

Bill Dolezal, Superintendent

VOLUME 17-6 | JANUARY 2024 | ccusd93.org



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



Dear Parents, Community & CCUSD Staff –

The Cave Creek Unified School District is registering for Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year! Kindergarten classes are found at these “A” rated, high-performing schools: Black Mountain Elementary, Lone Mountain Elementary, Desert Sun Academy, Horseshoe Trails Elementary and Desert Willow Elementary.

In the Cave Creek Unified School District, we provide an innovative, high-quality learning experience for all students. Our classrooms facilitate strategies to develop curious, resilient, critical-thinking, and problem-solving students. Our students and educators are empowered to make a difference, while inspiring excellence in our families, community, and world.

Why should you choose CCUSD for Kindergarten?

- Highly-qualified, certified teachers
- Relationships
- Excellent instruction
- Signature programs at each school
- Commitment to community
- Focus on Whole child development
- Consistently highest test scores in Maricopa County
- Top Performing School District in Northeast Valley
- College and career pathways

What are the age requirements?

- Students must turn 5 on or before August 31, 2024.
- If your child turns 5 after August 31, 2024, you can:
- Apply for early entrance testing, if their birthday is before December 31, 2024
- Attend one of our outstanding, on-site Pre-K programs for students who are 3 or 4 years old.

Bring your child to one of our Kindergarten events to learn more. Events take place on January 18, 2024 from 5-6:30pm Scan the QR code for more information.



We look forward to seeing you in our schools.

Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Dolezal", written in a cursive style.

Bill Dolezal, Superintendent



Caroline Wolf, a second-grader at **Desert Willow Elementary School**, deserves a huge round of applause! She's triumphed in the CCUSD Holiday Art Contest. The contest invited CCUSD art teachers to have their students craft artworks for the CCUSD Winter Holiday Art Contest. Caroline's creation was handpicked by a select committee at the District Office.

Her masterpiece will grace the pages of the January 2024 edition of News from the Creek, reaching every CCUSD family, staff member, and business partner as the official District Holiday Greeting Card. Way to shine, Caroline - a massive congratulations to you!



CAVE CREEK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
community inspired · globally prepared

COME JOIN OUR TEAM

Click logo above for opportunities at CCUSD!

A colorful poster for a Kindergarten Round Up event. The background is yellow with orange polka dots. At the top, it says "CALLING ALL FUTURE FALCONS! JOIN US FOR: KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP!" in bold blue and black letters. To the right, a speech bubble says "MEET THE TEACHERS!". Below the text, there are two photos: one of a young boy holding a camera and another of two young girls sitting on the floor. To the right of the photos, it says "JANUARY 18TH 5-6:30 PM". At the bottom, it says "FIVE A-RATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, ONE CLEAR CHOICE! YOU BELONG IN CCUSD!"

Click above to view Kindergarten video!

Coffee/Tea with the Superintendent and Cabinet...

The next coffee of the 23-24 school year is scheduled for Lone Mountain Elementary School on January 19 beginning at 9:30am. Please RSVP for this event by emailing jscotto@ccusd93.net no later than January 17. Thank you!





Follow CCUSD on Social Media

Desert Sun Academy

Insta: desertsunacademy
Facebook: Desertsunacademy
Twitter: @CCUSD_93

Desert Willow Elementary

Facebook: DWESRoadrunners
Insta: dwesroadrunners
Twitter: @BrandieBDunlap

Horseshoe Trails Elementary

Facebook: HorseshoeTrailsElementary
Twitter: @AaronJPettinato

Cactus Shadows High School

Insta: cshs_falcons
Twitter: @CSHS_Falcons
@CSHSathletics1

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

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



April 2022

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: <https://www.ccusd93.org/Page/4775>



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 December

The following students were recognized at the November 14, 2023 Governing Board meeting: Kylie Rae Brown – Black Mountain Elementary School; Sebastian Beltran Peralta – Lone Mountain Elementary School; Addison Mazur – Horseshoe Trails Elementary School; Clare Mueller – Desert Sun Academy; Dylan Rouse and Lucy Rollins – Desert Willow Elementary School; Ryder Fales – Sonoran Trails Middle School; and Alexis Munhall – Cactus Shadows High School. The students were recognized by the Governing Board and received a certificate and a small gift from Mr. Dolezal.



Desert Willow Elementary School's Student Leader of the Month –...

Samuel Rollins was DWES' Student Leader and was recognized at the December 12, 2023 Governing Board Meeting. Samuel sat on the dais next to Mr. Dolezal and participated in the opening of the Board meeting. Samuel introduced himself to the group:



I am Samuel Rollins. I enjoy playing with my siblings and I want to be an electrical engineer when I grow up. DWES is an incredible school that offers so many opportunities like AR, IXL, Spanish Immersion, STEAM, Art, PE, and Music. It is one of a kind with its many out-of-school activities, like cross country, Choir, basketball, and a bunch of others. STMS is also an incredible school, according to my older siblings, and offers many programs like robotics that I would love to participate in. I have been in CCUSD my entire education, and I love it and the opportunities it provides for the students.

CCUSD December 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!

CONGRATULATIONS!

December 2023

CCUSD EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: BILL DOLEZAL, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT | KRISTY GIEBER, BUSINESS SERVICES | AMY BLAMIRE, LMES | JACKIE ULMER, GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER | WENDY MCATEE, STMS | DOT SILVA, DSA | RACHEL GOLDBERG, CSHS

NOT PICTURED: STEFANIE BRICK, BMES | JENNIFER DENNISON, DWES | MELISSA LOVEWELL, HTES
SPONSORS: CCUEF, KENDRICK WEALTH MANAGEMENT, SUMMIT DINER



Lone Mountain Elementary STEAM...

LMES' 6th grade Eagles learned all about dissecting squid in their STEAM class early last month. Thank you to the AZ Science Center for supplying the squid.



Sonoran Trails Middle School...

Moon lab in 8th grade science - These Stingers were determining how potential and kinetic energy of a system will change if the height, mass and velocity of an object changes.



Horseshoe Trails Elementary School...

HTES' Student Council was able to donate 1,032 cans of food to the Foothills Food Bank with the help of their families! Sixth grade won the competition of most cans donated with 284 total, therefore Ms. Henderson & Ms. Allen were the lucky recipients of a pie in the face! Mr. Pettinato also took part to celebrate the impressive total. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Black Mountain Elementary School...

BMES preschool students have the best buddies – the older Bobcats!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE –DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Sonoran Trails Middle School Wrestling...

The Stinger Wrestling team is in full swing – go Stingers!



Lone Mountain Elementary School – Junior Heroes...

Congratulations to LMES' new Junior Heroes – these Eagles worked hard to complete community service hours. Together they completed 45 hours of helping others and spreading kindness! Congratulations to Cali, Elli, Harper, Sydney, Kenzie, Zoe and Jack – way to go Eagles!



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).
- ✓ 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 [here](#) on the Maricopa County Elections Department website. If you're not registered to vote, you can get forms and information [here](#) – also on the Maricopa County Elections Department website.

Sonoran Trails Middle School – Students of the Month!

Congratulations to the STMS Students of the Month: Way to go Stingers! Congratulations to Cora Bane (7th grade); Jonathan Berger (7th grade); Blaise Besemer (8th grade); Josh Drummond (7th grade); Matthias Dunlap (7th grade); Nicholas Farace (7th grade); Ryder Jupp (8th grade); Adison Lyons (8th grade); Mary Mullenmeister (7th grade); Gianna Spinelli (8th grade); and Hunter Wright (8th grade).



LMES Pickle Ball...

LMES' second graders are pickle ball aficionados – check them out!



Shop with a Cop Event...

On December 7, Phoenix Law Enforcement Association Charities and the AZ Probation Officers Association hosted the 13th annual shop with a cop in North Phoenix. Participating Officers (STMS' Ofc. Brooks) were assigned a student (STMS had two) and he picked them up in a fully marked Phx Police Dept vehicle, chauffeuring them to Kohl's. After checking in, everyone enjoyed breakfast burritos, freshly baked donuts, fresh fruit and hot chocolate. The kids also completed small crafts to take home after the event and were given goody bags. After breakfast, STMS kids watched the arrival of Blue Santa, courtesy of the Phx PD Air Unit and a Phx PD K-9 Unit demonstration.

Inside of Kohls, the kids had the opportunity to take a photo with Blue Santa and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Then, the shopping began. Each child submitted a wish list of items and officers paired with the kids to shop for gifts. The kids were allowed to spend \$175 per child and in some cases, our own officers used their own money to cover the spending that was over the allotted amount.



HTES Puppy Luv Animal Rescue donation...

HTES' Kiwanis Kids Club and Ms. Harrison put together a linen and blanket drive for Puppy Luv Animal Rescue. The students delivered a whole van full of linens for their puppies! Way to go Stallions! For more information regarding Puppy Luv Rescue visit their website here: <http://www.puppyluvrescue.org/>



BMES Authors...

These 1st grade Bobcats are sharing their Animal Research stories sitting in the "author's chair" early last month...



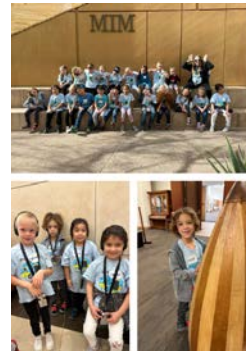
Horseshoe Trails Own – Jessica Cresswell...

Fourth grade teacher, Jessica Cresswell, was surprised with a gift card from APS mid-December. The Supply My Class program awards \$500 to 500 randomly selected teachers each year to help ensure they have the resources they need to support their students' success.



Lone Mountain Kindergarten...

The Eaglets learned about music at the MIM Museum!



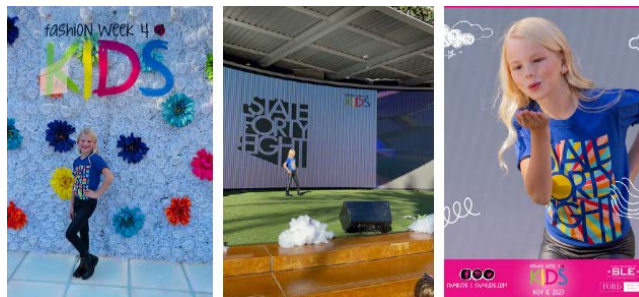
Black Mountain Elementary School Drama presents...

Annie! What a fabulous show these Bobcats put on for the community!



Bobcat Model...

BMES Bobcat, Tenley, auditioned and was selected to model State48 in the annual Fashion Week 4 Kids at Desert Ridge Marketplace earlier last month – congratulations Tenley!



Desert Sun Academy – French Immersion...

DSA French Immersion students painted "lumignons" to celebrate the Festival des lumières (Festival of Lights) that took place on December 8 in Lyon, France.



Black Mountain Elementary School...

The Bobcats have amazing volunteers that make Financial Literacy at BMES a reality!



Sonoran Trails Middle School – Robotics...

Congratulations to the STMS Robotics Team! They won the “Connect Award” in Flagstaff in mid-December. This award is given to the team who embodies STEM and represents first in their community – Way to go Stingers!



10,000 for the Troops...

CCUSD District Office and CCUSD's Education & Community Service (ECS) Kid's Club and Preschools participated in KSLX's 10,000 for the Troops. This is the 3rd year that the District Office has participated. CCUSD's holiday cards were combined with thousands of others. MAM (Military Assistance Mission) will ship the Holiday cards to active duty military service members deployed overseas and around the globe! For more information on MAM – click [here](#).





Together

CCUSD's Business Partners Breakfast!

Sponsored by
The Hatcher Group
Baird Private Wealth Management

Would you like to sponsor a door prize?
If so, please contact jscotto@ccusd93.net - THANK YOU!

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 - 7:30am Networking - 8-9am Breakfast

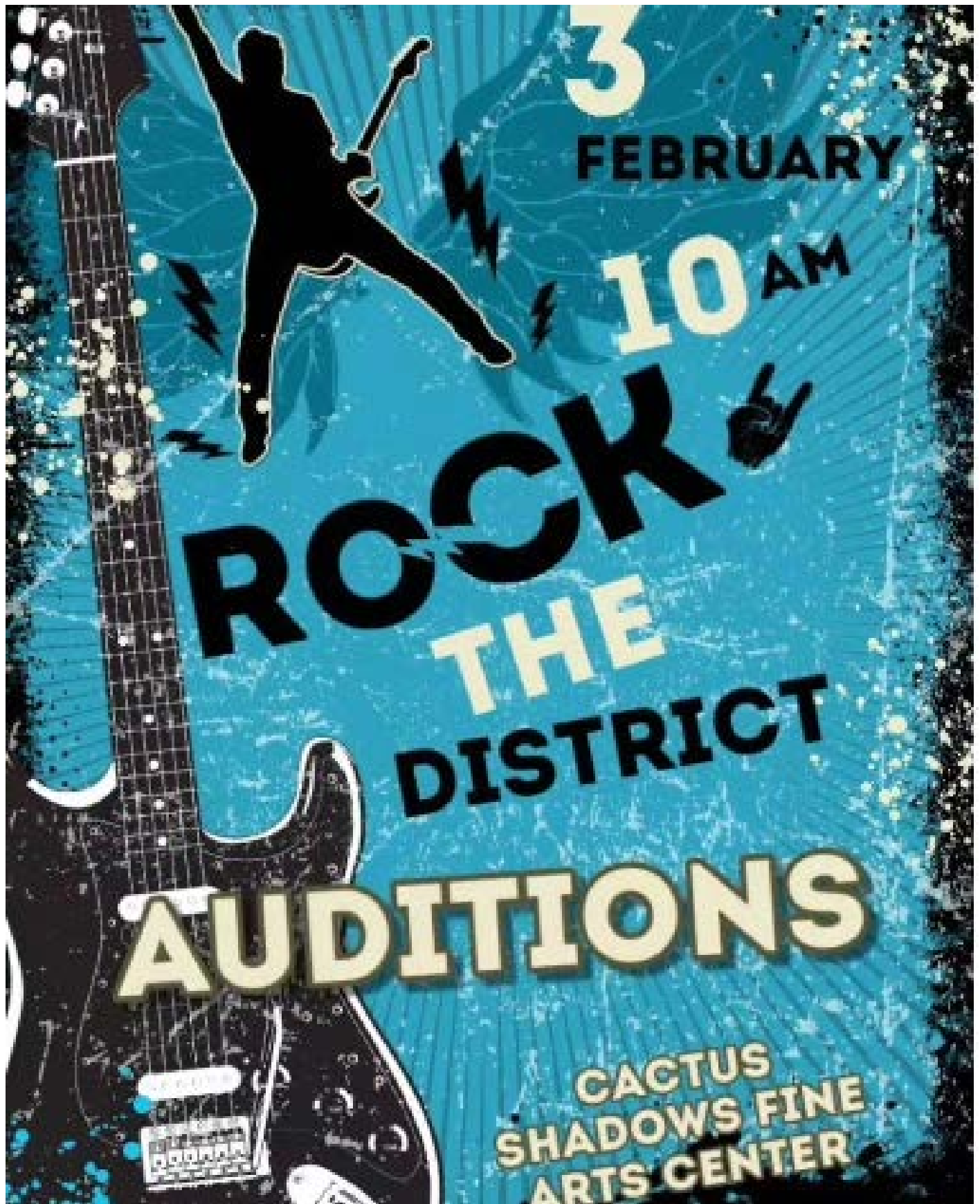
The Holland Center-Foothills Community Foundation
34250 N. 60th Street – Scottsdale, 85266

Join us for breakfast, networking and all things CCUSD!

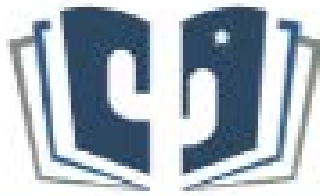
April 17, 2024 CCUSD Business Partners Breakfast Sponsored by
Colonial Life - Darrell Dufford

Please RSVP to jscotto@ccusd93.net no later than January 16, 2024.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR [ROCK THE DISTRICT](#) – April 13 – Harold's Cave Creek Corral



CAVE CREEK UNIFIED
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



START AT
8AM

RUN THE DISTRICT 5K

CACTUS SHADOWS FOOTBALL STADIUM

SATURDAY JANUARY 20TH, 2024

MUSIC • VENDORS • FOOD • DRINKS • FUN

\$25 PER RUNNER OR WALKER

KIDS 5 & UNDER ARE FREE!



SCAN TO
REGISTER!

ccuef.org/run-the-district-5k/

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND HERE: <https://ccuef.org/run-the-district-5k/>

STMS student participates in ROTAX Grand Finals in Bahrain...

Nixx competed in the ROTAX Grand Finals in Bahrain. This is the Olympics of karting with 72 drivers in his class from 60 countries. Prior to leaving, Fox 10 did a follow up story on him as they first met him when he was 9 years old and wanted to show how far he's come as he's now competing at the national and international level. Way to go Nixx!



Desert Sun Academy...

These DSA students are using the playground map to review the fifty states – way to go Coyotes:



Black Mountain Elementary School...

BMES' Preschool hopped aboard the Polar Express and Alabaster McPrincipalpants made his yearly appearance before winter break! Welcome back Alabaster and have a great New Year!



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

SPRING ENRICHMENT & UPCOMING REGISTRATIONS

WITH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



ACTIVITIES BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL, PERFORMANCES, AND INTRAMURAL TOURNAMENTS*

-Enrichment Programs: Registration for Spring Classes are open with more added throughout January. One Voice Choir performances and more Cross Country are ahead!

-2024-2025 Preschool registration will be opening in February, so stay tuned.

*Performances and program availability varies per school

JOIN FUN
ACTIVITIES
ALL YEAR
LONG WITH
ECS!

Enrollment Information:



480-575-2440

ECS Office Hours:

M-F, 7:30AM-4:00PM

FOR MORE DETAILS AND

REGISTRATION:

CAVECREEK.CE.ELEYO.COM

For more details & registration: www.cavecreek.ce.eleyo.com



Participating in the Superintendent's Challenge...

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

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://dfila.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/>
 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://wildatheartaptors.org/>





Governing Board Meetings

33016 North 60th Street
 Scottsdale

January 9, 2024 – Organizational Meeting

January 23, 2024 – Business Meeting

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

