

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 14, 2009

Back-To-School Issue

Helpful (and Important) Information Enclosed

Special Report *Big Deal * Good News*

District Evaluations

The Department of Education has graded all schools in AZ based on yearly student progress,

We Are A



PERFORMING PLUS SCHOOL!



Once again we were A+ Parent Rated this year!

Thank you staff, students and families!

We did it!



ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

We have new school hours this year!

8:15-2:45pm

Gate Opens at 8am!

The staff decided that we need a little bit more educational time with our students to ensure they are receiving the best we can give!

Congratulations and a million thanks to the staff for their creativity and hard work in caring for each child's needs!

Thanks to the parents for all their support!

We make a great team!!!

Attendance Incentives



Pizza Fridays All students with perfect attendance the week before will be awarded pizza on the following Friday. If your child missed a day, please order pizza NO LATER THAN THURS. Or pack their lunch.



Chain with Tags Each student with a month's perfect attendance gets a tag for that month to add to their necklace. We hope they earn one each month!



NEW T- Shirts For their **first** month of perfect attendance, each student can earn a school t-shirt. We will be offering this Aug/Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec & Jan. only. *Each student may win only one shirt.* We will have extras that you may purchase for \$8 if you would like. There are different colors with the school's logo on the front.



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!

Gate Procedure The front double gate is unlocked at 8:00 for school to start at 8:15. We will relock it for security at 8:45. The side gate will be unlocked for those arriving late. Anyone arriving 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. **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.**

Dear Parent/Guardian: **Children need healthy meals to learn.** Midtown Primary School now offers **healthy meals every school day.** Lunch costs **\$2.50/day** (as described in the enrollment packet). Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. **Reduced price is \$.40/lunch.**

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. **Return the completed application to:** Midtown Primary School, 4735 N. 19th Ave. Phoenix 85015

2. Who can get free meals? Children in households getting Food Stamps or Cash Assistance (CA) or FDPIR and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals? Please call **Judy White at Midtown Primary School** to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.

4. Who can get reduced price meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application.

5. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at **602-265-5133** if you have questions.

6. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.

7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

8. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, CA or FDPIR or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Midtown Primary School, 4735 N. 19th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85015 602-265-5133

10. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

11. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

12. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

13. We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance as income? If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

If you have other questions or need help, call **602-265-5133**

Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 602-265-5133

Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 602-265-5133

Sincerely, *Judy White*

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAMS

We're starting Hot Lunch by Monday, the 10th. Please submit your applications (enclosed) for Free or Reduced Lunch on Friend's Day, the 7th 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. 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).



TEACHERS

Ms. Andrea is back for her new kindergarteners. She took a beach vacation with her own daughters this summer but is excited about being back. **Ms. Kelly** is back with 1st Grade, she spent some of the summer home in Illinois and received training to start a Midtown Girl Scout Group. **Ms. Valerie** will be assisting her this year in the classroom. They are both very excited to be working together with our 1st Grade students. **Ms. Mandy** is back. This year she has a room of all 3rd grade children. She has been missing the kids and looking forward to having them back. **Ms. Bobbie** is excited to meet her "new" 4th graders. She prepared this summer for an exciting year with her class. **Mr. Dan** will be doing special assistance, tutoring and playground for our students again this year. **Ms. Erika** will be serving lunch this year. We love her; she is very fun and warm with the kids. We have three new additions: **Ms. Abby** will be the 2nd Grade Teacher, she has been working with students for many years. She has just moved here from New Hampshire and loves Arizona. **Ms. Kathy** will be assisting in the Kindergarten room this year. She is very excited to be working with the kindies & **Mr. Nick** will be doing special assistance and tutoring for our students this year. We are happy to have such a wonderful team! **Ms. Judy, Ms. Belinda & Ms. Cathy** are all thrilled to be back (in the office, classrooms, playground...).

We are looking forward to an exciting year!



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, Andrea, Kathy, Belinda & Cathy**

GIRL SCOUT GROUP

We are starting 2 groups this year :
"Daisies" Kindie-1st Grade &
"Brownies" 2nd-3rd Grade.
Please contact Ms. Kelly for more information!

Watch for a Boy's Group also!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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 sleepover and field trips, lunches and pizza.

PIZZA: On Fridays, we need a parent to pick up and deliver the pizza from Little Caesar's.

RAGS: We need someone to wash rags weekly, pick them up Friday, return them Monday. Please contact us right away.

FILED TRIPS: We will use your help to find and arrange visitors, and help us set up trips.

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 (example: every Wed or first Mon)

RECYCLE VOLUNTEERS A parent who will take our empty cans to the recycle center.

HEYDI VOLUNTEER A parent who will handle the Heydi communication and funds.



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 gift card. Please come tell us whether you want a gas card or a Target 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!



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. Lets keep it that way. Please do not wait in the driveway!! Park in the front or behind the houses.

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 egg...

Lunch: Hot Lunch starts the first day of school IF your paperwork is in. If you have not turned in papers, please pack a lunch! **Hot Lunch** is a **PAID** service unless you are approved for the National School Lunch Program. **Hot Lunch** enrollment is for the entire year, paid monthly. 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. 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.

Family Handbooks: Handbooks are being updated. We will get them out in the next few weeks. They have helpful information and a full listing of the school's policies and procedures.



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

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.

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!

P.I.G Group

Parent Involvement Group You are welcome to join us for our monthly meetings, check your monthly calendars for dates and time.

Summer Teacher Enhancement

Ms. Abby completed three classes at Applied Scholastics this summer.

Ms. Judy & Ms. Bobbie went to training for the Fresh Fruit and Veggie Grant that Midtown was awarded—watch for this program on campus!

All the teachers are spending two weeks refreshing, drilling and training this summer before school.

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.