



Moon Mountain School Newsletter

Nurture the Spark * Cultivate Potential * Guide the Journey

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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 in our classrooms and school. I am grateful 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.

We have many events scheduled during the month of December to include our Kindergarten Holiday Program, Band and Strings Concert and Community Winter Wonderland. Please check the calendar for those dates and times.

Please follow Moon Mountain on Facebook. It is a great way to stay connected with what is happening on our campus.

I hope you all have a joyous Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace and happiness.

Best Wishes,

Sue Brown



Calendar of Events December 2018

- 3 Holiday gift shop opens for the week
- 4 Student Council meeting 2:40-3:15p.m.
- 5 **Early Release -1 p.m.**
Front office closes at 1:30 p.m. for an all staff meeting
- 6 School Spelling Bee
- 7 Birthday tables @ lunch
Holiday gift shop - last day 
- 11 Band and Strings Concert 6:00 p.m.
Pictures with Santa
- 12 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 13 3rd Grade Overnight Zoo Field Trip
4th Grade Great Skate Field Trip
Girls' BB Tryouts
- 14 Snow Day
Winter Wonderland- 5:30 p.m.
3rd Grade Zoo Field Trip
Girls' BB Tryouts
- 17 Girls' BB Tryouts
- 18 Kindergarten Winter Concert
Girls' BB Tryouts
- 19 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 20 Holiday Sing-a-long
- 21 **NO SCHOOL
GRADING DAY
December 24 – January 4
WINTER BREAK**
- January 2019**
- 9 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 11 Birthday tables @ lunch
- 15 Student Council Meeting 2:40-3:15 p.m.
PTSA General Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 16 **Early Release – 1 p.m.**
- 18 Sixth Grade Panoramic Photo
Student Groups and Sports Photos



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

TAX CREDIT

Giving back is easy this holiday season! Make a tax credit donation to (SCHOOL NAME) and receive a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your state income taxes! Taxpayers may receive up to a \$400 tax credit if filing jointly (\$200 if filing single) on their State income taxes by contributing to one of Washington Elementary School District's extracurricular activity programs.

All tax credit donations will be designated for extracurricular activities. These activities may include: before- and after-school band clubs; classes; sports programs; and non-recreational field trips. Extracurricular programs provide positive learning experiences for children. For more information, visit

www.wesdschools.org/Page/79.

Thank you for your continued support!

REMINDER TO PARENTS

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



Also in the morning, please either park your car and walk your student up to 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.

CELL PHONE PROCEDURE

Students are not allowed to use cell phones on campus for any purpose, including receiving calls, taking pictures or text messaging. If you desire that your child carry a phone for non-school time emergency purposes, the phone must be turned off and kept, at the student's own risk, in his or her backpack. Any violations of this procedure, including having the phone ring or emit any noise, will result in discipline. After the second occurrence, a parent will need to come to school and pick up the phone. Personal cell phone use on field trips will be clearly outlined by the grade level teams, and students must adhere to the procedures of their sponsors in order to remain eligible for future trips.

CLASSROOM INTERRUPTIONS

The teacher's time with the children in the classroom is valuable. Please be sure that your child is aware of how he or she will be getting home each day before leaving in the morning so that we can limit classroom interruptions.

The office will no longer be delivering last minute messages to students pertaining to transportation/pick-up changes.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER

Robert G.	Emily P.
Melody R.	Braden P.
Trey G.	Jesse G.
Joseph D.	Elizabeth A.
Austin H.	Mateja E.
Emily S.	Marina D.

WRIC CENTER NEWS

EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT – THE WRIC IS NOW AT MOON MOUNTAIN!!!

The WRIC is the family resource center for the entire WESD and its surrounding communities. Thanks to funding from First Things First, we are able to connect families to community resources and provide FREE programs designed to strengthen families and help prepare our youngest kiddos to be ready for success in Kindergarten! We have 2 locations, Ocotillo Elementary and right here on the Moon Mountain Elementary campus! For more information, please reach out to Jacquie Rayon at 602-896-6086. Also, be sure to stay connected with the WRIC and our awesome, free activities at www.wesdschools.org/wric and like us on Facebook under Washington Resource Information Center. Hope to see you soon!

MMPTSA NEWS

Holiday Gift Shop – December 3 – 7

This is an opportunity for your student to do their holiday shopping. The gift shop will be open daily 8am – 3pm in the PTSA room (across the hall from Mrs. Fox)

Birthday Table for December - December 7

Every month birthday tables are set up on the stage. Any child with a birthday that month gets to bring a friend and have lunch at the birthday table. Each birthday child gets a birthday pencil from PTSA.

PICTURES WITH SANTA - December 11

Every child gets their picture taken with Santa for FREE! (If you do not wish your child to have their picture taken, send in a note opting out of the picture.) We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday!

WINTER WANDERLAND

Moon Mountain is ready for some "Holiday Fun" - Thursday, December 14th at 5:30 p.m. Students, with their parents, are invited to come and create, sing carols and walk our luminary lite path, as well as have cookies and hot chocolate. It's Moon Mountain's second **Winter Wanderland!** Come have some family fun. PTSA will also have their Holiday Gift shop open from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

MOON MOUNTAIN WALKING CLUB

The Moon Mountain Walking Club is for all 3rd – 6th grade students that would like to start their day with a little walk, jog or run. Anyone can sign up and walk during the before school recess from 7:15 – 7:25 on days 2, 3, 5, and 6. Each student's laps will be tallied. When a student has walked, jogged or ran 5 miles they will receive a foot token and necklace to put it on. Class mileage will be tallied for each month. The class from each grade level with the most mileage will receive a prize.

LITERACY LAB NEWS

It is almost Winter Break! The students are counting down the days! Both children and parents enjoy a break from school day routines. However, all too soon, it will be time for school to start again. To prepare for a smooth start and a successful second semester, try keeping school skills like reading, writing, and math fresh. Try these activities to keep skills sharp:

- **Read for pleasure! Read to your children, have them re-read a favorite book, have them read to you or visit the library for new books. Just Keep Reading!**
- Make the most of car rides: Turn a drive into an opportunity to practice letters and numbers. You can look for license plates from different states, try to find the alphabet on the license plates, or count the number of red (or white or green) cars you see.
- Borrow Audio-books from the library for long car rides
- Have your children help with grocery lists: They can write or draw the items on the list and help sort coupons.
- Write Thank You notes and letters
- Draw Holiday Cards for family and neighbors
- Play games: Many board games and card games encourage thinking skills, and reinforce reading and math skills. Have Fun!

Happy Holidays!

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

Fifth graders have been hard at work learning about fractions, multiplication and division of large numbers and problem solving. We have been writing opinion essays and learning about the properties of matter. We have many students involved in community helping around the school. Several students help with the morning announcements, flag raising, and bathroom monitoring.

We loved our field trip to the Arizona Science Center and want to thank our chaperones who participated in all the wonderful exhibits with our students. Everyone enjoyed their day of learning through hands on experiments, movies and interactive displays. The month ahead will continue to be busy. We will be writing informative essays, which will include reports on the planets. District math and reading assessments will be happening, so fifth graders should be well rested and ready to take the tests. As we wrap up our second academic quarter, we want to remind students and parents to keep up on their daily assignments and read every night. Fifth grade would also appreciate donations of tissues, Clorox wipes and paper. We have much to do as we look forward to the upcoming holiday season. Thank you for all your support to our students.

SECOND GRADE NEWS

Second grade had a blast on our field trip to Pioneer Living History Museum and learned about pioneers and life long ago. We even panned for gold! We will spend the rest of December reading about the rainforest and the animals that live there. In math, we have been practicing solving story problems with 2-digit numbers using place value strategies. Ask your child to show you what they have learned! Our holiday celebrations will kick off with gingerbread house construction on Friday 12/15 and will wrap up with our holiday party and sing-a-long the last week before break. Hope you all have a wonderful winter break... see you in the New Year!

MUSIC NEWS

Fifth and Sixth grade band did a wonderful job performing at Turkey Trot spirit assembly. Thank you to all of our members in Band and Strings for lead "We Will Rock You" and getting the school pumped for their run. Please save the date for our Band and Strings concert on December 11th at 6:00pm. More information will be coming home. We are excited to show off all of our hard work this semester. Second Grade Oyaski's class has been working on identifying "so, mi, la, and do" on the music staff. We have composed melodies for display in the hallway by our music room. We have also been working on counting half notes and reviewing other rhythms. Kindergarten Vierthaler and Jones's class has been learning "Seven Jumps", a folk dance from Denmark. We have also been identifying and demonstrating fast and slow tempos, as well as using our bodies to mirror a buddy in preparation for improvisation. We also sang our Yankee Doodle for the Turkey Trot spirit assembly. All grades will be preparing for our holiday sing along on December 20th.



TURKEY TROT

Thank you to the following community business partners that donated food boxes, turkeys, pies and other food items for our school assembly and for our families at Thanksgiving.

New Promise Church
Desert Mission
Berkshire Hathaway Arizona Properties
Sprouts Farmers Market
Sam's Club
Costco
Hot Bagels

Congratulations to the following students, staff and community member that won a turkey during our Turkey Trot.

KG – Andrea
1st Grade – Jasmine
2nd Grade – Abraham
3rd Grade – Zaylen
4th Grade – Jamie
5th Grade – Taelor
6th Grade – Sondra
Community Member – Steve S.
Staff – Mrs. Oyaski

AZ PTA TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Ms. Christy McGraw is a 1st Grade teacher at Moon Mountain Elementary School in the Washington School District. Among being an excellent teacher and advocate for children, parents, and teachers, she is a huge supporter of the Moon Mountain PTSA. Ms. McGraw is in her 20th year as a public school teacher. She is a National Board Certified Teacher partnering with colleagues to advance student learning, professional excellence, and education reform. Ms McGraw implements research-based practices to maximize instructional time and engage students in the learning process. She builds relationships with her parents strengthening the home-school connections. Not many days go by without a student from the neighboring middle school and/or high school stopping by to visit with Ms. McGraw. Ms. McGraw sees opportunity and promise in all children who pass through her doors. After school she finds time to represent teachers on the committee reviewing the tool being used in the District to evaluate teachers. Her colleagues have great confidence in Ms. McGraw to represent their interest and to articulate concerns or questions. Additionally, she serves as her grade level chair on the Moon Mountain Leadership Team. Ms. McGraw is an asset to our school and community. Congratulations!

TEACHER INTERVIEW FAIR

Saturday, December 8, 2018
8:30a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

District Administrative Center
Offering Contracts for the 2019-2020 school year!

Hiring Secondary and Elementary Certified Teachers for the following areas:

Mathematics, Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical Education, Music, Elementary Pre-K-6 Grades and all areas of Special Education.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION/JUMPSTART

A unique and personalized education starts early in the WESD. WESD offers a free, full-day kindergarten experience that includes high academics, art, music and PE. We are currently enrolling kindergarten students for the 2019-2020 school year. Visit our Welcome and Registration Center located at 3200 W. Cholla Ave. For more information, or to begin filling out the registration materials, visit the Web site at <https://www.wesdschools.org/domain/55> or call 602-896-6950. **The Kindergarten Open House will be held on January 22 from 5-6:30 p.m.** Students and families will have the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet the teachers, pick up enrollment information and sign up for the Jumpstart program – the WESD's new kindergarten readiness program where children will gain social skills, practice kinder routines and more! The three-week, half-day summer program is free for future kindergarten students. Please visit the link below to add your name and information to the interest list <https://goo.gl/forms/NS4EcQRimCtBaKkx1>. If you have any questions, please call Kathleen McKeever at 602-347-3504 or email Kathleen.McKeever@wesdschools.org

BUS DRIVERS

Are you looking to join a team that is committed to helping you succeed? The WESD is currently hiring bus drivers! As a driver, you will receive:

- Pay while attending free CDL training
- At least 30 hours a week plus overtime opportunities
- Promotional opportunities
- Insurance/benefits
- Retirement- District Matches
- 13 paid holidays/10 paid leave days

Apply today at jobs.wesdschools.org. We can't wait for you to join the #WESDFamily!