

Cougar Communiqué

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

March 2018



Dates to Remember

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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)

March

- 1 ELA Benchmark #3 – (Teams B, C)
- 1 Writing Benchmark #3 – (Team 6.2)
- 2 Math Benchmark #3 – (Team A, D, E, 6.1)
- 2 Pennies for Patients Ends
- 2-4 Middle School State Basketball Tournament
- 2 Spring Dance – Gym – 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- 5 Math Benchmark #3 – (Team 6.2)
- 5 Spring Pictures
- 5-9 Spirit Week
- 6 Math Benchmark #3 – (Teams B, C)
- 7, 9 Benchmark #3 Make-ups/Grade Level Math Benchmarks
- 7 PTA Meeting – Media Center – 4:30pm
- 8 Science Benchmark #3 – (7th and 8th Grade Only)
- 8 6th Grade Awards Assembly – MPR – 1:45pm
- 9 8th Grade Awards Assembly – MPR – 8:05am
- 9 7th Grade Awards Assembly – MPR – 9:30am
- 9 Report Cards Mailed Home
- 9 PRIDE Reward – 1:45pm
- 12 Spring Break Begins – School Resumes March 26th
- 26 School Resumes
- 29 Raising Expectations Awards Assembly – 8th Grade – 8:05am
- 29 Raising Expectations Awards Assembly – 7th Grade – 9:30am
- 29 Raising Expectations Awards Assembly – 6th Grade – 1:45pm
- 30 No School – Good Friday

April

- 9-20 AzMERIT Testing
- 16 AIMS Science Testing (8th Grade Only)
- 20 Progress Reports

From the Principal..

Dear Parents,

As we wrap up the 3rd quarter of the 2017-2018 school year, I would like to thank you for your partnership. We've had an extremely successful first 3 quarters! Our A+ visit is in the books and I'm happy to report that our visit was fantastic. The judges had wonderful things to say about our school, students, and staff. We should know the outcome of the visit in late April. As soon as we find out, I'll be sure to let you know!

As you may know, the 4th quarter is very busy. It's also the time that our students show what they know on the state test. Students will be taking the AzMERIT this April. The testing schedule is included in this edition of the Communiqué. Please keep the testing schedule in mind when making appointments during the month of April. Thank you for your help!

AzMERIT Testing Information

State testing is just around the corner. Once we return from March break, we will begin reviewing the standards that have been taught throughout the year to best prepare our students for the assessment. Please read the attached letter that explains specifics about the AzMERIT assessment. The letter is full of good information.

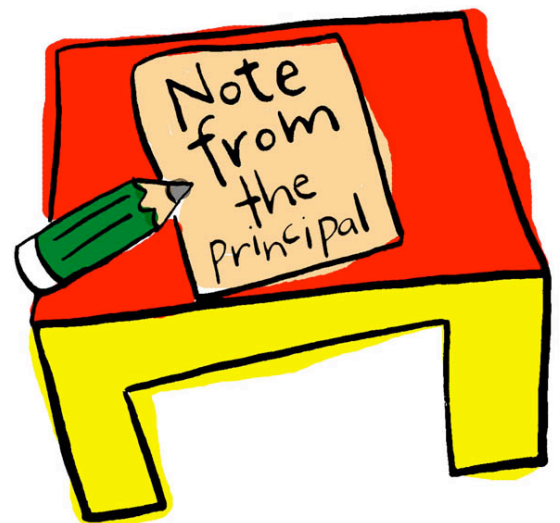
Parent Request for Teachers for the 2018-2019 School Year

A tentative teacher list and teacher request procedures will be announced in our May Communiqué. Watch for details in the May edition.

I hope you find the March break restful and relaxing. Looking forward to an excellent 4th quarter! Thank you again for your support and partnership!

Respectfully,

Katie Dabney
Principal



TESTING INFORMATION

Third quarter benchmark testing is here. Benchmarks assess students' knowledge in the skills and concepts they have been taught this quarter. Please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest the night before the Benchmark tests and a nutritional breakfast in the morning. This will help your child be more successful and perform his or her best.

Testing will occur in the mornings of following days:

ELA Benchmark #3~

Tuesday, February 27th - Teams A, D, E, and 6.1

Wednesday, February 28th - Team 6.2

Thursday, March 1st - Teams B and C

Writing Benchmark #3~

Tuesday, February 27th - Teams B and C

Wednesday, February 28th - Teams A, D, E, and 6.1

Thursday, March 1st - Team 6.2

Math Benchmark #3~

Friday, March 2nd - Teams A, D, E, and 6.1

Monday, March 5th - Team 6.2

Tuesday, March 6th - Teams B and C

Science Benchmark #3 – Thursday, March 8th (7th and 8th grade only)

Remediation

According to Vail's Raising Expectation document found on our website at:

<http://dsms.vail.k12.az.us/raising-expectations/>

Students who fail a core class, a benchmark test, or have nine or more absences in a semester will earn 12 hours of remediation. These remediation classes are offered after school Monday – Thursday, and the schedules for each team can be found in their classrooms. Students may also attend spring intersession to make up their hours. It is very important that your child make up any hours of remediation that he or she earns in order to be promoted at the end of the school year.

AIMS & AzMERIT Testing

2018 AIMS Testing Schedule:

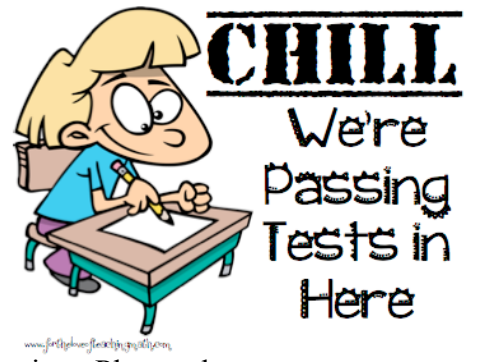
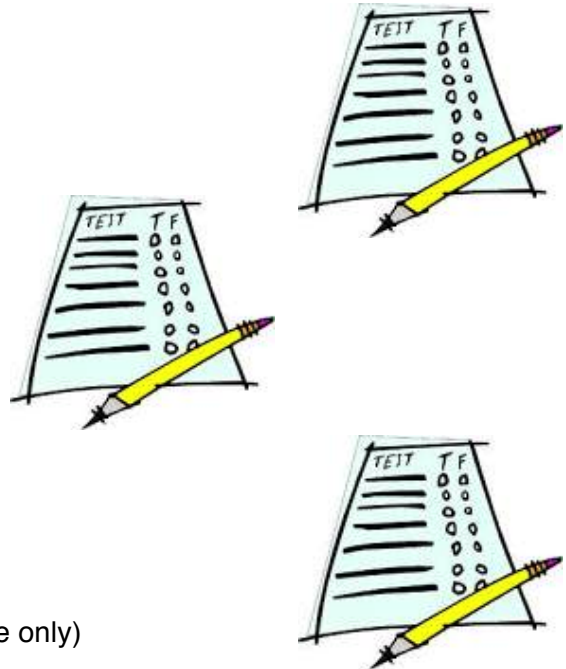
Monday, April 16th - AIMS Science (8th grade only)

AzMERIT testing will be during the weeks of April 9th – April 20th.

See AzMERIT schedule for specific team testing dates.

It is essential that your child attends school during this testing period and is on time. Please plan any appointments or other situations in which you need to take your child out of school around these testing dates. **Students who need to leave school before completing a particular testing session of AIMS or AzMERIT, including those students who leave due to illness, are ineligible to continue the test for that testing session. The student will not be permitted to finish that portion of the test when they return to school.** Your child has been working hard all year mastering grade level concepts. Please aid in their success by making sure they come to class after a full night's rest, have a healthy breakfast, and are on time. If you know your child takes their time on standardized tests, you may want to pack a lunch, as the cafeteria is not the best option for long testers.

Stacey Couzens, Student Achievement Teacher, 879-2709



TEACHER OF THE YEAR - - SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Mr. Rodriguez, PE Teacher and Athletic Director**, and **Mr. Barnard**, Special Needs Paraprofessional. Mr. Rodriguez was voted **Teacher of the Year** and Mr. Barnard won **Support Staff of the Year!** We are very lucky to have these individuals working here at Desert Sky! Make sure to give them your congratulations!

VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR!

Our volunteers enjoyed the Vail Pride Day Volunteer Luncheon at the fairgrounds where we proudly presented the Volunteer Ambassador of the Year for Desert Sky to **Mimi Thomas**. If you see her on campus or elsewhere, be sure and tell her congrats!

LOST AND FOUND NOTICE

This is a notice to let everyone know that items in our Lost and Found Box that have not been claimed before our Spring Break will be donated to a local charity. These items will be laid out during lunch for students to claim from March 5-9, 2018. So, if you've lost something, you may want to come check out our Lost and Found Box before it's too late! Thank you!



Updated Information

Parents, please take a moment to contact our front office if you or your emergency contacts have recently changed phone number(s). Also, if you have moved and have a new address, please update that as well. Thank you.



STUDENT RECOGNITIONS



It is no secret that the staff at Desert Sky Middle School truly values and appreciates the efforts of its hard-working students. With this in mind, we would like to take the time to recognize and celebrate the many accomplishments of several of our students in each monthly edition of The Cougar Communiqué. These accomplishments may be school or non-school related.

Marquise Livigni (Beard/Thach) - It is with great pleasure that we recognize Marquise as our fantastic student of the month. Marquise is thoughtful and eloquent in his responses and in all that he does. He is caring and respectful toward teachers and students alike. Marquise is generally quiet, but has a terrific sense of humor when he opens up. His curiosity and zest for learning are admirable. We are delighted to have Marquise on our team!

Levi Bryant (Jeffries/Smith-Dryden) - We would like to recognize Levi Bryant. Levi is not only an amazing student academically, but his wonderful personality shines through in all things he does. Levi is extremely polite, well mannered, and friendly to both school staff and his peers. He always has a smile on his face and positive attitude! Levi is always deeply engaged in his school work and his extracurricular activities. He is a wonderful young man and we are so pleased to know him and be able to spend the day with him daily in the classroom!

Kiley Mercer (Golembiewski/Sinko) - We would like to recognize Kiley Mercer as our student of the month. Kiley is a caring, sweet student who is always kind to fellow students and always respectful to staff. Kiley is always prepared and ready to meet each day with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn all that she can. She is focused on her work and makes the most of her time in class each day. She participates in class and is helpful to students and staff. Kiley takes her time to make sure her work is done correctly. We are happy to have Kiley on team Golembiewski/Sinko.

Brennan Abaldo (Buchanan/Hill/Wactor) - It is our pleasure to recognize Brennan Abaldo as our February student of the month. While Brennan consistently earns straight A's, he still chooses to pursue challenges and consistently increase his understanding of the material. Brennan not only actively engages other students during group work, but also pushes them to a better understanding. Because of his sweet personality and caring disposition, he is a stellar example of what it takes to inspire others. Brennan's constant determination to perform as well as he can on his assignments and his ability to work with so many different types of personalities make him an excellent model of what it takes to be a successful cougar! Congratulations, Brennan.

Gage Poryanda (Team A) - We would like to recognize Gage Poryanda as our student of the month. Gage joined Desert Sky this school year and picked up the "Cougar Pride" as if he never missed a beat. He is a high achieving, serious student, that is strong in character. A thinker and a quiet role model, his work ethic shows in all that he does. Gage exemplifies the DSMS commitment to excellence, and we look forward to the greatness in his future!

Aubree Hershberger (Team B) - Seventh grade is an opportunity for radical development in our students. Luckily for us here at DSMS, most students take advantage of this opportunity, but this year, perhaps no student has shown growth like Aubree Hershberger. We have seen her take control of her learning to an impressive effect. We trust her to make smart decisions, work with intellectual honesty, and to always give her all. Thank you, Aubree, for validating so much that we do and for being exactly who you are.

Tyler Kopp (Team C) - Team C would like to recognize Tyler Kopp for his outstanding achievements both in and outside of class. Tyler is an outstanding student who is always looking for ways to reach beyond himself and improve as a scholar. Outside of class, Tyler is a great friend to all on Team C and exemplifies Cougar Pride.

Geanna Bonsell (Team D) - Team D would like to recognize Geanna for a number of reasons. As a new student to DSMS, she has done an amazing job of becoming a Cougar. She is a super hard worker and a very conscientious student. She also has a killer sense of humor. We really enjoy having her on our team!

Alexis Perez (Team E) - Exhibiting perseverance, determination, and a hearty work ethic on a consistent basis, especially at the middle school level, can be quite challenging. However, Lexi Perez has found a way to do so daily all with the most positive of attitudes. Lexi never allows any setbacks to cloud her focus or her judgement. She is the epitome of a model student. Team E could not be prouder of the progress and wonderful perspective that Lexi has brought to the table this school year. Keep on smiling Lexi, and show us how to finish strong!

Jennifer Stulik (ELP) - We would like to recognize Jennifer Stulik. Jennifer stands out as a leader in ELP. She strives to do her personal best daily and leads her group in getting projects done on time and continually provides a quality project that always indicates use of higher order cognitive skills. Jennifer continually seeks out other students needing help and always does it with a big smile. She is also quite athletic, placing second in the district as a cross-country runner. Jennifer is an exceptional young scholar and Desert Sky Cougar.



PARKING LOT REMINDER

Please help us keep our students safe by following the directions of our parking lot monitors. **When entering the parking lot, please proceed to the front of the school to drop off your student, pulling as far up to the front of the line as possible.** By doing this, it helps keep traffic flowing smoothly and quickly moves the line along. Please avoid pulling into a parking spot to drop off your student. This creates a hazard for the student as they try and cross in front of oncoming traffic. Also, please avoid dropping your child off behind the school.

We appreciate your help in keeping our students safe and maintaining a smooth drop off/pick up zone.

AzMERIT Testing Schedule

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 7th grade level for EOC	LA- Part 1 and Math Part 1 Team B 6.1 AIMS Science Make-ups Library w/ Couzens	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

Vail School District No. 20

Approved 12/12/17

PK-8 STUDENT CALENDAR 2018-2019

July							August							September							October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				
29	30	31											30														
November							December							January							February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28				
							30	31																			
March							April							May							June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4						1		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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31																			30								

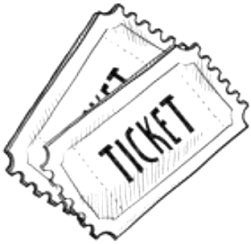
- B/E = Beginning/End of school
- C = Parent/Teacher Conferences (1/2 day for Students)
- T = Teacher Grading Day (1/2 day for Students)
- Y = Inservice for Teachers - 1/2 day for Students
- VPD = Vail Pride Day
- = Holidays/Vacations (No School for Students)

PTA RAFFLE

8th Grade Promotion

Do you want to beat the crowds at 8th Grade Promotion? Raffle tickets for reserved seating and reserved parking spaces are on sale now in the Desert Sky front office. Only parents are able to purchase tickets (no students), thank you for understanding.

Three reserved parking spaces will be raffled off, and two families can win four reserved seats for the ceremony! Buy as many raffle tickets as you'd like to increase your chances to win!



\$5 Each Raffle Ticket
or
\$25 for 6 Tickets!



Tickets on sale NOW until Friday, March 9th, 2018
Winners announced after spring break

100% of Proceeds go Directly to Desert Sky!



Parent Name _____

Student Name _____

Phone Number _____

Amount Enclosed _____

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Parking Space Raffle Tickets (# of tickets? _____)

Reserved Seating Raffle Tickets (# of tickets? _____)

*** Please make checks payable to Desert Sky PTA ***