



Paw Prints

Volume 3

Trustworthy . Respectful . Accountable . Collaborative . Kind

Update from Desert Meadows Principal JP Ketcham

Happy November!

I hope all of our families are enjoying the fall weather and are looking forward to our upcoming Thanksgiving Break! Parents, thank you for actively participating in your child's education. It was wonderful to see parents coming in for conferences last month. It is important that your child sees that you are proactively involved in their education. Our teachers truly appreciate your support and look forward to working closely with you this year, thanks again!

We are now in our second quarter of school and our staff is working diligently with our students to support academic success. It is important that we continue our focus on learning, consistent attendance, and adherence to the school rules. Consistency in these three areas will allow our students the opportunity to develop the positive habits that will make them successful young adults. We know that parents/guardians can have a great impact in setting the stage. How?

Here are a few ideas:

Learning:

- Let your child know you think school is important.
- Talk to him/her about what they're learning.
- Encourage them to ask questions and let the teacher know if they are not understanding what is being taught.

Encourage persistence:

- Children learn persistence when they are successful at a challenging task.
- Let them know that not everything comes easy. This will help them gain confidence and successfully negotiate difficult situations when they are older.

Talk to them about their future:

- School success is one of the keys to a successful future.
- Talk with them about their dreams/goals and make the connection to how school fits within this vision.
- Share your own story with your child.

Attendance:

- Encourage your child to get enough sleep to ensure that he/she is able to get up in the morning.
- Leave home with plenty of time to get to school.
- Try to schedule appointments before or after school hours.

School Rules & Procedures:

- Familiarize yourself with the school rules, guidelines, and expectations in our handbook.
- Reinforce that school is currently their “job” and just like your job, there are expectations. This will help them prepare for high school and beyond.
- Talk to your kids about the rules at your job. Compare them. For example, what is the dress code at your job? This helps students understand the purpose of school rules.
- Talk about how to stay on T.R.A.C.K. at home.

Finally, encourage your child to develop a great work ethic. Vince Lombardi was quoted as saying, “The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.” A good work ethic will help develop personal pride and ensure that your student feels in control. Hard work pays off!

We would like to thank parents and students for contributing to our collection drive for homeless families. We collected over 1,000 items and our NJHS students began distributing them last week at Cesar Chavez park. We are now in the middle of our penny drive and food drive to support the Laveen Lions and their Holiday Basket Program. Please consider donating the

following items through November 28th.

Canned Meats (i.e., tuna, chicken)

Canned and boxed meals (i.e., soup, chili, stew, macaroni, & cheese)

Peanut Butter

Canned or dried beans and peas (i.e., black, pinto)

Pasta, rice, or cereal

Canned fruits

Canned vegetables

100% Fruit Juice (canned, plastic or boxed)

As always, thank you for supporting Desert Meadows School. Our staff is committed to all of our students' success and we appreciate your continued assistance. I wish all of our students and families a joyous Thanksgiving this year. Have a great month!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.P. Ketcham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J.P. Ketcham, Principal

Desert Meadows Students and Families,

Attendance Matters- Adapted from AttendanceWorks.org

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

What can you do at home to help?

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

“Paws”itively PBIS Update

Here at Desert Meadows, we are on T.R.A.C.K! We are trustworthy, respectful, accountable, collaborative and kind. We are challenging our students to display these behaviors each and every day. To reinforce these behaviors, we first teach expectations and then reinforce students for demonstrating the expectations. Students earn Bobcat Bucks for demonstrating our T.R.A.C.K skills during the school day.

This month, we are happy to unveil our Crazy Cat Challenges! These are challenges our staff will participate in when our students reach Bobcat Buck milestones. Students can even enter drawings to participate in the fun for the blue challenges below! Many staff have already agreed to join in the fun to keep our students motivated towards demonstrating positive behavior! The challenge was kicked off at our October 22nd school assembly! We can't wait to see these Crazy Cat Challenges unfold! Let's go Bobcats!

Buck Total	Incentive
50,000	Ketcham gets iced (Ice Bucketed)
45,000	Richards gets iced (Ice Bucketed)
40,000	Music at Lunch
35,000	Teachers- Pie in the face/Human Sundae (Cover designated teachers with ice cream, sprinkles, chocolate sauce and other sundae items)
30,000	Music at Lunch
25,000	Silly String War
20,000	Music at Lunch- teachers dress silly
15,000	Tug of War
10,000	Music at Lunch

November Updates:

1 - Bobcat of the Month
2 - Dress Down Day
9 - Scooptacular
12 - No school Veterans day
14 - Half Day Release
15 - Governing Board Meeting

16 - Dress Down Day
20 - PTA Meeting 6pm
22 & 23 - Thanksgiving No School
30 - Scooptacular
Oct 17 - Nov 16- Laveen Lions Penny Drive
Oct 31 - Nov 28- Laveen Lion Community Food Drive

What is going on in our classes?!

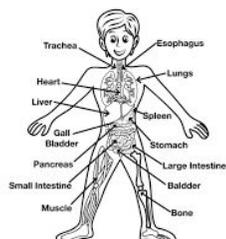
Preschool: Preschoolers learned about plants, compared and contrasted homes, and looked at the different attributes that make up a shape. Preschoolers participated in a neighborhood walk! We will be learning about foods and matching quantities. In closing our family unit, we will have FAMILY DAY to show our parents our family trees we created!



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Kinder: Kindergarten had so much fun in October exploring with our senses. This month Kinder will learn about globes, maps, and our communities. We are excited to learn about different cultures, traditions, and early settlers. Our Reading is really picking up with three letter words and we are already in our yellow list of words. In Math we are mastering our teen numbers by identifying, counting, writing, and representing a number given with objects. As the weather cools, please remember jackets and sweatshirts for the classroom should be in uniform colors. Please keep jackets and sweaters which may be distracting to our learning at home.

First Grade: First grade is working on addition to twenty using different strategies. As we dig deeper into phonics, we are starting to work on diagraphs. Writing, we are continuing narratives, but with fun Halloween themed writing prompts. For science, we are starting on habitats and learning about what the animals need to live in these places. We look forward to a great start to quarter two.

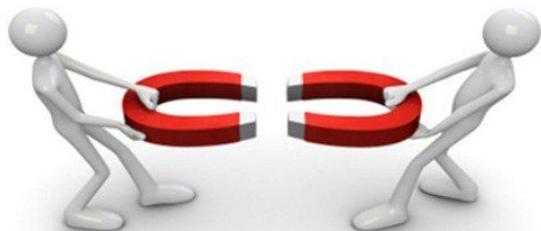


Second Grade: We are off to an exciting start this quarter! In Science we are diving into the human body. We will be learning all about the circulatory, digestive, and respiratory systems. In Math we are starting to add two double digit numbers and learning how to regroup our ones into tens. In Reading we are working on our comprehension skills and proving our answers with text evidence.

Third Grade: Now that we have began our second quarter we are well underway into our learning. Standards are beginning to get more rigorous and difficult for students. It is very important that students come prepared to school

ready to learn. That means they are on time and have eaten a good breakfast to begin their day. When students are absent they miss a lot of learning that lends itself to others days teachings. Please communicate with your child's teacher about upcoming absences to work around class work. A brief overview for our learning will be diving into multiplication and division for Math. The life cycle and adaptations are a part of our Science learning. Government and the branches of government will be an interesting topic for students this year in Social Studies. We are learning more about biographies and getting into research and staying on topic with relevant information for Writing. We always work very hard to be able to read on grade level with a plethora of genres and being able to discuss and understand each reading we work on is extremely important for us during our Reading block. Again, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible if there are any concerns you may have or questions that we can answer. Third grade is ready to rock 2nd quarter!

Fourth Grade: The month of October has been very busy. Our 4th graders have completed the Galileo Quarter 1 Benchmark testing. We are pleased with our growth, but have much more curriculum to cover for Quarter 2. In Mathematics



will continue with multiplication, begin division, patterns and sequences. In Science we are studying a unit on Energy and Magnetism. In ELA, we are focusing on reading concepts supported by reading interventions. Students are also participating in the Lions Food Drive and Penny Collection. It is important for students to have the experience of donating to help others in need. Our

PTA Fundraiser is a Cookie Dough sale competition with classes and individuals receiving prizes for the amount of products they sell! Our 4th grade team would like to say, "Thank you" to all the parents for your support. With our strong academic program and TRACK program, being a Bobcat will increase their social and academic growth. Go Bobcats! -Ms. Hartell, Ms. Kendall, Ms. Munoz/4th Team

Fifth Grade: Fifth Grade finished the first quarter very ahead of the game! In Math, we finished our rounding/estimating lessons and started working on division. Division is a very hard skill for some students, so we ask for parents to quiz their kids on multiplication in the car, at home, or while taking a walk. In ELA, students are continuing previous skills such as: Compare and Contrast, Sequencing, Main Idea & Details, Character, Setting & Plot. The skills will be reviewed throughout the

year but will get more rigorous. In Science, students are learning about chemical change and physical change.

Sixth Grade: Reading - In reading we are focusing on tone, connotation and the impact of descriptive adjectives. I have decided to prioritize having students have as many minutes in a book, per day, as possible which has led to the development of their "reading logs". The reading log is to be completed once per night, for thirty minutes which includes a reading and logging time. We have begun a story called "Zlata's Diary" which is a non-fiction journal of an eleven year old girl's experience in the 1992 attack on Sarajevo, Bosnia.

Writing - Descriptive writing has been our focus with an emphasis on adjectives. Adjectives help us explain ourselves and provide detail for the reader. We are writing about both our personal experiences (fall break, weekends) while also writing about the stories we read in our Reading class. Our writing log has been a great way for the students to stay organized!

Science - We are wrapping up renewable and nonrenewable resources. The kids are enjoying understanding how things like solar panels and wind turbines work. We will be moving onto cells and organisms! This will include some very fun labs that allow us an opportunity to look through microscopes at living cells and begin learning about their organelles. This is always a fun investigation and will be highlighted in later newsletters.

Social Studies - As November approaches, we are working on JA Biztown concepts like Business Operations, Jobs and Interviewing. Our field trip simulation day is on November 20th and we are still in need of volunteers to help run businesses so contact Mrs. Carrillo if you are able to help us out!



7th/8th Grade: Greetings from the 7th/8th grade team!

We are now a few weeks into the second quarter of the school year and students and teachers are all working hard! We enjoyed meeting recently with many parents at our first round of parent/teacher conferences.



As you know, the parent-teacher-student partnership is essential to student success. Celebrations and challenges were discussed and goals were set for the rest of the year. Thanks to all who attended! Looking forward, 7th and 8th grade students will continue to work hard to meet their academic and social potential. As always,

thank you for supporting your child's education and here's to a great second quarter!

Ms. Martinez's 7th & 8th Graders: We are working hard staying on T.R.A.C.K. They are making great progress towards their individual goals.

Thank you students for working hard and being accountable for your personal goals. We are ending 1st Quarter and beginning 2nd Quarter already. Great Job to the students for making this such a successful first quarter. Go BOBCATS!



Resource K-5th Grades: Did you know that vocabulary is a key to reading? In Mrs. Martin's resource classroom we have been working on learning new vocabulary of a text to help us understand more about what we are reading. That can also help us to pronounce the word better and read with more fluency when we work on our vocabulary words first. This is a strategy that we can use in other subjects too. As we practice this we also share vocabulary words with our peers and have fun teaching what we have learned.

Physical Education: Coaches are glad to see the weather break and safer



temperatures as we start Physical fitness testing. We are testing all students in Physical Education in the shuttle run, mile run, sit/ reach and 40 yard dash just to name a few. We will look to improve by meeting and exceeding our goals in endurance and flexibility between our pre test and post test Spring 2019.

Art: In Art class the 5th grade has been working on showing motion in their work as well as chalk blending. You really get a sense of the motion when you look at the wavy lines the students drew in the water. They did a beautiful job blending 2 or more colors of chalk in the water or sky.



Music: Kinder and 1st grade are working on a holiday program. Grades 2, 3, 4 are continuing study of so. mi, and la. Singing, signing, putting it on the staff, now playing it while reading the staff. Grade 5 is currently working on drum circle. Drama class is working on projects on scenes to be performed in class.

Band: 8th graders attended future freshman night at the Cesar Chavez football game on October 26 with the band. This month we are working on preparing for our winter concert. See the band handbook for dates and times.

COMPUTER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

3rd - 5th Grade Computer Science

Students in 3rd - 5th grade had the opportunity to explore and create using Scratch.mit.edu. Scratch is a free coding platform that uses blockly coding to introduce important coding concepts. Students investigated the use of loops in coding and have been applying their new knowledge during their Code.org independent practice!

K - 2 Computer Science

- 1st and 2nd grade students have been introduced to an interesting little girl named Ruby. [Hello Ruby](#) by Linda Liukas is an adventurous story that uses computer science concepts and fun activities to bring our younger students into the wonderful world of coding!
- Kindergarten students will begin using their classroom iPads to practice coding using Code.org, Nearpod, and Kodable. Students will begin by practicing fundamental skills such as drag and drop in order to program characters to move through a puzzle.

How about Middle School?

Middle School computer science students have been learning how to take the content of a webpage and give it structure using HTML coding. After learning HTML tags such as the `<p>` paragraph tag`</p>`, `<h1>` heading 1 tag`</h1>`, and `` list tag`` students applied their knowledge to create their own personal multi-page website. Next, middle school will learn about CSS (cascading style sheets) and how to add *style* to their webpage!