Dear CCUSD Families, Community and Staff,

Now that it is officially autumn, the days are getting shorter and it stays darker longer in the morning and shorter in the evening. Hopefully, the temperatures will follow suit and it will get cooler! We are so proud of our students as they keep their masks on and work hard to physically distance. Thank you all for reinforcing that, along with hand-washing and sanitizing. It takes all of us so we can keep our schools open.

Please note that October 7th is a K-12 half day Professional Day for staff with early release for students. October 9th is the end of the first quarter with Parent/Teacher Conferences with K-12 Early Release on October 15th and 16th. Look for information on Parent/Teacher conferences from your respective schools and teachers. Fall Break is October 19th with all schools closed and a K-12 full day Professional Day on Oct. 20th for staff. No school for students that day also.

As always, I look forward to when I can see you in our schools!

Sincerely,
Debby Burdick
Debbi Burdick, Ed. D.
Superintendent

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**Katianna Blackwell-Scott National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist Announcement**

Last month, officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $30 Million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition.

Over 90% of the semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, represents less than 1% of the U.S. high school seniors.

To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the semifinalists academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and write an essay.

Katianna Blackwell-Scott, Cactus Shadows Senior, has achieved the Semifinalist level. Katianna has a 4.75 weighted GPA. She is ranked 8th in her class out of 477 students. She scored a perfect 36 on her ACT and a 1470 on her PSAT. Katianna is a varsity/club diver and volunteers at the National Charity League, Mom's Pantry, Teen Lifeline, and Puppy Love.
Lone Mountain Elementary School...  
Fourth grade at Lone Mountain Elementary School is going to be AWESOME!  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toz1TRvwjt0&feature=youtu.be

Welcome back to in-person learning Desert Willow...  
Miss Jill, at Desert Willow Elementary School, made a welcome back sign for the students - ROADRUNNER PRIDE

LMES 1st Day of in-person learning...  
Lone Mountain Elementary School Eagles had an awesome first day of in-person learning - EAGLE PRIDE!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NOVEMBER 3, 2020!
Horseshoe Trails Elementary School named
2020 National Blue Ribbon School

Cave Creek Unified School District is pleased to announce that Horseshoe Trails Elementary School has been named a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education.

Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, recognized 367 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2020. The recognition is based on a school’s overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

“Congratulations to this year’s National Blue Ribbon School awardees,” said Secretary DeVos. “It’s a privilege to recognize the extraordinary work you do to meet students’ needs and prepare them for successful careers and meaningful lives.”

Principal Aaron Pettinato, in a letter to his Stallion Families said, “It is with great honor and excitement to let you know that our school has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School. U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, sent a communication this morning announcing that Horseshoe Trails is one of 367 schools in the nation and one of only five schools from our state of Arizona to be recognized as a 2020 National Blue Ribbon recipient.”

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. Now in its 38th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools, with some schools winning multiple awards. Schools are eligible for nomination after five years.

The Education Department recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, student subgroup scores and graduation rates:

• Exemplary High Performing Schools – These are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
• Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools – These are among their state’s highest performing in closing achievement gaps between a school’s student groups and all students.

Superintendent Debbi Burdick said, “The entire CCUSD Family could not be prouder of Horseshoe Trails Elementary School. Being recognized as an Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School is a prestigious honor and validates the dedication and superior skill of the entire staff. This is a school community that ensures that every student not only achieves to their potential, but also loves learning. Congratulations HTES!”

The 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony will be held virtually Nov. 12 and 13.
Cactus Shadows’ Kade Doran…
Kade Doran, a former Desert Willow Roadrunner and a current Cactus Shadows High School Falcon, helped DWES kindergarten classrooms prepare for school as part of his Eagle Scout project. THANK YOU, KADE!

APS Supply My Class program (continued)…
Congratulations to Desert Sun Academy’s Mrs. Timms 6th Grade Math and Science teacher. Mrs. Timms was selected to win $500 dollars from APS "Supply my Class" giveaway!

APS Supply My Class Program…
Congratulations TO Black Mountain Elementary School teacher – Amanda Barnes! She was awarded a $500 gift card as part of the APS Supply My Class program.

Congratulations to Desert Willows’ own Mrs. Doran (6th) and Ms. Ketchen (5th) for being recipients of the APS Supply My Class Awards! Each will receive $500 from APS for supplies for their classrooms.

Congratulations to Black Mountain Elementary School teachers Jennifer Parks and Stephanie Mullinix. They each were awarded a $500 gift card as part of the APS Supply My Class program.

Congratulations to Desert Sun Academy’s Ms. Fox for being selected by APS for a $500 dollar gift certificate for her classroom! Can’t wait to see what you purchase for your students!
Rosati’s on Tatum…
Shout out to Rosati’s on Tatum in Cave Creek for the water donation for CCUSD students.

Community Donations…
Thank you to the CCUSD community for donating supplies for our amazing schools.

Cave Creek Unified Education Foundation (CCUEF)…
Support Cave Creek Unified Education Foundation by shopping at AmazonSmile! Click on the link below to select CCUEF and every time you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate to us! https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0391411

DonorsChoose...
Sonoran Trails Elementary School ELA Teacher, Mrs. Kniffen, is requesting books for her classes. You can find her DonorsChoose link here: https://www.donorschoose.org/project/just-mercy-for-my-middle-schoolers/5206238/?rf=facebook-dc-2020-09-ifproject-unknown&fbclid=IwAR2AmRawwyaEeGbMB_AMI7i8XjDAHPHe4IDEaUCUXM5f5iKcn3x3eikw8c&utm_source=d&utm_medium=page&utm_campaign=ifproject&utm_term=teacher_3311036

BMES Patriot Day…
Black Mountain Elementary School Bobcats held their annual Patriot Day ceremony honoring our first responders. This year it was in a parade format with students and staff honoring our local first responders as they drove by - BOBCAT PRIDE - THANK YOU! You can watch their video here: https://spark.adobe.com/page/b0AVC4BYmianK/

Dr. Janelle Perrin…
Dr. Perrin found an innovative way to keep her students moving during their time at home. Click here to read the Rock ‘n’ Roll Running Club article.

Superintendent’s Virtual Coffee & Conversation…
The next Superintendent’s Virtual Coffee & Conversation is on Wednesday, October 21 from 9-10am. This will be done via Zoom. Please RSVP to jscotto@ccusd93.net to receive the link.

THANK YOU!
Thank you to our Transportation and Custodial staff for disinfecting our buses and educational spaces daily to help keep our students safe.
CCUSD’s own Dr. Nancy Pratt…
Congratulations to Dr. Nancy Pratt - Director of Instruction and Innovation. Dr. Pratt is one of the Excellence Award Winners for the 2019-2020 school year.

Thank you!
CCUSD would like to thank our generous community for continuing to bring in donations. Sanitizing Wipes are in huge demand. Your donations can be dropped off at the District Office from 7am-5pm. If it's a large donation, please call 480-575-2000 to make arrangements to drop your donation off at our CCUSD warehouse. THANK YOU!

CSHS IB Students hold Governing Board Forum…
CSHS IB Students organized and facilitated a Governing Board Forum that was live streamed on September 23, 2020. You can find the link to the YouTube video here:

CCUSD wants YOU as a part of its team!
CCUSD is hiring for the following positions:

CERTIFIED
Secondary Math Teachers
- Full Time with 100% Health Insurance Paid
World Language Teachers needed for elementary and secondary classrooms for Chinese
- Full Time with 100% Health Insurance Paid.
Secondary ELA Teacher
- Full Time with 100% Health Insurance Paid
Secondary Film/TV - Business/Finance Teacher
- Full Time with 100% Health Insurance Paid
Secondary Hearing Impaired Teacher
- .80 FTE with 100% Health Insurance Paid

CLASSIFIED
Kitchen Manager – LMES
- Full Time with 100% Health Insurance Paid
Food Service Worker
- Part – Time with earned sick days
Bus Drivers
- Full Time with 100% Health Insurance Paid;
Paraprofessional II (multiple sites)
- Full Time with 100% Health Insurance Paid
Paraprofessional I
- Full Time with 100% Health Insurance Paid
Assist to Psychologist - DWES
- Part-Time with earned sick days

Please apply online:

Maricopa County Department of Health Department – Flu Shot Clinic and School Immunization Clinic…
Ms. Gina Durbin, Director of ECS, has been working with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) to organize a school and community based flu shot clinic. This has been scheduled for Monday, October 26 from 12pm-6pm at the Cactus Shadows High School Fine Arts Center Lobby. There will also be a back to school immunization clinic for Saturday, November 7 from 9am-2pm Cactus Shadows High School Fine Arts Center Lobby for 6mos - 18 years of age. Both are available for private insurance, without insurance, or AHCCCS. MCDPH has said that everyone will have the availability to get these regardless of insurance or not.
CCUSD celebrated school Excellence Award winners for the 2019-2020 school year at the September 21, 2020 Governing Board Meeting. The Aspiring Administrators Academy attendees; and the third and fourth quarter Carefree Care Winners were also celebrated. Congratulations to:

ECS: Kathy Hegberg (Community Member); Cadi Angeli (Staff); and Noah Ilukowicz (Student)
STMS: Shelley Kniffen (ELA Teacher); Jessica O’Sullivan (Community Member); and Savannah Butler (Paraprofessional)
DWES: Laurie Anderson (Paraprofessional); Artemis Bayless (Teacher) and Terrie Malkowski (Community Member)
HTES: Julie Calilliet (Community Member); Sharon Hagerty (Staff Member); and Zoe MacMillan (Student)
Aspiring Administrators Academy: Jenifer Maximoff and Chris Stahowski
Carefree Cares-3rd Quarter: Jennifer Parks (BMES); Kristine Paul (DSA); Trish Doran (DWES); Susanne Allen (HTES); Brian Rinderknecht (LMES); Haley Arnold (STMS); and Jim Marando (CSHS)
Carefree Cares-4th Quarter: Madison Jones (BMES); Christine Huguley (DSA); Sue Jeffer (DWES); Kathy Schutza (HTES); Katherine Herr (HTES); Shannon Griffith (STMS); and Andrew Cupo (CSHS)

Go to CCUSD’s Facebook Page to view all the pictures
AWARE Parent Community Prevention virtual forum October 20th 6:30 – 8:00 The Teen Brain. This forum will help you understand your child’s developing brain, behaviors and emotions. Forum attendance is free. RSVP online and receive a ZOOM invitation link by email prior to the forum or contact Gina Durbin at gdurbin@ccusd93.net.

The ECS Enrichment department is partnering with passionate individuals and organizations bringing new and innovative classes, games, and interactive experiences to our community through ECS.

- **Cave Creek Museum** is bringing introducing a customized Roblox game that makes learning Cave Creek history and archeology fun for kids!
- **Creative Bonanza** challenges are introduced to children each week, keeping their critical thinking skills growing and ready to be applied in many different applications of learning!
- **World Language (French and Spanish)** is being made available in live, pre-recorded, or webinar style lessons – all virtual this semester.
- **Ramp Up Reading** is being offered Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters to allow students to catch up on reading and comprehension skills (grades 1-3).
- **Kids Who Cook** is a popular choice, as children have a shopping list and tune in once a week to make themselves a creative, nutritious snack with the guidance of an instructor!
- Students can also continue with their favorite Enrichment class - Young Rembrandts - online!
- **Driving Permit Prep** is a state-of-the-art interactive seminar packed full of safety messages for the soon-to-be-driver in your household!
- **Adult Mindfulness and Yoga** are also available with a live instructor to keep us calm, healthy, and able to meet the needs of those around us!

New programs will be starting in the next month and next semester, so stay tuned!

Explore the virtual Enrichment offerings for all ages and help us celebrate the positives that are coming from the need to rethink the essentials. [https://cavecreek.ce.eleyo.com/courses/category/126/virtual-enrichment](https://cavecreek.ce.eleyo.com/courses/category/126/virtual-enrichment)

**Kid’s Club:**
Registration is open and spots are available for before and after care. Kid’s Club is a quality, before and after school program offered at all five Cave Creek Unified School District elementary schools. Students can choose from a variety of activity centers to explore their interests as well as expand on their education in an open-ended child-centered environment.

**Child’s Play Preschool:**
We are still accepting preschool spots at all of the elementary sites. Registration fee and current tuition is required at the time of registration. Birth certificate and Immunization records are also required to process and accept your child’s registration. Children must be 3 by the time they start preschool and potty-trained (Diapers/pull-ups are not allowed). (Birth Certificates are required for new students only and Immunization records are required for new and returning students.

**Registration information:**
The online registration link is [www.cavecreek.ce.eleyo.com](http://www.cavecreek.ce.eleyo.com). For instructions on how to register, visit [www.ecsforall.org/register](http://www.ecsforall.org/register). For up-to-date ECS activity, follow our Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/cavecreekecs](https://www.facebook.com/cavecreekecs).

Find more information about ECS at [www.ecsforall.org](http://www.ecsforall.org). Please call the ECS Office at 480-575-2440 for further assistance. Office hours are M-Th, 7:00AM-5:00PM.
Participating in the Superintendent’s Challenge…
Superintendent’s Challenge Information for the 2020-2021 School Year will be and posted here: https://www.ccusd93.org/Page/7297 mid-June. You can start accruing Superintendent’s Challenge hours beginning June 1.

Volunteer Opportunities

A Peek at the Peak (The Peak) online magazine: lesconklin@gppaaz.org
(email for opportunities)
Arizona Helping Hands, Inc.: www.azhelpinghands.org/volunteer
Arizona Humane Society: www.azhumane.org/volunteer
Arizona Musicfest: www.azmusicfest.org/getinvolved/volunteer
Carefree*Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce: director@carefreecavemcreek.org
(email for opportunities)
Cave Creek Museum: https://cavecreekmuseum.org/volunteer-with-the-cave-creek-museum/
Cave Creek Youth Education Foundation (CCYEF): http://ccyef.org/ccyef/
Child Crisis Arizona: www.childcrisisaz.org/how-to-help/volunteer
Desert Foothills Foodbank: https://www.foothillsfoodbank.com/
Desert Foothills Library: https://dfla.org/
Desert Foothills YMCA: https://valleyymca.org/desert-foothills/
Desert Hills Presbyterian Church: email for volunteer opportunities (high school age students only)
darlagil@sbcglobal.net
Families Giving Back: www.familiesgivingback.org
Foothills Caring Corps.: http://foothillscaringcorps.com
HandsOn Greater Phoenix: www.handsonphoenix.org
Hoof and Paw Rescue: www.hoofandpawrescue.com
ICAN: www.iccanaz.org/volunteer
Keep America Beautiful: kazb.org/events or www.kpbvolunteers.org
Kiwanis Marketplace: gm@kiwaniscarefree.com
(email for opportunities)
Relay for Life: www.RelayForLife.org/CaveCreekAZ
St. Mary’s Food Bank: www.volunteer.firstfoodbank.org
St. Vincent de Paul: www.stvincentdepa.net/volunteer
Tempe Municipal Volunteer Program: www.tempe.gov/volunteer
United Food Bank: www.unitedfoodbank.org/get-involved/volunteer
Valley of the Sun United Way: www.vsuw.org/volunteer
This month’s Community Member of the Month is Mr. Steve Fair, owner of Steve Fair Insurance Agency and a CSHS parent. Mr. Fair generously donated $500.00 for Back to School Gift Bags for CCUSD staff!

Do you know of a phenomenal parent(s)/grandparent(s)/community member? If so, send in a short paragraph and let us know what they’re doing to Inspire Excellence in our schools or for our District! Send your nomination to jscotto@ccusd93.net – they may be included in an upcoming issue of News from the Creek!

For Your Information

Cave Creek Unified Education Foundation:  www.ccuef.org
Cave Creek Museum:  http://cavecreekmuseum.org/
CCUSD’s Annual Report – Click here
CCUSD’s 2019-2020 Budget Resource Guide - Click here
CCUSD® Schools Accepting Open Enrollment – Click here
CCUSD® Partners Page - Click here
Desert Foothills Library information–Click here – Volunteer opportunity contact Erin Meadows at emeadows@dfla.org or call 480-488-2286

Save the date – October 28, 2020 from 6-8pm
Community Forum for Superintendent Candidates

CCUSD Governing Board
Superintendent Burdick

Business Partners of the Month:

The Business Partner of the Month is Rancho Manana Golf Club! Mr. Andy Short, General Manager and Head Golf Professional at the Club, donated 4 rounds of golf valued at $1000.00 for the CCUSD Recognition Program. Thank you for support of our amazing staff members.

inspire
EXCELLENCE

Governing Board Meetings
33016 North 60th Street
Scottsdale, AZ
October 3, 12 & 26, 2020

Governing Board Members
Kathryn Hill, President
James Rich, Vice President
Scott Brown, Member
Janet Busbee, Member
Beth Hatcher, Member

Julia Scotto, Editor