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

Esperanza Homepage
Supply Lists
School Schedules
School and District Calendars
Bus Route Information
Safety and Security
School Lunch Information
Watch DOGS Sign Up

Principal Pieper's Message



Dear Shark Families,

A huge **THANK YOU** to our amazing families for your generous candy donations and support of our Trunk or Treat event! Your kindness helps make these special memories possible for our Sharks!

We also celebrated our **first-ever Surprise Attendance Day!** We love finding fun ways to recognize our students for showing up, being ready to learn, and making every school day count. Remember, **every day matters!**

Fall Picture Day was a success! Our Sharks looked fantastic! If your child missed pictures, no worries—**Picture Retake Day is Tuesday!**

On Friday, we look forward to celebrating our **Book Character Day!** Students may dress up in costume to represent a book character of their choice.

Thank you for continuing to make Esperanza such a special place to learn, grow, and celebrate together!

All fins in,

Mrs. Pieper

Week Highlights: What an exciting week at Esperanza! We celebrated the selection of our new Junior Coaches, enjoyed a fantastic Trunk or Treat event thanks to our generous families, and captured lots of smiles during Fall Picture Day! We also hosted our first-ever Surprise Attendance Day to celebrate the importance of showing up every day. Academically, our Sharks completed i-Ready Growth Monitoring to track their progress toward learning goals. Thank you for helping make this a wonderful week of learning, leadership, and celebration! Thank you to Mr. Ward for being our Watch DOGS this week!

Upcoming Important Dates:

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 10/25-10/30

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Crafting Club (2:15-3:30)	PICTURE DAY Makeups	Early Release	Shark Strummers (2:20-3:20)	Mallet Band (2:20-3:20)
Chess Emporium (2:20-3:20)	5th Grade SRP Bikes Presentations	Young Rembrandts (12:20-1:20)		Character Dress Up Day!
	Soccer (2:20-3:20)			
	Mallet Band (2:20-3:20)			

Safe Honest And Respectful Kids

Kinder & 1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade



Staff Shoutouts!

Abby Knight, Kindergarten Teacher

She has taken the time to get to know my son and work with him to help him excel. He is so excited to see her everyday! You can tell she loves all her students and shares a special bond with each one of them! Our family really appreciates all her hard work and dedication!

Bernadette Marshall, Title I Family Engagement Program Coordinator

Thank you for placing the candy monsters, Lydia and Fred, outside every morning to help PTO receive candy donations for Trunk of Treat!



Watch DOG Mr. Ward



We were so lucky to have Mr. Ward as our Watch DOG on Friday. The kindergarteners loved playing Freeze Tag with him.

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

- As a friendly reminder, our front parking lot is designated for **parking and walking students to the entrance**, not for student drop-off. If you choose to use the parking lot during morning arrival, please park in a designated space and walk your child safely to the entrance. For quick drop-offs, **please use our designated student drop-off area.** Thank

you for helping us keep our students, families, and staff safe while ensuring a smooth morning arrival for everyone!

- **Additionally, for the safety of all students and families, please use designated crosswalks and avoid jaywalking** when crossing streets. We want to model safe pedestrian practices for our Sharks and ensure everyone arrives at school safely.
- We are excited to celebrate our **Fall Parties** with our students! To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, please review the following reminders:
    - **Volunteers:** Fall Party volunteers must be parents or guardians of students. Relatives who have completed the required fingerprinting process are also welcome to attend.
    - **No Siblings:** To maintain a safe and focused environment, siblings are not permitted to attend classroom parties.
    - **Identification:** All volunteers must bring a valid photo ID to check in at the front office.
    - **Party Snacks:** All snacks and treats must follow Kyrene's food safety guidelines and **must not contain any of the 11 restricted ingredients** identified in district policy.
- **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

- **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

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

Phoenix, AZ 85044

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

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

