

# PROSPECTOR PRESS

*Mining the Promise of the Future*

September 2021



[www.pvschools.net/mmes](http://www.pvschools.net/mmes)

(602) 449-3700

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to say thank you for helping us have a smooth first few weeks of school. You are doing a great job in the parking lots. I know it can seem like you are in line for a long time, but truly, in the afternoon, after the last bell at 3:15, we usually have all students picked up by 3:28 p.m. That is better than other years. I appreciate most of you sticking to the staggered schedule in the morning and afternoon.

The variant of COVID-19 is more challenging for schools as now young children are getting COVID-19 and it is much more easily transmitted. Our goal is to not have to quarantine students if possible.

One thing we are going to change is in the lunchroom. Instead of two sets of tables, we are going to organize with one set so we can spread out more in the cafeteria. You can help by explaining to your children that in the cafeteria it is not social time, but eating time. We will cut the cafeteria time by a few minutes and give them more recess time.

Masks are a personal choice, but I want parents to know that if both students are masked, we check to make sure there is not less than 3 feet between desks in the classroom. If students are unmasked, we have to make sure there is not less than 6 feet when it comes to quarantining. Students who are masked have a better chance of not having to quarantine if they are in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

We are working with our district who is working with the Maricopa Department of Health. Our goal is to keep students in school and learning. Continue to check your students for symptoms and keep them home if they are sick.

We do have a substitute teacher shortage. If you have ever thought about subbing, please apply with the district at [jobs.pvschools.net](http://jobs.pvschools.net).

Sincerely,

*Donna Alley*  
Principal



## SEPTEMBER

- 1:** Student Council meeting, 8:00 a.m., Room 14A
- 1-15:** Hope for the Homeless Hygiene Drive to benefit Salvation Army sponsored by Student Council
- 2:** PV Schools Governing Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., 15002 N. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. or via YouTube
- 3:** Spirit Day (wear MMES apparel or school colors)
- 6-7:** Labor Day recess
- 11:** Garden Dig Day, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
- 14:** PTG meeting, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom, with a presentation by the City of Phoenix about its area waterline project
- 15:** Sky Zone Family Fun Night sponsored by Student Council
- 16-17:** K-12 recess
- 22:** United Parent Council Meeting, 9:00-10:45 a.m., virtual
- 23:** PV Schools Governing Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., 15002 N. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. or via YouTube

## Upcoming in October

- 1:** Spirit Day (wear MMES apparel or school colors)
- 5:** Early dismissal, 12:30 p.m., for teacher professional development
- 7:** Picture retake day

## Bus Rider Information

For our bus riders, the PV transportation department anticipates delays on early dismissal days for student pickup and dropoff due to a significant shortage of bus drivers. Currently, 29% of PV bus driver positions are vacant. Please note the early dismissal days for 2021-2022:

- August 31
- October 5, 27, 28
- December 7
- January 11, 27, 28
- February 15
- April 5
- May 26

Thank you in advance for your patience.

## GRATITUDE!

Thank you to the Scout troops and PTG officers who helped the office by stuffing 600 first day folders. Girl Scout Troop 499, an MMES alumni troop, includes Becca Pilling, Emily Wade, Elise Mitchell, and Paige Alvarez, who are currently Shea Middle School students. Scouts BSA Troop 109 was represented by 6th graders Drake Clayton and Alex Vaaler. Kylie Clayton represented Cub Scout Pack 416. Our PTG officers always answer our calls for help. We appreciate all of you!

Thank you to parent volunteers Stephanie Howard, Mandy Trimmer, Amy Schaenzer, Jeniffer Whitmer, Cassandra Pierce, Rane Tyler, and Maggie Williams for helping on Picture Day. Parent volunteers allow us to keep the lines moving and get all students and staff photographed in under 6 hours. If your student was not photographed on August 19, retake day is October 7.

## SUMMER READING WRAP UP

Thank you to all of our students who kept track of their reading this summer. So many students filled out their calendar. We were able to have a small celebration where all of the students picked out books, had some fun snacks and even got a few prizes like milkshakes at Aioli Gourmet Burgers! Keep up the reading Mercury Mine!

*Kara Zenk*  
Reading Specialist



*Thank you*

## YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW

### Capture Your Memories in This Year's Yearbook

**Purchase by September 30 to get 10% OFF**

- Customize Your 2 Free Pages!
- Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive and more.

To Purchase and Customize Your Yearbook

1. Visit [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate)
2. Enter your school's passcode: 1016008740733911



# PTG News

**PTG GENERAL MEETING – September 14, 6:00 p.m.** – Our meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The link is on the PTG calendar at <https://sites.google.com/view/mercurymineptg> and will also be sent out in an email via PTBoard if you have signed up for our emails.

**PRE-ORDER YOUR 2021 SPIRIT WEAR NOW!** – The 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://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIKRSXobb\\_u\\_YentAmHW5Ar9834see6ztl3T2DgkOGjC5sw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIKRSXobb_u_YentAmHW5Ar9834see6ztl3T2DgkOGjC5sw/viewform) or look for the link to be sent in a PTG email or on social media. \$1 from every collaboration t-shirt goes to support the State Forty Eight foundation and their mission to enrich and strengthen Arizona through thoughtful partnerships, inspired community action, and investment in the changemakers of tomorrow. **The deadline for pre-orders will be October 1** and we will expect the shirts to be delivered two weeks later to the school.

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:

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

## STAY CONNECTED

- **Are you getting our emails?** Be sure you're registered on our PTG platform. This is the only way we can get your information. You'll have access to our emails and updates as well as the student directory!



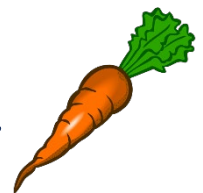
### Are You Signed Up?

- 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.
- TikTok – Coming soon? Now accepting applications for this role – show us your best dance moves!



## GARDEN DIG DAY

**Saturday, September 11 - 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.**



Come and help the garden crew get the planters ready for new fruits, veggies and herbs! Park in the lower lot – bring lots of water, hats, gloves, and sunscreen. We have some garden tools but if you'd like to bring your own it would be helpful.

# Student Council Happenings

## New 2021-2022 Reps and Officers

**Presidents:** Summer Cerchero, Hannah Sheehan, Maliya Townsley

**Vice Presidents:** Khloe Zenk, Hazel Roth

**Treasurers:** Mariah Mata, Addison Christiano

**Secretaries:** Reagan Lensch, Alanna Elder

## Class Representatives:

**Beatty:** Reese Williams, Morgan French

**Hazen:** Kylie Magrogan, Brianna Gray, Truman Hatch, Jordyn Preudhomme, Zander Comancho, Evan Gebhardt

**Weaver:** Phoebe Swenson, Sienna Stine, Julianna Glenny

**Cullum:** Claire McFarlane, Brayden Taylor

**Jeras:** Marina Kirby

**Kaplan:** Margaretha Louisa Dainat, Kamryn Hicks, Olivia Mosakowski, Ally Spurlin, Grant Lieske

**Hicks:** Jax Vowers, Dylan Hatch, Lorelei Abajian

**McFeely:** Nathan O'Connor, Maggie McDonald, Lily Castaneda

**Pilling:** Skye Pate, Talia McCartney, Emma Herring, Kalin Caviar, Alicia Perez

## Student Council Website:

<https://sites.google.com/pvlearners.net/mrspillingsixthgrade/student-council>

**September 1** - First Student Council Meeting 8:00 a.m. in Mrs. Pilling's Room (14A)

**September 1-15** - Hope for the Homeless Hygiene Drive to benefit Salvation Army

**September 3** - Spirit Day

**September 15** - Sky Zone Family Fun Night



## HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS HYGIENE DRIVE

September 1- 15

Washing our hands and brushing our teeth are part of a daily routine for most people. However, completing everyday tasks like this can prove to be very difficult for those without access to running water or basic household items like toothpaste and deodorant. The Hope for the Homeless Hygiene Drive focuses on collecting small, travel size items to create hygiene kits for struggling families and homeless individuals in need.

**THE SALVATION ARMY** DOING THE MOST GOOD<sup>®</sup> METRO PHOENIX

### Student Council Sponsored Drive

#### All items need to be SMALL or TRAVEL-SIZED

- Deodorant
- Soaps
- Shampoos
- Conditioners
- Feminine Product
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Body Wash
- Brushes
- Combs
- Etc.

## Lunch Reminders

The Nutrition and Wellness department is no longer printing menus to send home. Menus for each month can be found on the district website under Health & Wellness. You can find the September menu at

[https://www.pvschools.net/sites/default/files/About%20PV/Health%20and%20Nutrition/Sept\\_2021\\_Elementary\\_Menu.pdf](https://www.pvschools.net/sites/default/files/About%20PV/Health%20and%20Nutrition/Sept_2021_Elementary_Menu.pdf)

Menu items are subject to change without notification. Substitutions will be made.

Remember **the office does not deliver lunches to students**. If you forget to pack your lunch, you will need to go through the cafeteria lunch line. Please note the information below from the MMES 2021-2022 Handbook:

**Limiting Interruptions** - In order to increase classroom learning time by decreasing daily interruptions, we do not accept or deliver lunches, homework, instruments, field trip monies, etc. In the lobby there is an area for parents to leave an item if they feel they must, but it will be up to the student to check it before going to lunch. It is self-serve and does not require the staff to be involved. In other words, we will not notify the teacher or student, as that would require an interruption.

We ask parents to tell their student they will not bring forgotten items. It teaches responsibility, pre-planning, organization, and natural consequences with the added bonus of more classroom time for learning.

### Other things you can do to help limit classroom interruptions:

- Arrive at school no later than 8:40 a.m. Tardy students interrupt class.
- Allow an extra five minutes before leaving the house to go over checklists of items needed for the day: backpack, lunch, signed homework, projects, instruments, books.
- Plan and communicate how your student is getting home from school before he/she arrives on campus in the morning.
- Allow natural consequences if your child forgets something. Let him/her bring it the next day.
- Avoid picking up students early from the learning day.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Hello Families,

Mercury Mine is supporting **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)** for all kids. Over the year your student may learn life skills that helps them build self awareness, strong relationships and set goals. Students learn to name and manage big emotions, grow their empathy skills, resolve conflict and make better choices.

Each month we will focus on an SEL topic schoolwide to build these skills. In **August** we kicked off the year with Creating Connections. Students filled out a fun fact about themselves and added it to our interactive ME to WE Bulletin Board in the front hallway. In **September** we will be practicing Friendship Skills (making friends, conversation topics, including others etc). Feel free to talk with your child about these topics to enhance their understanding.

We also want to provide you with community resources that might be of help. Feel free to pass them on to anyone that may need them:

**Parenting Tips:** Kids don't come with instructions. Bright by Text ([BBT](#)) shares helpful ideas for caregivers on developmental milestones, physical and mental health, brain development and wellbeing of children 0-8. Just **text TIPS to 274448**.

**Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance** due to Covid Hardship (ie. job loss, reduction of hours, high medical bills, lower income etc.) Monthly Income must be at or below 80% of the [poverty level](#). Call Wildfire for any questions (602.604.0640) or visit: [Wildfire](#).

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