

DESERT MEADOWS PAW PRINTS

April

Desert Meadows Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already in the fourth and final quarter of the school year. In our classrooms, we are utilizing every bit of instructional time to ensure that our students are ready for the upcoming state assessments. Please be on the lookout for additional testing information as we get closer to the assessment window in April.

Over the last few weeks, we have had several new families enroll at our school. As construction continues around us, we expect to welcome many new students next year. I encourage all parents and guardians to join the Desert Meadows Parent Teacher Association. Whether you are a recent addition to Desert Meadows or your students have been for a long time, it is never too late to join PTA. Please check out [DM PTA](#) to join. Our next PTA meeting will be held on April 12th at 6:00 P.M.

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child each day. Please make sure to have your child at school every day. We want to maximize their learning experience but we can't do that if students are not here consistently. As always, thank you for supporting Desert Meadows School. Our staff is committed to the success of all students and we appreciate your continued assistance. I wish all of our students and families a successful fourth quarter. Have a great month!

Sincerely,

J.P. Ketcham
Principal



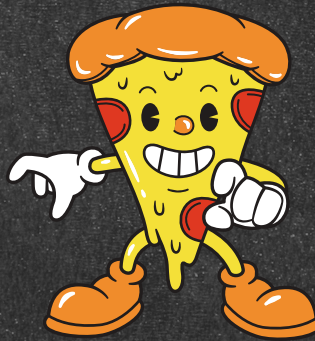


PAW PRINTS

LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL 1ST
DRESS DOWN DAY
\$1.00

APRIL 20TH
EARLY RELEASE DAY
12:00 PM



APRIL 7TH
PTA
PETER PIPER EVENT
4-7 P.M.

APRIL 29TH
DRESS DOWN DAY
\$1.00

APRIL 8TH
LAVEEN ART
FESTIVAL
4:30-8:30 P.M.

APRIL 27TH
EARLY RELEASE DAY
12:00 PM

APRIL 12TH
PTA MEETING
6-7 P.M.





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Grade Level News & Updates

KINDERGARTEN

MS. BADONIE, MS. MIALBACK, MS. CLINTON, MS. RUSSELL

Hello Families!!

Happy Spring!!! We hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for your continuous support with our students. You have been supporting us with academics, behavior, and emotional changes and we appreciate you!!

We have recently wrapped up our Reading unit about culture in regards to clothing and music. Now we are digging deeper into the world of plants and patterns with "The Tiny Seed" and "Jack's Garden". By the end of our unit, the students should have a deeper understanding of plant growth, changes over time, and be able to state their opinion on the stories.

During Math we have been exploring prepositions and sorting objects by color, shape, size, and count. Coming up soon we will begin studying shapes. We will look at the similarities and differences of 2D and 3D shapes.

For Spalding we have cycled back to reviewing all 26 first sounds of the alphabet. We are focused on writing short words independently and creating sentences using these words along with high frequency words. We are also reviewing many of the two-letter phonograms and building words with them.

You can continue to support your child at home through a daily shared book. Ask questions about the characters, setting, and plot. Ask your child to point out words they recognize. Also, find a short text that your child can read - this will help them gain confidence to be an independent reader.

Our school year is winding down quickly and we know you are excited to celebrate your child's success in May. We will have our end of the year celebration on the morning of Wednesday, May 18th. More details to follow! :-)



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Grade Level News & Updates

FIRST GRADE

MS. PHILLIPS, MS. STYLES, MS. RODRIGUEZ

This month, we are celebrating Women's History Month by reading books about important women and discussing the different women who help us in life. Our first grade students are improving their reading and math fluency. We are working daily on our math facts so that our students are prepared for second grade. We are reading daily to increase our oral reading fluency too. Students are going to perform at the Spring Arts Festival. First graders are rehearsing their lyrics daily. We are excited to sing at the festival!

THIRD GRADE

MS. ABEDRABBO, MS. BUGARIN, MS. VILLA

Third grade is excited to begin the 4th and last quarter of the school year! With that being said, testing is around the corner which means we have begun our spiral review in all content areas (math, reading, writing). We are also thrilled to start drafting our very own published book on animals. The following are some tips to help your child be successful on state tests: continue reading nightly for a minimum of 30 minutes, practice multiplication fluency, eat a good breakfast, get a good night sleep and as always be here on time and ready to learn!

FOURTH GRADE

MS. KENDALL, MS. MITCHELL, MS. MUNOZ

Our 4th grade Bobcats are in for a busy month preparing for the 2022 Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment. We are continuing our Intervention classes with a focus on specific Standards. We have also included daily Spiral Reviews, and much more!

On April 7th, we will take the AASA Writing Test. On April 18th and 19th, we will be taking the AASA Reading test. Our final test will be on April 21st and 22nd for the AASA Mathematics test. We are all looking forward to the results of the AASA test. It will be great to assess our student's academic growth. Every 4th grader has worked so hard since we've returned to full-time In-Person Learning.

Go Bobcats!



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FIFTH GRADE

MS. BROWN, MS. SIAS, MS. SOTO

In ELA, we have been learning about key details and normal details in a literary text. Students are applying that standard to their writing as well. They are learning about explorers and the cause and effects of exploring.

AzSci is on April 11, so we will review all four units. The students are creating projects, either by themselves or with one partner, in class. On April 12-15, the students will work on their science fair project. The projects are due April 22.

We finish the Civil War and then move into Industrialization after AzSci is over. The students have enjoyed learning about the Civil War and its reasoning behind why it happened.

The students finished learning fractions in math and had their Chapter 10 test. Next chapter, we will explore conversions and measurement between the metric and US customary system. We will continue to review fractions, order of operations, decimals, and more. Try recreating a recipe in the kitchen for a fun family activity.

We look forward to finishing out the year strong!

SIXTH GRADE

MS. CANEZ, MR. KLARFELD, MS. MARQUEZ

In Science, we are working on the Science Fair. The students have picked their teams and real world problems that they are finding solutions to. The Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, April 26th from 4-5pm. In the upcoming weeks the students will begin testing their problems and finding their solutions. We will also be working on presenting to the judges

In Math we will continue to work on statistical measures by finding mean, median, mode and range to identify the measures of variation. After we finish statistical measures we will start to prepare for our state testing by reviewing concepts previously taught.

In Social Studies, students are learning about the ongoing war between Russia and the Ukraine. Students are exposed to videos and articles that allow them to analyze this conflict and how it impacts our world today. Additionally, students will study Julius Caesar and the impact he made on transforming the Roman Republic into an empire. Lastly, we will learn about the origins of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.



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6th Grade Continued...

In ELA, our students will be reading informational texts and learning how to analyze the author's point of view. They will then use this skill to trace an argument in argumentative texts and decide if they agree or disagree with the author's stance. This will get them ready to write arguments of their own!

SEVENTH GRADE

MS. RICHMOND, MS. RILEY, MS. SALTARELLI

7th graders have been working hard to prepare for the end of the school year. Across the curriculum, students have been engaged in efforts to prepare them for testing, as well as for their impemove to 8th grade.

In Math, we completed our Probability and Statistics unit. After that unit was completed, we were and have been preparing for the AASA testing by reviewing this year's curriculum. We have spent time on Ratio and Proportion reviewing how to make and determine constant proportionality in tables, equations and graphs. In the Number Sense cluster, we practiced how to compute Order of Operations expressions, fractions and decimals. Last week, we were reviewing solving equations and inequalities with a focus on the differences between the two and how that impacts graphing their solutions. Thank you for sending your student daily as this has been a very important time for students to prepare to show what they have learned on the state assessment.

In Social Studies, students will be learning about the Great Depression and the roaring twenties! We have spent a lot of time studying World War 1 and highlighting how this conflict created the conditions for World War 2. We will analyze the political, economic, and social factors existing in the twenties and thirties that sparked the second world war.

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PAW PRINTS

7th Grade Continued...

In ELA we are embarking upon unit 4 - Moment of Truth. Our essential question is, "How can one event change everything?" We will read Barrio Boy by Ernesto Galarza as our unit novel. As we approach the end of the school year we will be reviewing all ELA Standards and prepping the students for our state assessment AASA. The state assessment will focus more on Informational Text, so I will also focus slightly more on informational text. Tutoring Thursdays will continue to be available; however only for those students that missed school or need to catch up. Below are our AASA testing days;

- April 7th - Writing
- April 18-22 - ELA & Math

We ask that all students arrive at school on time and rested those dates. We greatly appreciate your support.

EIGHTH GRADE

MR. HUMBLE, MR. MORGAN, MR. RUIZ, MS. WHITE

Greetings,

Here are a few things happening within 8th grade. The ELA classes are reading the novel, "Refugee," and then will be transitioning into Unit 6 within their StudySync books.

The classes will be engaged within a lot of review in preparation for state testing as well. In social studies, students are spending time looking at the Holocaust and the lessons of it. As time goes on, they'll be looking at other human rights violations and genocides in history.

Before the end of the year, the students will be learning some principles of economics. Additionally, in Science, they are exploring the motion of objects, including Newton's Laws of Motion and motion of objects in freefall.

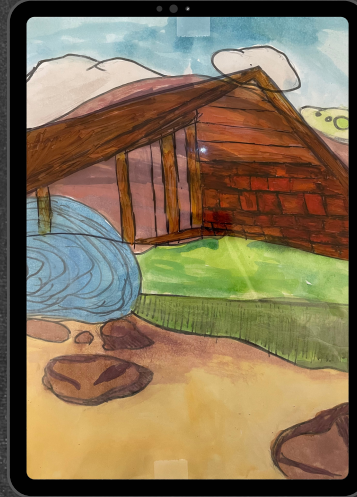
Finally, within Math they will be reviewing concepts, with an emphasis on Algebra topics, in preparation for state testing.



PAW PRINTS

ART MS. HEDRICK

Middle school learned about the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. He believed that the home or building should be harmonious with the nature around it. So we created a landscape background and then added a second layer on clear paper with a home in the modern style of FLW so that it would blend harmoniously with the background.



MUSIC MS. FERGUSON

5th-8th
Students are learning how to read the bass clef and Grand Staff including with accidentals and ledger lines. Students are developing the ability to read and write their own music. Eventually students will be able to play instruments when they look at music from countries all around the world.

K-4th
Students are learning more about musical expression, including beats, meter, and melody. They are also learning about the form of music and how that changes to better express the music. Soon these students will be able to improvise their own music using the tools we are learning in class.

TECHNOLOGY MS. HARTELL

The Dash Robot team has completed their assignments and uploaded the results. The results came back and we did not place in the top 20 so our coding this year has ended. These students obtained skills of programming, problem solving, and how to work as a team. These 3rd and 4th grade students were so excited to show up on Mondays and complete each mission.

All classes are progressing well through Skill Struck with many classes now working on their final projects for the year. Skill Struck recently added a new typing tutor which helps students learn the positions of the keys while increasing their speed and accuracy when typing.



PAW PRINTS

COUNSELOR'S CORNER
MS. MCSWAIN



Test Taking Tips for Students

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat a nutritious breakfast. Avoid too much sugar.
- Set aside time each night prior to the test for several weeks to review the concepts that will be covered.
- Work with teachers at your child's school to find materials to work on at home in preparation for the test.
- Make sure the student is on time (late after 8:00).
- Set a backup alarm to avoid the possibility of oversleeping.
- If your child is sick please contact the school immediately to inform them.

Working with students who are anxious about testing

- Try not to put too much pressure on the student. Reinforce that what is important is doing their best.
- Have the child visualize success. Encourage them to rehearse what it will feel like to get a good score on the test.
- Work with them to focus on breathing. Focusing on breathing by taking some time when stress levels rise helps to focus the mind during testing.
- Try to use positive language when talking about expectations of the test.
- Keep a positive attitude about testing in general around your child and emphasize their ability to demonstrate what they have learned rather than the consequences of not passing.
- Plan for a fun outing for your child after the test has been completed.

