

PROSPECTOR PRESS

Mining the Promise of the Future

January 2022



www.pvschools.net/mmes

(602) 449-3700

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am so excited to begin New Year 2022. We have all enjoyed having a holiday break and having some well deserved time off. Everyone worked so hard the first part of the year. My wish was for everyone to have had at least one or two days of pure sloth. I know I did. But now it is time for the Mercury Mine community to get back to learning.

We have an important event coming up. We will need everyone's help. **Our Kindergarten Open House is Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 5:00p.m. - 6:00p.m.** Please share with neighbors and friends about our wonderful school. It is crucial that we keep four kindergarten classes. Invite any and all incoming kindergarten families you know to attend. Four kindergarten classes keep all of our special area staffing, including our new half time STEM class (science, technology, engineering and math).

Our Parent Teacher Conference Week is January 24 - 28. Thursday and Friday, the 27th and 28th, are early dismissal days with school dismissal at 12:30 p.m. Please schedule a time to visit virtually with your child's teacher. Emails for signup will be sent in early January and will be sent by classroom teachers.

The Scholastic Book Fair is still going to be held, but not in January since the parent conferences will be virtual. The Book Fair will be in person and will run from March 22 - April 1. Information will be communicated closer to March and it will be tied to the Disconnect to Reconnect week.

We are in need of a duty aide! The position is 15 hours per week, helping with drop off, pick up, lunch, and recess. Please contact the front office at (602) 449-3700 for more information.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Donna Alley

Principal



JANUARY

- 3: Classes resume
- 5: Student Council meeting, 8:00 a.m., Room 14A
- 6: PV Schools Governing Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., 15002 N. 32nd St.
- 7: Spirit Day (wear MMES apparel or school colors)
- 7: Report cards go home
- 7: Last day to register for PVSchools 5K Community Fun Run to receive a t-shirt
- 10: School Council meeting, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- 11: Early dismissal, 12:30 p.m., Mix-Match theme day
- 11: PTG Family Dine-Out at Chompie's
- 17: MLK/Civil Rights Day recess
- 19: United Parent Council meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 20: Kindergarten Open House, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- 20: PV Schools Governing Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., 15002 N. 32nd St.
- 24-28: Parent Teacher Conference Week
- 27: Early dismissal, 12:30 p.m., Color War theme day (colors assigned to each grade)
- 27: PTG Family Craft Night, 6:00 p.m.
- 28: Early dismissal, 12:30 p.m., Wild Wild West theme day

Upcoming in February:

- 1-8: PVSchools 5K Community Fun Run (complete the run anytime between February 1-8)

School Council

The MMES School Council is an advisory group to Principal Donna Alley. The group is composed of Principal Donna Alley, three teacher representatives—Lisa Ashcraft (Kindergarten), James Hayden (1st Grade), and Erica Hazen (4th Grade); an education support professional representative, Sandy Ditsch; three parent representatives—Crystal Anderson, Karen Bea, and Keryn Wilson; and a community member—Jody Taylor. The agenda and minutes of School Council meetings are posted on the MMES website under School Leadership. The next School Council meeting is January 10.

CONGRATULATIONS WORD MILLIONAIRE!



This month **Evelyn Hahn**, 4th grader from Ms. Hazen's class, became a multimillionaire! She is well on her way to 3 million words! Way to go Evelyn! I hope everyone was able to find a good book and read a bunch over winter break!

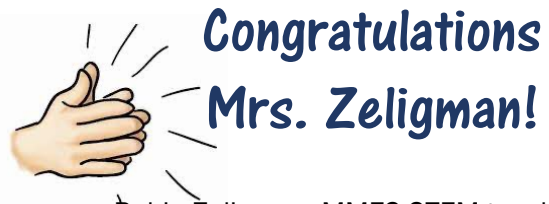
- *Mrs. Zenk*, Reading Specialist

United Parent Council

United Parent Council's (UPC) next monthly meeting will be Wednesday, January 19. The general meeting begins at 9 a.m. including a brief Q&A with our Superintendent, Dr. Bales. The 10:00 a.m. program is "Showcasing Parent Group Programs in our Schools." Meetings are open to the public and are being held virtually until further notice. For meeting and login information, go to pvupc.org. Information about United Parent Council programs and resources can be found on their website, Facebook page and the UPC YouTube channel.

Kindergarten Open House

Mark your calendars and tell your family, friends, and neighbors. Our Kindergarten Open House will be Thursday, January 20 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Please share this information with anyone you know who has preschool children to come learn about Kindergarten at MMES. Contact the office to receive an invitation.



Robin Zeligman, MMES STEM teacher, is the recipient of a Desert Financial Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers grant of \$2,500. Mrs. Zeligman's wish was to provide robots for the STEM classroom. Nearly 2,000 teachers from over 90 cities across Arizona applied and her wish was randomly selected. She is also invited to the Guaranteed Rate Bowl to be honored at halftime and invited to walk alongside the Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers wrapped bus with fellow recipients. Congratulations, Mrs. Zeligman!

PTG News

TWO EXCITING NEW PTG PARTNERSHIPS

PLAY BALL! Shadow Mountain Little League gives \$5 to the PTG for every registered MMES student! Spring season starts after the holidays. Register at <https://shadowmountainll.com>.

Strong Minds Run Club will give 10% back to MMES for every student who registers for their 8-week empowerment program at Roadrunner Park Winter Session (January 8 – February 26). Register at <https://strongmindsrunclub.com>

SAVE THE DATE

January 11	Half Day – Family Dine-Out at Chompie's
January 13	Parent Mixer at Bootleggers – 6:00 p.m. Come meet new friends!
January 24-28	Parent-Teacher Conference Week Feed the teachers snack drive. <i>We are looking for a co-chair for this event!</i>
January 27	Half Day – MMES Family Night at Craft Nights by the Hippie Hobby – 6:00 p.m.
January 28	Half Day – Family Dine-Out (Location TBD)
February 15	Half Day – Family Dine-Out (Location TBD)
March 8	PTG Meeting
March 22 – April 1	Scholastic Book Fair <i>We are looking for a co-chair for this event!</i>
April 5	Donuts with Grownups <i>We are looking for a co-chair for this event!</i>
May 10	PTG Meeting and Elections

Please keep your eye out for emails and social media posts to stay in the loop with PTG! We encourage all parents and guardians at MMES to get involved as much or as little as they are able.

Sincerely, your 2021-22 PTG Executive Board:

President:	Erin McDonald
Vice President:	Christina Vaaler
Treasurer:	Jake White
Fundraising:	Kelly Christiano and Heather Wozny
Events:	Karen Stine and Stephanie Howard
Communications:	Kayla Essert
Parent-Teacher Liaison:	Christina Selden
Board Member:	Lisa Stein

STAY CONNECTED

- **NOT getting PTG emails? NOT getting PTG emails?** You **must** allow us to email you by registering with our PTG platform. This is the **ONLY** way we can get your information. Parents or school members, go to www.mercurymineptg.ptboard.com:
 - Log in
 - On “Join School” pop-up screen, enter school code **J6TM6N**If you'd like to fill out the profile information for your child and teacher for the directory. This is super helpful for playdates and connecting with other parents.



Are You Signed Up?

- Our Facebook page is a great way to stay updated about events and check our pictures from last year! Search for Mercury Mine PTG and prepare to be entertained by our witty group of Facebook contributors.
- But wait! There's more! We now have Instagram! Search for us using the same name – Mercury Mine PTG.



Student Council News

January 5 – Student Council Meeting at 8:00 a.m.

January 7 – Spirit Day – Show your pride for Mercury Mine! Wear blue and gold or MMES apparel

January 11 – Mix-Match Day (backwards, inside out, etc.)

January 27 – Color War Day:

Pre-K/K – Red

1st Grade – Blue

2nd Grade – Orange

3rd Grade – Yellow

4th Grade – Black

5th Grade – Purple

6th Grade – Green

January 28 – Wild Wild West Day (wear country western apparel)



PVSCHOOLS COMMUNITY 5K RUN



Join us for the 12th Annual PVSchools Community 5K Fun Run, an event encouraging active lifestyles among our staff, families, and community members. The race will be virtual again this year. You are welcome to complete the 3.1 mile run/walk with family and friends anytime between February 1st and 8th, 2022. Register before January 7, 2022, to receive a t-shirt. Registrations close February 1, 2022. Registration fee is \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 11-19; children 10 and under are free. Register at

<https://www.raceentry.com/races/paradise-valley-5k-community-fun-run/2022/register>

GOOD TO KNOW



Happy New Year!

This semester kicks off with the Social Emotional Learning theme of **Growth Mindset**. You might have heard this term - but the shortened version is this: Growth Mindset is the ability to grow your Brain! Through hard work, effort and finding different strategies that help you learn - you grow your intelligence. (Carol Dweck, Mindset)

While effort is key for student achievement, it's not the only thing. Effort doesn't always lead to learning, kids can still get stuck. Trying new strategies and seeking input from others are a few approaches to help improve and learn.

As an adult, we get more bang for our buck if we Spotlight Successes. Focusing on what kids are doing *right* paves the way for them to do that more often.

Finally, look at our own mindset. Do we give up easily or do we try to change the talk in our head to help us persevere and try new strategies. Let our kids see us mess up but retry. That's the magic sauce!

I've included a family resource recommending holiday movies and podcasts that encourage a Growth Mindset. Get out your popcorn and slippers and enjoy!

[Growth Mindset Movies and Podcasts](#)

Here's to a Healthy and Hopeful 2022 !

Cindy Schmidt, LMSW

Social Emotional Learning Social Worker
Mercury Mine Elementary
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