



# 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 would like to express how grateful I am for our Moon Mountain community. While this academic year is not quite what any of us could have imagined, I would be remiss in not expressing my gratitude.

Foremost, I am so very grateful for our hard-working **staff** and all that they do for every child, every day. Online learning is a brand new instructional setting. It has brought about NUMEROUS challenges. Some of these challenges were predictable, and some we never imagined. Yet each day, our teachers and staff are committed to helping our students to learn and grow, regardless of their job title.

**Students** – we miss you! School should not be without children on campus. Thank you for attending classes, managing your individual schedules and technology, and completing your class assignments! I appreciate you taking responsibility for your learning and trying your best.

**Parents**, your dedication to your child's education has become even more apparent. Your support in student learning has been critical. Thank you also for your patience and grace as we continue to navigate online learning.

**Community members** - thank you for partnering with us in efforts to serve our students and families. Additionally, thank you to our **volunteers**. While you were unable to be on campus, we appreciate your encouragement and continued positive thoughts. We look forward to you being back on campus.

Finally, yet equally as important, I am grateful for the simple moments that occur each day! Be it the smiling faces while on-screen, enthusiasm for learning, or kindness shared by students. It truly is the little moments, which become tomorrow's precious memories. It is an honor to serve and work with your children!

Wishing you and your families a joyous and healthy Holiday Season. May your New Year be filled with peace and happiness.

Dawna Dohogne



### Calendar of Events

#### December 2020

- 9** Early Release – 1 p.m.
- 16** Early Release – 1 p.m.
- 18** NO SCHOOL  
GRADING DAY

#### December 21 – January 1 WINTER BREAK

#### January 2021

- 6** Early Release – 1 p.m.
- 13** Early Release – 1 p.m.
- 18** NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day
- 20** Early Release – 1 p.m.
- 27** Early Release – 1 p.m.

#### February 2021

- 3** Early Release – 1 p.m.
- 9-12** Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Early Release – 1 p.m.
- 15** NO SCHOOL – Presidents Day
- 17** Early Release – 1 p.m.



4650 W. Sweetwater Ave., Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • wesdschools.org  
Governing Board: Tee Lambert, President • Bill Adams, Vice President  
Larry Herrera, Member • Aaron Jahneke, Member • Nikkie Whaley, Member  
Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

### 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!

### MUSIC NEWS

We are back to our distance-learning model, and the music department has been utilizing multiple lessons inspired by our district office. The last two weeks the students have been learning about the Baroque period (1600-1750). In this time, composers like Bach, Vivaldi, and Handel were the prolific writers. Our students have been listening to music by these composers, along with learning what life was like for the average person in those days. Our students have compared their lives today with what it would have been like to live in the Baroque period. They are very grateful for the advantages that we have in all facets of life in the modern era.

### GRAB AND GO MEALS

Starting Monday, December 7, Grab and Go meals will be available for weekly pick up every Monday from 6:30 -10:30 a.m. Families will receive seven breakfasts, seven lunches and five snacks per child age 18 and younger.

### STUDENT OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER

Laiyah B.	Salem L.
Melody S.	Damien M.
Daniel F.	Daniel A.
Isaac M.	Andrew F.
Saraya B.	Daphne D.
Gabriel W.	Jason S.
Rylee H.	Valentina B.
Zaylen M.	Jerlissa J.
Adam S.	Briellah R.
Mercedes S.	Nancy S.
Aerolynn S.	Brandon T.
Denise H.	Talon W.
Kaylin M.	Michael P.
Paisley K.	Valerie A.

### SECOND GRADE NEWS

WOW! We are very thankful for the support from our second grade families! Your students have impressed us by working hard and meeting our high expectations! We truly appreciate all you have done to make online learning a success- it really is a team effort! In reading, we are learning to compare and contrast two stories on the same topic. In math, we have been practicing addition with two-digit numbers using place value strategies. In writing, we are learning to write an opinion piece including a topic sentence, reasons/examples to support the opinion, and a conclusion sentence. Ask your child to show you what they have learned! We are so proud of our second graders! We hope you all have a wonderful winter break... see you in the New Year!

### PTSA NEWS

Happy Holidays to Moon Mountain Families and Friends

The traditional PTSA sponsored Penguin Patch Holiday Shop is ONLINE this year. This provides kids the opportunity to buy gifts for friends and family in the safety of their home. The Penguin Patch shop will be open until **December 11**. You can access the Holiday Shop by typing **shop.penguinpatch.com** and then entering Moon Mountain School. Gifts will be mailed to the students' homes. Purchases over \$25 will be shipped for free, otherwise the shipping cost is \$4.95. A portion of what is spent will be returned to PTSA. The Moon Mountain PTSA continues to support the students, teachers and staff of Moon Mountain Elementary. We would love to have more members. Your membership shows how much you value education and the teachers and staff that provide that education. The cost is \$10 per person to join. Membership forms are available in the Moon Mountain Office. Have a safe and merry holiday.

Sue Gallagher  
MMPTSA President



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## TAX CREDIT

The WESD is thankful for your support. As we enter into the season of giving, please consider making a tax credit donation to our school. Your donation provides WESD students the opportunity to succeed in extracurricular activities and will fund items such as uniform replacements, equipment, stipends for coaches and sponsors. **Your donation can also fund risers, scoreboards, soccer goals, marquees, playground equipment, 3-D printers, library books, classroom furniture and more! You will also receive a dollar for dollar reduction on 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 the Washington Elementary School District. Donating is simple. Visit [www.wesdschools.org/taxcredit](http://www.wesdschools.org/taxcredit) and you can enhance the education of a child in just a few steps. Thank you for your support. For more information, contact at 602-347-2737.

El WESD agradece su apoyo. Al comenzar la temporada de donaciones, favor de considerar hacer una donación de crédito de impuesto a nuestra escuela. Sus donaciones proveen a los estudiantes del WESD la oportunidad de tener éxito en actividades extracurriculares y financiarán artículos como reemplazo de uniformes, equipo, pagos para entrenadores y patrocinadores. **¡Como novedad este año, su donación también puede financiar podios, marcadores electrónicos, porterías de fútbol, marquesinas, equipos para área de recreo, impresoras 3D, libros para la biblioteca, muebles para el salón de clase y mucho más! También recibirán una reducción dólar por dólar en sus impuestos estatales.** Los contribuyentes pueden recibir un crédito de hasta \$400 si presentan una declaración en pareja (\$200 si presentan una declaración individual) en sus impuestos Estatales al contribuir al Distrito Escolar Washington. Donar es simple. Visiten [www.wesdschools.org/taxcredit](http://www.wesdschools.org/taxcredit) y pueden mejorar la educación de un niño en solo unos pocos pasos. Gracias por su apoyo. Para más información, comunicarse al 602-347-2737.

## SPELLING BEE INFORMATION

A highlight of each year is participation in our school and district spelling bees. As with so many opportunities this year, the spelling bee format will look different. Scripps National Spelling Bee organization, host of the annual national spelling bee in Washington D.C., has developed an **online testing platform to assist in allowing participation in spelling bees virtually this year.** WESD will be utilizing this platform for school and district level spelling bees.

All interested students in grades 3-8 can participate.

Each WESD schools will offer online spelling bee participation to students. **Parents will register their students for the online program.** Parents will receive an invitation with testing directions and confirmation of dates to complete testing. Once all students participating have completed the online assessment, the top two winners of each school bee will be determined and will represent the school at the WESD District Spelling Bee.

### **Next Steps and Timeline**

- School spelling bee information sent to families by the school
- Parents will register their child at <https://online-test.spellingbee.com/> no later than **December 11. Use zip code 85029 and select Moon Mountain Elementary School.**
- Students will complete the online spelling bee assessment no later than **December 18.**
- Schools top two spelling bee winners will be determined and advance to the District level
- Winners notified and provided additional information on District bee week of **January 4.**
- District spelling bee to be held online week of **January 18.**
- Top seven spelling bee participants will advance to the Arizona Regional Spelling Bee.

