



November 19, 2021

Hello again, SUSD Families,

This is our last weekly update until after we return from Thanksgiving break, so we want to take this opportunity to tell you about some outstanding happenings that have occurred around the district this week.

But first, a little business:

Future Title I funding

During the 2020-2021 school year, the federal School Nutrition program allowed schools to provide free meals to students, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It subsequently extended the program through the current school year. The program's continuation brought with it the unintended result that many families did not complete the annual free-and-reduced meal application with our Nutrition Services Department, since meals are already free this school year.

Many federal grants that SUSD receives are funded based on the number of meal applications submitted, and their reduced number this year could impact the district long-term. Title I, a longstanding federal program created to help economically disadvantaged students succeed in school, is one of those grants. In order to address this school year's significantly decreased meal applications, the state of Arizona is permitting school districts to use the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Income Eligibility Survey to help determine future Title I funding. This survey allows us to provide the necessary information to the government so that we can continue to receive the federal funds we need to address Title I students' particular learning needs and continue to provide world-class, future-focused learning to all SUSD students.

This afternoon, you received an email from SUSD Title I Coordinator Shawn Crosier with a request that you complete the linked Income Eligibility Survey. We hope you are able to take a moment to do that. Thank you.

SUSD Celebrations

This week, we marked the 30th anniversary of the opening of Mountainside Middle School in the Desert Mountain Learning Community. It was great to welcome back Mountainside's first principal, former SUSD Superintendent Dr. John Kriekard, for the celebration and to share tales of Cougar lore, past and present, with Principal Adam Luke and his staff.

Scottsdale Mayor David Ortega plans to pop in to Desert Canyon Middle School next week to officially designate the McDowell Mountain Ranch school his "School of the Year." DCMS students submitted the most essays and artwork to his recent Constitution Day writing and art competition. Good job, Mountain Lion students, and thank you, teachers, for encouraging their participation!

We were thrilled to learn that the Spirit of Arcadia marching band marched off last weekend with its seventh state title, with Desert Mountain's marching band right there, as well, finishing

second. Part of why these are significant achievements is that our students were unable to compete at all last year because COVID concerns cancelled annual competitions. They have come roaring back this fall, performing at the highest levels. Congratulations to all of SUSD's high school marching bands and their directors for an excellent season! Several bands will have the opportunity to shine again tomorrow in a final state competition.

Community Celebrations

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Scottsdale Charros organization, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary of commitment to the greater Scottsdale community. SUSD is the annual beneficiary of the Charros' generosity through education and liaison program grants, future teacher and student athlete scholarships, its annual education awards banquet recognizing outstanding teachers from each SUSD school and top members of each year's graduating high school class, Project Graduation funding, and the annual Youth Luncheon and Baseball Clinic at Scottsdale Stadium. We could not ask for a better, more dedicated and committed community partner than the Scottsdale Charros, and we look forward to seeing them again in February, when the annual Parada del Sol returns to the streets of Old Town.

Athletics

It's an exciting time to be an SUSD football fan, with three of our high school teams in post-season competition – Chaparral, Desert Mountain and Saguaro. Division 5A and 6A play is underway tonight for the Firebirds and Wolves. The Sabercats will be in action a week from tonight in Open Division play. Go, SUSD!

You will recall that our middle school student athletes convened last weekend for their second quarter sports festival. More than 700 students took part in basketball, soccer and softball games in Scottsdale parks and in SUSD gyms. The day went off without a hitch, thanks to the district's athletic department, team coaches, security staff and volunteers. Thank you, everyone!

Next week is always a fun one in SUSD, with various Turkey Trots and Thanksgiving-related activities at our schools. We want to share with you our gratitude and deep appreciation for the partnership between our talented education professionals and staff, our students and your families that allows us to dedicate our best efforts every day to ensuring each student has the opportunities needed to learn, grow and succeed.

Best wishes for a very happy and safe holiday next week.

Scottsdale Unified School District [Cabinet](#) and [Leadership Team](#)