



# Mustang Messenger

## Sweetwater School

4602 W. Sweetwater Avenue  
Glendale, Arizona 85304-6520

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September 28, 2015

### Principal's Message:



Dear Parents,  
Our Leader in Me program promotes that students take active responsibility for their learning in the classroom. We are proud to announce that our fall conferences, on October 28-30, will be student-led conferences in fourth through eighth grade general education classes. Your child will be bringing

you an invitation to attend your conference within the next few weeks.

Student-led conferences reflect the belief that students should be actively involved in their learning and assume responsibility for the learning process. Through student-led conferences, students become more motivated, reflective and evaluative. They also become more critical in their approach to learning.

Teachers are helping students to prepare for their conference with you and will be there for support and guidance during your scheduled conference time. Your child may be a little nervous during his or her first student-led conference, and we encourage you to be proactive and talk with your child before the big event. You can ask your child what he or she is most proud of and what he or she has found challenging this marking period. Share with your child your pride in his or her efforts and be sure to ask him or her about his or her Leadership Notebooks.

Below are some questions you might find helpful during the conference:

- How did you decide on your goals?
- How do you feel about your plan to reach your goal(s)?
- Can you tell me more about...?
- What area did you improve the most in?
- What would you like to learn more about?
- How did you learn...?
- What are you working on now?
- How can I help you reach your goals?

If you are needing to have a separate, private conversation with your child's teacher, please be sure to communicate that with your child's teacher before your conference, and your teacher will be able to accommodate your request.

Our "Begin With the End in Mind" Sweetwater goal is to have all general education students conduct a student-led conference in the spring, including kindergarten through third grade students.

Sincerely,  
Luanne Herman

### Student Lighthouse Team Delegates

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Savannah Huff, Sonny Federico, Isabelle Donnell, Gavin Pina  
Jenavee Manriquez, Nyla Mensey  
Aliyah Balderrama,
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Samantha Buttermore,  
Jesikah Perez, Alyssa Windham
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Leanna Clipper, Autumn Friedl
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kayla Sanchez Yamileika Vargas,  
Annalica Walton, Alyssa Vildosola

### Congratulations to our Student Lighthouse Officers

Nyla Mensey, president  
Sammy Buttermore, vice president  
Savannah Huff, secretary  
Jeanavee Manriquez, treasurer

### University of Phoenix and the Arizona Cardinals Grant

Congratulations to Jeanmarie Jacoby for being awarded a University of Phoenix and the Arizona Cardinals 2015 Donate to Education grant. Ms. Jacoby received the grant to install a SMART Board in her classroom. This technology will increase engagement and interaction while providing multisensory feedback to reinforce learning. It will also impact the learning of not only current students, but also every classroom of students that follows.

### PTO Officers 2015-2016

**Co-Vice Presidents**  
Ivy Rodenson and Judy Garcia  
**Secretary**  
Angela Clipper and Laurel Thompson  
**Treasurer**  
Angela Mathews  
**Committee Representative**  
Amanda Ingle

### Sticker Machine

There is a sticker machine in the cafeteria for students to purchase stickers for 50 cents and the PTO receives 25% if all purchases. Next month there will be custom made stickers for Sweetwater.



## BFFs Love VFFs



Sweetwater School has a very special group of leaders. The Volunteers for Friendship, or VFFs, is a club where students with and without special needs are paired up for fun activities on a weekly basis. Students from 5th-8th grades have an opportunity to apply for a spot in this lunch club. The volunteers must demonstrate leadership skills such as maintaining good grades, to earn a teacher recommendation into VFF. Many of our students are repeat volunteers and definitely Best Friends Forever to a deserving pal!

## Kiwanis-sponsored Walk-a-thon

Sweetwater School will once again be participating in the North Phoenix Kiwanis Club's Annual Walk-a-thon event on Saturday, October 24, 2015. North Phoenix Kiwanis is a valuable partner of the WESD and supports our District in a variety of ways!



The event will be held at Metrocenter Mall from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. ALL WESD Schools will have a team of walkers represent their school in the walk. Donations for the school team will be accepted at each school site from September 23 – October 4. Proceeds from the event will benefit various school programs, students and families in need. Please support your team!

## Connect2Compete Service Offered



At Sweetwater School, we know that the Internet plays an important role in your child's education and that it can be a great resource for you as a parent. Teachers are increasingly incorporating digital tools in the classroom to enhance learning and using technology to communicate with parents.

That's why we want to share information with you about a program called Connect2Compete. **Because Sweetwater School is a Community Eligibility Provision school and your child receives universal free meals**, your family may qualify for fast, affordable home Internet service from Cox Communications.

Internet service through Connect2Compete costs just \$9.95 per month. For participating families, there are no deposits, no installation costs and the modem rental is free. This discounted rate is guaranteed for two years with no contract.

If you think this might be right for your family, it's easy to get started. Call toll free 1- 855- 222- 3252 or visit [www.connect2compete.org/cox](http://www.connect2compete.org/cox) to see if you qualify.

(Connect2Compete is a program to provide home Internet service for families. It is not a school program, and is not endorsed or required by our school. Washington Elementary School District is not responsible for Connect2Compete accounts.)

## GIFTED SERVICES

In accordance with ARS §15-779, special education is provided to students of lawful school age identified as gifted in one or more of the verbal, quantitative or nonverbal reasoning areas. The Washington District has a continuum of gifted services from which each school selects those that best meet their students' needs. Center-based services for highly gifted students are also available. If you think your child may need these special education services, evaluation is available. Contact your child's teacher for more information.

## Sweetwater Calendar of Events

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



September	
28	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
October	
9	End of First Quarter
12-16	<b>Fall Break – No School</b>
20	Yogurtini Night, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
26	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
28-30	<b>Parent/Teacher Conferences Early Dismissal</b> Report Cards distributed during conferences
29	Parent/Teacher Evening Conferences with translation services
November	
3	Picture Retakes
11	<b>No School – Veterans Day Holiday</b>
18	Midterms go home
18	Great Skate – 5:30-7:30 p.m.
23	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
26-27	<b>No School – Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
December	
8	Santa visits Sweetwater
16	Winter Music Show, 7:00 p.m.
17	End of Second Quarter
21-January 1	<b>No School – Winter Break</b>
January	
4	Second Semester Begins
6	Reports Cards go home
18	<b>No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
21	Great Skate – 5:30-8:00 p.m.
25	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
February	
3-5	<b>Parent/Teacher Conferences Early Dismissal</b>
10	Parent/Teacher Evening Conferences with translation services
15	<b>No School – Presidents Day</b>
16	Districtwide Food Drive Begins
22	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
23	Yogurtini Night, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
March	
11	Great Skate – 5:30-8:00 p.m.
14-18	<b>No School – Spring Break</b>
28	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
30	Report Cards go home
April	
19	Greenway Choir Festival, 7:00 p.m.
19	Yogurtini Night, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
20	Midterms go home
25	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
May	
3	Teacher Appreciation Day
4	National School Nurse Day
17	Fine Arts Night, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
23	Site Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
24	<b>Last Day of School Early Dismissal</b>