VOLUME 15-1 | AUGUST 2021 |

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A note from the **Superintendent...**



Dear CCUSD Parents, Community and Staff,

On behalf of the CCUSD Governing Board, I would like to welcome all of our new and returning families and staff to the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for choosing CCUSD!

We are looking forward to a great school year where we return to a "better" normal and our team is committed to serving you. We should all be proud of the great academic and extracurricular accomplishments occurring throughout our district, especially as we navigated a challenging COVID-19 pandemic during this past school year and continue to work diligently on behalf of the well being of our students and staff moving ahead. I am proud to work with a Governing Board, staff, and families that opened schools to in-person learning in September 2020 and kept schools open safely throughout the year meeting the educational needs of the community.

Cave Creek Unified School District is an elite PreSchool - 12th grade district because of the great people who work together to improve student learning. Regardless of your position or role in a child's life, each of us plays an important role in helping students maximize their potential and prepare them for successful and happy lives after High School.

This year will bring a lot of exciting opportunities and challenges. As you know, there is a Capital Bond for voters to decide in November that could improve and upgrade our technology tools, facilities, classroom furniture, security measures, transportation and athletic facilities. This school year we will work together to reimagine our strategic goals, priorities, mission and vision to better meet the needs of the families and our community. We will engage in a project called "the Effectiveness Project" where we will improve employee effectiveness through a research-based evaluation system tailored to the needs of CCUSD. Finally, we will continue to nurture and build relationships of trust between individuals and groups both inside and outside of the organization as we continue to improve what we do for students each day.

Here is to a great 2021-2022 school year - One Team!

Sincerely,

Cort Monroe, Ed.D.





CAVE CREEK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Priya Trombino - CSHS' Class of '22...

Priya participated in the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum this summer. It is a conference for students and young adults who have disabilities who are experiencing transition to adulthood. It was a wonderful conference.



CSHS Cheer at UCA Camp...

CSHS Cheerleaders blew the roof off at UCA camp mid-July. Mrs. Collentine, AD at CSHS and Mrs. Scott, Ex. Director of Secondary Leadership at DO, were in attendance to cheer on our FALCONS!



WELCOME to CCUSD!...

YOUR Cactus Shadows High School Cheerleaders and Pommies welcomed our new teachers to New Teacher Orientation on Monday, July 26 – FALCON PRIDE!



New Teacher Orientation!

After being welcomed by CSHS Cheerleaders and Pommies, new teachers jumped right into orientation!







Barbara Hatch, Veterans Heritage Project...

Cave Creek Unified School district loves our Veterans! So proud to be part of the Veterans Heritage Project connecting Cactus Shadows High School Falcons and Sonoran Trails Middle School Stingers with Veterans. Pictured here is founder, Barbara Hatch and CCUSD Superintendent, Dr. Cort Monroe. More info at: https://www.veteransheritage.org/



COVID Vaccine clinics held at STMS over summer...

Sonoran Trails Middle School hosted two COVID vaccine clinics over the summer for students age 12+ - there was also the option for community to receiving either the two shot Pfizer or the one shot Johnson & Johnson.



Welcome to CCUSD...

CCUSD welcomed new employees over the summer! Dr. Monroe & members of CCUSD's Human Resources Team on boarded more new employees to CCUSD. Directors, Principals, Classified staff, Certified staff & District Nurse - We're happy you chose CCUSD - ONE TEAM!



Move in day...

July 1 was move in day for our new leaders. School Year 2021-2022 is going to be great in CCUSD – ONE TEAM!











IT WAS A GREAT RUN! LET'S GO SUNS - Rally the Valley!



Mrs. Nancy Scott - Ex. Director Secondary Leadership



Mrs. Scott & Dr. Monroe sending "Suns in 4" vibe



District Office staff cheering on our Phoenix Suns!



Mrs. Scott, Dr. Jensen, Dr. Roach (DWES), Mrs. Sarriano (STMS), Mrs. Hill (LMES)



Dr. Jensen, Dr. Monroe & Mrs. Scott

ONE TEAM

Welcome to CCUSD!

Ms. Marci Rodriguez - Chief Financial Officer

At their June 15, 2021, Governing Board Meeting, the Cave Creek Unified School District's Governing Board approved Marcie Rodriguez as CCUSD's Chief Financial Officer beginning the 2021-2022 school year.

Marcie Rodriguez has over 20 years of experience in Arizona school finance and operations. She started her career at the Arizona Department of Education as the Director of School Finance. Along her professional journey she has been a collaborative leader of an elementary, a unified, and a union high school district. She has led steering committees which successfully passed bonds, maintenance and operation override, and capital override elections. Marcie is passionate about creating innovative environments where students are engaged and challenged to be independent thinkers.

Marcie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Information Systems and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Ottawa University. She serves on the board of a non-profit educational foundation that awards over 20 scholarships a year towards a post-secondary education.



Mrs. Sarah Barela – Cactus Shadows High School Principal

At their July 12, 2021, Governing Board Meeting, the Cave Creek Unified School District's Governing Board approved Mrs. Sarah Barela as Cactus Shadows High School principal.

Mrs. Barela just finished her 20th year in education, all of which have transpired within the Arizona public school system. Graduating from Northern Arizona University in 2000 she began her career as a high school English teacher at Sunrise Mountain High School where she also coached the spiritline and was a student government class sponsor. While teaching, she also attended Northern Arizona University and earned her master's degree in Educational Leadership. The 13 years in the classroom and two years as an instructional coach were very formative in her growth as an educator as it provided a solid foundation of quality leadership, curriculum, instruction, and decision making. In 2016, she accepted a job as the Assistant Principal at Saguaro High School. She spent a year at Saguaro over special education, 504's, student activities, and testing. In 2017, she was promoted to the Assistant Principal over Educational Services at Chaparral High School. She has spent the last four years as a Firebird over seniors, AP, the guidance department, graduation, and master scheduling.

On a personal note Mrs. Barela enjoys spending time with her husband and family. Her oldest daughter will start her journey as a Wildcat in the Fall. Her other daughter will be a sophomore and her son will be a 3rd grader.





In July, the CCUSD Principals had a two day retreat where they had learning, teambuilding during the morning, took a break for lunch and went out into the community to serve for the afternoon. The second day, their lunch was at and sponsored by Harold's Cave Creek Corral (Mr. Dan Piaquadio https://haroldscorral.com/). In the afternoon a Community Day was held at Kiwanis Marketplace (https://kiwanismarketplace.org/). The community was invited to shop, donate, have some popcorn and ice cream, donate school supplies, meet the CCUSD Team and dunk their favorite principal!







PRINCIPALS PARTNER WITH LOCAL NONPROFIT TO PROMOTE STUDENT SERVICE

Cave Creek Unified School District leaders and Foothills Caring Corps Team Members work to plan ongoing volunteer opportunities for students of all ages to bring the community together.

On Monday, July 13, 2021, Foothills Caring Corps ("FCC") hosted Cave Creek Unified School District ("CCUSD") Superintendent, Administrators, and Principals for a day of learning and service; focusing on how an ongoing partnership could benefit FCC and their Neighbors, older adults and persons with disabling conditions, and provide a fulfilling experience for students, parents, and teachers.

Discussion revolved around forming a club or program at Elementary, Middle, and High School levels within CCUSD, allowing students of all age levels to participate. These groups would volunteer with FCC throughout the school year and on an ongoing basis.

"It can be a challenge for students, especially younger ones, to find appropriate and available service opportunities in our community," shared Jessica Brashear, Foothills Caring Corps' summer intern and Valedictorian of Cactus Shadows High School's Class of 2021.

With this barrier in mind, innovative and creative activities for each age level, such as field trips to see school plays or special nights at athletic events, were identified. These opportunities will allow student volunteers to serve, bridge the gap between youth and older adults, and promote lasting relationships in the Foothills communities.

"We want this opportunity to be fulfilling and bring joy and happiness into the lives of student volunteers and **Neighbors**," said Robin Cochran, Foothills Caring Corps Executive Director.

After the brainstorming session, CCUSD leaders volunteered around the FCC facility. Individuals broke into two groups, with one working in the Mobility Loan Closet to clean, assemble, and organize equipment, while others cleaned Mobile Meals' delivery coolers.

Foothills Caring Corps is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Carefree, Arizona. The organization's mission is "Promoting independence and enhancing the quality of life for older adults and persons with disabling conditions through the Foothills community." Their vision is: "To improve the lives of Neighbors by addressing socialization, health, wellness, and mobility in order to promote physical, mental, and emotional health and wellbeing."





What's happening at Desert Foothills Library September, 2021 – Youth/Teen Calendar

Information for events: Contact Heather Wurr, Youth & Teen Services Manager, Desert Foothills Library, 480-488-2286, hwurr@dfla.org, www.dfla.org - All youth and teen programs are free unless otherwise noted. Library Closed: Saturday, September 6th

Toddler Storytime

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:00 am - September 7, 14, 21, 28

Children ages 1-3 and families are encouraged to join us for a 30 minute storytime featuring developmentally appropriate music, movement, & stories. Siblings are welcome. No registration necessary.

Preschool Storytime

Thursdays, 10:30-11:00 am - September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Children ages 4-6 and families are encouraged to join us for a 30 minute storytime featuring developmentally appropriate music, movement, & stories. Siblings are welcome. No registration necessary.

"Stained Glass" Jars

Friday, September 10, 3:30-4:30 pm

By gluing tissue paper to a jar, you can create a stained glass effect! Shape-punches will be available to make patterns out of the tissue paper, as well as all other supplies. *This program is suited for ages 12-18.* **RSVP online at dfla.org | Questions, please call 480-488-2286.**

Bear Fork Painting

Thursday, September 16, 11:00-11:30 am

Join us after storytime for this unique craft. Children will use a fork as their paintbrush to paint a bear! This is a great way for kids to play with shapes and textures as well as hone their fine motor skills. All supplies will be provided. *This program is suited for children 4-7 years old.* **RSVP online at dfla.org | Questions, please call 480-488-2286.**

Make Your Own Pet Rock

Wednesday, September 22, 10:00-10:30 am

Help your child create a friend out of a rock with paint, googly eyes, and more! You are welcome to bring rocks from home if your child already has a collection, but there will also be rocks and other supplies available. This activity helps with motor skills and creativity while introducing social skills. *This program is suited for children 2-5 years old.* **RSVP online at dfla.org** | **Questions, please call 480-488-2286.**

DIY Pom-Pom Popper

Monday, September 27, 3:30-4:30 pm

Help us repurpose pool noodles into pom-pom launchers, including decorating them. After crafting, we will test the poppers for length, which size pom-pom works best, and more! All supplies will be provided. *This program is suited for ages 8-12.* **RSVP online at dfla.org | Questions, please call 480-488-2286.**

New Library Service – Free Menstrual Products in the Teen Room

Starting September 1, free menstrual products will be available for patrons to take as they need, accompanied by a bibliography of resources and specific information about how to use the various products.

What's happening at Desert Foothills Library September, 2021 – Adult Calendar

Desert Foothills Art Gallery

Katalin Ehling Art Show April 1st - October 6th

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Craft N Chat

Mondays, 1:00-3:00 pm - Do you knit, crochet, or practice another table craft? Join other local enthusiasts weekly for companionable creating and conversation. Any portable craft is welcomed! New crafters and all skill levels are always welcome! **No registration. | Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE

Alcoholics Anonymous

Thursdays, 5:00-6:00 pm - A.A. meetings are being held at Desert Foothills Library on Thursdays.

No registration. Cost: FREE

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Death Café

Wednesday, September 1, 12:30-2:30 pm - Death Cafe is a gathering to talk about death and dying. The aim is to increase awareness of death to help people make the most of their (finite) lives. It is a global, non-profit movement begun in London in 2011: to date, more than 7,000 Death Cafes have been held in 63 countries. Death Cafe does not promote beliefs, agendas, or products, nor is it a bereavement or grief support group. Join us for open, respectful, interesting conversation about topics relevant to all of us but often considered "dark" or even taboo. From more information go to www.deathcafe.com **No registration.** | **Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE

Caring for the Caregiver

TUESDAY, September 7, 10:00-11:30 am - Taking care of yourself is essential in being able to take care of your loved one. Join us for this opportunity to fellowship with other caregivers. Led by Hospice of the West facilitators. This class is moved to the first Tuesday this month only. **No registration. Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE

Chapter2Books Monthly Sale! - September 10 & 11

Monthly book sales provide a wonderful opportunity to purchase quality books and other media at even lower prices than the everyday bargain prices in Chapter 2. The monthly book sale is throughout Chapter 2, the Jones/Coates Room, and our patio *weather permitting*. Chapter 2 Monthly Sales are offered on the second Friday and Saturday of every month. Can't make a Sale? Check out our amazing selection on Amazon. There are hundreds of books as well as CDs, DVDs and audiobooks listed there that are not on display in the bookstore.

We are always in need of volunteers to help setup and breakdown our monthly book sales. If you are interested, please contact our Support Services Manager, Terri Engebretson, at tengebretson@dfla.org or 480-488-2286.

International Film Series: Women Directors with Gary Zaro

Friday, September 10, 3:00 pm - Film is the most popular form of art and entertainment in the world and a wonderful way for us to communicate with each other. The International Film Series gives us a glimpse into other cultures to see their uniqueness, history, and what is important to them. It is also a great look into the universality of all countries and cultures and allows us the opportunity to see often times we share more than we realize. Travel around the world with us as we explore innovative films and fascinating cultures. A post film discussion will follow each screening with Gary Zaro. This Month: Mustang (PG-13; 2015, Turkey 97 minutes). RSVP online at dfla.org | Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost: FREE

The Healing Pathway

Monday, September 13 & 27, 9:30-11:00 am - Join us on this journey of grief. This group will guide and support you as you discover your "new normal". The open-ended group will provide you with practical tools and supportive conversation as you are processing your personal grief journey. The group shares a common language of grief. **No registration.** | **Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE

Little Known Stories of WWII with Gary Zaro

Friday, September 17, 3:00pm - This film series offers little known war stories filled with daring, intrigue, and sometimes such improbability they have to be seen to be believed. At the heart of each one, are the men and women who made World War II modern history's seminal event, one that still effects our lives and world today. Everyone is invited to participate in the discussion following each film. **This Month:** Hell to Eternity (1960). **RSVP online at dfla.org | Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE

Black Mountain Dems & Friends

Saturday, September 18, 10:00 am - Monthly meetings with new speakers each month. No registration. | Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost: FREE

The Dangers of Compulsive Eating

Tuesday, **September 21**, **2:00 pm -** Joy Jesty will present on the dangers of compulsive eating in order to help the direct sufferers or those who know of someone suffering. The presenter has found a solution that works effectively with long-lasting results. **No registration.** | **Questions**, **please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE

Puzzle Exchange

Friday, September 24, 9:00-5:00pm - Are you sick of your puzzles at home because you have completed all of them multiple times? Come drop off your gently used puzzles and pick out a new one for free! Leave one puzzle and take four, the more the merrier. Offered on the last Friday of every month. All ages and skill levels encouraged! **No registration.** | **Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE

Desert Foothills Art Gallery, Katalin Ehling's Reception

Saturday, September 25, 4:00 pm No registration | Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost: FREE

Desert Foothills Art Gallery, Katalin Ehling Presentation

Thursday, September 30, 4:00 pm No registration | Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost: FREE

LITERARY PROGRAMS

Writer's Connection

Friday, September 3, 1:00-3:00 pm - Today's world is literally at a writer's fingertips. A few keyboard strokes can open the information gates to help you create stories that are distinctively credible and compelling. **This Month:** To be determined. **RSVP online at dfla.org | Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE

Library Book Club

Thursday, September 9, 10:00-12:00 pm Zoom/Tuesday, September 28, 10:00-12:00 pm In-Person - Book Club is offered twice every month! Same book, same facilitator, different days. Choose which day is best for you to join. Everyone is welcome! This Month: Early Autumn by Louis Bromfield. No registration needed for the in-person Thursday book club. If you would like to join the Zoom Tuesday book club, please email Public Services Manager, Ashley Ware, at aware@dfla.org. Cost: FREE

Get Lit Book Club

Tuesday, September 14, 5:00-6:30 pm - Your Librarians Sara and Ashley invite you to a new style of book club; Get Lit Book Club, a happy hour book club. Not for the faint of heart! Weird, odd, and unique books are chosen for a great discussion, so get ready for something you might not choose every day! Books will include non-fiction, classics, contemporary fiction, and memoirs to list a few. Get Lit is at a different restaurant every month to support local businesses. Everyone is welcome! **This Month:** Love and Rage: The Path of Liberation through Anger by Lama Rod Owens. Restaurant to be determined. **RSVP online at dfla.org so we may give the restaurant accurate numbers.** | **Questions, please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE but we do encourage you to eat, drink, and be merry in support of our local businesses.

Literary Salon

Thursday, September 16, 10:00 am - An informal discussion of books, film and theater, led by a facilitator. No requirements to read or see any particular book, film or play. Everyone is invited to share ideas and reflections on the selected theme. **This Month:** Race Relations. Biases — some inborn, some instilled – influence how we think about and react to people of all races, even people within our own race who deviate from what we've been conditioned to believe is the "norm." Choose any book to read on this topic, and join our July Literary Salon to discuss novels, memoirs, and other types of nonfiction that address the breakdown and building of race relations, along with its psychology, origins, history and impact on people, societies, cultures and quality of life, all over the world. **No registration.** | **Questions please call 480-488-2286. Cost:** FREE

HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Longevity, Healthy Aging, and Regeneration Friday, September 17, 11:00 am

What are the habits of those who have lived into extreme old age? This has been studied and documented for centuries. What do these studies have in common? What patterns emerge. Can we change our patterns or lifestyle, if so, how and what effect will this have?

No registration | Questions, please call 480-488-2286.

Cost: FREE

CCUSD wants YOU as a part of its team!



WE'RE HIRING!!

Certified Teaching Position

- > Elementary Gifted Teacher
- ➤ Elementary Counselor
- > CSHS Culinary Arts Teacher
- Special Education PreK
- > STMS Resource Teacher
- > STMS REALTeacher
- > School Psychologist 3 positions
- > Occupational Therapist .8 FTE

Classified Position

- > Special Education paraprofessional (all sites)
- > CDL drivers
- Bus Aide
- > Certified and Classified Substitutes
- > STMS Receptionist
- > Food Service Worker
- > Food Service Worker Student
- > Procurement and Accounts Coordinator (Business Services)
- > STMS Custodian
- > Admin Assistant to CCAOE
- > ECS Kids Club Program Manager
- > ECS Kids Club Program Specialist
- > ECS Kids Club Program Leader
- > ECS Kids Club Teen Assistant
- ECS Head Preschool Teacher
 ECS Assistant Preschool Teacher
- ECS Kids Club Program Specialist

We offer employees whose position is 0.75 full time equivalent (30 hours per week) or greater are eligible for the following fringe benefits:

- 2 Medical options through BCBSAZ Alliance EPO 2500, PPO 750 Broad
- 2 Dental plans through Delta Dental or EDS
- Vision Insurance through V.S.P.
- > Basic Life Insurance and accidental death & dismemberment insurance of \$10,000 through OCHS/Minnesota life
- Optional Life insurance for employees and their dependents through OCHS/Minnesota life
- Pet Care through United Pet Care
- > Legal Shield and I.D. Shield through Legal Shield
- > FSA Medical and/or Dependent Care
- > Short term disability through Lincoln Financial

Current CCUSD Job Openings can be found by clicking <u>here</u>:

Coffee with the Superintendent...

Dr. Monroe will be holding informal coffees throughout the school year at our seven schools. The first coffee is scheduled for September 17 at Black Mountain Elementary School from 9:30-10:30am. Please RSVP to jscotto@ccusd93.net no later than September 10, 2021.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 4th You can find this year's school calendar <u>here</u>



ECS NEWS



Online registration www.cavecreek.ce.eleyo.com
Instructions for registration link www.ecsforall.org/register
Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/cavecreekecs
Information about ECS www.ecsforall.org
ECS Office 48-=575-2440



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRESCHOOL, KID'S CLUB & ENRICHMENT

- New Preschool Classroom Opening Soon
- Licensed Before and After-School Care for Preschool through 6th-Grade Students
- Specialty Camps
- Special Interest Classes such as Sports, Art, World Language, Chess, and STEM
- Adult Forums and Classes

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ECS, VISIT ECSFORALL.ORG

The ECS Office is open M-F, 7:30 AM-4:00 PM. Please call 480-575-2440 with any questions. Registration for our programs can be found at <u>CaveCreek.ce.Eleyo.com</u>





Participating in the Superintendent's Challenge...

Superintendent's Challenge Information for the 2021-2022 School Year will be and posted here: https://www.ccusd93.org/Page/7297 late-May.

Volunteer Opportunities

A Peek at the Peak (The Peak) online magazine: https://apeekatthepeak.org/author/lescon/

Arizona Helping Hands, Inc.: www.azhelpinghands.org/volunteer

Arizona Humane Society: www.azhumane.org/volunteer
Arizona Musicfest: www.azmusicfest.org/volunteer

Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce: http://carefreecavecreek.org/help.wanted-3/ Cave Creek Museum: https://cavecreekmuseum.org/volunteer-with-the-cave-creek-museum/

Cave Creek Unified Education Foundation (CCUEF): www.ccuef.org Child Crisis Arizona: www.childcrisisaz.org/how-to-help/volunteer

Desert Foothills Foodbank: https://www.foothillsfoodbank.com/volunteering/
Desert Foothills Library: https://dfla.org/volunteer-with-the-desert-foothills-library
Desert Foothills YMCA: https://valleyymca.org/desert-foothills/get-involvd/volunteer

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church: https://deserthills.org/contact-us/ Foothills Caring Corps.: https://deserthills.org/contact-us/

Hands On Greater Phoenix: www.handsonphoenix.org

ICAN: www.icanaz.org/volunteer-ican

Kiwanis Marketplace: kiwanismarketplace.org/volunteer

Relay for Life*: https://www.cancer.org/involved/volunteer/community-events.html

*This the American Cancer Society main website. Student must "search and register for volunteer opportunities"

St. Mary's Food Bank: www.volunteer.firstfoodbank.org
St. Vincent de Paul: www.stvincentdepaul.net/get-involved
United Food Bank: www.volunteer.unitedfoodbank.org

Valley of the Sun United Way: www.vsuw.org/get-involved/volunteer



For Your Information

Cave Creek Unified Education Foundation: www.ccuef.org

Cave Creek Museum: http://cavecreekmuseum.org/

CCUSD's Annual Report - Click here

CCUSD's 2019-2020 Budget Resource Guide - Click here

CCUSD Schools Accepting Open Enrollment – Click here

CCUSD Partners Page - Click here

Desert Foothills Library information-Click here

CCUSD Governing Board and Superintendent Monroe



Back Row (LtoR): Vice President Jeff Fortney, Superintendent Cort Monroe, Ed.D. and Member Scott Brown.
Front Row (LtoR): Member Brianna Walker; Member Janet Busbee and President Beth Hatcher
(Photo Courtesy: Capturing the Moments, LLC)

Governing Board Meetings

33016 North 60th Street Scottsdale August 9, 2021

Governing Board Members

Beth Hatcher, President Jeff Fortney, Vice President Scott Brown, Member Janet Busbee, Member Brianna Walker, Member

Julia Scotto, Editor