet at Symphony Hall. It was great watching the teachers, and most of all the students, get excited about attending the ballet by doing projects prior to the trip. Our PTSA group is great and they serve the school with love and dedication. Without each one of the members this organization would not be what it is today; a great support to students and community advocacy.



## SECOND GRADE NEWS

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are getting excited to begin learning about body systems and making healthy choices in preparation for our field trip in February to see the Slim Goodbody performance! We are revisiting story problems and practicing the strategies we use every day in class, such as a number line or place value. We are also continuing our unit on graphing. We will be working with all kinds of graphs, including picture graphs, bar graphs, and line plots. The students are enjoying collecting data and representing it on a graph they have created. We will continue reading both fiction and non-fiction texts while asking and answering critical thinking questions. As you read together at home, ask your child the 5W questions (who, what, where, when, why) about what they are reading! Speaking of stories, the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be starting to write their own narratives. They did an amazing job writing about their opinions and telling us what they think about a topic, so we are eager to read their exciting narrative stories!

## AFTER-SCHOOL ACADEMY FAMILY LINKS

The After-school Academy Family Links program has many opportunities for Moon Mountain parents and families coming your way. Muna Haddad will continue to teach Adult English classes on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Coach Mitchell will be hosting Operation Tone-Up. This is an exciting eight-week class for parents and students. Together, families will learn about exercise and nutrition by engaging fun activities and using a new computer program. Also, be on the lookout for a family STEAM workshop in which participants will make musical instruments out of fruit. Classes will begin the week of January 23. More information is to follow.



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## **4TH GRADE NEWS**

Happy Holidays from the 4th grade teachers and students. Our first semester has been amazing. We are so proud of how much our students have grown. They have truly adjusted to switching classes, and have brought their unique ideas and perspectives to each of their classes. We have emphasized critical thinking, perseverance, and working hard to take responsibility for one's own learning. It has required our students to build their organizational skills and also become more active participants in shaping the discussions and activities we do in all curriculum areas. They have risen to this challenge and grown so much. We are excited to see their continued development in the new year. We thank all parents for supporting us teachers and of course the guidance you give to your own wonderful kids! Have a safe and wonderful holiday break.

## **PTSA SPONSORED STEM NIGHT**

**STEM NIGHT** - January 19 6:00 – 7:30 pm. PTSA is excited to host a family STEM NIGHT. What is STEM you ask? It stands for **Science Technology Engineering Math**.

STEM NIGHT gives students an opportunity to rotate through six different workstations that give a hands-on experience of one of the STEM components.

The six workstations include:

**Hoopster Airplane** - The students will investigate the four forces of flight and Bernoulli's Principle as they build a flying "hoopster" that they can take home.

**Penny Drops** - Here, students will learn that water molecules like to stick together. To prove the point, students can experiment with just how many drops of water they can pipette on to the surface of a penny. The results will surprise them. We might observe the differences between drops of water and drops of oil also.

**The Blubber Glove** provides the students a sense of the protective effects of blubber, a thick layer of body fat that comprises up to 50% of some marine species. The animals of the Arctic and Antarctic spend their lives surviving subfreezing air temperatures and frigid water. Their secret is blubber. We replicate that by testing a blubber substitute on a small scale and dipping our hands in very cold water.

**Wind Socks** - How many breaths does it take to blow up an eight-foot-long bag? Using a special secret from science (also applying Bernoulli's Principle), instead of dozens of breaths, learn how to do accomplish it in just one!

**Slime Time** - Your students will learn all about polymers, how to make their own slime and will take some home.

**Balancing Nails** - The object of this table activity is to balance a bunch of nails on the head of a single nail. All of the nails have to be balanced at the same time and cannot touch anything but the top of the nail that is stuck in the base.

Each student that attends will receive a ticket to enter a drawing for a fun-filled science basket.

We hope to see you at our very first ever **STEM NIGHT!**