

HOOFBEATS



Issue 14

Desert Vista Elementary

November 23, 2009

EARLY DISMISSAL-11:45/CASUAL DAY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2009

Students riding the bus home from school will be dropped off 3 hours earlier than their normal drop off time.

NO SCHOOL/THANKSGIVING BREAK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 &

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Classes will resume on Monday, November 30th.



Please come join us for the
Desert Vista Band/Chorus Holiday Program!

When: Wednesday, December 9th

Where: The Desert Vista Cafetorium

Time: 7:00 p.m.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

During the month of December, all students in grades 1-5 will be using the Desert Vista climbing wall during Physical Education classes. Indoor rock climbing simultaneously develops coordination, strength, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness. Additionally, important life skills like problem solving, goal setting, perseverance, inner confidence and patience will be learned from this unit. If you have any questions about the climbing wall or you do not want your child to participate in these activities, please contact Mrs. Rumble at 982-1110 ext 5938. Additional information and pictures of our climbing wall can be found on the school website at <http://dves.ajusd.org/teachers/mrumple.htm>.

Upcoming Events

- November 25th-Pie Sharing, Early Dismissal, 11:45 a.m.
- November 26th & 27th-NO SCHOOL/Thanksgiving Break
- December 8th-District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- December 9th-Band/Chorus Holiday Program, Cafeteria, 7 p.m.
- December 14th-PTO Meeting, 3:15 p.m.
- December 14th-18th-Secret Santa Shop
- December 16th-PTO Holiday Extravaganza! 5-7:30 p.m.
- December 18th-Student of the Month Assemblies, PJ Day,
Last Day of 2nd Quarter



AZ Tax Credit a Win-Win

With the defeat of the Override we are hoping to increase donations through the use of the Arizona Tax Credit Program. This is one way taxpayers have to ensure that their state tax dollars go directly to benefit the students in our schools through extracurricular programs

The Arizona State Legislature allows taxpayers to donate money directly to the schools of their choice and receive a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the actual taxes owed on their Arizona State Income Tax return.

The law requires that this money be used by the schools for extracurricular/enrichment activities for students; it cannot be used in the district's regular education budget. This money provides needed funds and pay-for-play fees for extracurricular programs like athletics, and the arts.

Individuals can make a donation of \$200, and married couples, filing jointly, can donate up to \$400. This tax credit is available to all Arizona individual taxpayers regardless of whether or not they have children in school. Taxpayers do not have to live in this school district to be able to donate to our schools, so grandparents, relatives or friends can participate in helping your children.

Wouldn't you feel better knowing that your tax money is going to the worthy enterprise of enriching a child's education by paying activity fees or providing arts opportunities?

To be eligible for the tax credit on your 2009 state tax return, donations must be made prior to December 31, 2009. Credit cards can be used. For more information, go to the AJUSD.org website and click on "Tax Credit" at the bottom of the page, or call Sandra Bohr at ext. 2001.

O.T./P.T. Tidbit **BACKPACK FACTS:**

- * More than 79 million students in the United States carry school backpacks
- * More than 23,000 backpack-related injuries were treated at hospital emergency rooms, doctor's offices, and clinics in 2007
- * It is recommended that a loaded backpack should never weigh more than 15 percent of the student's total body weight
- * About 55 percent of students carry a backpack that is too heavy.
- * In one study with American students ages 11 to 15 years, 64 percent reported back pain related to heavy backpacks. Twenty-one percent reported the pain lasting more than 6 months.
- * According to a study by Boston University, approximately 85 percent of university students self-report discomfort and pain associated with backpack usage.

The way backpacks are worn affects your health. The height of the backpack should extend from approximately 2 inches below the shoulder blades to waist level or slightly above the waist. It is recommended that individuals always wear the backpack on both shoulders so the weight is evenly distributed.