

Southwest Academy

Spring2018



THE MENTA GROUP®

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A word from the Principal:

Second semester has been rigorous and engaging! In February, Southwest Academy hosted a science fair for all Arizona Menta sites. We want to thank our judges for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend this event. Our high school and life skills students had the opportunity to play baseball at the Miracle League baseball field in Scottsdale. It was exciting for our students to enjoy the day on this magnificent field. Many of our high school students also went to the International Culinary School for career exploration and several participated in a new job crew at Harvest Compassion Center.

We graduated 7 students and reintegrated 10 students full time to their home school campuses. In the fall we will reintegrate 4 students part-time back to their home school campuses.

Our high school students had the opportunity to benefit from a grant awarded the YMCA and participate in the Y-Achievers Program. Students will be learning some very important job skills to prepare them for their next phase in life.

Sharon Makhoul, Principal
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Providing dynamic, hands-on programming

Elementary School:



Ms. Thom's class had the opportunity to earn a trip to Peter Piper to participate in food and games for showing respect to others for the month of January.

In Ms. Thom's class students learned about story elements such as setting and characters. After reading a new story, students have been participating in an art project that relates to the book.

Ms. Vocelka's class celebrated a successful school year with a class picnic. This year, two students re-integrated back to their home school. All students have the opportunity to review their progress

on the graphs they have been working on all year in math, reading and behavior. We have seen so much progress!

Elementary students also learned social skills through peer leadership and peer mentoring.



Middle School:



Our middle school class study famous individuals from Mexico in celebration of Cinco De Mayo. They presented their projects and served Mexican desserts.



High School:

Our high school students worked hard in shop building love sculptures. They later delivered them to Palm Valley Nursing home for Mother's Day.

Offsite Classrooms:

Pendergast Academy:

Students in Ms. Clay's Pendergast Academy class experimented "Mythbusters" style throughout the month of February. The class made independent hypotheses before testing each experiment. Students experimented with different combinations (baking powder, baking soda, different types of vinegar) to determine what would create the biggest and best volcano.

Additionally, students tested if it was actually possible to pull a table cloth from under dishes. As a class, students came to the conclusion that pulling a table cloth from under dishes is a myth and it is not possible.

Copper Canyon High School:

Copper Canyon students in Ms. Bryant's class enjoyed a trip to the Musical Instrument Museum. They learned about culture and music around the world.



Life Skills:

Our life skills students attended the Westview Best Buddies Prom. We so appreciated the opportunity to attend the prom. Thank you, Westview team for including us in this wonderful annual event!



Additionally, life skills students along with all Southwest Academy students, had the opportunity to visit the Phoenix Zoo! Students enjoyed the day and learned a lot about all of the animals that they saw. Some students even experienced riding a camel!

Our students were able to participate in a PBIS raffle for making their day each day. The beautiful baskets were donated by Chance of a Lifetime. We so appreciate the donation.

Woodshop Class:

All of our students had an opportunity to build a Pinewood Derby and race it between all of our Menta sites. Our students were also peer leaders in helping other sites build and paint their cars. They visited our Mesa East, Mesa West and Casa Grande campuses assisting others.



Honor's Assembly:

Straight A's Principal's List

- Destin

Honor Roll

- Connor
- Isaiah
- Mario

Perfect Attendance

- Arnulfo
- Angel
- Traylyn

Most Improved

- DeAndre



Occupational Therapy Corner

OT Tip- Improving posture and stability for homework, meal time or computer activities

Children need to sit in a good position so that they are stable in order to concentrate and use their arms and hands effectively.

Proper positioning for homework, meal time or other table top activities:

- Feet are placed flat on the floor (if your child's feet do not touch the floor a foot rest, shoe box or phone book can be placed under the feet).
- Pelvis is at the back of the seat.
- Hips and knees are bent approximately at 90°.
- Arms are forward symmetrically.
- The work surface is approximately 1 to 2 inches above a bent elbow.

Proper positioning when using a computer for academic or leisure activities:

- Head should be level with the monitor, with the top of the screen at eye level.
 - Forearms should be parallel to the keyboard and held only slightly above it.
 - Lower back should be supported, place a small pillow or rolled up towel between the lower back and the chair for back support.
 - Feet should rest flat on the floor or on a footrest. If feet cannot reach the floor, stack boxes or telephone books to place feet on. Have knees parallel to hips.
 - Take a 2-minute stretch or movement break at least every 30 minutes.
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Upcoming Events

- **August 2: First day for students for the 2018-19 school year**

In May each classroom selected their own PBIS Focus. Students participated in weekly and end of semester celebrations.