



December, 2023

Inspire. Grow. Achieve.



Dear Families,

December is a month about marking the end of a year, celebrating successes and reflecting on the challenges. This month we administered middle of year assessments in iReady (math), NWEA and DIBELS (ELA) in order to see the growth our students have made thus far. We met in grade level teams with our academic interventionists to analyze each child's data to best inform our instruction and intervention for quarter three. This analysis is critical to our academic success!

Teachers nominated students and staff during our first ever CHEER Assembly. During this assembly, students had the chance to earn the Student With Academic Growth (SWAG) award, Leader of the Pack Award and the 4 B's Award. Students had a blast playing games, raffling off Cool Coyote tickets and more!

Also, this month we held our Movie Night and watched Ice Age. Last week we held our first concert in over five years! Thank you to the talented Ms. Day, our music teacher, for selecting songs, rehearsing with students and coordinating an amazing concert. We also want to thank our PTO for providing hot cocoa and candy canes as a treat. Families we appreciated your donations and will put the proceeds towards future music events.

Lastly, it is almost time to share your voice! The annual Kyrene School Quality Survey for Families opens Wednesday, January 10th. Your voice is critical to your children's education, the future of Kyrene School District, and Kyrene de la Colina. That's why we need to hear from you! Share feedback on academic preparation, student support, safety and behavior, family involvement, and school leadership in Kyrene. The results will inform targeted action plans to make sure our schools are places where every student can thrive. Parents should check their email for an invitation on January 10th. The survey is offered in English and Spanish. All responses are strictly confidential.

I hope you all have a restful winter break spending time with ones you love the most! Let's root for each other and watch each other grow!

Academically yours,
Emily Pieper, Kyrene de la Colina
Proud Principal



Important Dates:

December 14 and 15: Creature Kingdom at Colina
December 15: End of Quarter 2
December 18-January 2: Winter Break
January 3: First Day of Quarter 3
January 9: First Day for Open Enrollment 2024/2025 School Year
January 15: Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
January 19: Spring Pictures and 5th grade photo
January 30: 2nd Grade Field Trip - Tom Chapin concert
February 19: President's Day - NO SCHOOL
March 11-22: Spring Break

[View Full Calendar](#)

Important Community Education Enrollment Changes:

Planning for the 2024-25 school year is already underway, and we want to make you aware of changes to enrollment for Community Education. Beginning this year, all Community Education programming (including Kids Club, After Hours, and Community and Signature Preschool) will open registration on the same day that general enrollment begins: **January 9!**

Another change this year will ensure all Kyrene families have an equal opportunity to register for before and after school programming, which can fill up quickly. **In fairness to families who have been waitlisted in past years, there will be no pre-registration option for currently enrolled students this year.** Registration for Kids Club and After Hours for the 2024-25 school year will open for all students on **January 9 at 6:30 a.m.** in the [Community Ed registration portal](#).

Families enrolling students in Community or Signature Preschool programs will also register through the Community Ed registration portal on January 9. If you are registering a child for Integrated Preschool or looking to change Kyrene schools, that can be done through the Kyrene general enrollment portal. Please note that Summer 2024 program registration will open March 4, 2024.

Tax Credits - It's a Win-Win! Our learning is enhanced thanks to you!

Your tax credit donations help provide some of the following: Colina Spirit T-shirts, Field Trips, our Proud Principal lunches, Health Office supplies, and more.

These programs help develop well-rounded students, who in turn, build strong communities. Arizona statute allows individuals/couples to donate \$200/\$400 for a dollar-to-dollar tax credit.

The deadline for tax credit donations is April 15, 2024. You can donate online through our [Payment Portal](#). Thank you for your continued support!



Quicklinks

[School Website](#)

[Colina PTO](#)

[Breakfast/Lunch Menu](#)

[Calendar](#)

[ParentVUE/StudentVUE](#)

[2023-2024 Phone/Email List](#)

[Bus Information](#)

[Kids Club](#)

Parent Reminders

Important: Sign up for Text Messages

In the event of an emergency, text messages are the fastest and most effective way to communicate information to families. You must opt in to receive text communications! Text "Y" or "yes" to 67587 to begin receiving text messages from our school and the Kyrene School District.

[School Website](#)



Happy Holidays!

The holidays are all about spending time with loved ones and enjoying each other's company. As students will be home for 2 weeks, families may run out of fun activities and ideas while spending time with their children. Here are several fun activity ideas that you can do with your child over break!

- Bake Cookies
- Game Night
- Watch family holiday movies
- Holiday Craft projects
- Have an at home spa day
- Go on a hike
- Spend time at your local library

Below are a few links with some activities and crafts for the holiday break as well as events hosted through the Phoenix Public Library! There is also a link for local volunteer programs for families looking to provide a helping hand to those in need.

Holiday Fun:

<https://www.womansday.com/life/g2054/christmas-activities-for-kids/>

<https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/services/programs/holiday-fun>

<https://www.chandleraz.gov/explore/chandler-recreation/programs-and-activities/camps/winter>

<https://www.raisingarizonakids.com/winter-break-camps-kids-phoenix-southernarizona/>

<https://www.storage-solutions.org/blog/find-volunteer-opportunities-in-phoenix/> (Volunteer Programs)

Holidays can be both a beautiful time of year, as well as a difficult time of year. Please remember to lean on your support systems, reach out to loved ones, and check in to see how they are doing. Here are a few crisis line numbers and resources if needed!

Crisis Resources:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/BehavioralHealth/crisis.html> (Crisis hotlines)

<https://www.mind24-7.com/> (Walk in Mental health services)

<https://lafronteraaz-empact.org/> (Suicide prevention Centers)

Food Resources:

<https://azfoodbanks.org/get-food/>

<https://www.firstfoodbank.org/>

I wish all our families an amazing winter break and an incredible new year! I look forward to being back in 2024 and working with our amazing Colina Coyotes!

Email: Eattridge@kyrene.org
Phone Number: 480-541-2623



Watch D.O.G.S. is an innovative, father-involvement, educational initiative of the National Center for Fathering. Their goals are to provide positive male role models for students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important and to provide an extra *set of eyes and ears* to enhance school security and reduce bullying. It's an amazing program and students are so excited when WatchDOGS are on campus!

If you're interested in being a WatchDOG, please use the following link to sign up:
<https://calendly.com/colinawatchdogs>

As a reminder, volunteers who are not the parent or guardian will need to go through a fingerprint clearance process prior to volunteering. Please contact the Colina office for more information.



The 2023 Colina Turkey Trot was a big success! This year we asked a few of our 5th grade students to dress up as the turkey.

Thank you to Fiona, Oaklee, KJ, Milo, Peniel, and Assistant Principal Hunter. They danced the chicken dance and had lots of fun.

A special thank you to Mr. Moser for another great Turkey Trot!

KYRENE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

PROUDLY PRESENTS

SPRING 2024
YOUTH ENRICHMENT
NOW ENROLLING!

SPRING 2024
YOUTH ENRICHMENT



AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLASSES
AVAILABLE MONDAY - FRIDAY ON YOUR
SCHOOL CAMPUS!

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING,
SPORTS, ART, MUSIC, DANCE, LANGUAGE,
AND MORE!

FOLLOW THE LINK TO EXPLORE CLASSES
OFFERED AT YOUR SCHOOL!

kyrene.ce.eleyo.com/enrichment (480) 541-1500



Lunch Information

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Kyrene will continue the meal service model of offering free and paid breakfast and lunch. In order to determine if your student qualifies for free meals, we ask that all families complete the free and reduced meal application located at family.titank12.com. To begin



your application [click here](#). Additionally, Kyrene meal prices will remain the same as the 2022-2023 school year. Regular meal prices: Lunch-\$3.00; Breakfast-\$1.70

Lunch menus can be found [here](#).

Student Messages & Deliveries

In an attempt to preserve instructional time, messages and deliveries for students will be held in the office and an email will be sent alerting the teacher that it is there. Teachers will send the student down during a break in instruction. **If you have a change in transportation for your child, please send a note ahead of time with your child or, for last minute changes, contact the Colina office *PRIOR* to 1:45 pm.**

Bus Information:

Families can log into [Versatrans](#) to check their child's bus stop. You will need your student's ID number and birth date.

As a reminder, kindergartners will not be released from the bus without a parent or guardian to pick them up.



Student Attendance

Regular attendance and punctual arrival at school are two habits that can positively impact student learning. Parents/guardians are urged to make every possible attempt to schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments for students outside of the school day whenever possible. This will reinforce the importance of school and allow students to participate in all aspects of the school curriculum.

It is very important that the school be notified before 8:15 am, at the latest, if a child is going to be absent. Please call our 24-hour attendance line at (480) 541-2601 to report an absence. If the school has not been contacted by 8:15 our automated phone system will call all numbers on file to determine the reason for the absence. Absences will be excused for illness, medical or family emergencies, and appointments that cannot be scheduled after school hours. Please support your child by arriving to school on time every day.

Birthday Celebration Reminder

Colina School will be following the Kyrene School District guidelines on celebrating birthdays in school. Parents/guardians are not permitted to bring cupcakes, treats, cookies, balloons, or flowers to school. With prior approval of the classroom teacher, parents may share non-edible items such as pencils or stickers for a student's birthday. Each student has his/her name announced on their birthday as recognition of their special day!



Colina Spirit Wear:

Colina has a new Spirit Wear store on-line! This store is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year! With over 100 items to choose from, there is no doubt that you will find the perfect item for your student(s). The best part is that the items are shipped directly to your home! To visit the store, click [here](#).

Contact the PTO:

The PTO always loves to hear from our parents. Please e-mail any questions, concerns, comments, or ideas to us at: colinapto@outlook.com. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram!



Don't forget to register your Fry's card at www.fryscommunityrewards.com. Our organization number is **VE181**.

This is an easy and FREE way to earn money for our PTO, which in turn funds great activities for our kids, supplies our library with books, and supports the learning goals Colina has for our children. Please connect your card TODAY! It's easy and it's FREE!

Contact Us