

# SUNSET Newsletter



Sunset children, families, and staff are dedicated to creating successful students who are empowered to grow and thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

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

**Principal: Mandi Jones**

**May 2023**

## Message from the Principal

Dear Sunset Family,

Thank you for your presence, support, and commitment as we navigated the 22-23 school year together. I am deeply grateful for our community's generosity and active participation throughout the year. We saw evidence of our partnerships during evening events, supply donations, choir concerts, Field Day, assemblies, basketball and soccer games, cross country meets, parent/teacher conferences, and field trips. Thank you for making it a priority to engage with our school community in such meaningful ways.

As we look back on the school year, many wonderful memories come to mind. It was so sweet seeing students dressed up on our spirit days throughout the year! Our students and staff showed up at assemblies wearing rainbow colors, superhero attire, fun patterns, Disney gear, word-themed getups, and my personal favorite – pajamas. Celebrating our students' personal, academic, social, emotional, and behavioral successes has been such a joy and honor.

Speaking of success, do you remember the Human Ice Cream Sundae prize for meeting our chocolate bar fundraiser goal?! If you didn't hear about this or get a chance to check out the video footage of this event on our Sunset Facebook page, let me fill you in! Mrs. Snead's class, the fundraiser winners, turned me into an ice cream sundae by taking turns pouring chocolate syrup and caramel sauce on me, throwing marshmallows and sprinkles my way, and topping it off with some delightful whipped cream. What a fun experience and memory!

I may be a bit biased, but I believe we have the BEST students, families, staff, and community at Sunset! We truly support one another, effectively work through challenges, and celebrate individual and collective successes. Your children are the reason we show up at this special school every day. Your family connections are a huge catalyst for the growth we see in our kids each school year. Our teachers and staff members are exceptional! We are so fortunate to work with people who adore children and are committed to doing everything they can to help our students learn and grow as much as possible. Our Sunset family is one-of-a-kind!

My heart is full of gratitude and a bit of sadness as we close this school year. After 17 years of serving Sunset as a teacher, instructional coach, and principal, I am resigning and exploring a new professional adventure. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Aimee Wojciechowski as the next principal at our school. Ms. Wojciechowski is currently the assistant principal at Manzanita Elementary School. In addition to serving our students and families through her role as an administrator, she taught at the elementary level and fulfilled the role of instructional coach. Ms. Wojciechowski is a passionate leader who is thrilled to join the Sunset family and can't wait to meet all of you!

I love our sweet school and will miss my time here. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,  
Mandi Jones

**Please do not drop off your student prior to 8:05 a.m.**

**Your child's safety is our primary concern.**



**Last Day of School**

**Tuesday, May 23**

**Early Release at 1:45 p.m.**

Check out our Sunset Elementary Facebook Page:

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

## Calendar of Events

5/8-12 Teacher and Staff  
Appreciation Week

**5/10 Early Release**

5/10 School Nurses' Day

5/10 5:30-6:30 p.m. Honors  
Night

5/12 8:25 a.m. First Grade  
Choir Concert

5/16 1:15 p.m. and 2:10 p.m.  
Talent Show

**5/17 Early Release**

5/18 3:05 p.m. Kona Ice

5/18 4:00 p.m. Site Council  
Meeting

5/19 2:00 p.m. Kindergarten  
Celebration

5/23 1:15 p.m. Sixth-grade  
Celebration

**5/23 Early Release and LAST  
DAY OF SCHOOL!**

5/30 – 6/22 Summer School

8/7 First Day of School

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

### Site Council

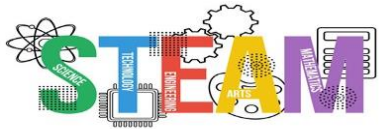
Mike Bailey  
Sandy Bogard  
Mandi Jones  
Corinn Klues  
Ellie Jacovino  
Katherine Bailey

### 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 all of our families who came to our STEAM Night! A special thank you to the Arizona Science Center, Peter Piper Pizza and the volunteers from Haven Church for all of your help with our event!

Congratulations to our science fair winners:

- |                     |                        |                    |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Fourth Grade</u> | <u>Fifth Grade</u>     | <u>Sixth Grade</u> |
| 1: Mia B.           | 1: Ethan C & Yunes A.  | 1: Jaxon A.        |
| 2: Jayde T.         | 2: Jared L., Sanari W. | 2: Lindsey C.      |
| 3: Brody D.         | and Ashley J.          | 3: Dylan D.        |



**Congratulations to our Sunset soccer team on their UNDEFEATED season!! We are so proud of you!**



Our lost and found racks are overflowing! Please take a moment to stop by Sunset to see if any of these items belong to your student. All items unclaimed by the end of the school year will be donated to charity.

**Reminder:**



All student medication must be picked up by a parent/guardian from our health office on the last day of school.

Join sunset WRIC for Laugh and Learn on their new schedule: Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. every week. Children up to five years old and their parents will enjoy story time, arts and crafts, and playtime all while developing the skills



necessary to succeed in school for the future.

Our Sunset yearbooks are selling fast. Get your copy before they're gone! The cost is \$25.00. You may place your order in the front office. You may pay with cash or check made out to Sunset PTO.

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



**Tracy Barber** Mrs. Barber is one of our amazing sixth-grade teachers! She designs engaging and memorable lessons that incorporate hands-on activities, technology and creativity. Mrs. Barber was our STEAM chair leader and organized our wonderful science fair! Mrs. Barber is a team player and is always willing to help out where needed. Whether it be co-assisting sports teams, filling in for After-School Academy or refereeing games after a long teaching day. We are so thankful to have Mrs. Barber in our Sunset family.

**Joni Uyesato:** Ms. Joni is a wonderful instructor in our literacy lab. She facilitates engaging small group reading lessons. Ms. Joni is kind, friendly and always lends a listening ear. She is patient, caring and works hard to develop wonderful relationships with students and staff. Ms. Joni sees a need and helps out right away! Thank you, Ms. Joni, for everything you do for our Sunset family.

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

Kindergarten

- Mrs. Haskins: Tommy R.  
Miss Lerner: Michael N.  
Miss West: Mia O.  
Mrs. Harris: Maddie F.

Second Grade

- Ms. Demory: Iham A.  
Ms. Meyer: Austyn J.  
Ms. Savage: Immanuel L.

Fourth Grade

- Ms. Cota: Matthew B.  
Miss Duran: Jimena C.  
Mrs. Snead: Joel P.

First Grade

- Miss Bailey: Jaylene S.  
Ms. Journey: Abigail H.  
Mrs. Mettler: Ronnie G.

Third Grade

- Mrs. Jones: Ben P.  
Miss Scott: Nia B.  
Ms. Spina: Mariana J.

Fifth Grade

- Ms. Swift: Andrea H.  
Mrs. Heidbreder: Macoy M.  
Mrs. Klemencic: Trajan C.

Sixth Grade

- Mrs. Barber: Marwan S.

- Miss Klues: Melisa S.

- Ms. Vasquez: Wagner C.