Kyrene de la Esperanza

SHARK BYTES

October 2026

Thank you for choosing Esperanza! Please read below for our weekly family update! We will also post our family updates in ClassDojo weekly.

We love recognizing our amazing team! If a staff member has made a positive impact on your child or family, let us know! Your shoutout will be shared with them and may be featured in our weekly communications.

Staff Shoutout: https://forms.gle/afLy2jZ3Biwsiwh99

Quick Links

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Watch DOGS Sign Up

Principal Pieper's Message



Dear Shark Families,

Welcome back from Fall Break! I hope you and your families enjoyed some well-deserved time to relax, recharge, and make special memories together. We are so excited to welcome our Sharks back for Quarter 2 and look forward to another season of learning, growing, and celebrating all the wonderful things that make Esperanza such a special community!

We have some **SPOOK-tacular events** coming up, and we can't wait to celebrate with our Shark families!

Fall Picture Day – Tuesday, October 20
Get those smiles ready! Fall Picture Day is just around the corner. We can't wait to capture those adorable Shark smiles!

Trunk or Treat – Friday, October 23
Get ready for a FIN-tastic evening of Halloween fun! Costumes are welcome, and we encourage our Sharks and families to join in the festivities! We have 9 cars, so please help us by reserve your spot here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948AAA62AA3FBC16-66182325-trunk/44129136#/

Candy Donations Needed!
Help us make Trunk or Treat extra sweet! We are collecting donations of individually wrapped candy to help make this event a memorable experience for our students. Every donation is appreciated! Drop off in the front office and feed our monsters!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest
Calling all creative Sharks! Show off your creativity and Halloween spirit by participating in our pumpkin decorating contest. We can't wait to see your amazing pumpkin creations!

As we dive into Quarter 2, I want to thank our families for your continued partnership, encouragement, and support. The energy, enthusiasm, and sense of community at Esperanza are what make our school so special.

Let's make this quarter one filled with **learning, laughter, kindness, and SHARK-sized success!**

All fins in,

Mrs. Pieper

Week Highlights:

Our amazing PTO and volunteers from Esperanza Lutheran Church spoiled our staff on Monday with breakfast and fall decorations to kick off the quarter. We had a blast this week learning how to play Watch Your Back Tag in our tagging designated areas! Students fell right back into the swing of routines and procedures day one. To end our week, we held our official FUN FRIDAY during lunches and jumped our hearts out at KTR!

Upcoming Important Dates:

10/16 KTR 1-8PM
10/21 iReady Growth Monitoring Math Assessment
10/23 Trunk or Treat 6-8PM
10/27 SRP Energy Bikes 5th Grade & Picture Makeups
10/30 Book Character Dress Up Day
11/11 Veterans Day (No School)
11/13 Movie on the Lawn

Weekly Events 10/19-10/23

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Crafting Club (2:15-3:30)	PICTURE DAY!	Early Release iReady Growth Monitoring	Yearbook Club (7:00-7:30AM)	Watch DOGS Richard Ward

Chess Emporium (2:20-3:20)	Soccer (2:20-3:20) Mallet Band (2:20-3:20)	Math Assessment all grades Young Rembrandts (12:20-1:20)	Shark Strummers (2:20-3:20)	Mallet Band (2:20-3:20) Lacrosse (2:20-3:20)

Kinder - 2nd



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade



Staff Shoutouts!

Lindsey Barrett, 2nd Grade Teacher

Thank you so much for being a such a consistent and loving teacher for our boy!! We appreciate all the work you do!

All Fins Here & On Time

SOMETHING BUZZ-WORTHY IS COMING! A Surprise Attendance Day Is Coming Soon

At Esperanza, every school day matters — and being here on time and ready to learn helps our Sharks start the day strong!

Soon, we will begin having **SURPRISE ATTENDANCE DAYS.**

On a Surprise Day:

Bee Here! • Bee On Time! • Bee-t the Bell!

Students who are in their seats and ready to learn by 7:30 a.m. will be eligible for a prize!

How will you know when it's a Surprise Day?

That's the fun part... you won't know ahead of time!

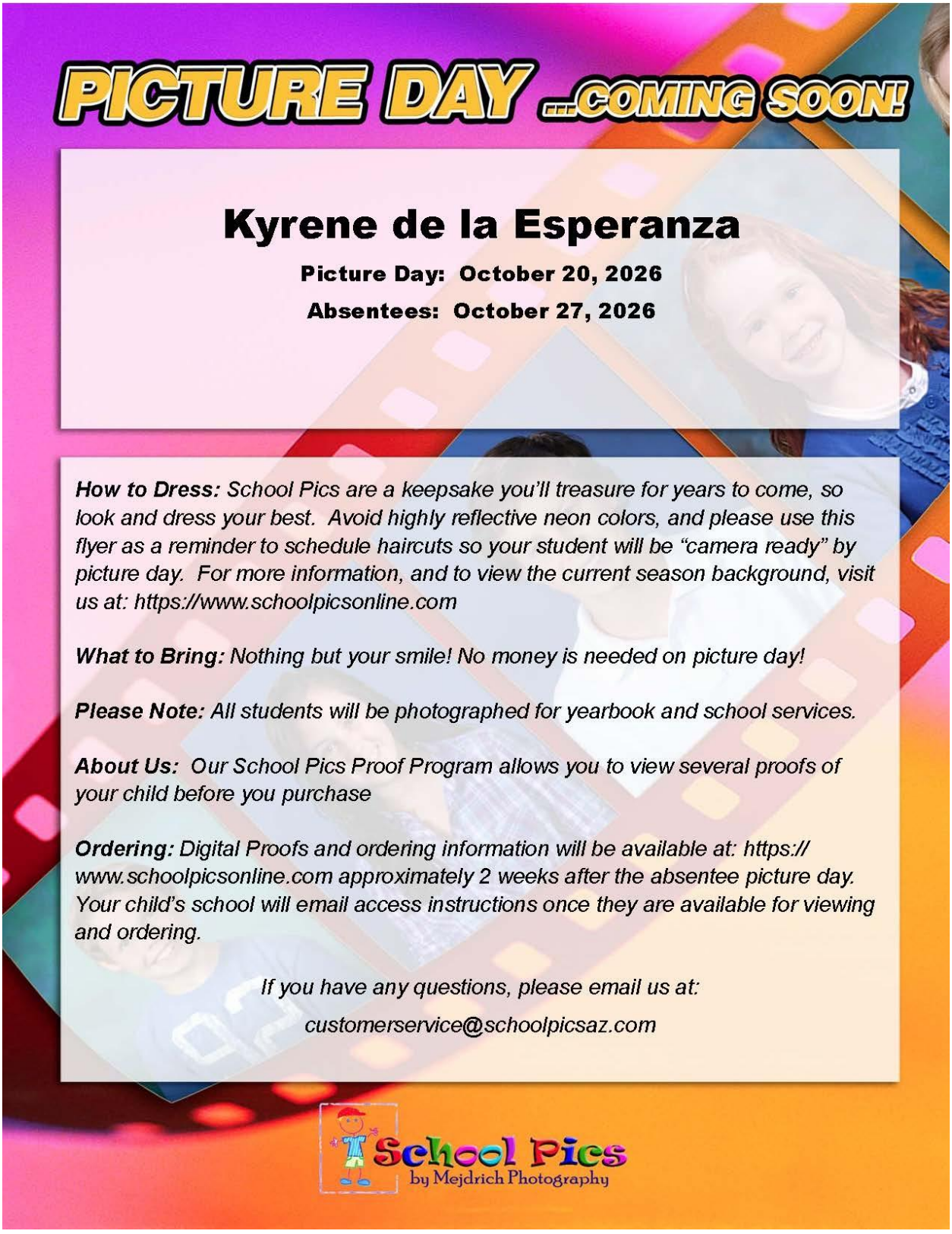
Surprise Days can happen anytime, so make every day count.

Bee here by 7:30 — and a PRIZE could come your way!

All Fins In for Great Attendance!

Fin-tastic News

- **Water Bottle Donations** are appreciated for our health office. If you are able, please donate to the front office.
- **Important Parking Lot Safety Reminders** As we return from Fall Break, we want to remind all families of a few safety protocols when entering and leaving school parking lots. Please remember:
    - Cars should only enter and leave via designated routes and posted traffic patterns.
    - Bus loading zones are for school buses only. Please do not drop off/pick up students in this area.
    - Students/adults should not pass between parked buses.
    - Thank you for your patience during drop off and pick up. Following the protocols above will help keep our students and staff safe as well as ensure we operate as smoothly and efficiently as possible.
- **We're hiring!** If you or someone you know would like to join our team, we have the following positions vacant: apply today!
    - Lunch/Crossing
    - CCB Instructional Assistant
    - Resource Instructional Assistant



PTO Spotlight

Esperanza's Parent Teacher Organization is a formal group of parents/guardians, teachers, and school administration who work together to support students, staff, and enrich the school!



Important Dates:

10/16 KTR Fundraiser

10/23 Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival


TRUNK
or
TREAT
FALL FESTIVAL
Free Family Event!
Candy • Games • Costume Contest
Face Painting • Balloon Artists
Food Trucks will be on site for purchase
SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR TRUNK OR TREAT, VOLUNTEER AT THE EVENT, OR TO DONATE ITEMS
HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/ESP-FALL
Friday, October 23rd
6:00-8:00PM
Esperanza's Parking Lot and Playground

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

Esperanza's Trunk or Treat Fall Festival is happening soon!
Our school's candy monsters, Fred and Lydia, are HUNGRY and are in need of yummy treats!

The Esperanza PTO is seeking donations of pre-packaged candy and snacks for our school's Trunk or Treat by Oct. 23rd.

Drop donations off at the front office or send to school with students for them to donate directly in to the candy monster... if they dare!



SCAN ME

ESPPTO

Prefer to donate funds instead?
Each $10 donation allows us to purchase another bag of candy!

Open your banking app, select Zelle payment, and scan QR code

QUESTIONS? SHARKS@ESPERANZAPTO.COM



2026-2027 KYRENE DE LA ESPERANZA PTO EVENT CALENDAR

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
7/17 3-3:45pm **Kindergarten Ice Cream Social** 7/20 5-6:30pm Meet the Teacher **7/22** **First Day of School**	**8/7 4-8pm** **Pizza with the Principal!** **Peter Piper Pizza Family Dinner Night** 8/10-8/21 Kindness Fundraiser **8/27 6:30-7:30pm** **Watch D.O.G.S & PTO Community Meetings**	**9/2 12-10pm** **Bahama Bucks Fundraiser** 9/9-9/11 Book Fair & Parent Teacher Conferences **9/21 11am-9pm** **Nello's Family Dinner Night** 9/28 FALL BREAK STARTS
OCTOBER	**NOVEMBER**	**DECEMBER**
9/28-10/9 **FALL BREAK** **(KIDS RETURN ON THE 13TH)** 10/16 1-8 pm KTR Fundraiser **10/20** **Picture Day** 10/23 6-8pm Trunk or Treat & Fall Festival	**11/13 6:45am** **Ruby Bridges Walk to School event** 11/13 6:30pm Movie on the Lawn & Food Truck Night **11/17** **Thanksgiving Lunch on the Lawn** 11/23 4-8pm Chipotle Family Dinner Night **11/24** **Turkey Trot**	**12/4 6-7:30pm** **Family Holiday Bingo Night** 12/7-12/11 Polar Pals Gift Shop @ school **12/16 8:30am-10:30pm** **Panda Express Family Dinner Night** 12/21 WINTER BREAK STARTS
JANUARY	**FEBRUARY**	**MARCH**
12/21-1/4 **WINTER BREAK** **(KIDS RETURN ON THE 5TH)** 1/13 10:30am-10:30pm Zzeek's Family Dinner Night **1/28 12:30-11pm** **BJ's Family Diner Night**	**2/3-2/5** **Book Fair & Parent Teacher Conferences** 2/10 12:30-10pm MOD Pizza Family Dinner Night **2/12 6-8pm** **Family Dance**	**Read-a-thon Fundraiser** 3/4 3-7pm Raising Cane's Family Dinner Night **3/8-3/19** **SPRING BREAK** **(KIDS RETURN ON THE 23rd)**
APRIL	**MAY**	**JUNE**
4/7 4-8pm Sonic Family Dinner Night **4/22 6:45am** **Bike/Walk to School/ Earth Day Event**	**5/3-5/7** **Teacher Appreciation Week** TBD PTO Community Meeting **5/12 12:30-10pm** **Stella's Ice Cream Family Night** 5/20 4-8pm Peter Piper Pizza Family Dinner Night & Yearbook Signing Party! **5/26** **Last Day of School!**	**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!** '27-'28 school year starts on July 21st

Kyrene de la Esperanza PTO NEWSLETTER

Parent Teacher Organization

October 2026

PTO Celebrations

Our **Scholastic Book Fair** brought in $1,811.56 for our school!! Thank you to all who stopped by and helped the event be so successful! It was so great to see so many families at Parent/Teacher Conferences!

Our **Bahama Bucks** fundraiser brought in $178! Thank you for supporting Esperanza by picking up a sweet treat!

Our **Nello's** family dinner night brought in $272 for our school! WOO HOO!! Thank you, thank you!!

A HUGE thank you to Bahama Bucks and Nello's for supporting our school!

🎉Appreciation Days🎉

October is National Principals Month!! 🙌**MRS. PIEPER**🙌 You are such an INCREDIBLE LEADER!!! You do SO much for Esperanza students, staff, and community!! We are all SO grateful for you! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!!

National Custodian Day: October 2nd. THANK YOU **MR. PAUL**!! Our school wouldn't work without you!! Thank you for everything you do for the HUGE building of Esperanza!

World Teachers' Day: October 5th: **ESPERANZA STAFF**- YOU make the world a better place! We cannot thank you enough for everything you do and the meaningful relationships you build with our kids!

National Instructional Coaches Day: October 6th: **Mrs. Lyding, Mrs. Kramer, Mrs. Cook, and Mr. McDonald**: YOU ROCK!! Your hard work and dedication on closing the gaps in student achievements are noticed!! Thank you for helping our students grow each and every day!

Important Dates

- 9/28: Fall break starts
- 10/13: Kids return to school
- 10/16: KTR fundraiser 1-8 pm
- 10/20: Picture day! 📸
- 10/23: Trunk or Treat Fall Festival 6-8pm

Donations Needed

Our Health Office is in need of:
-New underwear. Boys and Girls sizes 4,5,6
-Gently used or new shirts. Boys and Girls sizes 10,11,12
Please drop off in the front office. Thank you!!



Fred and Lydia are our candy monsters in the front office! Please drop off bags of candy for our Trunk or Treat or scan the QR code in your banking app to donate monetarily



SCAN ME
for a ZELLE donation
ESPPTO

News

- Our **Trunk or Treat Fall Festival** is right around the corner! Sign up to participate in the trunk line-up! Limited spots available!! Volunteer spots are needed to help with games as well. Sign up today at: https://tinyurl.com/ESP-Fall-Festival







- Have you thought about joining the PTO, but aren't sure if you want the full commitment of being a board member?? We want YOU! The PTO is looking for a parent/guardian from each grade level to be a PTO Advisory Member. Interested? https://tinyurl.com/PTO-Advisory
- One Kyrene parent group is hosting a meet and greet with the four Kyrene school board candidates who are on the November ballot. Please join us on October 14th from 5:30-7pm at the Tempe YMCA. RSVP by 10/7 https://forms.gle/haaLcB6R2Sit7wGc6

Stay Connected

Sharks@EsperanzaPTO.com **@EsperanzaPTO**

WORK IN PROGRESS NEW WEBSITE coming soon! EsperanzaPTO.com

Kyrene School District Information

- **ESS Parent Training**. Join us for an IEP Training provided by Encircle Families. Learn about the special education process and the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Register here: IEP Training with Encircle Families
  - Oct 19, 2026
  - 5:30-7:30 pm
  - District Office
- **Light On Afterschool.** On October 22 and 23, Kids Club and After Hours sites will celebrate Lights On Afterschool, a nationwide event highlighting the important role afterschool programs play in the lives of children, families, and communities. These celebrations also raise awareness of the need for more children to have access to quality afterschool programs. Please stop by our afterschool program and thank the team for their hard work and dedication to creating a safe, fun, and welcoming place for students to connect, learn, and grow.





Contact Us

Kyrene de la Esperanza
14841 S. 41st Place
Phoenix, AZ 85044

Phone: 480-541-2800
Fax: 480-541-2810
Attendance: 480-541-2801

School Hours: 7:30 am - 2:15 pm
Early Dismissal Wednesday 12:15 pm

Office Hours: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm
Wednesday: 7:00 am - 1:30 pm

