Greetings Cougar Families,

As we are heading into the final weeks of 2021 students and teachers are busy wrapping up the second quarter. Please be sure you are checking your student’s Infinite Campus Gradebook so that you are aware of academic progress. You are vital in the home school connection. If there are missing assignments, poor assessment results, or you would like to see your child challenged even more, don't hesitate in reaching out to teachers. We love to work with families. Our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are preparing for final exams in their core subject areas so that teachers can assess mastery of content taught throughout the first semester. The exam will count toward 10% of their grade and will be taken the week of December 13th. Mr. Griesel and I are routinely walking through classrooms, and we can say with confidence that we are impressed with the effort teachers are putting into teaching standards and creating an engaging learning environment.

December is a busy month for arts, athletics, and give backs. We welcome families to come out and watch soccer and volleyball games. Additionally, please look out for updates on band and choir winter performances. This year we are hosting the “Buddy Blanket” drive again. Please consider donating a blanket which will be given to individuals in need. Additionally, our PTA is selling Coupon Books which make great gifts for family and friends looking to save some money!

We have completed our A+ School of Excellence site visit and are awaiting the results from the Arizona Educational Foundation. We will share the news with our community in late February or early March. We are now working on renewing our STEM Accreditation through Cognia (formally AdvancED). Receiving feedback from our community is a vital part of the process. Can you please take a moment to respond to questions in this survey - [STEM Recertification Parent Survey]. We are requesting responses by Monday, December 6, 2021.

December will be a review of the first four Habits students have been learning about since the beginning of the school year. Habit 1 - Be Proactive: We are responsible and dependable by taking initiative and having a continuous improvement mindset. Habit 2 - Begin with the End in Mind: It is important to plan ahead and set goals. Students understand that they are an important part of the Canyon community and contribute to the mission and vision by looking for ways to be a good citizen. Habit 3 - Put First Things First: Spending time on things that are most important is a central idea of Habit 3. This means saying no to things we should not do, determining priorities, making a schedule, and following plans. Habit 4 - Think Win-Win: We approach life knowing we are stronger together than we can ever be individually so cooperation, collaboration and encouraging others to be the best benefits the entire Canyon Ridge community.

I wish you all a healthy, safe and merry December!

Have a YES! kind of month,
Jill Hoppe, Principal
UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15 - December 3: Blanket Drive
Canyon Ridge School will be holding our annual Buddy Blankets Drive. We are collecting NEW blankets of all sizes, to be distributed to local homeless and domestic violence shelters throughout the West Valley. Donation bins are located throughout the school.

December 1: PTA Chipotle Dine Out Event
4:00-8:00pm at Chipotle, 303 and Waddell

December 2
Willow Canyon High School Future Freshman Night, 6:00-7:30pm

December 6 - 14
Holiday Grams
On sale before and after school in the Crimson Hallway; $.50 each

PTA Holiday Shop
Monday, December 6, 1pm-4pm
Tuesday, December 7, 3pm - 4pm
Wednesday, December 8, 3pm - 4pm
Thursday, December 9, 3pm - 4pm
Friday, December 10, 3pm - 4pm
Tuesday, December 14, 5pm-6:30pm during Polar Express

December 7: Winter Band Concert
6:00pm at Dysart High School

December 8: Governing Board Meeting
6:00pm at the District Office

December 14: Kona Ice
Available for purchase after school. Prices start at $3.00 each. Polar Express Night, 5:00-6:30pm

December 17
EARLY RELEASE AT 1:00pm - Winter Break Begins

December 20 - December 31
NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK

Girls Soccer
Tryouts: Dec. 14 and 15, 3:15-4:30pm on the back field
Parent Meeting: Dec. 16, 3:30pm
Practices Begin: Jan. 4

Boys Basketball
Tryouts: Dec. 13, 4:00-5:00pm and Dec. 15 and 16, 3:15-4:30pm in the gym

Cheer
Tryouts: Dec. 14-16, 7:00-7:45am in the gym
Parent Meeting: Dec. 17, 1:30pm