

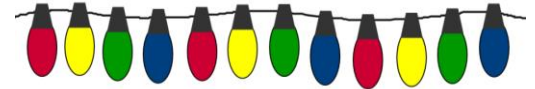


CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2017



We are ... MUSTANG STRONG!

*Dear SSA Community,
Holiday greetings from SSA! We know this time of year has more activities which often lead to additional stress and fatigue. As administrators it is easy for us to say, "Hang in there!" but we know this is not always easy to do. We want you to know we truly appreciate your extra effort and teamwork during this Holiday season.*



**Happy
Holidays!**

This year, for the first time ever, our campus is fully decorated with bright and sparkling Christmas lights! As we share the lights with our community we are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas and how many years ago a bright light filled the sky and brought feelings of hope and peace to the world! And this is exactly what we wish for each of you as you view our Christmas lights – hope and peace for your lives and the lives of our children!

However you celebrate this season, we wish you a season filled with hope and peace!

Mrs. Panagopoulos and Ms. Stewart-Alliger

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT!

Friday, December 8th 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Cost = \$25.00 for first child and \$20.00 per sibling

Includes movie, pizza, hot chocolate,
popcorn, cookie decorating, games!

Students may bring sleeping bag and pillow

Sign up in the School Office



IT'S A SNOWSTORM AT SSA!

Stop in the School Office to see the beautiful snowflakes!

Please send snowflakes and donations to the School Office by this Friday, December 8th.



SSA WELCOMES FAMILY HOLIDAY PICTURES

Stepping Stones Academy is inviting its families and friends to send the school a Family Holiday picture, which will be hung in the School Office for everyone to enjoy. Families may send the pictures to school with their children or stop by the School Office.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



NO AFTER SCHOOL MUSTANG ZONE

Monday, December 11th

Please pick up all children at 3:00 p.m.



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS ...

All I want for Christmas is a robot pony because it can move around and eat.

Addison Wendtland, Kindergarten

My favorite part of Christmas is the food.

Logan Schenkel, 5th grade

All I want for Christmas is a Cristiano Ronaldo jersey.

David Gjonaj, 3rd grade

My favorite Christmas song is *Frosty the Snowman*.

Bradley Miner, 2nd grade

My favorite part of Christmas is having Christmas cookies because they are super good.

Michael Doyle, 1st grade

My favorite part of Christmas is Christmas Eve because my entire family spends it together.

Mrs. Venafro

All I want for Christmas is a drone because it is cool.

Colton Solem, 1st grade



K-8TH GRADES AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

7th and 8th grades – 2:10 p.m.

2nd and 3rd grades – 2:20 p.m.

4th, 5th and 6th grades – 2:10 p.m.

Kdgn. and 1st grade – 2:30 p.m.

Assemblies held in classrooms.





SEVENTH GRADE PERFORMS THIS WEEK

In partnership with Desert Foothills Theater the seventh grade class has been working with Ms. Heather and Mrs. Geiser for on an anti-bullying program which focuses on compassion and empathy. The students will present information about what they have learned to the fifth through eighth graders on Thursday, December 7th. Parents are welcome to attend.

Samantha Barnett
Joseph Boldt
Christopher DeLira
Haylie Hoelzer
Joseph Lethem

Gracelyn Bliss
Emily Bragg
Aquinnah Goveia
Mason Joslin
Ryan Nies

Ethan Boisvert
Hailey Cole
Dakota Harvey
Logan Koechig
Gavin Skaggs

Cierra Witham
Jennifer Wood
Noah Sorensen
Yekaterina Trapp
Salma Trevizo



CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS VONDERSCHER ON HER GRADUATION FROM ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



Bachelor's of Science Degree in Family and Human Development

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS ...

My favorite Christmas song is *Santa's Sleigh* because it's so fun and I like to dance to it.
Abraham DuBois II, Kindergarten

All I want for Christmas is for everyone to be happy.
Miss Courtney

My favorite Christmas song is *Frosty the Snowman*.
Jacob Lunsford, 3rd grade

All I want for Christmas is legos.
Jada St. Jean-Stevens, 5th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is hanging out with my family because they are fun.
Gavin Skaggs, 7th grade

**Merry
Christmas**



STEPPING STONES ACADEMY PRESENTS ...

WINTER FESTIVAL, 2017

Thursday, December 14th

6:00 p.m.





SSA WINTER FESTIVAL

Thursday, December 14th 6:00 p.m.



WINTER FESTIVAL INFORMATION

1. All students perform in the program with Reading Buddies. ***If students are not attending Winter Festival, parents are to notify the classroom teacher.***
2. Information regarding student attire and props will be sent home with students.
3. Students are to meet in their classrooms by 5:30 p.m. on the night of the program.
4. During the performance students sit with their classmates and teachers.
5. After the performance K-8th grade students return to their classrooms and wait for their parents to pick them up. Pre-K students will meet their parents in the 4th grade room.

SSA CAMP OVER WINTER BREAK



December 18th-22nd

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

\$25.00 per child

\$20.00 for siblings



Please sign up in the School Office by Tuesday, December 12th

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS ...

My favorite part of Christmas is all of it because it is fun to give and get.

Hunter Henshaw, 2nd grade

All I want for Christmas is a 2 x 2 Rubik's cube.

William Wilkenson, 6th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is presents because you get toys.

Emily Milton, Kindergarten

All I want for Christmas is a Nintendo Switch because I want to play with it.

Jaeden Morales, 1st grade

My favorite Christmas song is *All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth*.

Salma Trevizo, 7th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is spreading cheer and singing loud for all to hear.

Elaxis Lunsford, 8th grade



WHAT DO STUDENTS WEAR FOR WINTER FESTIVAL?

Winter Festival is coming soon ... next week on Thursday, December 14th ... and students are asked to dress in clothing as listed below. If students do not have the specified clothing students may wear school uniform. For more specific information parents are asked to contact the classroom teachers.

Families are not expected to purchase new clothing for the Winter Festival. The goal is to have fun and enjoy being our SSA community!

Parents are reminded all clothing needs to be school-appropriate per SSA guidelines.

Please ensure shorts and skirts are no more than 3" above the knee, shirts are not low-cut, and jeans do not have holes in them.

Thank you!

Pre-K	Formal or semi-formal outfit – any color or style
Kindergarten	Formal or semi-formal Christmas outfit
1 st grade	Christmas shirt or sweater Blue jeans Bring robe and slippers if available
2 nd grade	Red, green, and/or white shirt Shirt does not need to be solid color Khaki pants/shorts/skirt
3 rd grade	Solid or plaid shirt – any color Blue jeans or khaki pants/skirts/shorts
4 th grade	Formal or semi-formal outfit – any color or style
5 th grade	Red, green, and/or white shirt Shirt does not need to be solid color Khaki pants/shorts/skirt
6 th grade	Solid or plaid shirt – any color Blue jeans or khaki pants/skirts/shorts
7 th grade	Christmas shirt or sweater Blue jeans Bring robe and slippers if available
8 th grade	Hawaiian shirts with blue jeans



STEPPING STONES ACADEMY WELCOMES
CASEYJOHN BLAU
TO KINDERGARTEN!





MUSTANG SOCCER TEAMS PLAY SATURDAY

Good luck to the Mustang Soccer teams on their tournament coming this Saturday, December 9th.



MUSTANG TEAM – DIVISION 1

Addison Wendtland
Andrew MacFarland
Evelyn McLeod
Hunter Henshaw
Isabella Anderson
Khristopher Sanchez
Walker Walton
Brayden Carlicci

MUSTANG TEAM – DIVISION 2

Chase McCulley
William Sanchez
Zoe MacFarland
Aaliyah Bessinger
Sophia Panagopoulos
Elizabeth Uebel

The Division 1 team plays at 9:00 a.m. against Adams Traditional Academy and again at 10:50 a.m. against Hearn Academy. The Division 2 team plays at 9:55 a.m. against Adams Traditional Academy and 11:45 a.m. against Legacy Traditional Academy. All games will be played at North Phoenix Preparatory school.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS ...

All I want for Christmas is a Nintendo Switch because I can take it with me everywhere.
Guy King, 5th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is toys.
Xzavier Corral, Kindergarten

My favorite Christmas song is *Mary, Did You Know?*
Sophia Panagopoulos, 4th grade

All I want for Christmas is a saddle because I need it.
Peyton Griffin, 2nd grade

My favorite part of Christmas is the Christmas spirit because it is wholesome.
Gabrielle Wolf, 8th grade

All I want for Christmas is to see my cousin in Italy because I haven't seen her yet.
Kaydence Barsellotti, 6th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is my whole family coming together because it is nice to see them.
Ian Matheson, 8th grade

All I want for Christmas is a doll.
Isabella Brothers, Kindergarten



SSA WELCOMES OREO AND MISTLETOE



Last week Stepping Stones Academy welcomed two more furry friends to campus, Oreo and Mistletoe. Oreo and Mistletoe are guinea pigs who have quickly transitioned into the life and activities of SSA. Oreo joined the fourth grade classroom and Mistletoe found a home in the ELA Lab. Both guinea pigs enjoyed their first Mustang Village Marketplace last week, as students shopped while carrying them around the Courtyard.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS ...

My favorite part of Christmas is celebrating Jesus' birthday.

Megan Bigwood, 3rd grade

All I want for Christmas is a little live pet because I want a turtle with a pond.

Natalie Silaghi, Kindergarten

My favorite Christmas song is *Shake It Up Christmas* because it gets you in the Christmas mood.

Danielle Walker, 8th grade



My favorite part of Christmas is having fun and relaxing.

George Panagopoulos, 6th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is the presents.

Khristopher Sanchez, 2nd grade

All I want for Christmas is books.

Aaliyah Bessinger, 5th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is the snow.

Joseph Boldt, 7th grade

All I want for Christmas is a dirt bike because it is fun to ride.

Seth Johnson, 1st grade

My favorite Christmas song is *Happy Holidays* by NSYNC because it reminds me of all of the sleepovers my friends and I had and singing the song on repeat all night.

Miss Garrett

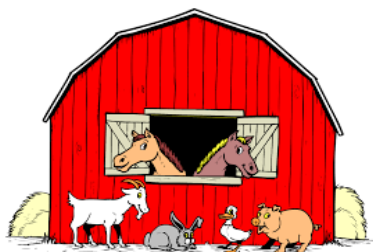
2ND QUARTER ENDS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

Winter Break December 18th – January 1st

School resumes Tuesday, January 2nd

Report Cards handed out after Winter Break





EIGHTH GRADE PRESENTING NEXT WEEK

The eighth grade class has been working with Ms. Heather from the Desert Foothills Theater and classroom teacher Mrs. Geiser in Stepping Stones Academy's Theater Immersion Program. As a final activity the students will present part of the *Animal Farm* story on Tuesday, December 12th. Parents are welcome to attend.

Kolten Armstrong
Alec Brewington
Bethany Camping
Elexis Lunsford
Corbin Ripple

Brie Binder
Malachi Guerrero
Gabrielle Rubie
Ian Matheson
Peyton Sourant

Aidan Brewington
Sam Manganelli
Marissa Vazquez
Elijah McClellan
Gabrielle Wolf

Sophie Gray
Brady Turgeon
Troy Johnson
Yelena Trapp
Danielle Walker

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS ...

My favorite part of Christmas is hanging out with family because I love them.
 Kolten Armstrong, 8th grade

All I want for Christmas is a bird.
 Tanner Thompson, 5th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is opening presents because I like to play.
 Brayden Carlicci, 1st grade

My favorite Christmas song is *Christmas in the West*.
 Daniel Trevizo, 3rd grade

All I want for Christmas is to go to Las Vegas.
 Johnnie Parry, 6th grade

My favorite Christmas song is *Jingle Bells*.
 Ashtyn Macias, 4th grade

All I want for Christmas is a drone.
 Hunter Watzek, 2nd grade

All I want for Christmas is books.
 Miss Wilson

My favorite Christmas song is *Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas*.
 Cierra Witham, 7th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is family.
 Adam Wagner, 3rd grade





CONGRATULATIONS TO 5TH GRADE

Best Attendance Percentage in November



Jada St. Jean-Stevens
Lyllianna Moerschbaeher
Jennifer Bessinger
Brayden Carpenter
Madison Bigwood
Aaliyah Bessinger
Madison Hoelzer
Kaitlyn Womack

Tanner Thompson
Raegan Kusnell
William Klafter
Kaiah Janeway
Jackson Niemberg
Allison Briesse
Jared MacLiver
Allaira Larson
Samuel Shaw

Guy King
Halie Gotch
Mason Koechig
Jordan Kirk
Judah Flores
Tristan Judd
Logan Schenkel
Jayla Yoder

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS ...

All I want for Christmas is tools because I want to work on more projects.
Corbin Ripple, 8th grade

My favorite part of Christmas is seeing my family and friends.
Sierra Hewitt, 3rd grade

All I want for Christmas is a trampoline because I love it.
Mason Menniti-Keen, 1st grade

My favorite part of Christmas is the excitement for the children.
Mr. Panagopoulos

All I want for Christmas is a sweatshirt.
Allaira Larson, 5th grade

All I want for Christmas is a horse.
Trinity Gonzales, 4th grade



**PERFECT ATTENDANCE IN NOVEMBER =
NO SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**

Students with perfect attendance in November earn a No School Uniform Day, which will be celebrated this Friday, December 8th. Outfits must continue to be school-appropriate,

1. All shirts must have sleeves. *Sleeveless shirts may not be worn.*
2. Shorts/Skirts may not be more than 3" above the knee.
3. Attire may not have holes or tears that show skin.
4. Clothing may not include inappropriate words, pictures, or symbols.

Kdgn. Isabella Anderson, Dominic Carnley, Xzavier Corral, Hallee Dempster, Brian Hathorne, Rayen Major, Emily Milton

1st Grade Aleah Armstrong, Sawyer Bauer, Lilly Bliss, Brayden Carlicci, Camryn Carpenter, Aiden Evans, Jace Gelinas, Miles Haven, Seth Johnson, Jaeden Morales, Adyson Underwood, Brasen Underwood, Juliet Veit, Walker Walton, Noah Warner

AWESOME

2nd Grade Robbie Donaldson, Luke Hartshaw, Hunter Henshaw, Keirnan Hiner, Kahlan Holt, Kalise Larson, Andrew MacFarland, Evelyn McLeod, Bradley Miner, Joshua Perry, Khristopher Sanchez, Dylan Schalk, Aubrey St. Jean-Stevens

3rd Grade Megan Bigwood, Jaxon Carnley, Grace Driscoll, Purslane Flores, David Gjonaj, Gavin Hall, Sierra Hewitt, Charlotte Kusnell, Kyler Lethem, Jacob Lunsford, Delilah Morales, Dylana Lee, Aaiden Rodgers, Adam Wagner

4th Grade Rory Bauer, Gavin Boisvert, Danielle Casto, Kendra Gonzales, Trinity Gonzales, Kansas Janeway, Makayla Johnson, Isabele Lombardi, Zoe MacFarland, Ashtyn Macias, Kaden Cannon, Augustine Murray, Sophia Panagopoulos, William Sanchez, Christine Silaghi

5th Grade Aaliyah Bessinger, Jennifer Bessinger, Allison Briesse, Brayden Carpenter, Halie Gotch, Madison Hoelzer, Kaiah Janeway, Jordan Kirk, William Klafter, Raegan Kusnell, Allaira Larson, Lylianna Moerschbaeche, Logan Schenkel, Jada St. Jean-Stevens

6th Grade Iden Prescott, Sophia Hoffman, Natalee Johnson, Colten Jordan, Kaden Lethem, Mason Lunsford, Aiden Macias, Mya Odello, George Panagopoulos, Stephanie Vega, Jonathan Wagner

7th Grade Samantha Barnett, Gracelyn Bliss, Ethan Boisvert, Emily Bragg, Hailey Cole, Dakota Harvey, Haylie Hoelzer, Mason Joslin, Joseph Lethem, Ryan Nies, Noah Sorensen, Cierra Witham

8th Grade Brie Binder, Malachi Guerrero, Troy Johnson, Elijah McClellan



MS. STEWART-ALLIGER READS BOOKS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Ms. Stewart-Alliger is visiting all Pre-K through 8th grade classrooms in November and December to share two more of storybooks. The book for November was, *After Fall – How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again* written by Dan Santat. This book tells the story of Humpty Dumpty after he fell off of the wall and how he faced his fears and learned to get back up on that wall.

The book for December is, *The Teachers' Night Before Christmas* written by Steven L. Layne. This fun loving story describes the days in the classroom leading up to Winter Break.



BOX TOPS CONTEST
LAST DAY = FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
Current 1st Place = 3rd Grade
Send Box Tops to school this week!



JINGLE BELL JOG COMING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

Friday, December 15th from 8:30-9:45 a.m. students will be participating in the Jingle Bell Jog as a way to celebrate a successful second quarter and spend a little extra time with family and friends before Winter Break.

Students will meet in the Multi-Purpose building at 8:30 a.m. for instructions and will then begin their walk around campus. With each completed lap students will receive a sticker to place on their holiday lanyard. The Jingle Bell Jog will end at approximately 9:45 a.m., at which time students will return to their classrooms until dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Parents and other family members are invited to join in this fun walk around campus.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM STEPPING STONES ACADEMY!



**HOT CHOCOLATE AVAILABLE
BEFORE SCHOOL and LUNCHTIME**

\$1.00 per cup

Sponsored by 8th grade class



THANK YOU

FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM!

For families wishing to donate money, there is still time!

FLAG FOOTBALL BEGINS IN JANUARY

The first practice for Mustang Flag Football is Monday, January 8th. Sign up forms are available in the School Office and will be sent home again after Winter Break. Students in K-6th grades are invited to participate. Practices will be after school on Mondays with the tournament scheduled for Saturday, March 10th.



SSA TALENT SHOW COMING IN JANUARY



The Stepping Stones Academy Talent Show is coming in January! Students are encouraged to plan their performances during Winter Break, so they are ready to go upon returning to school.

Sign-Up Forms – All students wanting to perform in this year's Talent Show need to complete a sign-up form. Forms will be handed out on Monday, December 11th and are due to the School Office by Friday, January 5th. *The first 25 acts will be entered in the Talent Show. Students turning in forms after the first 25 will be placed on a waiting list and notified if a spot opens.*

Talent Show Check-In – Participants will share their performances with Mrs. Panagopoulos and Ms. Stewart-Alliger on Friday, January 12th. Music is needed at this time. Costumes and props are not needed on this date.

Dress Rehearsals – Two dress rehearsals are scheduled – Thursday, January 18th and Tuesday, January 23rd. Participants will perform on both days. Music, costumes, and props are needed on both days.

SHOW TIME – The Talent Show is on January 24th at 1:00 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MUSTANG THEATER ON PERFORMANCE OF ... SWEET DREAMS!

Bethany Camping	Elexis Lunsford	Aquinnah Goveia	Sofia Doe
Landon Nelson	William Wilkinson	Kaitlyn Womack	Samuel Shaw
Jada St. Jean-Stevens	Allison Briesse	Christopher DeLira	David Gjonaj
Sophia Panagopoulos			

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Items with asterisk * are new items listed this week.)

December 4 th	HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MR. SHAINKER	
December 5 th	November Literacy Achievement and Fast Facts Calendars Due	
December 6 th	November Literacy Achievement Lunch *	Lunchtime
December 7 th	November Fast Facts Breakfast *	7:30-7:55 a.m.
	7 th Grade Theater Performance	9:00 a.m. – 5 th grade 9:20 a.m. – 6 th & 8 th grades
December 8 th	Box Tops Contest Ends *	
	No Uniform Day for November Perfect Attendance	
	Awards Assemblies – Held in Classrooms	
	Parents' Night Out	3:00-8:00 p.m.
December 9 th	Mustang Soccer Tournament *	
December 11 th	Talent Show Forms Available	
December 12 th	8 th Grade Theater Performance for 4 th -7 th grades	1:45 p.m.
December 14 th	Winter Festival	6:00 p.m.
December 15 th	Jingle Bell Jog	8:30-9:45 a.m.
	½ Day	11:30 a.m. Dismissal

