

# SUNSET Newsletter



Inspiring Excellence Together

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**ATTENDANCE LINE: 602-347-3311**

**Principal: Mandi Jones**

**March 2023**

## Message from the Principal

We are in the fourth and final quarter of the 22-23 School Year! We are looking forward to making the most of these last nine weeks!

Thank you for joining us at our Spring Fling! A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure a successful, engaging event. We would like to thank and give a special shout-out to our Spring Fling Committee Chairperson, *Andrea Jones*, the rest of the event committee, and our generous partners: *Peter Piper Pizza, Girl Scouts, and the Sunset Parent Teacher Organization*. Our hard-working staff ran the games, food area, prize tables and drawings seamlessly. A big thank you goes out to our community for their support of our PTO drawing, the proceeds of which fund our Sunset Family Fund.

The state testing window is quickly approaching for our third-sixth grade students. Students in grade five will be taking the AZSci assessment and students in grades three-six will take the Arizona Academic Standards Assessment (AASA). It is important that students arrive on time on testing days as we will start testing as soon as breakfast is over. Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest and schedule any appointments needed on days that will not interfere with testing days. Once a student has started a subtest, they cannot leave and resume the test at a later time. The state testing sessions will take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from March 21-April 20. Please be on the lookout for a letter that includes test preparation tips and a detailed schedule for students in grades three-six.

The WESD is thankful for your support. 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, field trip transportation and stipends for coaches and sponsors. 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. Please 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, please call 602-347-2737.



**Please do not drop off your student prior to 8:05 a.m. Your child's safety is our primary concern.**



**Spring Break**

**Mon. March 13 – Fri. March 17**

**No School!!**

**Check out our Sunset Elementary Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/SunsetElementarySchool>

## Calendar of Events

**3/13 – 3/17 Spring Break! NO SCHOOL**

**3/22 Early Release**

3/22 Qtr. Three Report Cards Go Home

3/23 Wear Purple for Epilepsy Awareness

3/23 Kona Ice

3/23 4:15 p.m. PTO Meeting

3/24 Spring Picture Day -Class Photos & Individual "Personality" Photos

3/27 5:00-8:30 p.m. PTO Fundraiser at Great Skate

**3/29 Early Release**

3/30 Fourth Grade Field Trip to the Phoenix Zoo

3/30 4:00 p.m. Site Council Meeting

**4/5 Early Release**

4/6 Kona Ice

4/7 8:30 a.m. Spirit Assembly Theme: Dress Like a Word

**4/12 Early Release**

4/13 4:15 p.m. PTO Meeting

4/14 School Librarian Day

4/18 Fifth Grade Field Trip to AZ Diamondbacks STEM Show

**4/19 Early Release**

**Wednesday Early Dismissal**  
All grades release at 1:45 p.m.

**Site Council**  
Mike Bailey  
Sandy Bogard  
Mandi Jones  
Corinn Klues  
Ellie Jacovino  
Katherine Bailey

**PTO Board**  
Laura Alarcon –President  
Dustin Norman –Vice President  
OPEN –Secretary  
Shari Blanchard –Treasurer

**Governing Board:** Nikkie Gomez-Whaley, President • Jenni Abbott-Bayardi, Vice President  
Kyle Clayton, Member • Lindsey Peterson, Member • Tamillia Valenzuela, Member

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

Thank you to the following vendors who supported our PTO drawing during our Spring Fling event by donating items such as gift cards, prize baskets or admission tickets. The total proceeds from this event fund our Sunset Family Fund. The Sunset Family Fund helps our families in need throughout the school year. Please thank these vendors and show your support!

- Arizona Cardinals
- Arizona Diamondbacks
- AZ Museum of Natural History
- Astrid A.
- Bashas
- Shari B.
- Children's Museum of Phoenix
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Enchanted Island Amusement Park
- Heard Museum
- The Place Restaurant
- Sunset KidSpace
- Sunset PTO
- Therese V.
- Valle Luna Mexican Restaurant
- Wildlife World Zoo



**Congratulations to our  
Sunset Soccer Team!!**

**Noah G., Soleil C., Trinity G., Ameer S.,  
Marwan S., Carlos M., Noah L., Christopher O.,  
Luis S., Jesus M., William M., Jonathan M.,  
Angel S., Aqbar A., Damien M., Emma C.,  
Keilan T., Aldo V., Dorian L., Morwan A.,  
Ashley J., Noah G., Emma M., Matthew G.,  
Yunes A., Debian M., Elijah N.**

**Good luck this season!!**



**We're so  
proud of you!**

**Congratulations to our girls'  
basketball team for taking  
third place in the Cholla  
Charger Classic Tournament!!**

**21st Century Community Learning Center Grant-**

A team from our school has been working to submit the Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant to the Arizona Department of Education to continue quality after-school programming at no cost to our student and families. This federally-funded program supports after-school community learning centers that operate primarily on school campuses statewide. Services include academic intervention and enrichment activities along with a broad array of youth development opportunities including STEM, fine arts and leadership development. These after-school and summer classes complement the student's regular school day program. After-school programs help students meet the core standards in academic subjects such as language arts and math. In addition, other educational services are offered to family members of students participating in the program in order to further engage parents in their student's learning and achievement goals.

**Congratulations to our amazing employees of the month!**



**Reanna Haskins** Mrs. Haskins is an amazing kindergarten teacher! She cares so much for her students and it shows in the way she teaches and interacts with her students in a kind-hearted, strong and considerate way. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and has fun, inspiring ideas! She has been trained in our new benchmark curriculum and is a valuable resource to our teachers. Mrs. Haskins always has a smile on her face, and brightens up any room she enters!

**Beckie Clark:** Mrs. Clark is our wonderful library media specialist. She has completely transformed our library into a welcoming environment that our students LOVE to visit! Mrs. Clark has implemented Library Pages which gives students the opportunity to lead and learn about the library process. She has applied for and has received many grants to improve our book selection and create a mini makerspace full of games, puzzles and crafts. She's always willing to help out wherever needed on campus and is involved in our event planning and runs our Scholastic Book Fair. Mrs. Clark is creative and absolutely loves being our school librarian and it shows in everything she does!

**Congratulations to our February Students of the Month!**

**Kindergarten**

**Mrs. Haskins: Cohen M.  
Miss Lerner: Zaydin D.  
Miss West: Aleena C.  
Mrs. Harris: Neelam T.**

**Second Grade**

**Ms. Demory: Saphyer V.  
Ms. Meyer: Iyas A.  
Ms. Savage: Joanna T.**

**Fourth Grade**

**Ms. Cota: Luis S.  
Miss Duran: Johnson N.  
Mrs. Snead: Hajira S.**

**First Grade**

**Miss Bailey: Adrian G.  
Ms. Journey: McKenzie N.  
Mrs. Mettler: Remiel E.**

**Third Grade**

**Mrs. Jones: Javier A.  
Miss Scott: Isabella G.  
Ms. Spina: Jaelynne C.**

**Fifth Grade**

**Ms. Swift: Soleil C.  
Mrs. Heidbreder: Parker S.  
Mrs. Klemencic: Arianne L.**

**Sixth Grade**

**Mrs. Barber: Emma M.**

**Miss Klues: Rylan L.**

**Ms. Vasquez: Yaramarn A.**