



# Mustang Messenger

## Sweetwater School

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December 4, 2015

### Principal's Message:



Dear Parents,  
It's a fantastic time of the year with a holiday concert, drama performance and other exciting activities for students. **What if I told you that you could invest in your child's education with no actual expense to you in the end?** Does that sound too fantastic to be true?

Well that is essentially what the Arizona Tax Credit opportunity means to each of us. **A Tax Credit donation to Sweetwater results in you being refunded that amount dollar-for-dollar when you file your taxes!** Tax credits can be used to support our music programs, athletic programs, field trips and our leadership initiative.

These funds are vital to Sweetwater and have been used to support all of these programs in past years. These are the funds that help support the programs that enrich the lives of our students in areas like fine arts and character education, in addition to the academic teaching that takes place in the classroom. We were able to get our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team new uniforms with tax credit donations this year. Please consider an end-of-year donation to our school. All undesignated funds are managed by our Site Council and are used carefully and conscientiously. If you are not sure what to donate toward, the undesignated funds allow the school to put the money where the greatest need exists. All Arizona residents can donate tax credit to the school, so "Begin With the End in Mind" and "Be Proactive." **Tell your relatives and friends. When you are giving gifts this season, think of Sweetwater. We are so grateful for your continuing support.**

Sincerely, Luanne Herman

### Cross Country

The cross country season concluded on December 1, 2015 at Moon Valley High School. All of the participants did a great job throughout the season. Congratulations to all the athletes at the finals on November 30 and December 1:



- Aliyah Balderrama – 1<sup>st</sup> place
- Jacob Gordon – 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Emerie Mensey – 7<sup>th</sup> place
- Joehanna Hite – 11<sup>th</sup> place
- Javion Smelley – 14<sup>th</sup> place
- Annalica Walton – 15<sup>th</sup> place
- Niko Yosifov – 29<sup>th</sup> place

Unfortunately, Alexis Balderrama was unable to run in the final District meet, but had done a fantastic job all season long!

### Holiday Angel Program

It's not too late to drop off an unwrapped/untagged gift to your child's homeroom teacher to support our Holiday Angel Program. We are also accepting gift cards to local grocery stores and businesses such as Target, Kohl's, Payless Shoes, and Walmart to assist with Sweetwater families who are struggling to make ends meet this holiday season.



*THANK YOU FOR BRINGING A PIECE OF JOY TO OTHERS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON*

### High School Registration Future Freshman Night

Eighth grade students who live in the Glendale Union High School District area will be going over their high school applications in mid-January with Ms. Napier and Mrs. Bruss. Application packets will be going home at that time with several forms for parents to complete. Parents will also need to include copies of their child's birth certificate and immunization records as well as a recent utilities billing statement depicting their current address. Please start preparing the necessary paperwork for this process as soon as possible to ensure a completed registration packet. The registration packets are assigned according to the student's current home address on file with the District.

If a student desires to attend a different high school, his or her parent will need to contact that high school for information on variances and application timelines. Please note: Variances are *not* being offered to students through this evening event.

All high school registration packets must be returned to Ms. Napier no later than Thursday, January 21, so that they can be packaged and sent back to the high schools. After this date, it will be the student's responsibility to return his or her own paperwork to the high school.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Future Freshman Night for all high schools in the GUHSD will be on Thursday, January 14, 2016. Both Moon Valley and Greenway high schools will open the doors to their auditoriums at 6:00 p.m. and the presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. If you are attending another high school in the GUHSD or one outside of the area, please contact that individual school for its scheduled meeting times and registration information.



4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304 • 602-347-2600 • www.wesdschools.org  
Governing Board: Tee Lambert, President • Bill Adams, Vice President  
Clorinda Graziano, Member • Larry Herrera, Member • Aaron Jahneke, Member  
Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

## Grandperson's Day

The Sweetwater National Junior Honor Society and the Student Lighthouse committee co-sponsored the annual Grandperson's Day event held on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving.

Sweetwater students and parents donated over 1,300 food items to be given to St. Mary's Food bank. Each student donating food was entered in a drawing to win a pie. The winners were Brookelynn Phillips in kindergarten and Anthony Ruiz in sixth grade.

We greatly appreciate all of our grandpersons who made our annual event such a huge success. Also, we would like to take this opportunity to send our very best to our extended Sweetwater family this holiday season!

*Ms. Napier, NJHS advisor and  
Ms. Laun, student lighthouse advisor*

## Cookie Dough Fund-raiser Huge Success!

During our recent fund-raiser, Sweetwater student leaders yielded \$4,800 for the student lighthouse team to spend on our students at Sweetwater. Students vote on how the money is spent, and they support school dances, field trips, incentives and rewards for students.



Congratulations to Mrs. Scott's kindergarten class whose sales totaled \$2,017. This top-selling class enjoyed a pizza party on November 6.

We also want to acknowledge students who sold more than \$300. These students were invited to an ice cream social with Mrs. Herman on November 2.

**Kassidy Morrison, Gary Kelly III, Megan Pelser, Justin Meier, Robert Stewart, Robert Nicasro, Chase Stegmeir, Michael McArdle, Keelyn Kane and Margarite Culp.**

*Thank you to all our family support with this successful fund-raiser.*

## KIDSPACE News!

Come one, come all! We have been very busy cooking, gardening, having FUN, playing foosball, making tin can robots/monsters, learning about good characteristics that work along with our 7 Habits and assist us in being good friends, having FUN with Steve Spangler's science experiments (more to come all year), having FUN, playing games (indoor and outdoor), recycle gizmos and gadgets, did I mention HAVING FUN!

Join us in our before- (6:30 a.m.-7:25 a.m.) and after- (2:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m., Wednesdays 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.) school program. We welcome you into our crazy, mysterious, FUNtabulous array of exciting activities!

*Marilyn Snyder, site coordinator*



**Don't forget to check the lost and found for items you may be missing.**

**Unclaimed items will be donated December 18, 2015**

## Parent University

### Has Something for Everyone



Parents/Guardians: WESD's sixth annual Parent University is coming Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 7:45 a.m. to noon, and registration is now underway! This is a free, half-day learning opportunity for all

parents/guardians.

Does your child need extra assistance in math? What is STEM and why is it important? How can you support your child in successfully completing his or her homework? Do you wonder about District and State assessments and what your child's scores mean? How can you help your youngster be a successful reader and writer? These topics and many more will be offered to promote **academic success**.

How can you give your child some freedom on the computer and still protect him or her against cyberbullying? How can you talk to your child about the dangers of substance abuse? What can you do to help your child avoid bullying behaviors? These are a few of the **student safety** topics that will be presented.

Can you actually save money through couponing? What does it mean to parent with love and logic? What community resources are available for families in need? How do you talk to your children about money? How can you become an advocate for public education? All these and other **family education** classes will be available.

At Parent University, parents/guardians will also have the opportunity to meet and hear from Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent of the Washington Elementary School District.

Register today for Parent University by visiting the WESD Web site (wesdschools.org) and clicking the "Parent University" tab or complete and return the flyer sent home with your student. For more information, contact Joe Negrón, WESD parent outreach coordinator, at 602-347-2872.

## Sweetwater Calendar of Events

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

December	
8	Santa visits Sweetwater
9	Spelling Bee, 9:00 a.m.
10	Drama Club Play, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
16	Winter Music Show, 7:00 p.m.
17	End of Second Quarter
<b>December 18 - January 1</b>	<b>No School – Winter Break</b>

January	
4	Second Semester Begins
6	Reports Cards go home
<b>18</b>	<b>No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
21	Great Skate, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
25	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.



*The Sweetwater Staff  
wishes you and your family  
a joyous holiday season.*