



# Mustang Messenger

## Sweetwater School

4602 W. Sweetwater Avenue  
Glendale, Arizona 85304-6520

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April 8, 2016

### Principal's Message:



Dear Parents,  
Thank you for all of the support you gave to your child and the school the week of AzMERIT testing. It was greatly appreciated as we reached our goal of getting all students tested. Students put

forth their best effort on these extensive assessments.

Now for some upcoming fun! **We are having our Annual PTO Family Fun Night (formerly known as "BINGO" night) on Friday, April 22. Pizza and soda will be sold starting at 5:30 p.m. and game play starts at 6:00 p.m.** Mark your calendar. We are still looking for donations for our grade level prize baskets that we have a drawing for that evening. We will sell pizza again and all grade levels can play bingo. The bingo cards are free, although we appreciate any donations to defer the cost of this fantastic, fun, family evening. So mark your calendars and come to eat and play.

**The entire school is getting ready for our school-wide Leadership Day on Friday, April 29!** The event takes place in the morning and this year, **ALL students are getting free T-shirts to wear that day, purchased by the Student Lighthouse Team.** Our Student Lighthouse Team leaders decided to make that one of the purchases that our cookie dough sale supported this year. We want Sweetwater to be a "sea" of blue on that day, unified in color and leadership spirit. **Parents of any students who are speaking, performing or in a classroom that is on the tour will receive an individual invitation.** If you get one of those invitations, please note that we need an **RSVP** to prepare for the day. As always, thank you for all you do for your student leaders to support them in their success at Sweetwater.

Sincerely,  
Luanne Herman



### School Tax Credit Donations Can Apply to 2015 Tax Filing

We at Sweetwater School would like to thank parents/guardians and community members for the many ways in which you support our school, students and programs. One way that you support us is through tax credit donations.

In the past we have used tax credit donations to fund after-school and sports programs. This year, we will use tax credit donations for the continued implementation of The Leader in Me, after-school drama club and sports.

There's still time to make a tax credit donation and have it apply to your 2015 taxes. Tax credit donations made on or before April 15, 2016 can be used to help reduce your 2015 or 2016 tax liability. The choice is yours.

To make a donation, simply go to the WESD Web site, [www.wesdschools.org](http://www.wesdschools.org), and click the "Donate Now" button to donate online. If you prefer to print a form, go to "About WESD" and click "Tax Credit." Complete the tax credit form and return it to Sweetwater School.

#### State Department of Revenue Guidelines

- The tax credit program gives a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state income taxes. The credit is \$400 for married taxpayers that file a joint return and \$200 for single taxpayers or heads of households. If married taxpayers file separate returns, each spouse may claim one-half of the credit that would have been allowed.
- Public education tax credits may only be used to the extent that they reduce a tax liability to zero. Any unused amounts may be carried forward for not more than five consecutive years.
- You do not need to have a child enrolled in a school to take advantage of this tax credit.
- If a program is not designated by the contributor, the school will choose a program based on greatest need.
- Checks must be made payable to the individual school of the taxpayer's choice.
- Tax credit donations must be made on or before April 15 to be applied to the prior year's taxes.

When the school receives the check, a receipt will be issued for the individual's tax record. The District will also submit notification to the Arizona Department of Revenue.

For further information, contact your neighborhood WESD school or Chris Wing in the Accounting Department at 602-347-2631.

4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • [www.wesdschools.org](http://www.wesdschools.org)

Governing Board: Aaron Jahneke, President • Clorinda Graziano, Vice President  
Bill Adams, Member • Larry Herrera, Member • Tee Lambert, Member

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

## Library News



A big thank you to the Washington Education Foundation and Barnes and Noble for the generous donation of books that were donated to the Library. We appreciate their dedication to our community.

We have more great news. Destiny Quest, our computer based library catalog, is now online. This is so exciting because now you and your student can access our library site from any computer or device. Destiny Quest can be used to look to see if we have a particular book, place a hold, check to see what your student has checked out and access our research tools, WebPath and One Search.

Access our site by going to our Web address: <http://destiny.wesdschools.org> and choose Sweetwater School. You can also get the free Destiny Quest app on Google Play, The Apple App Store, or for Kindle on Amazon. Search for "Destiny Quest." To log in to your child's account, use his or her student number as the user ID and his or her last name as the password. Need help? Feel free to call me at 602-896-6509.

*Nicole Gonzalez*



### Girls Softball Team

Jenavee Manriquez, Dana Hite, Emily Alvarez, Jessica Huey, Aubrey Chavez, Erin Petersen, Andraleia Chavez, Alexis Mounts, Stephanie Olson, LeAnna Clipper, Pearce Atwell, Amberleigh Castillo and Dalaney Thompson

Our first game is Monday, April 18, at Orangewood starting at 4:15 p.m., and the first home game is Thursday, April 21, at Desert Foothills at 4:15 p.m.

## Visitors to Campus

No visitors will be allowed to the classroom during the instructional day unless the teacher has made prior arrangements for the visit and notifies the office ahead of time. No entry will be allowed to the rooms without teacher approval, this includes deliveries to the rooms of party balloons, treats, etc. These items will be delivered by staff to the classroom when it does not disrupt instruction in the room.

We are now accepting open enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year. Please call our office at 602-896-6500 for more information.

## Sweetwater School Recognized

Three WESD schools – Sunburst, Sunset and Sweetwater – were recently recognized in a national study for closing the achievement gap. According to the Education Equality Index (EEI), a first of its kind tool, students from low income communities in Arizona have more access to schools that are helping them achieve at similar levels as their more advantaged peers than students in nearly every other state including Colorado, California and Nevada. Notably, Phoenix's achievement gap is smaller than nearly 75 percent of major U.S. cities. Arizona is home to three of the 10 cities with the smallest achievement gap. Ten schools were highlighted and Sunburst, Sunset and Sweetwater were three of those schools identified as top performers in the state!

## Parents Picking Up Children During School or at the End of the Day

When parent's pick up a student from school, the student will be called to the office AFTER the parent has arrived. Students will not miss instructional time by waiting in the office for a parent to arrive. Please allow adequate time to enter the office, sign out the student and wait for him or her to come to the office. Please inform your child what he or she is to do after school so classes do not need to be interrupted. Also, phone requests to hold a student off the bus because a parent is picking up MUST be made by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and by 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Phone calls that are made later than that do not allow us enough time to keep the children from boarding the bus.

## Thank You to our Parents

Thank you to all of you who are demonstrating leadership by following the safety rules for student drop-off and pickup. Just a reminder that we are trying to teach students the importance of crossing at a crosswalk. We appreciate your modeling this safe practice.

## Promotion 2016 Reminders

We are excited and looking forward to the upcoming promotion celebration that will be held at Sweetwater School on Friday, May 20, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the school courtyard. We want to make every effort to ensure that this is a special and memorable occasion for all of our students and their families. We are calling this a promotion celebration because graduation connotes an end or completion. We believe all of our students have an opportunity for a successful educational experience ahead of them. Therefore, as you begin planning for this event, please save some special moments for high school and college by avoiding formals, limos, etc. An informational packet regarding the end-of-year events and promotion activities was sent home at the end of March.

As a reminder, in order to meet the requirements for being promoted to the next grade level junior high students need to receive a minimum of four (4) grade points, which is equivalent to a "D" average, in each of the four core classes. Academic grades are examined at the end of each grading quarter to determine a student's educational progress. Parents of any student who is currently in danger of *not* meeting these academic expectations were last notified via the third quarter report card.

## NJHS Applications are due Thursday, April 14

Applications for membership into the Sweetwater chapter of the National Junior Honor Society are made available to students in the sixth through eighth grades who met the academic criteria for membership and have not had any major behavioral issues during the year. Applications will not be accepted beyond the due date.

The National Junior Honor Society focuses on five main qualities: outstanding scholarship, positive character, strong leadership, exemplary citizenship and self-sacrificing service.

Membership is not guaranteed because a student received an application. In order to be eligible, students must have maintained a minimum of a 3.5 grade point average during *all three* grading quarters for this school year. Students interested in applying for membership must complete the full application, answer two essays, provide community service and school participation information and include three letters of recommendation from teachers, coaches and nonrelatives who have knowledge of the student's academic excellence, community service projects and involvement within an extracurricular activities.

Students who turn in an application will be notified of their membership status by Wednesday, April 20, 2016. The NJHS Induction Ceremony will be held in the cafeteria from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2016.



**Don't forget to check the lost and found for items you may be missing. There are many coats, sweaters and lunchboxes.**



## Sweetwater Calendar of Events

**Early Release Wednesdays Dismissal Time – 1:00 p.m.**

### April

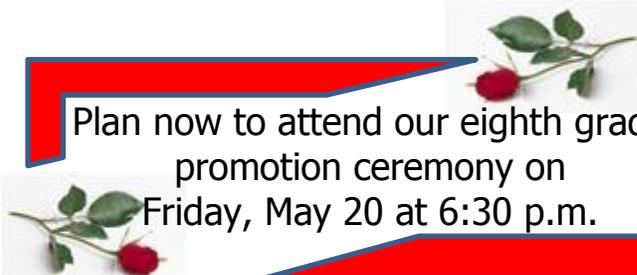
14	Family Links, 5:30 p.m.
19	Yogurtini Night, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
20	Midterms go home K-3 Field Day
21	4-6 Grade Field Day
22	7/8 Grade Field Day Family Fun Night, 5:30 p.m.
25	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
26	Greenway Choir Festival, 7:00 p.m.
29	Leadership Day
30	5/6 Grade Track Meet, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.



### May

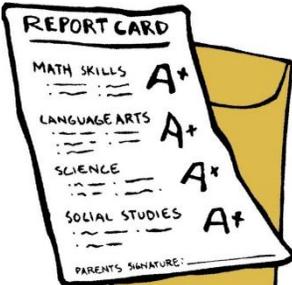
3	Teacher Appreciation Day
4	National School Nurse Day
5	Family Links, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
6	Lamp of Learning Awards
10	NJHS Induction Ceremony, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
12	Family Links, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
13	Drama Performance, 7:00 p.m.
17	Fine Arts Night, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
19	Promotion Dance, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
<b>20</b>	<b>Promotion Ceremony, 6:30 p.m.</b>
23	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
<b>24</b>	<b>Last Day of School Early Dismissal</b>

**Plan now to attend our eighth grade promotion ceremony on Friday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.**



## Principal's List

## Honor Roll

<p><b><u>KURE</u></b> Kelly Donnell Robi Piotrowski</p>	<p><b><u>ARMSTRONG</u></b> Samantha Buttermore Don Ngo Jayden Rodgers Robert Stewart</p>	<p><b><u>KURE</u></b> Hussein Al Aboudi Asonti Buffington Eric Davis Hayleigh Davis Mia Mazullo Christian More Kaiden Morrison-Kelley Edward Paredes Ortega Joshua Plain Jeran Robinson-Oxley Javion Smelley Clarissa Thurber</p>	<p><b><u>ARMSTRONG</u></b> Mitchelle Kiprotich Duy Pham</p>
<p><b><u>O'HAIR</u></b> Jon Beasley Malahki Jones Nicholas Martinez</p>	<p><b><u>LAUN</u></b> Rosa Abina Ariana Alter Micaela Ontiveros</p>	<p><b><u>O'HAIR</u></b> Sorren Anderson Dilon Kelbaugh Ryan McPherson Calvin Ngo Benicio Wilson</p>	<p><b><u>LAUN</u></b> Jacob Ankrom Nailyn Escarcega Madrid Sean O'Brien Meagan Okken Jesikah Perez</p>
<p><b><u>RAMIREZ</u></b> Paula Marie Alcordo Nathaniel Allen Mia Geiger Steven Hill Yamileika Vargas Annalica Walton Faith-Ann Wardell</p>	<p><b><u>BRUSS</u></b> Aliyah Balderrama Aubrey Chavez Daniel Hill Shirlin Kiprotich Jenavee Manriquez Nyla Mensey Gavin Piña Morgan Sack Jaqueline Salgado Myleciya Tucker Michael Vazquez</p>	<p><b><u>RAMIREZ</u></b> Al'Tinah Bell Taelor Benfield-Davis Alexander Calhoun Hunter Hart Izabelle Hernandez Peyton McMacken</p>	<p><b><u>BRUSS</u></b> Rylee Bruce Jonathan Denny Owen Millard</p>
<p><b><u>STALLMAN</u></b> Travis Albert Milena Alter Zachary Douwstra Albert More JC Paz Kayla Sanchez Chavarria Olivia Wilson</p>	<p><b><u>NAPIER</u></b> Emily Alvarez Ramirez Sebian Carver Morgan Dains Isabelle Donnell Jessica Huey Savannah Huff Ivan Lopez Anissa Martinez Cynthia Martinez Mila Nguyen Damien Steiner Jasmine Thurber</p>	<p><b><u>STALLMAN</u></b> Avery Atwell Shaelynn Carty Danielle Chandler Lesly Hernandez Cortes Domenic Mounts Josilynn Reyes Alyssa Vildosola</p>	
<p><b><u>CLIPPER</u></b> Allanna Anaya Amberleigh Castillo ShayLee Hepburn Colin McDonald Alexis Mounts Camden Ohrns Sara Pelkola Carlos Piña Jackson Thorp Ammalia Walker</p>	<p><b><u>WHALIN</u></b> Samantha Brown LeAnna Clipper Alejandro Garcia Kendra Gorman Connor Huey Aaron Lopez Rebekah Montgomery Kaylie Phillippi Nia Porter Elissa Quintero</p>	<p><b><u>CLIPPER</u></b> Seth Aponte Pearce Atwell Andraleia Chavez Charles Dains Bradley Guerrero Dustyn LaFountaine Erin Petersen Harley Roberts Dalaney Thompson</p>	
		<p><b><u>WHALIN</u></b> Shams Al-Hamedany Brandon Poland Anthony Ruiz Tessa Sivesind Paylee Weese</p>	



**Congratulations to our  
Sweetwater Leaders**