

Cougar Communiqué

A publication of

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

February 2019



2011, 2018

Dates to Remember

February

Principal, Katie Dabney
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Assistant Principal,
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Desert Sky Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Site Council

Jon Carlyon
(Parent/Community)

Amanda Jensen
(Parent/Community)

Kiki Ngo
(Parent/Community)

Karleene Talley
(Parent/Community)

Sheri Aken
(Certified Staff)

Ming Chen
(Support Staff)

Abby Jackson
(Certified Staff)

- 4-8 Spring Book Fair
- 4 Girls' Basketball/Boys' Soccer vs. CFMS – home – 3:45pm
- 4-8 Love of Reading Week**
- 4-28 Pennies for Patients Fundraiser Begins
- 6 Girls' Basketball/Boys' Soccer vs. OVMS – home – 3:45pm
- 7,8 Parent/Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal – 12:00pm**
- 8 Progress Reports**
- 11 Girls' Basketball/Boys' Soccer vs. RVMS – home – 3:45pm
- 13 Girls' Basketball/Boys' Soccer @ RVMS – 3:45pm
- 15 Early Dismissal – 12:00pm**
- 16 Vail Pride Day – Pima County Fairgrounds
- 18 Girls' Basketball vs. VAHS – home – 3:45pm
- 18 Boys' Soccer @ VAHS – 3:45pm
- 20 Girls' Basketball/Boys' Soccer vs. CFMS- 3:45pm
- 21, 22 No School – Rodeo Break**
- 25 Girls' Basketball/Boys' Soccer vs. ES – 3:45pm
- 26 ELA Benchmark #3 – (Teams E, B 6.2 Beard)**
- 27 Girls' Basketball/Boys' Soccer vs. VA – 3:45pm
- 27 Site Council Meeting – Media Center – 4:00pm
- 27 ELA Benchmark#3 – (Teams A, D, C Jeffries, Smith-Dryden & Thach)**
- 28 Math Benchmark #3 – (Team E, B, 6.2 Beard)**
- 28 WEB Skate Night 6:00pm-8:00pm

March

- 1 Math Benchmark #3 (Teams A, D, C Jeffries, Smith-Dryden & Thach)**
- 1 Spring Dance – Gym – 4:00pm – 6:00pm
- 4 Spring Pictures**
- 4 Benchmark #3 Make-ups**
- 4-8 Spirit Week
- 6 Science Benchmark #3 – Testing 7th and 8th**
- 7 6th Grade Awards Assembly – MPR – 1:45pm**
- 8 7th Grade Awards Assembly – MPR – 8:05am**
- 8 8th Grade Awards Assembly – MPR – 9:30am**
- 8 Report Cards Mailed Home**
- 8 PRIDE Reward – 1:45pm
- 11 Spring Break Begins – School Resumes March 25th**
- 25 School Resumes**

From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we have already started the 3rd quarter of the 2018-2019 school year. As we move into the second half of the school year, students are more focused and ready to learn than ever. Each instructional day provides students with the opportunity to learn something new, master a skill previously taught, or extend their learning through enrichment. At Desert Sky we believe that we are building a community of learners, which means that every minute of every day students are engaged in the learning process.

We know that the level of parental involvement is an essential element to our school's success. I would like to share some easy ways to stay involved:

- *You can access your child's grades anytime at <https://ps.vail.k12.az.us/public/home.html> as long you have a username or password. Our Site Tech Coordinator, Mr. Jones (879-2707), can provide assistance with PowerSchool as needed. This is a great way to stay informed of your child's progress, view assignments, and citizenship.
- *Be sure to check your child's agenda each day to view homework assignments, DMS daily scores, and student behavior.
- *Check out our teachers' Schoology page for the latest news and assignments found on the left side of your PowerSchool homepage.
- *Call or email your child's teacher. Our teachers strive to return voicemail and email by the following day (Monday-Friday).
- *Attend parent teacher conferences, which will occur on February 7th & 8th.
- *Volunteer! Mrs. Wactor, Desert Sky's Volunteer Coordinator, is always searching for volunteers to work in classrooms, tutor students, help out in the workroom, or support staff at our various community events. She can be reached at 879-2011.

We look forward to working with you and your child during the second-half of the school year.

Sincerely,

Katie Dabney, Principal

Benchmark #3

In February and March, all students will be taking the Benchmark #3 tests in reading, writing, and math. Testing takes place on the mornings of the dates listed below. If possible, please make sure your child does not have any outside appointments scheduled during these days. It is also important that students get plenty of rest the night before, have a healthy breakfast, and do their best.

February 26th – ELA – Teams E, B, 6.2
Teacher: Beard

February 27th – ELA – Teams A, D, C
Teachers: Jeffries, Smith-Dryden & Thach

February 28th – ELA – Teams E, B, 6.2
Math– Teacher: Beard

March 1st – Math – Teams A, D, C
Teacher: Thach, Jeffries, & Smith-Dryden

March 6th – Science 7th & 8th Grade

The Vail School District Raising Expectations document states:

A District Assessment will be given to all students for math and reading prior to the end of the first three quarters. Any 6th - 8th grade student who falls far below the district assessment standard will be required to complete 12 hours of remediation for each deficient area.

AzMERIT testing will occur in April. This is our state assessment for writing, reading, and math.

Calculators are allowed on certain sections of the AzMERIT math test.

With this in mind, Desert Sky has purchased several classroom sets of calculators for students to use. Our teachers have incorporated their use into lessons when it is appropriate, and lead our students in how to access the advanced functions and capabilities. We will continue to value pencil-and-paper solving while recognizing the value of using the tools and technology available to us.

We want to make you aware of the model we are using, in case you want to purchase one for your child. This is optional. Purchasing one for your child will allow him or her to use it at home on homework and projects, and will increase their familiarity with its capabilities.

We are currently using the Texas Instruments TI-30XS MultiView scientific calculator. These are available at stores like Target, Walmart, Amazon and office stores, and sell for around \$15. If you purchase one for your child, please label it with his or her name using permanent marker or some other means.

Thank you for all you do to support our school and our students!



DESERT SKY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parent-Teacher Conference Information

Conferences are scheduled to be held on **February 7th and 8th**. Students will be released at 12:00 pm on these days. The conference schedule is as follows:

Thursday, 2/7 12:30 - 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, 2/8 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Sixth grade teachers will schedule individual conferences with parents. Forms to sign up will be coming home soon with 6th graders.

7th and 8th grade core teachers, as well as Art, Band, Music/Choir, P.E., STEM, ELP and Special Education teachers will be available on a walk-in basis.

We look forward to meeting with you during conference times. Parent-Teacher conferences are extremely important as they provide the opportunity for you, your child, and your child's teachers to meet to review your student's progress.

Our goal is to meet with one-hundred percent of parents. If you are unable to attend conferences during these times, please contact your child's teacher via e-mail or phone to arrange for another opportunity.



Congratulations to Elise Weber, Olivia Bustamante, and Maizee Piper-Boynton for making it all of the way to the district spelling bee!!! Each of these talented spellers handled the day with decorum and Desert Sky spirit! We are so proud of them!



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.

Sylvia Gavin (Beard/Thach) - We would like to recognize Sylvia Gavin as our wonderful student of the month. Sylvia is a hardworking, dedicated student. She is always on task and works great in collaborative groups. Her positive attitude and joy for learning are a sight to see. Sylvia can be quiet and “fly under the radar”, but we see her and what an awesome person/student she is! We are honored to have her on our team!

Evan Golembiewski (Jeffries/ Smith-Dryden)- The Jeffries/Smith-Dryden team would like to recognize Evan Golembiesski for his outstanding achievement! Evan is such a great student, role model, and leader in class. He will do everything, and more, that is asked of him, and he will jump in and help his fellow classmates when they need help. Evan is such a hardworking student who is successful inside and outside the classroom. Evan shows kindness to his friends and classmates and is always very respectful. Evan is a true Desert Sky Cougar and we are very proud of him and all his accomplishments!

Madison Simmons (Golembiewski/Santos) - Mrs. Golembiewski and Ms. Santos would like to recognize Madison Simmons as our outstanding student of the month. Madison consistently seeks to be the best in all areas of learning. She is a proactive learner, an eloquent leader, and a very kind and courteous student. Madison is also very much admired for her impeccable adaptability and patience. She is able to work cooperatively and build positive relationships with variety of students and personalities. We are very honored to have Madison in our team. Stay amazing, Madison!

Dallin Tripp (Buchanan/Hill) - Mrs. Hill and Ms. Buchanan would like to recognize Dallin Tripp as our delightful student of the month. Dallin is such a positive and energetic member of our class and an inspiration to us all to keep positivity at the forefront of our interactions with others. He brings a smile to everyone’s face when he enters the room! When it comes to his academics, Dallin is very conscientious about turning in quality work on time and doing his best on every assignment. He exudes enthusiasm and faces every challenge with a can-do attitude. Not only is he dedicated with his academics, he is also one of those truly caring souls who jumps in to help

out whenever he can. Dallin is a valuable and appreciated part of our day, so we are pleased to honor him as our February student of the month! Congratulations, Dallin!

Joshua Dokken (Team A) - Team A would like to recognize Mr. Joshua Dokken as our outstanding student of the month. Joshua continually demonstrates caring, kindness, and respect to all individuals on campus. He is always engaged in his academics, which is evident in the exemplary work he submits. When faced with challenges, Joshua perseveres, achieves success, and does so with a smile. Joshua is a living example of the ACT statement. We are very blessed to have Joshua at our school and proud to have him represent Team A. Congratulations, Joshua!

Caroline Erickson (Team B) - There are many reasons to go into teaching, but for most of us, we get into the profession because of the students. At the beginning of each year, there are a few quintessential students that walk into our classroom: students who are willing to put in hard, focused work, more positive than even their teachers, intellectually curious, and always, always kindhearted to all. Callie is a student just like this, the kind of student that teachers wait their entire careers to teach. And she is an even better person. Thank you, Callie and the entire Erickson family!

Reece Gallaher (Team C) - Team C would love to recognize Reece Gallaher as our outstanding student of the month. Reece is diligent and hard working in all of his classes, always staying on top of his homework and making sure he asks appropriate and probing questions in class. Aside from his scholarship, Reece is an amazing student because of his attitude toward school. Reece is always excited to be at school and ready to tackle any challenge placed in front of him. Reece is both kind and conscientious, making sure that all he meets feel welcome and at ease. We all truly love having Reece on our team and are so lucky to call him a Cougar.

Tevyn Hill (Team D) - Team D would like to recognize a quiet but dazzling star—Tevyn Hill. Tevyn exhibits all of the qualities we would expect in a Cougar. He has an impeccable work ethic, actively participates in class, and is respectful to students and staff. Tevyn is also very active in extra-curricular activities. He has been a tremendous addition to the Robotics Club this year, has dedicated many hours to National Junior Honor Society activities including tutoring other students, and he has recently taken CNC by storm. On top of this, Tevyn is probably one of the nicest kids Team D has ever had the honor of knowing. He is a super star!!!

Efren Escoto (Team E) - For many, conformity is the name of the game when it comes to middle school. Behave, dress, and have the same hobbies as your classmates. However, quite a few students identify middle school as a time to break that mold. Efren Escoto is one of those students. He has grown into his own this school year and is pushing himself to succeed both in and out of the classroom. He does not settle for average and is constantly asking questions to gain a better understanding of the content being taught. He is not afraid to identify areas of struggle and strives to improve upon them. We are so proud of Efren and the perseverance he has shown. We know he will continue to achieve. Great job, Efren! Keep up the good work!

Lute Chavez(Specialist) - We would like to recognize Lute Chavez as our outstanding student of the month. Lute does a phenomenal job being an active participant in whatever activity he is asked to do. He is extremely respectful and demonstrates a work ethic that is above and beyond. Lute has a positive attitude and a desire to learn. Thank you Lute for being a great example of a model student.



8th Grade Promotion Ceremony -

Our 8th grade promotion ceremony will be held on **Thursday, May 23rd** at **10:30am** in the Desert Sky Gymnasium. **We will be issuing tickets for the event, and the limit this year will be 4 tickets for each family. Please watch for more information to come regarding this process.** We look forward to seeing you in attendance to help honor our 18th class of promoting 8th graders.



Dear Parents and Families,

The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way! The book fair will have a wonderful selection of fiction and nonfiction titles that will appeal to middle school student and adults.

Mark your calendar for our Family Event where the family can join in the fun. The Book Fair is a great way to get everyone excited about reading.

Book Fair Dates: Monday, February 4th to Friday, February 8th

Shopping Hours: 7:45 am to 3:45 pm

Special Events: Family Night Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 pm (during the first day of Parent Teacher Conferences).

Our Scholastic Book Fair is part of a reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging and affordable books for kids who want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books to motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get.

If you cannot make it to the Book Fair, you can order books on line for a limited time (01/28/19 through 2/15/19) and Desert Sky will get credit for the sales. Online advantages include:

- * Send wish lists to family and friends
- * All orders ship for free to school
- * Browse an expanded book selection - including Storia eBooks

Go to scholastic.com/bookfairs



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 \$38 to \$40 in February and \$45 in May!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Willard at 520-879-2754
or willardm@vailschooldistrict.org

PK-8 STUDENT CALENDAR 2019-2020

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
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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	29

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
- [Black Box] = Holidays/Vacations (No School for Students)

Save the Saturday!

Vail Pride Day

Events

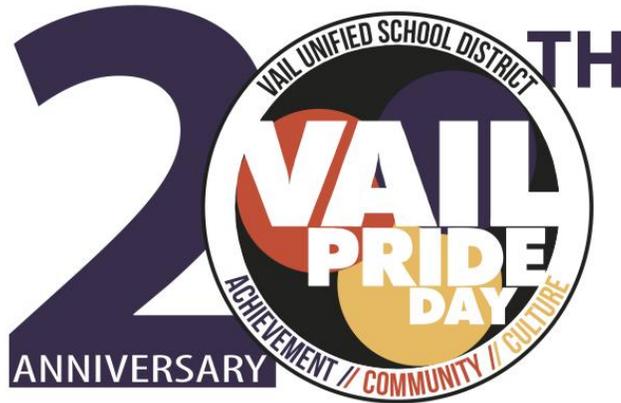
- Academic Jeopardy
- Awards Ceremony
- School Displays
- K-8 Music Performances
- Math Bowl
- Community Booths
- STEM Showcase
- Special Performances
- Kidz Zone
- Jumping Castles
- Petting Zoo
- Parade

Saturday,
February 16th

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Pima County
Fairgrounds

11300 S. Houghton Rd



Free
Admission

Visit vailprideday.org for more information and to access the Vail Pride Day Apparel Showroom