

**McDOWELL MOUNTAIN SITE COUNCIL**  
**May 17, 2021**

**Agenda:**

- ECQUIP quarterly meeting (ECQUIP-only members may leave afterward)
- Everyone will receive a report with grade level/special area & activities updates
- FHUSD PTO update
- 2021-2022 Site Council membership
- Closing

**MMES Site Council**

Staff Members		Parent/Community Members	
Principal	Valerie Dehombreux	FH Community Members	Peter Conti
			Connie Barczak
Classified	Renee Montague	FM Community Member	VACANT
SPED/Preschool	Sharon Monar	Preschool Parent	VACANT
Kindergarten	Susan Bovinette	Kindergarten Parent	Rachel Walters
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Kristin Hatfield	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Parent	Danny Garcia
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Talia Houseal	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Parent	Kim Guerrette
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Sam Elder	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Parent	Bente Forsdal
Special Areas	Jill Cooper	FHUSD PTO Member	Jelaine Goldapper

### Principal's Report:

- Successful April-May events included 3<sup>rd</sup> grade AzM2 testing, Earth Day & Fairness awards assembly video, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade visit to FHMS.
- Congratulations to our innovative and dedicated STEM teacher, Mrs. Jill Cooper on her Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year award! So well-deserved!

### Upcoming Events:

May 17-21: Last week of DIBELS Spring Benchmark & ATI Galileo Post-Test assessment window

May 19: 2:20: Student early release for staff professional development

May 20: 6:30 p.m.: Kindergarten Promotion Ceremony

May 24: 8:00-12:00: MMES student Chromebook check-in; 3:00-5:00: MMES parent Chromebook check-in (remote/FHVA students)

May 25: 1:30-2:30: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Kona Ice celebration on playground

May 26: Character Counts awards assembly video; not an early release day

May 27: Last Day of School; a.m. TBD: FHHS Senior Walk at MMES & FHMS; 10:00: Preschool Graduation Ceremony; 12:30: Student early release

### 2020-2021 ECQUIP goal:

#### Target Area

Standard 4: School Culture, Climate, and Communication, Indicator 4.2

Teachers will provide children and their families with a variety of information about childhood development and specific skills related to their child throughout the school year. This will enable parents to be active participants in monitoring and encouraging growth in their child's development. Parents will be encouraged to share this information with the teacher to help the child advance in all developmental areas. Parents will receive a minimum of 15 pieces of information throughout the school year.

### **Preschool**

#### Preschool 1

The morning class continued with Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They enjoy the Three Bears Rap song too, even though it has a lot of words. Both classes made kites and flew them. We discussed wind direction and how you have to pay attention in order to have the kite fly. This is a very hard concept to learn. It became more evident to them when the kite didn't fly if they were facing or running the wrong way. Flying a kite takes a lot of coordination too! Both classes are creating butterflies by squirting different colors of paint on one side, folding the blank side on top and pressing it down. When the wings are pulled apart, the butterfly has two beautiful, symmetrical wings. We have read a number of butterfly life cycle books too.

The afternoon class is also reading several The Three Little Pigs books. They are also practicing their songs for graduation on Thursday, May 27th. One of their favorites is The Three Pigs Blues. We continue to work on how to hold a crayon, coloring skills, and letter writing. We are also working on identifying letters, letter-sound connection, identifying numbers, quantities, and positional words.

I can't believe we have less than 2 weeks of school remaining. I am a teacher who never wants school to end, so I am in a state of shock and disbelief. I hope everyone has a wonderful and healthy summer!

## Preschool 3

Preschool 3 has been studying insects. We know many facts about insects now! They students enjoyed acting out *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* with puppets. We have been reading fiction and nonfiction, along with a predictable story *The Butterfly*. The students each have their own copy to take home and read to their family. We have been very busy practicing for our end of year program/graduation. There is a lot of assessment going on just to make sure each student has shown me all they know. This has been an unusual year, but a great year in preschool 3. The students have been real troopers. They are a wonderful group and have learned so much! I love seeing and hearing them interact with each other. They are so caring and respectful to each other. It will be hard to send them on.

## **Kindergarten**

Kindergarten has been busy with testing for Diebels, ATI Galileo, Sight Words, and writing their numbers and letters.

We are so excited that we will be having Kindergarten promotion on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

Kindergarten will also be visiting First Grade classrooms and the big playground.

We can't believe this year is almost over and we have learned soooo much.

We learned what it meant to sit in a circle, walk in a line, hold a pencil, use scissors, and be part of a group. We also learned how to read, became mathematicians, scientists, take turns, and what it means to be a friend.

These children are capable of great things and the Kindergarten teachers will always treasure these moments we had together.

## **First Grade**

We have been working on researching animal reports and some classes did a diorama. In math we have been reviewing time, place value, addition and subtraction without regrouping. We are working on Unit 8 in reading and learning about the sky, moon, and planets. We will be having an end of the year celebration with some fun activities.

## **Second Grade**

**Reading (Finishing the following concepts):**

**Unit 8: Essential Question: How do we react to changes in nature?**

- Main Topic of Text
  - Shades of Meaning
  - Connections between Series of Events
  - Reasons Support Different Points
  - Formal/Informal Language
  - Comp/Contrast Important Points
- (two texts; same topic)  
Main Purpose of a Text

\*\*\* Benchmark ATI testing and Dibels Assessment\*\*\*

**Science:** Integrated with our reading text: Weather, Weathering and Erosion

**Grammar:** Irregular Plurals, Adverbs, Homophones and Possessive nouns

**Phonics:** Irregular plural Nouns, Suffix endings (er, est, y, ly,) Homophones, Schwa sounds for the letter "A", and silent letters (gn, kn, wr, mb)

**Writing:** Informative Essays (analyzing/researching, planning, drafting, editing, and publishing)

**Math:**

- Geometry concepts (Polygons, Solid Figure, Fractions)
- Review and Practice adding and subtraction 2 digit numbers with regrouping
- Introduction to 3 digit addition and subtraction with regrouping (number lines and Base ten models)
- Introduce Array models with repeated addition and multiplication concept
- Benchmark ATI assessment

### **Third Grade**

Third grade is finishing this year strong! Students are sharpening their reading, writing and math skills through a variety of activities and assignments. Third grade will enjoy a fun celebration of Kona Ice the last week of school.

### **Special Area Team Site Council Update**

#### **STEM**

In STEM class this cycle it is the much anticipated LEGO Week! Kindergarten and First Grade students will begin by learning about our LEGO kits and how they work for projects in our classroom. We will read Pierre the Penguin, the true story of a penguin that required a wetsuit when he had a skin disease. All students will then be inventing and building a device that is helpful to people or animals in our world. They will share their creations with the class. They will plan and build a LEGO marble maze using certain constraints and they will share their mazes with each other! All students will solve a real world problem by creating a zipline to save campers that are stuck on a mountain. They will test their LEGO carriage by zooming it across the classroom. In this exercise they will learn about and experiment with the effects of forces such as gravity, slope, speed, and friction.

#### **Music**

Students have done very well so far this year with limited singing due to COVID. They have gained a lot of knowledge about the elements of music and history of music so far. This final quarter students will be playing instruments more and doing exercises with basketballs and beat and rhythm, rhythmic fitness routines and singing a bit more with our masks on.

The Students are finishing the year with their final music vocabulary quiz. I am happy to report that ALL students have grown in this area. 3 of the 4 3rd grade classes are above 80% proficiency (the other is 78% so super close to our goal of 80%)

All classes are finishing the year with a musical during their last week of music. We are all watching Annie for our musical this year. They have learned that musicals are stories or plays with singing and dancing. The singing and dancing are part of the story, so the songs must stay in! Annie is a great kid-oriented and somewhat familiar musical to finish our year with happy thoughts and looking ahead for next year.

## Art

Students have been busy exploring the color wheel then making Spring themed art this last quarter. They observed flowers for lines and shapes and drew what they saw. Each grade level then used a different medium to create their work: Kindergarten-paper flowers; First grade-crayon and tempera cakes; Second grade -Realistic and Abstract flowers with tempera cakes and oil pastels, and Third grade-Tertiary colors mixing and stamping with liquid tempera.

The students are ending the year reviewing then creating their self-portraits to show their growth as artists. All works have been published in Artsonia, our online art gallery ([www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)). We compared Artsonia to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and discussed the purpose and jobs in the art museum. Portfolios were also created to safely store and transport their art home.

I was contacted by the new Fountain Hills Medical Center earlier in the year expressing interest in creating a Young Art Gallery in the center. As a result, students created a variety of art and each class voted on the artwork they thought should be included in the center. I am proud to announce that the following students were selected to have their art framed and on display in this Young Art Gallery at the new Fountain Hills Medical Center: Dane Goldapper (2nd grade), Alexander Hrisho (3rd Grade), Scarlett Grieco (3rd grade), Harlow Carponelli (2nd grade), Venus Hall (3rd grade), Travis Ostlund (1st grade), and Adison Shroyer (3rd grade). The work will be on display for a couple months then new art will be selected from the remaining entries. It is an honor to have our students' art on display in this community space.

Congratulations also to Mila Valdez for winning the 2nd/3rd Grade category in the Fountain Hills Library Bookmark Summer Reading Contest! Her bookmark will promote summer reading for the town of Fountain Hills!

## Camp Invention

In person Camp Invention is back June 14-18! **McDowell Mountain has the largest Camp Invention in Maricopa County!** Woohooo! We are currently full and at capacity but accepting students on a wait list. I am still in need of 1 Leadership Intern if you know of a high school or college student that enjoys working with kids! They will earn 40 hours of community service and an amazing leadership focused letter of recommendation. Please let Jill know if someone comes to mind.