



Moon Mountain School Newsletter

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Message From the Principal

Holiday Greetings - As we head into the holiday season, I want to tell you how grateful I am for the Moon Mountain community. I am thankful for parents and community members who partner with us in our efforts to serve students and families. I sincerely appreciate your attendance at school functions to encourage and support the learning. I am also thankful for the growing number of volunteers who help out in our classrooms and school. I am thankful for our hard working staff and the energy they put into their job each and every day. As the saying goes, I am grateful for the little moments, the smiling faces and enthusiasm for learning shared by students. As we have learned, it is the little moments that become tomorrow's precious memories. It is an honor to serve and work with your children, one that I value greatly.

I hope you are as excited as I am about our school community field trip to the Nutcracker scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2016. This amazing opportunity is being funded by our Moon Mountain PTSA and tax credit donations. The Nutcracker, the most widely viewed and performed ballet in the world, is a wonderful way to introduce children to the joys of great theater. Tchaikovsky involves so many elements that intrigue children - fantasy, dancing candy and toys. I hope that the live ballet experience is one that will inspire and nurture a spark in students. Help us help your child to get excited about the ballet by discussing the field trip and its status as a special school community event. Teachers will be preparing students by going over the story and discussing parts of the play and styles of dance.

All employees who are not classroom teachers have been assigned as a classroom chaperone filling the need for volunteers; however, PTSA has a small amount of tickets set aside for parent chaperones. Parent chaperones will need to pay a \$6.00 fee if they are not a current PTSA member. Please indicate on the permission slip if you would like to be considered to chaperone the field trip. You will be notified as to availability when we get a final ticket count.

I hope you have been following Moon Mountain on Facebook. It is a great way to stay connected with what is happening on our campus.

Sue Brown



4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • 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 December 1, 2016

- 5 Spelling Bee – 9 a.m.
- 6 Student Council Meeting – 2:40 p.m.
- 7 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 8 Pictures with Santa – 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
- 9 Picture Day – All clubs and 6th grade group
- 12-16 Holiday gift shop – 8:00 a.m. -2:30 p.m. M, T, Th and F
- 15 Holiday gift shop – 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- 14 All school field trip to the Nutcracker
Early Release – 1 p.m.
- 15 Birthday table
- 19 Drama Performance 3:15 p.m. in the library
- 20 Drama Performance 5:00 p.m. in the library
Orchestra Concert – Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m.
- NO OPEN GYM**
- 21 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 22 Holiday Sing-a-long 8:30 a.m.
Block Watch 7:00 p.m.
- NO OPEN GYM**
- 23 **NO SCHOOL GRADING DAY**

**December 26 – January 6
WINTER BREAK**

PE NEWS

The primary grades have been learning the Wobble dance, the Cha Cha Slide and a few other dances. We also practiced to get ready for the Turkey Trot.

The intermediate classes have also been learning the Wobble, practicing for the Turkey Trot and playing a great exercise game called Extinction Tag.

FUTURE VOLUNTEERS!

Adriana Lopez will be available on Thursday mornings from 8:00 -9:00 and Thursday afternoons from 3:00 -4:00 for volunteer orientation. We will cover the policies and procedures of being a volunteer at Moon Mountain, and provide a tour of our campus. You will have the opportunity to provide us with information about what specific type of volunteering you are interested in and your availability schedule. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Adriana at 602-896-6076 or contact Marilyn, our other volunteer coordinator at 602-896-6052. Can't wait to see you lending a helping hand for our students and staff! Thanks!

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. 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.



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DENTAL (2ND AND 6TH GRADERS)

Maricopa County Dental Sealant Program will be at Moon Mountain on December 2, for a classroom presentation. They will then return on Thursday, January 12, 2017 for any treatments and sealants scheduled for them.

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.

3RD GRADE NEWS

Third grade had a fantastic adventure at Tomalchoff Farms! We learned about plants. We even had first-hand experience pulling vegetables out of the soil. To top it off we each got a bag to take home. Our fun didn't end there... we also got to feed and pet the animals, ride on a train, and jump on the 'jumpy mat'. Great fun for all!

21ST CENTURY NEWS

Our 21st Century after-school classes have been working hard learning. The classes are designed to provide extended learning in math, reading, and have recently added science, technology, engineering, and art to our learning fun. Students that persevere through a longer than average school day schedule to improve their learning are highly commended. Great job, learners!



STUDENT OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER

Audrey S.	Ruperto B.
Maylene F.	Lanessa R.
Jenna H.	Mariyah T.
Ryder P.	Ashlyn S.
Betzi A.	Klohe W.
Chris R.	Tessa N.
Caitlyn S.	Tre H.
Victoria C.	Savannah S.



COOKIES WITH CODY – NOVEMBER

Franky C.	Yousef Y.
Lucas D.	Christopher S.
Brandon R.	Marcy R.
Naveda J.	Jaylin W.
Elizabeth K.	Rachael B.
Daisy R.	Tatum N.
Angelica S.	Shane D.
Frankie C.	

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH DECEMBER

Barb Weber has been volunteering at Moon Mountain for seven years. Her volunteering time has provided many exciting moments! When volunteering, she helps with special projects, runs math and reading groups and does anything else that needs doing in the classroom! Most of her favorite memories are when children have thanked her from their hearts! Barb’s hobbies include card making, traveling and cooking. One of the things she would like us to know about her is that she taught in the WESD for 28 years. Ms. McGraw was her student teacher! She still substitutes for the District and Moon Mountain.



FIRST GRADE NEWS

Students in first grade have been working hard on their writing skills and writing endurance. The end-of-the-year expectation is for students to write a paragraph that includes a topic sentence, two supporting sentences and a closing sentence. This quarter, students are focusing on opinion writing. They are finishing a piece about their favorite Thanksgiving food. You can support your child by allowing him or her to write as often as possible. First graders use a lot of phonetic spelling which is just perfect at this age. When writing at home, do not spell words for your child but encourage by saying “sound it out.” Soon conventional spelling will follow! Thank you for your support!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

This month, we re-enacted how the Native Americans and Pilgrims shared a meal at a Thanksgiving feast. The meal consisted of stew, pumpkin pudding, cornbread, and

butter...ALL made within the classroom by each of the students (yes, even the butter was homemade).

This was also the perfect time to dissect patterns as we see them often in Native American clothing and symbols through their story telling. Recognizing a pattern, naming the pattern (AAB), adding onto a pattern, and creating their own pattern are all state standards that kindergartners need to meet this year. Ways you can help your child at home include making patterns with items you have at home such as: fork, spoon, fork, spoon, fork, spoon, etc. As we discuss patterns, we talk about how there can be many different kinds of patterns, (AB, AAB, ABB, ABC, etc.) and that patterns ALWAYS repeat themselves. Life is a pattern and they are everywhere. We just have to look for them! ☺

PRESCHOOL NEWS

For the month of December, the preschool children will be focusing their learning around the gingerbread man.

We will be reading the stories *The Gingerbread Man*, *The Gingerbread Cowboy*, *The Gingerbread Girl*, *The Gingerbread Man Goes to School*, *The Gingerbread Man Lost at School* and *Pete the Cat Saves Christmas*. The children will be experimenting with melting/dissolving sugar cubes and peppermint sticks, constructing structures with gum drops and toothpicks, and creating trees using various shapes. The students will also have the opportunity to make a life-sized gingerbread child, use various objects to measure a gingerbread man, role-play the story in the dramatic play area including making and decorating play dough gingerbread man cookies, and explore in the sensory table with gingerbread mix and spices. Additionally, the preschoolers will participate in completing various art projects, paintings, language/literacy and math experiences, singing songs and music/movement activities.

On Tuesday, December 20, we will be having our annual Gingerbread House Making Day. This is a family event that we greatly encourage our families to participate in. Please check your child's Thursday Go-Home folder for more important information regarding this fun-filled event. Thank you! We are looking forward to a 'festive' month of learning!



SPELLING BEE NEWS

The Moon Mountain School Spelling Bee will take place on Monday, December 5, 2016 in our library starting at 9 a.m. Congratulations and good luck to all of the classroom representatives participating in this year's spelling bee!

Mrs. Oyaski

Andraya R.
Mariyah G.

Alternate - Anthony R.

Mrs. McLain

Lillian K.
Anthony O.

Alternate - Taylah B.

Ms. Clement

Daisyonna C.
Noel M.

Alternate - Nathan J.

Ms. Dowers

Sylas W.
Lexi L.

Alternate - Danial D.

Ms. Auten

Tamara A.
Tessa N.

Alternate—Tra'Zure J.

Ms. Kowalczyk

Cayden C.
Ciro S.

Alternate - Elizabeth M.

Ms. Alkire

Daniella R.
Betzi A.

Alternate—Keyana H.

Ms. Flores

Jessica G.
Tristin P.

Alternate - Mariana S.

Ms. Hernando

Colton G.
Jacob G.

Alternate - Mallory B.

Ms. Recinos

Duncan M.
Tiffany N.

Alternate - Carmen S.

MMPTSA NEWS

We are excited about several MMPTSA traditional events that are coming up.

Please make note of these on your calendar.

Pictures with Santa - Dec. 8

Every child will get his or her picture taken with Santa, **unless you send in a note stating you DO NOT want your child's picture taken.**

This is a free event. Pictures will be sent home in the next week's go-home folder.

Holiday Gift Shop – Dec. 12 - 18

The holiday gift shop is an opportunity for children to buy gifts.

Information will be coming home in the go-home folders. The shop is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, December 12, 13, 15 and 16 until 2:30 p.m. Thursday, December 15 the gift shop will also be from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

We need many volunteers to make this happen. If you would like to volunteer, e-mail PTSA at mmptsa@hotmail.com or call the school at 602-896-6000.

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

Our fifth grade students are learning all about the planets in our Solar System. We will be writing planet reports for our science units. We are also getting ready to learn about having a healthy lifestyle by exercising and eating balanced meals. Our nutrition experts from the District Office will come and teach our students this week. They will bring a variety of fun activities and a snack for our students. Our field trip to see the Nutcracker Ballet is in December. Remember that our quarter is almost over. You can look for your child's current grades online. Progress reports went home last week.

BOOKMARK CONTEST

This year, all Moon Mountain homerooms have been paired with a buddy class. Each month, the two classes get together to work on activities to reinforce the Coyote Code - our school's bullying code of conduct and positive character traits. In September, the buddies got together and designed bookmarks. The winners were announced at the all-school assembly on November 23. The winning bookmarks will be printed and handed out to student to use in the library. The winners were: Hennesys M. (Potthoff) and Miyah M. (McGraw), Eralyn J. (Fernandez) and Michael E. (Flores), Jessica N. (Caraway) and Carmen S. (Recinos), Lizzie K., Destiny (Dowers) and Alissa L. (Fox). Congratulations to these terrific artists and thanks to all of the buddy teams for submitting their bookmarks.