



COYOTE DEN

Hassayampa Elementary School
Parent - School Connection



Welcome December!

Well, the calendar says December, and the temperatures are amazing. This is why we live here, right? This issue of Coyote Den will include information for January. The *Coyote Den* is your guide to all the great things happening at Hassayampa! Please make sure the school has your correct email address so the *Coyote Den* and other important school information will reach you each month. If you have any questions about items in the *Coyote Den*, please contact your child's teacher or the school office at (928)684-6750.

For additional school information, please refer to the Parent-Student Handbook, visit the Hassayampa website – www.hassayampa.wickenburgschools.org, and “like” us on our school Facebook page.

Calendar of Events

- Week of Dec. 3 – DIBELS & MFF Benchmark Testing
- Dec. 5 – Principal's Coffee @ 8:15 a.m.
- Dec. 6 – Governing Board meeting @6:30
- Dec. 8 – Santa Fest & Cowboy Poetry Reading
- Dec. 13 – 3rd – 5th Spelling Bee @ 12:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14 – Festival Friday: Russia; Spirit Day: Dress Fancy!
- Week of Dec. 17 – Holiday Sale
- Dec. 21 – Holiday Blast / End of Semester
- Dec 24 – Jan. 4 – Winter Break

JANUARY

- Jan. 7 – Back to School, 3rd Quarter begins
- Jan. 9 - Principal's Coffee @ 8:15 a.m.
- Jan. 15 & 16 – APTT Event @ 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 18 - 2nd Qtr. Honor Assemblies
- Jan. 21 - No School – MLK, Jr. Holiday
- Week of Jan. 28 - Book Fair
- Jan. 31 - Art & Science Night

Principal's Coffee

Our next Principal's Coffee is scheduled for Wednesday, **December 5 at 8:15**. Please join the principal for coffee and conversation!



Festival Friday

On **December 14** is Festival Friday. We will be celebrating Russia which students have been studying during the quarter. The K-2 assembly will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the 3-5 assembly will begin at 9:30. To add to the fun, we are making it spirit day. So, dress fancy and join the fun!



DIBELS & MFF Benchmark Week

Starting **December 3**, Hassayampa students will be participating in our mid-year assessment measures. Rest assured that, even though testing occurs over the week, these tests take very little time. DIBELS is the measure we use to determine if students are on track in reading. It is mostly an individual test, and takes **fewer than 15 minutes** per student. Math Fact Fluency takes fewer than **5 minutes**. These assessments will provide teachers specific information on how individual students are progressing as well as how the entire grade level and school is doing.

Holiday Sale

With PTA support, Hassayampa will be hosting the annual Holiday Sale. This is an opportunity for students to shop for inexpensive gifts for family members. Most gifts are in the \$0.50 to \$15.00 price range. Students will be given an opportunity to shop for items starting on December 17 through 20.



If interested in volunteering a few hours to supervise sales, call the Hassayampa office at 684-6750. Proceeds from the sale will be used for Festival Friday performers' fees and student incentives. Reminders will be sent home the week prior.



A Note from the Health Station

It is soon to be cold and flu season, so please remember that ALL cough drops and cold medicines need to be sent to the Health Station along with a signed note, which includes the child's name and written instructions. All medicine can be kept in the Health Station until the end of the school year.

Recommendations for the season:

- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Cover your cough.
- Wash your hands.
- Get the flu shot.

Spelling Bee

Third, fourth, and fifth graders have identified who the top spellers are in their grade levels. On December 13, we will determine who are the top spellers in the school. With the support of our PTA and 21st Century Realty, we will host a school level spelling bee where we will identify classroom winners to participate in a district-wide spelling bee and, perhaps, the regional and state spelling bees! Join us on **December 13 at 12:30 p.m.** to silently cheer on classroom spellers!

Cowboy Poetry Contest



Each December, the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce hosts the Cowboy Christmas Poetry Gathering which has become a very popular event for both the community and cowboy wordsmiths from around the west. Again this year, some of our fourth and fifth graders along with other students in neighboring schools had the opportunity to show their creativity and participate in this poetry event. Students are given the opportunity to create poetry with a western theme. Hassayampa students visited the museum to listen and be inspired by real cowboy poets. Several top student poems were submitted for judging by the Chamber's Poetry Committee. In November, the committee selected winners. Congratulations to Luke Olson for winning first place with his poem, Desert Monsoon, Criner Davis got second place for his poem, World Champion and Emma Lamb for receiving an Honorable Mention!

These students have been invited to read their poems during the Cowboy Christmas Poetry Gathering on **Saturday, December 8** at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum.

Coyote Chorus Performances!

Coyote Chorus is on the move spreading holiday cheer! On **December 13**, Coyote Chorus will begin their annual Christmas tour with performances at My Father's Retirement Ranch, North Ranch, and West Park. Have fun and good luck to our Hassayampa singers!

Just a few reminders:

Emergency Contact Information: If your address or phone number (work, home, or cell) changes, please let the school office know so that files can be updated. Many times the office or health aide is not able to reach parents when their child is ill. It is a difficult situation for both the student and health aide.

Dress for the Weather: The weather has been incredible; however, mornings at Hassayampa are chilly! Please make sure you send your child in clothes that fit the temps. Pack away the flip flops and tank tops! It is recommended that you put your child's name on the inside of coats and sweatshirts.

“Move on When Reading”

Parents of students in grades K-3 who are substantially deficient in reading will receive written notification each quarter. It is our hope to help parents know if their child is substantially deficient in reading. Also, it is our intent to provide information on how Hassayampa teachers are working with their child to get them up to level to pass the 3rd grade state reading test. In addition, Hassayampa will provide parents with specific information on the deficient areas of reading along with strategies parents can use to help their child at home.



AZMERIT – State Assessment

Wickenburg students in Grades 3 through high school will take the AzMERIT in English Language Arts and Mathematics each spring.

You may find additional information on ADE’s website at www.azed.gov/AzMERIT.

To ensure your child is able to do his/her best, there are some simple things you can do to help.

- * Make sure your child practices math and reading fluency measures daily.
- * Encourage your child to read daily!
 - o If you get a new family game, let your child read the instructions to everyone that participates.
 - o Your child can also read the holiday cards to the family.
 - o Are you traveling over the winter break? This is a great time to read and discuss new books.
 - o Christmas is a great time to explore other cultures. Spend some time reading books about traditions in other countries and cultures.
 - o Search for and begin a new tradition in your family. Books are a great resource.
 - o Reading doesn’t always have to include books. Try the internet for limitless research. Remember to sit with your child to help them search safely.
- * Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and a good nutritious breakfast all week.
- * Communicate regularly with your child’s teacher.
- * If you have any questions about the mid-year expectations, you can contact your child’s teacher or Ms. Henneman or Ms. Griswold.

Math Fact Fluency Goals



- Kinder** - Count and identify #'s to 100
- 1st Grade** - addition & subtraction facts to 10
- 2nd Grade** - addition & subtraction facts
- 3rd Grade** – addition, subtraction, & multiplication facts
- 4th Grade** - addition, subtraction, multiplication facts and division facts
- 5th Grade** – multiplication & division facts & percentage/fractions/decimals conversions



Our Kids of Character winners enjoyed a lunch celebration with our own Wickenburg police officers.

This is a busy time of year, but also a great time to spend quality time with your child.

Reminders Continued:

Food Services

If your child purchases breakfast or lunch at school, please make sure that his/her accounts have sufficient funds. You may pay with check or cash. If paying by check, please *make it payable* to **Wickenburg Unified School District** (no abbreviations) and indicate your child’s name and homeroom teacher in the memo.

Wall of Service



Special Events...

Wrangler Wishes

This is our district's own program that is similar to the Christmas Angel program at the mall. If your child needs assistance this holiday season, please let Ms. K-P know. It's completely anonymous.

December CC!

The month of Caring!

Did you receive a letter from Ms. K-P explaining how you can help with the Character Counts Program? Don't forget to fill out your child's ornament and send it in to be hung on their grade level tree. Please try to catch your child being a kid of character!

Worth Quoting...

"Every child deserves a champion; an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be."

Rita Pierson teacher

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The turkeys from the November Character counts turned out great on the Character Wall! 2nd grade has the most feathers turned in and won the competition. We also had "adults of character"! Mrs. Breckenridge's class caught all the adults showing character and wrote about them!



In November, our month of citizenship, Hassayampa students collected **957** items to donate for our Food and Supplies Drive! What a tremendous effort by everyone! Mrs. Neal and Ms. Wise's classroom tied for 3rd place by bringing in 104 items. Mrs. Hilbert's class made a huge push at the end and ended in 2nd place with 123 items. 1st place went to Ms. Breckenridge's class with 193 items! Ms. Breckenridge's class will celebrate with a pizza party. Congratulations to these classrooms and thank you again for all the community support received. All proceeds benefited the Wickenburg CAP Office.

December is a good month to help children focus on being "kind" to others. It is important for children to know that "kindness counts" no matter how small the act. Therefore, December is a good month to talk with your children about bullying or being bullied. Here is an important fact to consider when talking to your child about bullying:

- A BULLY is someone who intentionally physically or emotionally hurts another person over and over.

If your child is being bullied, ask your child to tell the nearest adult, or please feel free to contact the teacher, Ms. K-P, or Mrs. Hershkovitz.

Our school district believes that it is the right of every student to be educated in a positive, safe, caring and respectful learning environment, and bullying in any form will not be tolerated.

Parents, are you taking a look at what your children are doing with their **social media pages**? The #1 tip on monitoring your child's social media comes from Parenting Magazine:

"No Underage Facebooking"

"Did you know that no one under the age of 13 is permitted to join Facebook? However, there is no real way for Facebook to truly enforce it, because anyone can lie about their year of birth. You need to make sure that your child stays away from Facebook until 13 AND until you are comfortable with him or her having an account. There are measures put in place, such as reporting an underage child, but ultimately, it should be the parent who has the say on when and if that account gets created."

If at any time I can be of help, please call or email. I will respond as soon as possible. 928-668-5309

dkeithprohl@wickenburg.k12.az.us

MS. K-P



HASSAYAMPA**Headquarters**

Hassayampa Elementary School

21st Century Community Learning Centers

We are nearly done with our 2nd quarter of after school programs. Thank you to everyone who helps us run smoothly. Please remember the last day of the program is Friday, December 14th. We will be sending out invitations for 3rd Quarter in January. Please let your classroom teacher know if you would like an invitation.

On November 8th, our 21st Century Stackers program took part in helping break the world record for cup stacking. The previous record of 2017 was 622,809 kids stacking across the country at once. We broke the record this year with 624,390 kids stacking at once. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to Ms. Lanz for organizing it!

APTT: We will be hosting our 3rd APTT meeting in January. K-2 will meet on **January 15th**, and 3-5 on **January 16th**. During this time, we will review test scores, pass out 1st Semester report cards, and work together to create attainable goals. The afternoon of Friday, January 18th is available for individual conferences with you as needed if you cannot attend our meeting.

Thank you! The 21st Century coordinators would like to give a shout out to our cafeteria and transportation staff for helping our program run smoothly. We would also like to thank all the teachers who help make these programs happen as well as our partners Cops who Care who come in on Fridays to build relationships with our students.

Quarter 3 programs will begin January 22nd

**NO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS
AFTER DECEMBER 14th.**



PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Now accepting new students for second semester.

Will your child be 4 by September 1, 2019? Space available for 3 and 4 year olds.

Please call the Hassayampa Office or visit the school website for more information.

Programs begin January 7.



Many thanks to the WCO for providing our field trip to the Webb Center to the North Valley Symphony Orchestra! It was quite a treat. We even had a special guest conductor.

What's happening in January?

Honors Celebration!

On **January 18**, we will celebrate our students' accomplishments for the second quarter. The **K-2** Honor's assembly will be held at **8:30 a.m.** and grades **3-5** will be held at **9:30 a.m.** Grades K-2 will receive awards for Perfect Attendance, and other grade level honors. Grades 3-5 will receive recognition for Principal's Honor Roll, Hassayampa Honor Roll, and Perfect Attendance. Special recognition will be also be given to students who achieved Exceeds on the on Galileo in December. So, pack up the whole family, and come on down to join us!

APTT / Parent-Teacher Conferences

Our Academic Parent Teacher Team meetings continue into the New Year! Please mark your calendars for **January 15th for K-2 and January 16th for 3-5.**

These meetings offer us a great opportunity to build partnerships with parents. Parents will receive their child's report cards as well as other grade level data. In addition to these group meetings, parents will have opportunities to schedule traditional, individual conferences.

Hassayampa Science and Art Night

Don't miss out on one of our most popular parent events! Science & Art Night is scheduled on Thursday, **January 31 from 6-7:15 p.m.** In the cafeteria, grade levels will have science displays of what students have been working on in class. Mrs. Veraldi will display student art work *within the hallways* of Hassayampa. It will be quite a colorful display of talent!



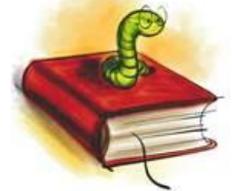
This is a great night for the family to enjoy the hard work our Hassayampa students.

We hope to see you there!



Book Fair!

It's nearly time for the Book Fair! Starting the week of **January 28**, every student will have an opportunity to shop during their scheduled library time. Also, students will be able to shop before school from 7:30 to 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Additionally, parents will have the opportunity to shop during our Art & Science Night on Thursday, January 31 at 6 p.m. Information on how parents and students can make a wish list by visiting the book fair website will sent home in January.



Once the website link is available, purchases may be completed from the book fair website, click on the blue button to access the online book fair. It will be available **BEFORE** and **AFTER** the in-school fair. From here, you may order the same books that you can at the in-school fair. All books ordered online will be shipped to the school free of charge and delivered to the student named in the order.

Wickenburg Unified School District -Tax Credit Program

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) 43-1089.01 allows individual taxpayers to receive a tax credit up to \$400.00 (joint return) for payment to a fund set aside for extra-curricular activities fees. Generally, any educational or recreational activity that is a supplement to the educational program of the school is considered to be an extra-curricular activity. This is a dollar for dollar tax credit. It allows you, the taxpayer, to decide where you would like to put up to \$400.00 of your tax dollars to work. When it comes time to fill out your tax forms, you will receive a tax credit for up to \$400.00. It is a win-win situation for yourself and the school activities you support with your tax dollars. You do not have to have a child in school so grandparents or anyone can also take advantage of this tax credit.

Questions and Answers:

What public schools and grades are eligible for the credit?

Public schools that provide instruction in grades kindergarten through 12 are eligible for the credit. What is a fee paid for the support of extracurricular activities? A fee is a dollar amount paid to a public school for the support of extracurricular activities.

What are extracurricular activities?

Extracurricular activities means school sponsored activities that require enrolled students to pay a fee in order to participate. Such activities may include, but are not limited to use of band uniforms, use of equipment or uniforms for athletics, or use of scientific laboratory equipment or materials. Any educational /recreational activities that supplement the educational program of the school.

If a school establishes a fund to pay for extracurricular activities, would a payment to this fund qualify for a tax credit?

Yes, the credit is authorized for fees paid by any taxpayer to a public school for the support of extracurricular activities.

Must a taxpayer have a child enrolled in order to claim the tax credit?

No, a taxpayer is any person subject to tax.

What is the claim limit for a married couple?

The credit claimed by married couples filing a joint return is limited to a maximum of **\$400.00**. Married couples filing separate tax returns can claim only one-half of the allowable credit on each return.

What kind of receipt will I receive for my tax return?

The school will issue a receipt that includes the school name, district number, taxpayer name, social security number, amount paid, date paid and description of the activity for which the fee was paid.

At Hassayampa Elementary, we currently have several extracurricular activities that we charge a fee. Our approved extracurricular activities are:

- Science Camp for 5th graders,
- Field Trips,
- Character Education,
- Coyote Chorus, Archery, Literacy, and Art Clubs
- Friday Afternoon Program.

You may also choose "**No Preference**". Money in these accounts is discussed during Site Council meetings to determine the extracurricular activity with the greatest need.

Your tax credit donation will be used to provide children the opportunity to participate and also provide supplies, guest speakers, and field trips. If you would like to make a tax credit donation to any of these activities, fill out the enclosed form and send it along with your check to school. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 684-6750 for more information.

Box Tops Contest

With Box Tops for Education, our school can earn up to \$10,000 in cash for whatever our school needs most! Wouldn't it be great if we earned over \$2,000 this year?



Box Tops for Education is the school project that's easy for everyone. All you have to do is clip and save Box Tops for our school. It's that EASY! There are more ways to earn money for Hassayampa. Please visit www.boxtops4education.com to learn about other ways to earn money for Hassayampa.



Facebook

Have you checked us out on Facebook? Our goal is to get 500 "likes" by the end of the school year. We currently have **479!** Tell a friend or other family members. Visit Hassayampa Elementary School on Facebook and "Like" our page to receive up-to-date information on what's happening at Hassayampa!



Amazon Smile

Getting ready for holiday shopping? Are you an Amazon shopper? Please use Amazon Smile to help raise additional funds for Hassayampa. It's a simple way to support our school

[Amazon Smiles for Hassayampa](#)

Note from the Principal:

As we near the end of this first semester of school, I'd like to take a moment to think of all the wonderful educational experiences our students have had so far. Students have been working hard on the basics of math fact fluency and abc's. Students have been writing poetry, studying Australia and Russia, getting into the science lab, and learning what it means to be a kid of character by participating in a food and supply drive to demonstrate citizenship in the community.

This is a time for us to reflect on the things for which we are thankful. As a school, we have been fortunate to have the support of many parent volunteers as well as incredible community support. We are truly blessed!

Over the past year, we have been working with several community organizations to help us provide Chromebooks in our classrooms. With a combination, we have been able to purchase Chromebooks for every classroom. As 3rd -5th grade is a technology priority, four to six Chromebooks have been provided in each 3-5 classroom. The goal with the current PTA Little Caesars Pizza fundraiser is to purchase more Chromebooks! Our ELA curriculum, Wonders, offers many online options for the classroom. The Chromebooks allow students to access these resources from the classroom. The district has negotiated a very reasonable price on Chromebooks. If you are interested in making a donation, please make your checks out to the Wickenburg Unified School District or the Wickenburg PTA.



Please review the calendar of events closely and add the information to your family calendar. I look forward to seeing you all at any one of our many events!

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Hershkowitz



You may have noticed that our stage has needed some TLC. So, over Thanksgiving weekend, a few staff members got together on a special project to clean up the stage. Mrs. Boyle has been working hard to prepare students for Festival Friday and the Holiday Bash, and now they're background is going to look great!