

Cougar Communiqué

A publication of
Desert Sky Middle School
“Building a Community of Learners”
9850 E. Rankin Loop

April 2018



Dates to Remember

April

- 2 Pima Prevention Partnership Parent Night – Media Center – 5:00pm
- 3 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball vs. Desert Shadows - home - 3:45pm
- 4 PTA Meeting – Media Center – 4:30pm
- 9 **AzMERIT Testing Begins – through April 20th**
- 9 WEB Applications Handed Out
- 9 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball vs. RVMS - home - 3:45pm
- 11 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball @ RVMS – 3:45pm
- 11 Boys' Volleyball @ RVMS – 3:45pm
- 11 PTA Dine-out @ Freddy's – 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- 12 Girls' Softball vs. Wade Carpenter - home - 3:45pm
- 12 Boys' Baseball @ Wade Carpenter - 3:45pm
- 13 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball vs. San Manuel - home - 3:45pm
- 16 **AIMS Science Testing (8th Grade Only)**
- 16 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball @ OVMS - 3:45pm
- 17 Girls' Softball vs. Safford – home 3:45pm
- 17 Boys' Baseball @ ES – 3:45pm
- 18 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball vs. OVMS - home - 3:45pm
- 20 **Progress Reports**
- 23 **AzMERIT Make-ups – through April 27th**
- 23 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball vs. CFMS - home - 3:45pm
- 24 Site Council – Media Center – 4:00pm
- 25 Track @ CHS – 3:45
- 25 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball @ CFMS - 3:45pm
- 26 Girls' Softball @ Wade Carpenter – 3:45pm
- 26 Boys' Baseball vs. Wade Carpenter – home 3:45pm
- 27 Rich River Relays @ Rio Rico
- 30 **Team Request Window for 2018/2019 School Year Begins**
- 30 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball vs. OVMS – home - 3:45pm
- 30 Boys' Volleyball vs. ES – home – 3:45pm

May

- 1 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball @ Desert Shadows - 3:45pm
- 1 **NJHS Induction Ceremony – Gym – 6:00pm**
- 2 Track @ EHS – 3:45pm
- 2 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball @ OVMS - 3:45pm (A)
- 2 Boys' Baseball (B) vs. ES – home – 3:45pm
- 2 Boys' Volleyball vs. ES – home – 3:45pm
- 2 Choir and Orchestra Concert @ VTOTA – 7:00pm
- 3 Talent Show Auditions – Gym – 3:00pm
- 3 Girls' Softball/Boys' Baseball vs. ES - home - 3:45pm
- 4 **Team Request Window for 2018/2019 School Year Ends**
- 4 “Honk! Jr.” - Drama Performance – MPR – 7:00pm
- 5 “Honk! Jr.” - Drama Performance – MPR – 7:00pm

Principal, Katie Dabney
E-mail:
dabneyk@vailschooldistrict.org

Assistant Principal,
Rebecca Marsh
E-mail:
marshr@vailschooldistrict.org

Office: (520) 879-2702

Fax: (520) 879-2701

Website:
<http://dsms.vail.k12.az.us>

Desert Sky Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Site Council

Jon Carlyon
(Parent/Community)

Chach Jackson
(Parent/Community)

Kiki Ngo
(Parent/Community)

Karleene Talley
(Parent/Community)

Rayna Kruszewski
(Support Staff)

Abby Jackson
(Certified Staff)

Melissa Thach
(Certified Staff)

From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

One may view the upcoming AzMERIT (Arizona's Statewide Achievement Assessment for English Language Arts and Mathematics) assessment like the Superbowl, the World Series, or the Final Four - the culminating event after a long season with plenty of "ups and downs". As teams prepare for the big game, great coaches continually remind their team to stay focused on the team's strengths which have propelled them to the big game.

What are the foundational pieces that propel our winning team to achieve such great success? What are Desert Sky's strengths?

- excellent instruction- strong staff and student relationships- a safe environment- unwavering support from our parents and families - high expectations for our students and staff- varied learning opportunities for our students

AzMERIT testing, our "Superbowl", will occur during the month of April and the strengths listed above are just a few of the many, many qualities about Desert Sky. Our students have been working hard, and they are well prepared for the challenge ahead. Below you will find information about the importance of AzMERIT and strategies to help your child be successful.

Reasons for your child to give his/her best effort on AzMERIT

The test can provide valuable feedback to you and your child on your child's academic progress in the areas of math, reading, writing, and science (8th grade only). It allows you to view strengths as well as areas for improvement within these important core subject areas.

It also helps provide the school with a more accurate picture of what areas of instruction and curriculum are effective or have room for improvement. In turn, we can then build upon strengths and set goals for ways to improve as a school.

Ways in which you can help your child be more successful on the test

Please make sure your child is present and on time for school during the testing window. If you have a doctor's appointment or family business, please try to arrange these events around the testing schedule.

Please ensure that your child gets plenty of rest and eats a healthy breakfast. Taking these tests can be challenging for any child. Having to do so while tired or hungry can have a major impact on his/her ability to succeed.

Talk with your child and encourage him/her to give a good effort and have a positive attitude about the tests. Parents' and teachers' attitudes are instrumental in shaping the attitudes of the students. If the message is conveyed that doing well is important, kids are more likely to give a good effort.

Important information regarding 8th Grade Promotion

After the completion of AzMERIT testing, 8th grade promotion will be coming up quickly. **On Tuesday, April 24th, the four Promotion tickets per 8th grade student will be mailed home to the address listed in Powerschool.** Please be sure that we have your child's current and updated address. If you need to verify that we have your correct address, please call our office at 879-2702. Remember to attend the Promotion Ceremony, a ticket is required for attendance. We are hoping to have an alternative live stream viewing area for anyone without a ticket. More information regarding 8th grade promotion and 8th grade end of the year activities will also be mailed home on April 24th.

If you have any questions regarding AzMERIT or 8th Grade Promotion, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at dabneyk@vailschooldistrict.org or by phone at 879-2704.

Sincerely,

Katie Dabney Principal

AIMS & AzMERIT TESTING

Desert Sky's AIMS & AzMERIT testing schedule will be as follows:

Monday, April 16th - AIMS Science (8th grade only)

Monday April 2	Tuesday April 3	Wednesday April 4	Thursday April 5	Friday April 6
Monday April 9	Tuesday April 10	Wednesday April 11	Thursday April 12	Friday April 13
Writing Team D 6.2	Writing Team B 6.1	Writing Team A Team C Team E	LA- Part 1 and Math Part 1 Team D 6.2	Math- Part 2 and LA Part 2 Team D 6.2
Monday April 16	Tuesday April 17	Wednesday April 18	Thursday April 19	Friday April 20
AIMS Science Team A Team E Team D- 1/2	LA- Part 1 and Math Part 1 Team B 6.1	Math- Part 2 and LA Part 2 Team B 6.1	LA- Part 1 and Math Part 1 Team A Team C Team E	Math- Part 2 and LA Part 2 Team A Team C Team E
Monday April 23	Tuesday April 24	Wednesday April 25	Thursday April 26	Friday April 27

REMEDICATION HOURS

This is a reminder that students should be making up any hours owed for failing core subjects or benchmark tests in after school remediation. The deadline for completion of hours is May 18th. Students who do not make up hours will be retained.

Stacey Couzens
Student Achievement Teacher, 879-2709

Pennies for Patients Fundraiser

During the month of February, advisory classes participated in Pennies for Patients, a drive to collect donations to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This is the 14th year that Desert Sky has participated in this activity.

The DSMS community demonstrated their generosity and giving spirit as several advisory classes collected over \$100. Members of the Rita Ranch community were kind enough to donate as well. The total amount of money collected was an astounding \$1,487.68! A portion of the money was donated to a family in the Vail community currently dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

Thank you to students, staff, and members of the community for demonstrating the true meaning of giving back to the community.



8th Grade Promotion Ceremony

This year's 8th grade promotion ceremony will be held on **Thursday, May 24th at 10:30am** in the Desert Sky Gymnasium. We look forward to seeing you in attendance to help honor our 17th class of promoting 8th graders!



May Dates

May is full of exciting happenings! Here are some important dates for 8th grade parents:

- May 22nd – 8th Grade Breakfast / Promotion Practice
- May 23rd – Principal's Breakfast
- May 23rd – 8th Grade Field Trip – The Cove
- May 24th – 8th Grade Promotion – 10:30am





If your band student is going to high school next year, or if he/she will not be in band next year, consider donating their band books or instrument to Desert Sky's band programs to help those who are less fortunate.

Vail School District No. 20

Approved 12/12/17

PK-8 STUDENT CALENDAR 2018-2019

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

B/E = Beginning/End of school
 C = Parent/Teacher Conferences (1/2 day for Students)
 T = Teacher Grading Day (1/2 day for Students)

Y = Inservice for Teachers - 1/2 day for Students
 VPD = Vail Pride Day
 = Holidays/Vacations (No School for Students)

Desert Sky Middle School

Yearbook Order Form



Order your yearbook now and
enjoy a lifetime of memories!

To order now go to
www.jostensyearbooks.com
Select Desert Sky Middle School
(Be careful to choose the one in Tucson)

Order now and save! The cost will increase
from \$35 to \$40 in Feburary!

If you have questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Willard
at 520-879-2754

or willardm@vailschooldistrict.org

2 0 1 8 A P R I L E D I T I O N

DESERT SKY COUGAR-TEERS

COUGAR-TEERS: OUR AWESOME DESERT SKY VOLUNTEERS

A HUGE THANK YOU to ALL
OUR WONDERFUL
VOLUNTEERS who have come to
help with:

Book Fair, Crosswalk, Parent-
Teacher Conference Meal(s),
Friendsgiving Meal, Angel Tree,
Winter Wonderland, Vail Pride Day,
Science Olympiad, PRIDE Reward
Parties, Bagging Popcorn, STEEP
Grading, Site Council Meetings,
PTA Meetings, Halloween Dance,
Spring Dance (Glow Fest), Spelling
Bee, Picture Day(s), Principal's
Breakfast, Yearbook Signing Party,
Help in the Classrooms, Sports
Volunteers, and of course
'WEB' that provides support for so
many activities!!!

We love all your support and could
not do it without you!!!!

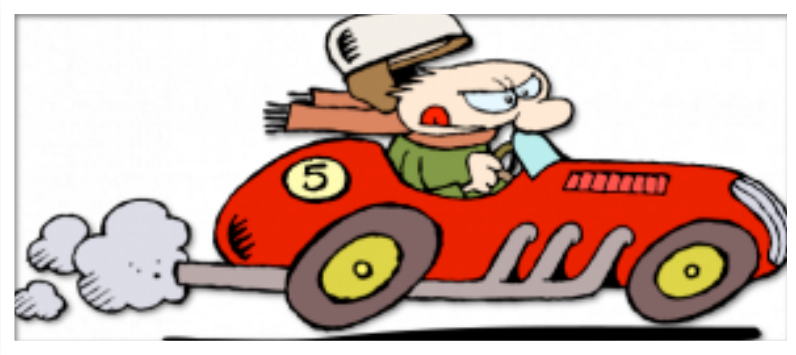
Denise Wactor

Volunteer Coordinator

wactord@vailschooldistrict.org

Quote for the Day:

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but
still I can do something. I will not refuse to do something I can
do."



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Spring Break is over; and I know what you're thinking...I can't wait to
get back to volunteering! Don't worry. Your wait is over!

The last quarter of the year brings a lot of volunteer opportunities and
special, school-wide events; so be on the lookout for the shower of
emails headed your way! Whether you like to help out in the
classroom, chaperone musically talented middle-schoolers, man the
snack bar at a school dance, or just come and hang out with the most
awesome school staff ever; we have a job for you!

So strap on your sense of humor and get ready for fun because the last
quarter is when we shift into high gear! See you there!