

Thank You for allowing us to love, protect, and educate your children. We are very excited about the plans for the year and can't wait to see "our kids"! See you soon!

Love from our family to yours, The Staff



# Midtown Primary School Campus Notes

Fun-Loving, Cozy School, Full of Great Kids,  
Special Teachers & Terrific Families

602-265-5133 July 11, 2014

**Welcome Back-To-School Issue**  
**Helpful (and Important) Information Enclosed**



## Ms. Judy's Corner

A+ Work

The 2013/2014 school-year was a year of EXCELLENT student growth. The Teachers did A+ work taking into account each child's needs, creatively solving problems, pushing the students for the maximum growth possible while still creating a fun, loving environment. What a team! I love working with these teachers because they are all dedicated to "our" kids getting the most out of their education, preparing them for a life of success and happiness. My staff uses all that they know to accomplish that. When they don't know, they go get more training, get others' advice and help each other.

Did you know that three of your teachers have their Masters Degrees: Ms. Linda, Ms. Abby, and Ms. Mandy. Did you also know that on this little campus you have two award winning teachers: Ms. Bobbie is a KEZ Excellence in Education Finalist and Ms. Mandy a Rodel Foundation Exemplary Teacher Semifinalist!

We have stellar teaching talent! I can say that with certainty because we were an A school last year and have our fingers crossed that we kept that A. Teachers, students, and admin-istrators worked hard to earn it again: 95% of the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed reading, 82% of the 4<sup>th</sup> also passed reading! This is well above the Arizona average of 77% and 75%. In math 70% of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 73% of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders passed. These are Ms. Mandy's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest scores and Ms. Bobbie's highest. For a comparison to Arizona's average: 69% of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 62% of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders passed. By all accounts we are doing GREAT. In our hearts we know we are an A school. The state will let us know in late July what grade we earned.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Friendship Day \*  
\* Friday, August 1st \*  
\* 9—11am \*  
\* Stop by and Meet your Teacher! \*  
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## Invite Your Friends & Neighbors

**Referral "Thank You" Fee:** Anyone you refer to us (other than siblings), who stays with us from the first week in September to mid January, will earn you a \$50 Visa gift card. We would love to give you multiple cards! Thanks for the word of mouth. Keep up the good work and let us reward you for it!

## REMINDER, REMINDER, REMINDER

**PLEASE ARRIVE AT 8 am**

**School hours: 8:15-2:45pm**

**Gate Opens at 8am!**

*to ensure your children are receiving the best that we can give them:*

**Get them to school on-time**

**Schedule Dr. appointments & vacations when school is closed (about 30 days!)**

**Send them to school well-rested & fed**

**Thank you!**

## Attendance Incentives

### Pizza Fridays:

All students with perfect attendance the week before will be awarded a slice of pizza on the following Fri. If your child missed a day, please order pizza **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY**. Or pack their lunch.

### Perfect Attendance Incentives:

Children with perfect attendance (no absence) for the whole year get a \$25 gift card to Target, an award & a certificate. 1 day absence gets a \$10 gift card to Target, an award & a certificate. 2 day absence gets a \$5 gift card & a certificate. 2 1/2—5 day absence receives a small gift & certificate. Each year the number of “**excellent attenders**” improves. Well Done, Guys!

### End-of-the Year Perfect Attendance Field Trip

Students with less than 5 absences or less than 5 tardies are invited to a very special trip. Last year we went to Amazing Jake's. This year's trip has not been announced yet. To be invited, from August through April 30th. they can have only 5 absences or 5 tardies. Example: if they had only 1 absence but 6 tardies, they would not qualify. If they had 4 absences & 4 tardies they would be invited!

### Monthly Attendance Rewards:

Each month has a different colored bracelet that may be earned. They are given out monthly at Perfect Attendance Assemblies. The students are trying to collect them all. They cheer and clap for each other. We encourage them to wear all of their bracelets to the assemblies.

### NEW T- Shirts

We will get each student a Filed Trip Shirt before our first trip. If there are extras, you may purchase one for \$8 if you would like. We are not able to replace lost shirts. Please take good care of them.

Parents may order Field Trip Shirts for themselves by letting the office know in August that they would like to have one also. They are \$12.

## Gate Procedure

The front double gate is unlocked at 7:50 for breakfast. If not eating breakfast arrive at 8am.. We will relock it for security at 8:40. The side gate will be unlocked for those arriving late. Anyone arriving after 8:15 will have to pass the office. Please stop and get a pass to class. Any student arriving to class without a late pass will be sent back to the office. The double gate will be unlocked again at 2:30.

**PARENTS:** If you arrive earlier than 2:45pm **Please wait under the lunch awning until the teachers open their doors and release your children. If you absolutely have to get a student early, come to the office for a pass and we will go get the student for you. We always welcome parent visits. Please schedule in advance with the teacher.**

### **FREE & REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAMS**

We're starting Breakfast & Hot Lunch Monday, the 4th. Please submit your Free or Reduced Lunch applications (enclosed) no later than Friend's Day, the 3rd of August so we have time to get your forms processed. **We cannot feed “our” children without the proper paperwork & government approvals.** If you qualified in the past, we will feed your child while we finish processing your new papers. We will notify you by letter, in the go-home folder, of your acceptance into the program. **If you have not previously qualified, plan to pack a lunch or pay until your paperwork is processed.** Hot Lunch is served Mon—Thurs to allow for Pizza Delivery Fridays (Please plan to pack a lunch or order a slice of pizza for that Friday). **IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT PAPERWORK & QUALIFY YOU WILL BE BILLED FULL RATE.**

### **GIRL SCOUT GROUP**

“Daisies” Kindie-1st Grade,  
“Brownies” 2nd-3rd Grade &  
“Juniors” 4th Grade.

*We have very limited spaces!  
Please contact Ms. Mandy for more  
information! 602-265-5133*



### **Young Explorers Group**

2nd-4th Grade Boys

*Please contact Mr. Dan for more  
Information! 602-265-5133*



## TEACHERS



**Ms. Rikki** is back for her new kindergarteners. She had a busy summer, but also got in some much deserved vacation time.

**Ms. Tiedra** will be assisting again in the Kindergarten room this year. Ms. Andrea and Ms. Tiedra are very excited to meet the new kindies.

**Ms. Kelly** is back & will be taking 2nd Grade, she spent some of the summer home in Illinois and tutored some students.

**Ms. Valerie** will be working with the English Language Learners & teaching Charlotte Lockhart Phonics.

**Ms. Mandy** is back. She has been missing the kids & looking forward to having them back.

**Ms. Bobbie** is excited to see her 4th graders. She prepared this summer for an exciting year with her class.

**Mr. Dan** is looking forward to working with Ms. Mandy in the mornings. He will also be doing garden & PE for our students again this year.

**Ms. Linda** is excited to do 1st Grade this year. She loves K & 1st grade & has taught them for many years.

**Ms. Abby** will be returning part time as a data/testing specialist to help our team get the most out of our curriculum. She had a baby boy, Keegan. *Congrats!! Ms. Abby!!*

**Ms. Elly**

**Ms. Lorraine** will be there for our kids getting them healthy snacks & lunches.

**Ms. Michaela**

**Ms. Dominique**

**Ms. Rosi**



## KINDERGARTENERS

**First Day Hugs & Kisses:** A Hug, a Kiss and a matter-of-fact wave good bye is very reassuring to your child. Very few new Kindies are upset by coming to school. They are excited and thrilled to be there. We will be available to reassure any students who need us, go for a walk, provide a hug. We promise, them and you, that we will check on them to be sure they are happy. (They like that promise.) We are happy to take your phone calls and report to you on your child's first day.... It is not uncommon for parents to be grief-stricken by the realization that their "baby" is taking a major step in their growth and independence. We are moms, too, & understand that. Please trust us to help both of you make this transition & enjoy this newest adventure.



Love,

**Judy, Belinda,  
Rikki, & Tiedra,**

### The Pledge of Allegiance

The entire school meets in the courtyard every Friday at 8:30 am to do the pledge together. We will resume this tradition in September. August is used to learn the pledge & its meaning.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**BATHROOM BRIGADE:** We have a parent for each day of the week to clean bathrooms in the morning. **THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT JOB.** We **NEED** your **HELP!**

**COMPUTER Lab or Library-HELPER:** the Library & Computer lab functioned very well last year. It works best for part of a class to go while the remaining half stays in small groups with the teacher. Volunteer to help your class in the lab or library.

**LUNCH:** We rely on lunch time volunteers to make our lunch run smoothly. If you will give us one day/week routinely, it will help us greatly! We are happy to give something back to you—free events, field trips, and pizza.

**SNACK:** Kindies & 1st grade have snack & recess at 9:00 & 9:30. An extra hand & eye would be very helpful! Can you come 1 day/wk?

**PIZZA:** On Fridays, we need a parent to go to Little Caesar's at 10:30, pick up & deliver the pizza.

**RAGS:** We need someone to wash rags weekly, pick them up Friday, return them Monday.

**CAMPUS CLEAN UP:** We can always use help with periodic window cleaning, sidewalk mopping, playground equipment wipe down. We do not have a janitor that does any of that. Thanks.

**CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS** are always appreciated. If you can schedule a routine, it is most helpful (every Wed or first Mon, etc.)

**RECYCLER:** Our blue bin goes out to the street on Monday night. The teachers need help getting their cans to the Can Place periodically (green + a classroom fundraiser). We need someone to take boxes away for recycling.

**GIRL SCOUTS & YOUNG EXPLORERS** need lots of helpers! Call Ms. Mandy & Mr. Dan.

## PROCEDURES:

Procedures help the school run smoothly so we can have our attention on quality education. Thank you for keeping things smooth!

### Parking:

Please park in the lot on 19th Ave. The small lot behind the school is reserved for staff. Due to congestion, there have been several parent fender benders there — no children were bent. Let's keep it that way. Please do not wait in the driveway!! Pull around behind the houses or park in front.

### Water Bottles:

We suggest you freeze & bring 2 water bottles -1 for morning drinks (easily accessible in the classroom), 1 for lunch box to keep food cold & have a cold drink at lunch. (label bottles b-4 freezing)

### Snacks:

We believe feeding children makes them better students. To keep our students comfortable, we give them a snack mid-morning. Please send a healthy snack, in a marked ziplock bag for your child. They go in the snack tub, just inside the homeroom door. **Please avoid sugary items.** Suggestions: fruit, cheese, peanut butter, carrots or celery, yogurt, hard boiled eggs...

### Breakfast & Hot Lunch

Starts the first day of school *IF* your paperwork is in. If you have not turned in papers, please pack a lunch! **Breakfast & Hot Lunch** is a **PAID** service unless you are approved for the National School Lunch Program. **Breakfast & Hot Lunch** enrollment is for the entire year, paid monthly. Breakfast is served Mon-Fri & Hot lunch is served Mon—Thurs. ONLY.

### Pizza Friday Lunch:

We will put pizza order slips out Mon—Thurs. **They are due by Thursday afternoon.** We will call the order in on Thursday so we **HAVE** to have the children's requests in. Please do not disappoint the kids or make us the villains by waiting until the last minute. If you miss the deadline, please pack a lunch. Thanks for your help!

### Sign In & Out:

Each student has a sign-in page. The books are located outside the office. (We added extra books to speed up your morning departure.) **Please walk your student in & sign in/out daily.** Their safe arrival is very important to us!

## Go-Home Folders:

Each homeroom has folders for each student. **Please check your student's "Go-Home Folder" DAILY** for teacher notes, newsletters, calendars, invitations... They are located along the sidewalk, under the classroom windows.

### Shoes:

**NO flip flops, please!** They are dangerous on the playground. No Heelies. Please **wear tennis shoes on PE days:** Mon/Wed for Ms. Rikki  
Ms. Linda & Ms. Kelly's rooms; T/Th for Ms. Bobbie & Ms. Mandy.

### Toys:

Toys, games, radios, phones, etc. are best left at home where they are safe. They are easily misplaced, lost, or "given" away, resulting in teacher headaches and student heartbreaks.

### Attendance:

We have to have your children at school and on time to educate them. Please send them to school every day! Please avoid early pick up. If you are having trouble, please come to the office, we may have suggestions or a way to help you. School starts at 8:15 and ends at 2:45. They are late at 8:16. **BE AT SCHOOL AT 8:00.**

### Call-In All Absences:

Please remember to call every day that your student is absent with the reason for the absence (such as cold or flu). The state requires us to provide that information (when we fail, they reduce our budget).

### Special Parent Thank You

Several of our families moved out of the area this year, but made the drive everyday to ensure their child was able to get the benefits of our program. We appreciate how hard that can be and applaud you as parents for going the extra mile (literally) for your children. Thank you for letting us love and care for them *all* year!

### Placement and Testing Note

We are an ungraded school. Your children are placed according to their social and academic skills. They may be working ahead of the group but placed where they fit socially or vice versa. When taking standardized state tests, we test according to age.