

Acacia's Mission: The mission of Acacia Elementary, in partnering with parents and community, is to provide a safe, comfortable and cooperative environment ensuring that **all** students develop the knowledge, skills and character necessary to achieve their highest potential; and to become productive members of an ever-changing society.

November 22, 2016

Dear Acacia Parents and Students,

As you know, we always have fun family events throughout the year and last week was no exception. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) Night with our 4th, 5th and 6th grade students and parents was a blast! Ms. Marcum, Acacia ASA Outreach Coordinator, planned an awesome evening with our business partners. Families rotated through stations including demonstrations from the Arizona Science Center (Tara and Cathy) on the effects of liquid nitrogen and understanding matter (Science), in addition to family engineering and brain game stations. McCarthy Building Inc. which included Mr. Mike H., Mr. David P., Mr. Daniel and Mr. Larry, as well as Chris N. from Arizona Materials LLC, teamed up to present an interactive chemistry and art project where students mixed cement, sand and water to find the right consistency, just as it happens when building. Each student poured and decorated a stepping stone that will be used to beautify Acacia. We also need to thank Arizona Materials LLC for bringing the supplies to make these awesome stones. Go to the Acacia Facebook to see pictures. We are so excited to have such awesome business partners helping make STEAM come to life!



During the upcoming holiday season, it may be difficult to keep up with routines. We are so fortunate to have a supplemental reading program that allows our students to stay on top of their reading. Accelerated Reader is research-based and is proven to increase your child's reading comprehension. You can help your child be successful reading by signing his or her log every night. Ask children to read to you or have them tell you what they've read. Check their progress at the Accelerated Reader Parent-connect online. We passed out directions at conferences, but you can always ask the teacher or the office for them.

You all know we value the home-school connection and this is one of the best ways to help your child be successful. As always, if you have any questions you can contact me or your child's teacher. I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.



Sincerely,
Christine Hollingsworth, Principal

Dates to Remember

Tues., Nov. 22	Site Council Meeting * Library * 4:00 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 22	Cross Country Meet * Moon Mountain * 4:00 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 22	1 st Grade Music Concert * Cafeteria * 5:30 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 23	Midterms Go Home
Nov. 24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday * No School
Thurs., Dec. 1	Student Council Meeting * Room 126 * 3:15 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 2	Field Trip * 1 st Grade * Phoenix Zoo
Thurs., Dec. 8	Internet Safety Family Event * Cafeteria * 6:30 p.m.

Early Dismissal
Every Wednesday
1:45 p.m.

Midterms

Midterms go home this week. These reports are so important for you to see how your child is doing. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the teacher. He or she will be happy to discuss it with you. Remember that your child also has information about his or her progress. Ask your child specific questions about what he or she is doing. Educating children is a team effort, and we have the best teams!

Thank you Voters!

Voter-approved bond dollars will fund necessary improvements and enhancements for buildings, buses, safety and technology.



PTA is seeking officers for the positions of President and Treasurer. This is a great opportunity for you to be involved with your child's school. Please call the office if you are interested and we will connect you with a PTA Representative.





Thanksgiving * No School November 24 & 25



Safety in the Morning
Please remember that students are not allowed on campus before 7:55 a.m. Staff members are not on duty until that time, and we cannot have children on campus unattended.

Please be courteous to our neighbors
Do not park in front of or block driveways.
Favor de ser corteses con nuestros vecinos
No se estacionen en frente o bloqueen los caminos de entrada de vehículos.

Kindness and Compassion Club



KC Club would like to thank everyone who participated in the Angel Tree Hat Day! Students only had to pay \$1 to wear a hat during the school day. Students raised just over \$203 to purchase items from the angel tree.

Be on the lookout for lots of projects from KC Club. They are currently working on Kindness Owls. KC Club would like to start an **A++ CHAIN REACTION!** They are currently making ceramic owls, which are a symbol of kindness and compassion. They will anonymously distribute the owls where they see kindness being demonstrated. They are hoping to help showcase a way to create a "chain reaction" and continue to spread kindness and compassion on to others with actions and/or by passing the owl to others. We never know how far an act of kindness can go.

Sorry, No Homemade



With the holidays fast approaching, there will be celebrations in and out of the classroom here at Acacia. Just a reminder that the food code enforced by the Maricopa County Health Department states, "Food prepared in a private home may not be used or offered for human consumption in a Food Establishment."

This means that any food brought to school must be purchased and cannot be made at home. Thank you for helping us stay in compliance with the law.

Take Credit for Helping a Child



You can do something great for the students at Acacia A++ School and reduce your tax liability at the same time by making a tax credit donation. When you make a school tax credit donation you're enhancing the education of a child. Your donation can go to the program you specify, or you may permit the school to designate which of its extracurricular programs your donation will support – sports teams (basketball is trying to raise money for new game jerseys), KC Club (raising money for clay and paint to support their "Kindness Owls"), Garden Club (tools and supplies to maintain the garden), Choir (musical scores and costumes), Cheer (raising money for new poms since ours are over 10 years old) or even 6th grade students (for their overnight SeaWorld field trip in the spring). So many different ways to help!

State Department of Revenue Guidelines

- The tax credit program gives a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state income taxes. The credit is \$400 for married taxpayers that file a joint return and \$200 for single taxpayers or heads of households. If married taxpayers file separate returns, each spouse may claim one-half of the credit that would have been allowed.
- Public education tax credits may only be used to the extent that they reduce a tax liability to zero. Any unused amounts may be carried forward for not more than five consecutive years.
- You do not need to have a child enrolled in a school to take advantage of this tax credit. Grandparents, aunts and uncles, and even neighbors can take advantage of this credit.
- Checks must be made payable to Acacia.
- Tax credit donations must be made on or before April 15 to be applied to the prior year's taxes.
- When the school receives the check, a receipt will be issued for the individual's tax record. The District will also submit notification to the Arizona Department of Revenue.

For further information, contact the office in your local school office or Chris Wing in the Accounting Department at 602-347-2631.



Lost and Found is growing!

Please have your child check the lost and found for jackets or sweaters he or she may have misplaced. Parents are always welcome to look also. Don't forget to stop in the office for a visitor's pass.

Accelerated Reader "A/R" Home Program



Our Accelerated Reader Program (A/R) is a research-based supplemental program that can increase your child's comprehension scores. Please ask your child to show you the A/R books he or she is currently reading. This program is fortunate to have Renaissance Home Connect tool that you can access to keep informed of your child's progress. Go to our Web site, acacia.wesdschools.org and scroll to the bottom of the page on the left-hand side and click on the Accelerated Reader Home Connect. Then click the blue link. Ask your child for his or her user name and password. Select the reading tab to view Accelerated Reader quizzes and scores of tests taken on books here at school. It's a great way to stay connected. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

<https://Hosted109.renlearn.com/254238/HomeConnect/Login.aspx>