

PROSPECTOR PRESS

Mining the Promise of the Future

October 2021



www.pvschools.net/mmes

(602) 449-3700

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I thought last year was an unusually tough year. In some ways this year has been harder for our staff and many of our families in a completely different way. I have hated that we have had to quarantine so many students. I keep hoping numbers will start to go down. So far that has not been the case. We continue to ask you to please monitor your family for symptoms and stay home if you have any.

Our excellent PTG will host a pumpkin showcase and will offer a virtual Bingo night this month. We are going to have the pumpkins on display for the students to enjoy this year, so please help us continue this very fun tradition. Taking family time to decorate pumpkins is such a fun thing to do and then you take them home just in time for Halloween. Please bring your pumpkins in on Monday morning the 25th and take them home Thursday afternoon the 28th.

Parent Conference week is October 25-28. Wednesday, October 27 and Thursday, October 28 are early release days and Friday, October 29 there is no school. You will meet virtually with your student's teachers. Teachers will send out a SignUp Genius by October 11 with dates and times for you to choose. Each teacher will offer one late night.

I hope you can meet with your teachers. Together we have to be a team in order to make sure students are where they need to be. I feel like almost everyone has to be willing to support and monitor math work. Many students are behind in math and they will have to work extra hard this year. Make sure they are keeping up on their Zearn lessons.

I know some students hate to memorize their math facts. But it is the foundation to allowing them to work on concepts. If they don't know them by heart, they have to waste valuable time figuring out every math problem. I implore parents to find ways to make it fun and expected.

Sincerely,
Donna Alley
Principal

OCTOBER

- 1: Spirit Day (wear MMES apparel or school colors)
- 1: SMHS Homecoming
- 5: Early dismissal, 12:30 p.m., Patriotic theme day
- 5: PTG Family Dine Out at Chipotle, 4:0-8:00 p.m.
- 6: Student Council meeting, 8:00 a.m., Cafeteria
- 7: Picture retake day
- 7: PV Schools Governing Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., 15002 N. 32nd St.
- 13: First quarter ends
- 18-22: Mining the Future with Books Week
- 18: School Council Meeting, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- 19: PTG meeting, 6:00 p.m., Zoom
- 20: United Parent Council Meeting, 9:00-10:45 a.m., Zoom
- 20: Report cards go home
- 21: PV Schools Governing Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., 15002 N. 32nd St.
- 22: PTG Family Dine Out at Papa John's Pizza
- 22: PTG Family Bingo Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Zoom
- 25-28: PTG Pumpkin Patch Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Media Center
- 25-28: Parent Teacher Conferences
- 27: Early dismissal, 12:30 p.m., Disney theme day
- 27: PTG Family Dine Out at Babbo's Italian Eatery, 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
- 28: Early dismissal, 12:30 p.m., Superhero vs. Villain theme day
- 29: K-8 Recess

Lunch and Recess Times

The front office gets a lot of calls requesting the times for lunch and recess. Here is this year's schedule:

Grade	Lunch	Recess
Kindergarten	1:00-1:20	1:20-1:40
1 st Grade	11:40-12:00	12:00-12:20
2 nd Grade	12:20-12:40	12:40-1:00
3 rd Grade	12:40-1:00	1:00-1:20
4 th Grade	11:00-11:20	11:20-11:40
5 th Grade	12:00-12:20	12:20-12:40
6 th Grade	11:20-11:40	11:40-12:00

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WORD MILLIONAIRES!

“Donut” you just love to read?!?

Congratulations to all of our fantastic readers! We celebrated four Word Millionaires in September – Bryce Bowen in Mrs. Selden’s 3rd grade class, Luke Krempski in Mrs. Pilling’s 6th grade class, Evelyn Hahn in Ms. Hazen’s 4th grade class, and Christopher Peterson in Mrs. Weaver’s 4th grade class. Word Millionaires this year will receive a certificate for two free donuts or 10 free munchkins from Dunkin’ Donuts!

Mrs. Zenk

Reading Specialist



Open Enrollment

2022-23 Open Enrollment applications for PVSchools are currently being accepted. The Early Bird Round is NOT first-come, first served. Everyone applying between September 1- December 1 has the same opportunity for acceptance. Students currently enrolled in a PVSchool under Open Enrollment do not need to reapply if they are remaining in the same school or continuing in the current feeder system. All early bird applications will be processed and parents/guardians notified via email prior to winter break. More information and Open Enrollment applications are available at pvschools.net/open.

Annual Updates Needed

There are 150 families who have not completed the annual student information update. Please be sure your child's information is up to date

here: portal.pvschools.net

You must confirm your child's information annually, **even if there are no changes**.

Please update your information by October 8. After that time, the office will contact you for updated information since all student records must show an annual update.

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 will be October 18.

PTG News

NEW MMES WEBSITE LINK! Thanks to Mr. Selden for helping us secure our new domain name! Check out <http://mmesptg.com/>



PRE-ORDER YOUR 2021 SPIRIT WEAR NOW!

The deadline for pre-orders is OCTOBER 1 -

PTG is proud to showcase a 2021 t-shirt collaboration with local vendor State Forty Eight. Please use the pre-order form so we can best know how many shirts, hats and stickers to order in bulk to get the best pricing possible. The form can be found at <https://forms.gle/N7NFFowYoE5aAtDc7> or look for the link sent in PTG emails or on social media.

UPCOMING DINE OUTS



Tuesday, October 5 is a half day – Join us for dinner between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at Chipotle Mexican Grill at 4622 E. Cactus Rd. and 33% of your online or in-person order will go back to MMES. Please use code **E4R3AE7** when ordering online.



October 22 – Order from Papa John's in time for Bingo Night and MMES will earn 20% back!



Wednesday, October 27 is a half day – Join us for lunch or dinner at Babb Italian Eatery at 16th Street and Glendale between 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. All dine-in, take-out, and catering orders will earn PTG **20% back!**

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, October 19 – PTG General Meeting. Join us at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.



Friday, October 22 – BINGO NIGHT. Bingo will be virtual and FREE again this year. Get your Halloween costumes ready for some online fun and don't forget to order pizza from Papa John's to earn money back for our school.

(continued...)

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.





October 25-28 – Pumpkin Patch. Our pumpkin decorating contest will be on campus this year! Pumpkins must be brought into the Media Center on Monday, October 25 between 8:25 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. **ALL** pumpkins need to be taken home on Thursday, October 28 by 12:30 p.m. (half day) as we do not have school on Friday of that week. We are looking for creativity and effort and remember you **CANNOT** puncture in any way! More details to follow.



NOVEMBER MEANS FUN RUN FUNDRAISING! “Fun Day” will be held **Friday, November 19** during school hours. This is our single largest fundraising event and the kids LOVE IT! The *FUN* Committee is forming now. If you would like to join, please email mmesptg@gmail.com.



KENDRA
SCOTT

December 1-2 – Kendra Scott Gives Back Shopping Event. This will be a virtual event on www.kendrascott.com and LIVE in store on December 2 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Scottsdale Quarter.

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

Siri, remind mom and dad to buy my yearbook!



SCAN ME TO BUY



Or, go to: treering.com and click Buy Yearbook

Price: \$22.25 Deadline: **April 22, 2022**

TreeRing

United Parent Council

Paradise Valley United Parent Council (UPC) is a district-wide parent group that has been active in PVSchools for more than 40 years. Looking out for the interests of students is its primary goal. UPC does this by offering parents support, information, and opportunities to be influential voices in the decisions that affect their children’s education.

UPC’s next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, October 20, beginning at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom (business meeting begins at 9:00 and program follows). For a meeting link and more information, visit pvupc.org or PVUPC on Facebook or Instagram.

Student Council News

October 5 – Patriotic theme day

October 6 - Student Council Meeting 8:00 a.m. in Cafeteria

October 18-22 – Mining the Future with Books

October 27 – Disney theme day

October 28 – Superhero vs. Villain theme day

Mining the Future with Books October 18-22

Student Council will be sponsoring a very exciting week called Mining the Future with Books! During this week, Student Council officers and Mercury Mine teachers and staff will be calling the homes of randomly selected forms to catch our students reading. If your child is caught reading, they will “Strike it Rich” with books! The following day, the students will receive a prize.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to your child’s teacher by Monday, October 18. Miners will be calling Monday-Thursday nights from 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. The caller will ask to talk to your child, and your child will need to tell the caller what they are reading.



GOOD TO KNOW



Hello Families!

Below are a few resources and ideas for October!

- The **Phoenix Public Library** has a wide range of online and in person classes to engage infants/toddlers, youth, and adults! Click on the link below to view topics on Robots Mania, Learning to Code with Minecraft, Virtual Escape Room activities, Creativity Space, Medicare, Storytime, 1:1 Job Assistance, and more!

TIP: Try filtering by dates/location/online or topic.

<https://phoenixpubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/List>

- September was Suicide Prevention Month. Please keep these numbers on hand if you or anyone you know is struggling or going through a difficult period.

24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline
(800) 273-8255 (TALK)

Teen Lifeline 602.248.8336 - Call or Text

- During the Month of October our schoolwide SEL topic will be Feelings and Emotions. There are many layers of emotions that we feel everyday and building your own and your child’s Emotional Vocabulary helps with improving self awareness, coping and empathy. We teach the students that emotions are information to keep us safe and healthy. Pay attention and remember: *Name it to Tame it!*

As always, you may contact me if you have any questions.

Cindy Schmidt, LMSW

Social Emotional Learning Social Worker
Mercury Mine Elementary
602-449-3709