

Wildcat News

Volume 7, Issue 1

October/November 2008

Upcoming Events

October Pillar: Citizenship

November Pillar: Respect

No School— Fall Break
September 29–October 13,
2008

October 21, 2008
Board Meeting

October 20–24, 2008
Spirit Week/Character
Counts/Principal List and
Honor Roll Presentations

October 27, 2008
Site Council Meeting

October 29 - 31, 2008
Kids Voting

November 4, 2008
Library Voting Polls
Board Meeting

November 5, 2008
Town Council Meeting

November 10, 2008
Veteran Assembly

November 11, 2008
Veterans Day
No School

November 12, 2008
Progress Report 2

November 18, 2008
Board Meeting

November 19, 2008
Early Release

November 20, 2008
Battle of the Books 1st part

November 24, 2008
Site Council Meeting

November 24 - 26, 2008
Benchmark Testing

November 27 - 28, 2008
Thanksgiving Holiday
No School

NOTES FROM MRS. NIVEN

Dear Parents,

I would first like to say what a wonderful welcome I personally have received from the families, staff, and students to Queen Creek Middle School. I am thoroughly pleased to have become a part of such a wonderful organization. I have worked in the Queen Creek School District for the past four years as an assistant principal at Queen Creek High School. Prior to that, I have worked at a nearby high school for two years. My first job and one of my favorites was teaching 7th and 8th graders. I have taught, English, Reading and Math for seven years prior to moving to the high school level. I am pleased to be back at the middle school level. I know we can make a difference in the lives and futures of our students.

First quarter has come to an end and we are so proud of our students, staff and all that they have accomplished. Our students have had a terrific first quarter, we have been through a bullying program, ran an Allies Against Bullies Campaign, written

Conscience Acts of Peace Essays, shown character counts in our assemblies, held a water bottle drive and raised almost 7000 water bottles for the homeless, completed our first quarter assessments, in Galileo benchmark testing, and our athletes showed their determination in the East Valley Conference.

I have truly enjoyed getting to know your children this quarter. Queen Creek Middle School is lucky to have such individuals with such fine character. I love working with your students and I welcome any comments and suggestions.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Julie Niven
Principal



"Allies Against Bullying Campaign"

QCMS' bullying program has now evolved into a campaign against bullying. Students have begun a two day "Allies Against Bullying" seminar during which they will learn about bullying and how to become an ally in ensuring that our school remains a safe learning environment for all. Students will earn a certificate that remains in their file subsequent to the completion of the training. The trainings are being taught by Jessica Leo (the District's social worker), Debi Short (QCMS counselor) and GG Hientz-Jacobs (one of the district's psychologists). The goal is to leave a lasting impression about the effects of bullying, not only on the individual victim, but on the school at large and to further impress upon students how everyone can make a difference as an Ally Against Bullying. The campaign doesn't end there either...we will be having an essay contest and other events to support caring, kindness and conscious acts of peace. Students will have the opportunity to explore their own moral character and learn ways in which they can contribute to a positive environment, in school, at home and within the community.

Jessica Leo, LMSW
QCUSD Social Worker

Student of the Month

CONGRATULATIONS to the
Student of the Month!
Ariana Ruof

PARENT QUIZ

Do you emphasize values at home?

Values provide a critical foundation for children. They help kids deal with challenges at home and at school.

- __1. Do you model the behaviors you want to see, such as being honest?
- __2. Do you make family time a top priority?
- __3. Do you choose activities that reflect your values, such as volunteering?
- __4. Do you explain the reasons for your values?
- __5. Do you praise your child for behavior that reflects good values?

How did you do? Each yes answer shows that you're teaching about values. For each no answer, try to change your answer to yes.



Home Security When You're Away

Burglars always look for signs that a house is uninhabited — and the longer the house is empty, the more vulnerable it becomes. Follow these tips for keeping your house secure while you're away:

- If your plans to be away from home have been publicized through a funeral wedding, or similar newspaper notice, hire a house sitter. Burglars often read the newspaper to see who's planning to be away from home all day or for several days.
- Ask your neighbors to use your garbage cans when you're on vacation so your absence won't be so evident. Have someone park a vehicle in your driveway and check your home. Don't stomp the papers from coming to your home, but have a neighbor pick them up along with any door to door flyers that might accumulate while you're away.
- If you're going to be away from home for several days — or even just one day — adjust your telephone ring to its lowest volume. An unanswered phone is a quick tip that your home is empty. Have timers to turn on and off your interior, exterior lights as well as a radio, it will appear that your home and several rooms are in use.

Following a few simple security safety tips will make your days away stress free and more enjoyable.



Counselor's Corner

October 2008



Peer Mediation is going strong! Mrs. Short, QCMS counselor and a teacher Mrs. Kelly, trained 20 peer mediators from 7th and 8th grade in August to mediate student problems. Types of problems the mediators handle include spreading rumors, gossip, relationship conflicts, name-calling and put-downs. Our mediators are available on a daily basis and work in teams of 2, rotating Monday through Friday. Most of the mediations occur during students' lunch times, so minimal class disruption takes place. Students can self-refer to mediation or can be referred by teachers, administrators and support staff.

This has been a wonderful intervention for all those students who just need a little bit of help to resolve their problems! The mediators are doing a n outstanding job and



Character Counts

Queen Creek Middle School is promoting the Character Counts program again this year. A committee of teachers has worked through the summer to plan activities and prepare materials for students and staff. During the first week of school, all students were introduced to the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. Each month, Queen Creek Middle School focuses on one pillar. For the month of October, the pillar of Citizenship will be emphasized.



A school wide assembly was held to promote the pillars as well, with the game show "Name that Pillar", skits performed by students, and even a Pillar race where students representing the different Pillars raced through the gym.



Snapgrades

Have you checked out snapgrades? Snapgrades is our new on-line webbased program that allows parents and students to keep track of their student's grades on a daily basis. Queen Creek Middle School wants you to be aware of how your student is doing and keep you in contact with your child's teachers with 24 hour access. Go to snapgrades.net and check out the website. If you do not know your password, please call the office and we will assist you.

Queen Creek Middle School Site Council

Queen Creek Middle School Site Council consists of teachers, parents, students, and community members. The role of the site council is to serve as an advisory committee to the school administration.

Site Council meets the 4th Monday of each month at 4:00pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office 480-987-5940.

We encourage you to come out and join us at the meetings. Your input is appreciated.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Mrs. Leah Mrozinski

Graduate of ASU in May 2007. Mrs. Mronzinski has a bachelor's degree in education and bachelor's degree in psychology. She is currently teaching resource writing to 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Leah enjoys reading, writing, and camping. She loves to write and is currently working on her first book. She has a passion for the environment. Leah is married and has one son. This is Leah's first year of teaching and knows it will be a good one.



Mr. Mark Kerridan -Security

Mr. Kerridan was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. Attended North Western University Chicago and University of Louisville Kentucky. He moved to Arizona 4 years ago, after retiring from the Chicago police department. He proudly served this Country in the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps (NCIS). Mr. Kerridan has two son's and one daughter. He just recently married Sherry, a former 5th grade teacher who is now a State Certified Speech Therapist.



Mrs. Donna Vanney

Born and raised in Scottsdale, AZ. Graduated in 1995 from Grand Canyon State University with a Bachelor's degree in English literature. I began working for my brother-in-law as an accounting supervisor for his software firm. When I decided that I wasn't working in the area for which I became educated, I resigned and received my teaching certificate from Ottawa University. This is my sixth year in teaching and I am thrilled to be back at the middle school level. This is my first year at Queen Creek Middle School and it is a wonderful place for me and my children. I am happy to be teaching in the community where my husband and I have chosen to raise our children.



Mrs. Tammy Haight

Mrs. Haight is married to a P.E. Teacher and has 3 children. Their names are Cameron (16), Josh (15), and Nicole (12). She is originally from Wisconsin. She has also lived in Minnesota, Idaho, California, Maine, Connecticut, Florida and Texas. She taught 7th grade Science in Mesa Junior High. This is her first year here at Queen Creek Middle School teaching 8th grade Science.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



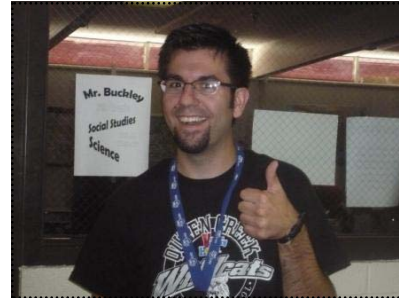
Mrs. Toya Davis

Hi! I'm Jillian Davis, and I am a first year 8th grade Language Arts teacher here at Queen Creek Middle School. My husband and I just moved to Queen Creek in December 2007 and absolutely love it so far. We have been married for just a little over 4 years and do not have any children of our own as of yet. I am originally from Miami, Florida. I grew up there until I began high school. My family and I moved to Cary, North Carolina, where I finished high school and earned an Associate of Arts degree through the local community college. It was around that time that I met my husband, who is originally from Arizona, and we decided to move to Phoenix and attend ASU to finish both of our degrees. At the time, my husband was serving in the AZ National Guard. During our first year of marriage he was deployed over in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for an entire year. Thankfully he returned safely, and he quickly succeeded in earning his degree in Communications through ASU. I recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from ASU this past May with my Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education. Both my husband and I love to travel and see the world. We are currently planning a trip to Greece during July of 2009 and absolutely love to visit new places any chance we get.



Ms. Kristina Bates

Ms. Bates has been teaching 8th grade Math and Pre-Algebra for three years. Last year she taught at Gateway Pointe. She has lived in Arizona her whole life and has 2 brothers and 1 sister. She is also engaged. She likes to play baseball and watch basketball games. She also enjoys going to the movies and she has 2 dogs, a boxer and a pit bull. Ms. Bates is also our Cheer Coach this year.



Mr. Josh Buckley

Mr. Buckley is an awesome teacher. He may talk with a bit of a different accent, that's because he was born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan. Right now Mr. Buckley teaches seventh grade Science and Social Studies. This will be his third year teaching, his first two years he taught at Skyline High in Mesa. He taught U.S. History, World History, and Psychology. Mr. Buckley has a seven year old daughter named Grace. His favorite sport is baseball and his favorite team is the tigers. He has two hobbies, playing the guitar and drawing.



Mrs. Jillian Davis

Mrs. Davis is a 8th grade Language Arts teacher. She recently moved to Queen Creek and she loves the area, the people and especially the students here at QCMS. This is Mrs. Davis first year of teaching. She graduated from ASU. Mrs. Davis is originally from Miami, Florida but, lived in North Carolina when she started high school. She moved to Phoenix 5 1/2 years ago with her husband. Mrs. Davis taught at McKemy Middle School in Tempe, Arizona. She has experience in teaching 3rd grade, 6th grade, and 8th gradewhich is her favorite.