

SCHOOL NEWS

Sonoran Heights Elementary School • The Sonoran Scoop

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A Note from Mrs. Dean

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the end of first quarter quickly approaches, we have many things to celebrate as a school community. Our student Excelling Celebration took place last Friday. The event was possible thanks to donations from Dickenson's Theater and our wonderful PTO. The movie themed event was a wonderful way to express our gratitude for the hard work of our stars, the students at Sonoran Heights. Our first Family Game Night was also a huge success for the community here at Sonoran. The evening held fun for both the students and parents and over 170 people attended! What a great way to kick off the year!

Parent/Teacher Conferences are around the corner. At these conferences you will receive first quarter grades along with your child's assessments thus far this year, including benchmark results and DIBELS scores. In addition, in grades four and up you will be given your child's progress on their CORE Learning. CORE Learning is a program designed to support your child in developing a love of learning and leadership skills by focusing on four aspects of student growth. The four components to CORE Learning include: key competencies, student engagement, stretch learning and personal skill development. Each of these components focuses on preparing your child to become a life-long learner and leader beyond traditional standardized testing results. We believe that the strength of our program is the integration of all four components rather than isolated success in an individual area.

The first component, **key competencies**, reflects your child's progress towards rigorous standards of academic success in reading, writing, math, social studies, science and special areas as well as assessment results. Traditionally, this component is your child's report card and AIMS achievement results.

The second component, **student engagement**, focuses on the extent to which your child feels motivated to learn, has a sense of belonging and has support in their efforts towards success at school. This includes behaviors in regard to your child as a role model to others through daily attendance, minimal tardies, discipline feedback and participation in special area classes (Music, Art, P.E. and Library).

Stretch learning, or personal enrichment, focuses on the development of relevant learning beyond the minimum requirements in school. This can include any activity outside the school day that focuses on expanding/sharing their knowledge such as: writing a book to be shared at school, creating an invention and presenting it to the class, music lessons/performances, trips to museums and educational places, participation in community sports and programs and interactive educational web sites such as Study Island. The goal of stretch learning is to have your child participate in learning that takes place everywhere and is not limited to the classroom.

The final component of CORE Learning is **personal skill development**. This is your child's opportunity to develop leadership and community support skills. Activities include participating in our peer tutoring program, volunteering hours and attending school and community events that help support our community as a whole.

As always I look forward to seeing you on campus!

Emily Dean

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EVERY MONDAY release at 2:45 p.m.

www.dysart.org/sonoranheights

- Please call the attendance line, 623-523-8553, when your child is late or not in school.
- If a student arrives at school after 9:00 AM, they must be signed in by a parent or guardian.

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PTO Spotlight

Our school year has started off with a **BANG** in the PTO! We would like to welcome new and returning families to Sonoran Heights Elementary School and invite you to join us in getting involved and making a difference in our school community.

BOOM! In August we enjoyed meeting all the new Hawks as well as catching up with our returning Hawk families at Meet The Teacher Night, where the PTO sold over 120 new Spirit Shirts. Just a sign that our Hawks were gearing up for our Friday Spirit Shirt Contests! We were excited to talk to so many families ready to get involved in the PTO! We fought the heat by drinking refreshing Jamba Juice and slurping down Otter Pops, thanks to those parents who “kept their cool” and helped make those four weeks so *HOT* for the PTO. At Curriculum Night we named an individual Box Top Winner in our Box Top Contest, Cayden Gutches of Mrs. Mullins class, who brought in 708 Box Tops. WOW! With the end of August came the end to our Box Top Contest and the counting of over 6,000 Box Tops donated by the entire school. Mrs. Carbajal’s Second Grade class just beat Mrs. Mullins Kindergarten class as the big winner of our classroom Box Top Contest with over 900 Box Tops collected. Thank you to all the families that helped us raise over \$600 with this contest. **KEEP THOSE BOX TOPS COMING!**

POW! Our PTO meeting in September set a record for parents in attendance – **AND WE LOVED IT!** National Junior Honor Society is assisting in childcare at all of our PTO meetings, so feel free to bring the kids. Our volunteers sampled some fajitas from Chili’s -- our PTO Spirit Night Sponsor in September. Our big BANG in September was Family Game Night! Thank you so much to all the volunteers -- they made the night of Bingo, board games and Wii action a great success filled with memorable moments.

BANG! Let’s explode into October! After Fall Break we will have our monthly PTO meeting on Wednesday, October 14th at 6:30 pm. Our meeting will be held in the school’s Library and we will be serving up Barro’s (our Spirit Night Sponsor) for dinner. NJHS will be keeping all the little Hawks entertained while we start planning our annual Fall Festival and Book Fair. Don’t forget to mention Sonoran Heights at Barro’s Pizza on Tuesday, October 20th for our Spirit Night -- dine-in, delivery or carry-out.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.SONORANHEIGHTSPTO.COM

Great Start in Kindergarten

Kindergarten is off to a fantastic start this school year! The students are busy with sound/symbol recognition and learning to read color words. They are even starting journals, working on writing words and sentences! Math skills involve sorting and learning shapes. Students are studying plants in Science and will soon be growing plants of their own.

Thank you to our parents, who have been so generous with their time, support and donations. We are looking forward to a fantastic Fall and all of the exciting things to come!



First Graders Study Seasons



First graders are excited about planting various seeds and watching the life cycles of plants. We are also looking forward to experiencing the changes of Autumn, as we discuss the seasons and introduce Johnny Appleseed to the class.

Bugs the Rage in 2nd Grade

Second grade is going buggy! We are learning about life cycles by observing our own collection of bugs in the classroom. We are also looking at what makes an insect an insect. In Math we continue

to work on addition with regrouping and practicing our basic facts.



Reading has a new theme:

Neighborhoods and Communities. And in Writing we are composing paragraphs that include a topic sentence, supporting details, and a closing sentence.

Third Grade -- Scientists and Storytellers

Third graders have been working very hard in Science this month. The students wrapped up their studies on sound by creating a presentation to share with the class using posters. The presentations were awesome and very informative! We are ready to begin our next unit on plants. Our 3rd grade botanists will be planting, observing and recording data while learning the different parts and functions of plants.

While reading and learning about the fun components to a Trickster Tale, 3rd Grade students were planning and writing their own Trickster Tales. The students followed the writing process all the way through to publishing and came up with some fabulously funny stories about tricksters and all of the tricks they played on other silly characters!

