



SCHOOL NEWS

WESTERN PEAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Good Afternoon Falcon Family,

This month, we wrap up the first semester of the 23/24 school year! We have many things happening at Western Peaks this month, so be sure to review the upcoming dates. Student Council will also be selling candy grams & hosting a spirit week for the holidays, so be on the lookout for information coming home this month about those events.

Attendance Matters! Did you know that schools can lose part of their per student funding for students who have excessive absences? Excessive absences are considered being absent for more than 10% of the year, which is more than 18 absent days. Please help ensure your child is at school all day, every day. One way you can do this is by scheduling appointments and vacations during school breaks. Also, please note that [parents can call to report absences 24/7 by calling our attendance line at 623-523-8753.](#)

Everyone at Western Peaks has been putting forth great effort to ensure students make growth & reach proficiency in the academic standards. Our students are making gains & working hard in their learning also! Goal 1 of our school improvement plan is to increase the number of proficient 3rd & 4th grade students in Math & ELA by at least 3% on the state assessment compared to last year, as well as to increase the number of K-3 students reaching the benchmark level on the DIBELS Reading assessment compared to the previous year. We utilize the District Benchmark assessments as an indicator of performance on the AASA. Comparing Benchmark 1 data this year to last year, we have increased proficiency in Math by 11% in 3rd grade & by 4% in 4th grade. We have not yet seen an increase in proficiency on the ELA Benchmarks, but will be assessing students again in the second semester. Students in grades K-3 will be re-assessed in DIBELS the first week in December, at which time we can measure progress towards that goal.

Dysart Schools will be holding a Career Fair on Dec. 4th from 3:00 - 6:30 pm at the district office! If you, or someone you know, is looking for work, we invite you to interview with Dysart! Anyone who is interested can register for an interview prior to the Career Fair online by clicking [HERE](#). Walk-ins will also be accepted on Dec. 4th.

Did you know that each year you can donate up to \$400 to the school of your choice and receive that tax credit back, dollar-for-dollar, in your annual tax returns? Please consider making a tax credit donation to Western Peaks Elementary! We are now accepting tax credit donations online at Dysart.org/TaxCredit. Western Peaks uses tax credit funds for our extracurricular clubs and for tutoring, so we sincerely appreciate your tax credit donations so that we can continue these extended learning opportunities for our students!

To all of our Falcon Families, we wish you a happy holiday season!

Sincerely,
Principal Brown

Upcoming Dates

Now - December 6th ~
Student Council Toy Drive

December 6th ~
Sonic Falcon Dine Out Night,
5-8 pm @ Cotton &
Greenway

December 12th ~
Fat Cats Falcon Night, 5-7 pm
@ Fat Cats in Surprise

December 15th ~
Panera Falcon Dine Out
Night, 4-8 pm @ Panera
Prasada Gateway

December 19th ~
Desert Farm Lights, 5 pm,
Use code western for 10% off

December 20th ~
PTSA Meeting & Photos w/
Santa, 4-5 pm @ WPES
Library
Kindergarten Holiday
Concert, 6 pm, WPES Gym

December 21st & 22nd ~
No School for Preschool on
both days

December 22nd ~
Early Dismissal @ 1:45 pm

Dec. 23rd - Jan. 8th ~
Winter Break / No School

Tuesday, January 9th ~
School Resumes

18063 W Surprise Farms Loop S, Surprise, AZ 85388 • Phone: 623.523.8750 • www.dysart.org/westernpeaks
twitter.com/westernpeaks



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November's Attendance & Behavior Data

Total # of Full Day Absences = 858
(increase of 113 from October)

Total # of Half Day Absences = 272
(Increase of 28 from October)

Total # of Tardies = 395
(Increase of 59 from October)

Total # of Behavior Referrals = 28
➤ **Year-to-Date = 125**

PTSA Corner



Desert Farm Lights Fundraiser for Western Peaks - Flyer linked [HERE](#)

Calendar of PTSA Events for December ~

DECEMBER PTSA EVENTS

- December 6, 2023**
Sonic Falcon Dine Out Night
Cotton & Greenway
5pm-8pm
- December 12, 2023**
FatCats Falcon Night
FatCats Surprise
5pm-7pm
- December 15, 2023**
Panera Falcon Dine Out Night
Panera Prasada Gateway
4pm - 8pm
- December 19, 2023**
Desert Farm Lights
Desert Farm Lights - 5pm
Use code - western

Attendance Matters!

Every year, absences spike in the weeks before & after winter break. Please make sure your students are in school each & every day before & after breaks.

#EVERYDAYCOUNTS

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