

VOLUME 17-7 | FEBRUARY 2024 | ccusd93.org



A note from the **Superintendent...**

Dear Parents, Community & CCUSD Staff -

We're a month into the New Year, at CCUSD, we are thankful for our employees, students, parents and community. We thought we'd highlight some of the amazing and unique things happening in our schools for the past few months of the 2023-2024 school year.

Black Mountain Elementary School

As a School of Arts, we are dedicated to providing our students with wonderful learning opportunities and genuine experiences that foster essential skills. Throughout January, our students have entertained audiences with multiple captivating drama productions, showcasing their talent and creativity. Additionally, our students embraced numerous club opportunities provided by our dedicated teachers, offering unique experiences typically unavailable to elementary-aged students. We are proud to be known as the school that prepares students for the global stage while cultivating strong community connections. As we strive to connect with both current and prospective parents, we recently hosted many new families at our annual Kindergarten Round Up. The success of this event and the ongoing student tours fill us with excitement as we know the word is out! We take pride in sharing the exceptional offerings that set us apart and eagerly welcome new parents to the Bobcat Family, knowing that we can make a meaningful difference in their children's lives. Looking ahead, we are delighted to invite our families to the 13th Annual BMES Family Science Night on February 9th. This highly anticipated event will feature student presentations, engaging activities, and various organizations focused on scientific fields. From space exploration to animal conservation, families will delve into a night of learning and enjoyment, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display. At Black Mountain Elementary School, we are committed to providing an enriching and captivating educational experience focused on Arts and hearts.

Desert Sun Academy

Desert Sun Academy: Desert Sun Academy had an exciting first semester that included student leadership, community involvement, and teaching and learning. Our DSA student leaders helped lead our PBIS rotations (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) to communicate our building-wide expectations for student behavior. DSA's video announcement club members learned multiple new skills to create and deliver our daily announcements for staff and students. The Student Council collected items to help community members during



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the holiday season. As a school, DSA celebrated and honored our Veterans at our November Flag Raising and concert to thank them for their service to their communities and country. As a staff, we have learned together through our leadership team and professional learning communities. This semester we have determined our core values, discussed vertical alignment, and provided professional development on effective teaching strategies such as Thinking Maps.

Desert Willow Elementary School

Discover the vibrant world-wide education at Desert Willow Elementary School, where learning knows no bounds! Immerse your child in a rich linguistic experience with our Spanish Immersion program, fostering bilingual education from Pre-K to 6th grade. Currently, we are the only public International Spanish Academy in Arizona following strict guidelines from the Embassy of Spain. We ignite curiosity, creativity, and teamwork through our dynamic Music, Art, PE and STEAM classes. Beyond our regular school hours, the learning never stops with a plethora of before and after-school classes provided by ECS. From Spanish classes to Choir to Cross Country, we provide a nurturing environment where every child can thrive. Students have opportunities to be part of our leadership groups, such as the 6th Grade Roadrunner Patrol and the Kiwanis K-Kids Club.

Horseshoe Trails Elementary School

The first semester at Horseshoe Trails was a smashing success! Student literacy and math stations have been in full swing since September for all grade levels, students are loving our computer science curriculum that's being offered as a special encore class, our Fine Arts program has expanded to include a Junior Choir and a winter musical for the first time ever and our Fall Cohort of Stallion Strides Horsemanship classes wrapped up in December. Teachers have been meeting with their grade level professional learning communities from around CCUSD on each half day to discuss, analyze, and strategize how to maximize student achievement for all our students. And our PTO has been AMAZING at organizing different team building events for our school that also support local businesses in downtown Cave Creek and Carefree.

Lone Mountain Elementary School

Lone Mountain Elementary School experienced a fantastic first semester! Our students actively participated in collaboration, problem-solving, engaged in creative projects, and found meaningful ways to contribute to both their community and school. Notably, they have dedicated over 85 hours to community service through our Junior Hero program. Our after-school programs and athletics, including cross-country, choir, volleyball, and Kiwanis K-kids, provided wonderful opportunities for community involvement and fun! Academically, our students showcased a remarkable focus on the engineering design process in our STEAM classes while also achieving commendable learning outcomes across all subjects. This dedication was acknowledged with an A letter grade from the Arizona Department of Education. Lone Mountain is an outstanding learning environment where our Eagles not only meet but exceed expectations. It's truly a place where our students SOAR to success!

Sonoran Trails Middle School

It was another busy semester at Sonoran Trails- exactly how we like it! We currently are offering nine clubs that are student led with almost 250 students participating. Our sports are in full swing. 7th grade baseball won the district championship and our cheer squad once again has qualified for nationals in February. We continue to meet in our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) where our focus has been determining our essential standards, learning targets with success criteria, and then if needed, made changes to our CFA's and CSA's. We are collaborating and looking at data weekly with our departments to focus our efforts on helping students succeed. From those strategic meetings, we go back and reteach and/or enrich the learning in our classrooms. Students complete a short assessment (CFA) bi-weekly to show mastery of the Arizona State Standards. We continue to have our Math intervention class where we are targeting almost 75 students and beginning in semester two, have one ELA intervention class where we are targeting our most struggling 7th grade students in English (approximately 15 students). Every person on campus has a small list of their targeted students that in addition to their professional goals, they are working closely with both those students and their families to increase student achievement. We showed significant growth in our mimic data from September to December, especially in Math. Finally, with the rollout of our positive behavioral intervention and support (PBIS) in place, we are teaching all students how to be STAR students (Safe, Trustworthy, Accountable, and Respectful). There is a common language heard on campus with what students need to do to be successful both academically and behaviorally and it is both reinforced and celebrated with pride. We are happy to report that our discipline data

has decreased significantly from last year to this year with this system in place. We are truly proud of the many great happenings on our campus.

Cactus Shadows High School

First semester at CSHS flew by. Our Fall sports worked hard in season. We are proud of the dedication and hard work that our coaches and athletes put in not only in their field of play but also in the classroom. The Student Council brought us the Big Blue Pep Rally, a homecoming from a Galaxy Far, Far Away, an awesome fall festival and holiday pep rally as well as spirit week. Our athletic director, Mr. Ammon, worked with the district to provide funding for a new gym floor; and our culinary classes now have an updated kitchen. Our falcon awesome teachers work diligently every day to support our students in the classroom. As we move into the second semester we have begun preparing our students for the ACT, ASPIRE, and AZSci. Currently our Winter sports are midseason and Spring sports are starting preseason activities. A shout out to our teachers and students for their performance on the state tests. Because of their focus and dedication to learning and success, CSHS was rated an A by the Arizona Department of Education for the 22-23 school year.

We look forward to seeing you in our schools.

Together,

Bill Dolezal, Superintendent



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Coffee/Tea with the Superintendent and Cabinet...

The next coffee of the 23-24 school year is scheduled for Sonoran Trails Middle School on February 9 beginning at 8am. Please RSVP for this event by emailing <u>iscotto@ccusd93.net</u> no later than February 7. Thank you!



CCUSD Spelling Bee Winner and Runner-Up...

Congratulations to Soren Careless a 6th grader at HTES he won in Round 5 with the word Albuquerque - Runner up was Greyson Baker a 5th grader at LMES. Soren will be heading to the Region II Spelling Bee hosted by Scottsdale Unified on February 9 - Best Of luck Soren!



Scottsdale Police Department - Student Resource Officer (SRO)...

Officer Steel is an SRO for Scottsdale PD. He often does security for CSHS sporting events with CSHS' SRO, Officer Chitwood. Officer Steel attended a Lady Falcons Basketball game with his therapy dog, Copper.



Photo courtesy Gina Brown (Capturing the Moments, LLC)

Follow CCUSD on Social Media

Desert Sun Academy

Insta: desertsunacademy Facebook: Desertsunacademy Twitter: @CCUSD_93

Cactus Shadows High School Insta: cshs falcons

Twitter: @CSHS_Falcons

@CSHSathletics1

Desert Willow Elementary Facebook: DWESRoadrunners

Insta: dwesroadrunners Twitter: @BrandieBDunlap

Horseshoe Trails Elementary

Facebook: HorseshoeTrailsElementary Twitter: @AaronJPettinato

Cave Creek Unified School District

Facebook: CaveCreekUSD Insta: cavecreekusd93 Twitter: @cavecreekusd93

Sonoran Trails Middle School

Facebook: STMSStingers Insta: stms.stingers Twitter: @STMSStingers

Black Mountain Elementary

Facebook: bmesbobcats Twitter: @bmes_bobcats

Lone Mountain Elementary

Facebook: LoneMountainElementary Insta: lonemountainelementary Twitter: @LMES_Eagles

FACE TO FACE

Greet everyone with a smile Professional attire Be solutions oriented Organized workspace

EMAIL

Professional language Review draft before sending Respond within one business day

THE

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STANDARD

CAVE CREEK CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS

STAFF STANDARDS

Act with integrity Have a positive attitude

Respect everyone

Always be professional

PHONES

Friendly positive greeting Listen with intent to help Respond within one business day

THE

STANDARD



April 2022

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Arizona's Tax Credit Program



Arizona's tax law (ARS 43-1089.01) allows families a tax credit of up to \$400 if they contribute to extracurricular activities in public schools. Individuals can give up to \$200. Contributions that are made on or before the fifteenth day of the fourth month (April 15), following the close of the taxable year, may be applied to either the current or preceding taxable year and is considered to have been made the last day of that taxable year.

Extracurricular activities are school-sponsored activities that may require enrolled students to pay a fee, including fees for:

- Extracurricular activities.
- Character education programs.
- Standardized testing fees for college credit or readiness offered by a widely recognized and accepted educational testing organization.
- Preparation courses and materials for standardized testing.
- The career and technical education industry certification assessment.
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation training pursuant to A.R.S. 15-718.01.

From and after June 30, 2019 through June 30, 2024, these items are also Tax Credit eligible:

- Capital items (example: furniture, furnishings, athletic equipment, computer software, pupil & nonpupil transportation vehicles & equipment, textbooks, instructional aids, library books)
- Student consumable health care supplies (example: tissues, hand wipes, bandages)
- Playground equipment, shade structures for playground equipment

A single individual or a head of household can use the tax credit for \$200. A married couple filing a joint return can use the tax credit for \$400. Tax credit donations made on or before April 15th may be applied to either the current or preceding tax year.

More information can be found here: <u>https://www.ccusd93.org/Page/4775</u>



How can I log into my child's library account?

To view your student's school library catalog or library history, please access the library through the school's homepage or your child's Clever account. Your student may need to log in with his/her Google credentials. Please reach out directly to your school's library aide if you have any additional questions.

CCUSD Students of the Month for January

The following students were recognized at the January 23, 2024 Governing Board meeting: Blakely Jensen, Black Mountain Elementary School; Dominic Fioramonti, Lone Mountain Elementary School; Henry Jointer and Brooks Kingston, Horseshoe Trails Elementary School; Elodie Wait, Desert Sun Academy; Boston Schuster, Desert Willow Elementary School; Megan Hughes, Sonoran Trails Middle School; and Erika Espina, Cactus Shadows High School. The students were recognized by the Governing Board and received a certificate and a small gift from Mr. Dolezal.



Horseshoe Trails Elementary School's Student Leader of the Month -...

Audrie Seaman was HTES' Student Leader and was recognized at the January 23, 2024 Governing Board Meeting. Audrie sat on the dais next to Mr. Dolezal and participated in the opening of the Board meeting. She introduced herself to the group:



Horseshoe Trails is special to me because everyone there is stallion strong. Stallion strong, to me, means having a school where students can do their best because it's the right thing to do. Not just because they don't want to get in trouble. People there respect you, listen to what you have to say, and treat you the way they want to be treated. I live stallion strong by always trying my hardest on everything, even if it is extremely difficult, and finding ways to help my community and classmates. This includes volunteering at animal shelters through Kiwanis, bringing excitement to the school through student council, and helping my classmates succeed by creating videos with step-by-step solutions to academic problems.

Given how special Horseshoe Trails is, I appreciate being able to represent my school in front of the school board tonight and our community members. Thank you for recognizing my hard work and dedication to my school.

CCUSD January Employees of the Month

We are delighted to announce that CCUEF, Kendrick Wealth Management and The Summit Diner are our esteemed sponsors for the 2023-2024 Employee of the Month program. Their support enables us to recognize and honor the exceptional contributions of our dedicated staff members.

Thank you for your continued support and for joining us in celebrating the incredible talent within CCUSD. Together, we applaud the hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements of our staff. Congratulations once again to our well-deserving recipients!

When you visit The Summit Diner, check in with Kendrick Wealth Management or are in our schools – thank the amazing people that make this recognition possible and who are encouraging our CCUSD students to be the best they can be!



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: ARIANA GERVASIO, STMS | KAREN PETERSON, HTES | JOANN RUESGA, CSHS | BRIANNA WALKER, GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER | BILL DOLEZAL, SUPERINTENDENT | GAVIN ANDERSON, LMES | TANYA NOVELLA, DSA NOT PICTURED: KATHERINE VOLK, BMES | WENDY GAZO, DWES | ANNMARIE CALLAHAN, ESS SPONSORS: CCUEF, KENDRICK WEALTH MANAGEMENT, SUMMIT DINER





Lone Mountain Elementary School...

The Eagles held their first Jingle Bell Jog in December. Parents and students alike came out for the jolliest time of all!









Sonoran Trails Middle School – Cross Country...

Congratulations to STMS Girls Cross Country team – they received second place at the District Championships at Cactus High School. Mary placed 4th and Charlotte placed 8th – way to go ladies!



Cactus Shadows – Lady Falcon Soccer...

Congratulation to the CSHS Lady Falcons Soccer Team - they captured the championship at the Bohdie Larson Classic Diamond Division late December in Mesa. Senior Goalie Kaylee Vasiloff allowed just one goal in four games! Senior Carlie Diaz scored the last second equalizing goal against Mountain View that secured the Falcons advancement in the semifinals. The Falcons defeated Sunrise Mountain 2-0 in the semifinals with second half goals from junior Lyla Strohman and freshman Morgan Bair. In the championship game, the Falcons faced the Mountain Lions of Red Mountain High school. In the second half senior defender Abby Saigh made a goal-line clearance and a PK conversion by Lyla Strohman secured the victory for the Falcons second tournament Championship of the Season



Desert Sun Academy...

The Coyotes had their flag raising event on January 4 – the first day back to school for students after the Winter Break. Their amazing banners were created by DSA's art teacher, Kari Roberts. The banners celebrate DSA's "A" rating by the Arizona Department of Education and congratulate the students and teachers– way to go Coyotes!



Horseshoe Trails Elementary School – Stallion Strides...

These 6th grade Stallion mentors gathered before school to take part in a leadership training. They are preparing for their next Stallion Strides session – Way to go!



Cactus Shadows High School – Student Athletes of the Year Nominees...

Congratulations to CSHS Falcons Charlene Lamb (sophomore) and Iona Moffat (junior) for being nominated for the Arizona High School sports Awards being held June 17 at the Arizona Financial Theatre. This nine-month student athlete recognition program recognizes athletes, coaches and teams from across the state of Arizona. Charlene was nominated at the Girls Golfer of the Year and Iona was nominated as the Girls Swimming and Diving Athlete of the Year - best of luck in June Falcons!



FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK – January/February Wish List



JANUARY/FEBRUARY WISH LIST JELLY RICE (SMALL SIZES) BEANS (SMALL SIZES) RICE SIDES (RICE A RONI) PASTA SIDES DRY PASTA PASTA SAUCE SOUP (LOW SODIUM) PAPER TOWELS SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?





Arizona Voter Registration Eligibility

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED 29 DAYS PRIOR TO AN ELECTION TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THAT ELECTION. STATE LAW REQUIRES ARIZONA RESIDENTS MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA TO REGISTER:

A citizen of the United States of America. This includes any U.S. citizen who

has never resided in the United States but whose parent is a United States

citizen registered to vote in Arizona (A.R.S. § 16-103).

- \oslash 18-years old on or before the date of the next general election.
- ⊘ A resident of Arizona for 29 days preceding the election.
- Not convicted of a felony or treason, unless civil rights have been restored.
- Able to write his or her name or make his or her mark, unless physically disabled.
- ⊘ Not adjudicated an incapacitated person (A.R.S. § 14-5101).

Maricopa County Voter Dashboard

Check your voter registration status <u>here</u> on the Maricopa County Elections Department website. If you're not registered to vote, you can get forms and information <u>here</u> – also on the Maricopa County Elections Department website.

Happenings at Desert Foothills Library...

Link to Desert Foothills Library Calendar: https://dfla.org/brochures-2/

Sonoran Trails Middle School – Students of the Month!

Congratulations to the STMS Students of the Month: Way to go Stingers! Congratulations to. Vivienne Paradies (7th grade); Luke Smith (7th grade); Brooks Spencer (7th grade); Hayden Toman (8th grade); Ashley Townsend (8th grade); Kellan Anderson (8th grade); Juna Armgort (8th grade); Zhamalia Brown (8th grade); Dylan Dismuke (8th grade); Georgina Haddad (7th grade); and Jackson Heintz (7th grade).



Lone Mountain Elementary School...

LMES teacher, Mrs. Bloom, invited an architect to share his knowledge with the Eagles Creative Inquiry students – the students had great questions for him and learned a lot – they were amazed at the architect's time-lapse videos of buildings – way to SOAR Eagles!



Cactus Shadows Cheer and Pom...

The AIA state championships were late January. The Falcons spiritline (Cheer and Pom) participated. Each team qualified for the finals with both cheer and pom took second place! Cheer was second in game day and Pom came in second for their hip hop routine! Way to go Falcons!

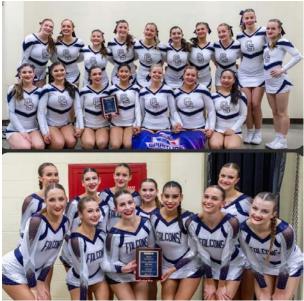


Photo courtesy Gina Brown (Capturing the Moments, LLC)

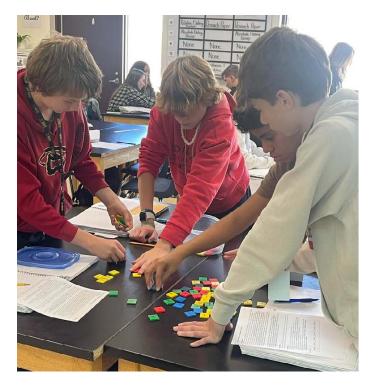
LMES second graders...

These Eagles love to read and are enjoying their library time! Way to go!



Sonoran Trials Middle School – Honors Science...

These Stingers, in 8th grade honor science, are simulating radioactive decay, connecting what they learned in chemistry last semester as well as what they learned about probability in their math class. They are determining how the half-life of unstable elementary helps to inform us of the age of fossils and other ancient geologic formations – Way to go Stingers!



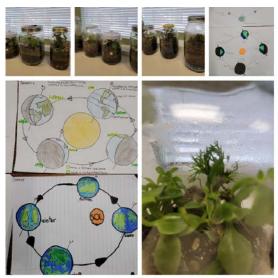
Sonoran Trails Middle School SEED Club...

The SEED club kids "turn-ip" early in the morning to check out the local farmers market! They networked with a farmer, beekeeper and a pickler, in hopes of visiting them soon to learn more about their craft! Thank you Ms. Fauss and Mrs. McBeth for leading this crew. Great things happening for Stinger students!



Desert Willow Elementary School...

The fifth grade Roadrunners are working on creating ecosystems and the sixth grade Roadrunners are studying the revolutions of the earth – Way to go!



Cie

Lone Mountain Elementary School...

The LMES kindergarteners in Ms. Blonder's class were learning about how rain falls. They experimented to see how many drops of food coloring a cloud could hold before it started to rain! These Eaglets are future meteorologists!



Sonoran Trails Middle School – Wrestling...

Congratulations to the Stinger wrestling team who won the District tournament. What a great day it was to watch how hard they fought for this win. A shout out to Coach Montgomery for leading this crew. Also, thank you to the CSHS wrestlers who helped coach. It truly takes a village. Way to go Stingers!



Black Mountain Elementary School...

BMES Bobcat kindergarten students became the teachers as they hosted the BMES preschool alphabet party! Many smiles and much fun was had as the two groups got together for an afternoon of learning excitement!



Sonoran Trails Middle School – Social Studies...

These Stingers created a lunar module as a team to figure out how to keep the astronauts safe upon impact. They were all given the same supplies, but had to figure out within their teams the best design for a lunar module.



BMES Bee Scientists...

These Kindergarten Bobcats are "bee scientists" – they're dissecting flowers and exploring the questions "what are the parts of flowers and why are flowers important to bees?" – They also learned from a local beekeeper and tried some honey right off the comb - Great job Bobcats!





Horseshoe Trails Elementary School – Stallion Strong Students for January...

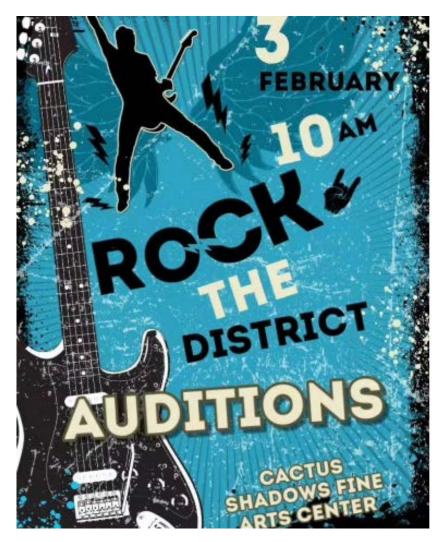
Congratulations to the following students for being named Stallion Strong Students for the month of January: Preschool -Payton M.; Kindergarten - Emilia W.; First Grade - Oaklee Y. (December) & Jason R.; Second Grade - Amelia H.; Third Grade - Jace K. (December) & Kendal T.; Fourth Grade - Everett D.; Fifth Grade - Kamdyn C.; and Sixth Grade - Alex W. – Way to go Stallions!



Desert Sun Academy...

These Coyotes celebrated the 100th day of school – way to go!





MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ROCK THE DISTRICT – April 13 – Harold's Cave Creek Corral

BMES First Grade Ornithologists...

How wonderful to be able to discover the world of birds on your school campus! These first grade ornithologists discovered birds perching, foraging, flying, singing and more. These aspiring bird experts even caught the electrifying sound of a gila woodpecker drumming!



ECS NEWS



Online registration www.cavecreek.ce.eleyo.com Instructions for registration link www.ecsforall.org/register Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/cavecreekecs Information about ECS www.ecsforall.org ECS Office 480-575-2440

KID'S CLUB, PRESCHOOL & ENRICHMENT

FUN & LEARNING WITH ECS

-Enrichment Before and After School: Choir, Art, JOIN FU Sports, Strength & Conditioning, Spanish, Academic Support, STEAM, Chess, and more (offerings vary per school) -Preschool: 2024-2025 School Year registration begins March 4, 2024, for classes at all CCUSD elementary schools -Kid's Club: Before and after school care for preschool to 8th-grade students at each CCUSD elementary school from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Spring Break Camp (3/11-15) registration begins February 12.

Cantact Information:



480-575-2440 ECS Office Hours: M-F, 7:30AM-4:00PM FOR MORE DETAILS AND **REGISTRATION:** CAVECREEK.CE.ELEYO.COM



Participating in the Superintendent's Challenge...

Superintendent's Challenge Information for the 2023-2024 School Year is posted here: <u>https://www.ccusd93.org/Page/7297</u>

Volunteer Opportunities

A Peek at the Peak (The Peak) online magazine: https://apeekatthepeak.org/ American Cancer Society: https://www.cancer.org/ Arizona Helping Hands, Inc.: https://azhelpinghands.org/ Arizona Humane Society: https://www.azhumane.org/ Arizona Musicfest: https://azmusicfest.org/ Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce: https://carefreecavecreek.org/ Carefree Church: info@carefreechurch.com (email for volunteer opportunities) Cave Creek Museum: https://cavecreekmuseum.org/ Cave Creek Unified Education Foundation (CCUEF): www.ccuef.org Child Crisis Arizona: https://childcrisisaz.org/ Desert Broom Library: https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/locations/desert-broom Desert Foothills Foodbank: https://foothillsfoodbank.com/ Desert Foothills Library: https://dfla.org/ Desert Foothills YMCA: https://valleyymca.org/desert-foothills/ Desert Hills Presbyterian Church: https://deserthills.org/ Foothills Caring Corps: https://foothillscaringcorps.com/ Hands On Greater Phoenix: https://www.handsonphoenix.org/ ICAN: https://www.icanaz.org/volunteer/ JustServe: https://www.justserve.org/ Kiwanis Marketplace: https://kiwanismarketplace.org/ Mathnasium: betsy.washburn@mathnasium.com (STMS or CSHS only) Puppy Luv Animal Rescue: https://www.puppyluvar.com/ St. Mary's Food Bank: https://www.firstfoodbank.org/ St. Vincent de Paul: https://www.stvincentdepaul.net/ United Food Bank: https://www.unitedfoodbank.org/ Valley of the Sun United Way: https://vsuw.org/ Wild At Heart Rescue: https://wildatheartraptors.org/



A NOTE FOR THE COMMUNITY

There will be a fireworks display for the Black Mountain Elementary School Science Night on February 2, 2024 – Fireworks will start approximately 7pm



CAVE CREEK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Brown Vice President

Scott

Brianna Walker Board Member Jeff Fortney Board Member

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Jackie Ulmer Board Member

Governing Board Meetings

33016 North 60th Street Scottsdale February 13, 2024 February 27, 2024

Governing Board Members

Janet Busbee, President Scott Brown, Vice President Brianna Walker, Board Member Jeff Fortney, Board Member Jackie Ulmer, Board Member

Julia Scotto, Editor