



Dear Sand Devil Family Member,

We're nearing the half way point of the 2015-2016 school year which is hard to believe. Below are a few notes reminders about events taking place at the end of this semester and one note about a change to our programming for next semester.

First, as many of you are aware, our Governing Board will be taking action on our closed campus proposal during their regular business meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will take place at 5:00pm if anyone is interested in attending. In order to speak at the meeting, one has to fill out a blue card prior to the beginning of the meeting. If approved by the Governing Board, there will be some parts of the proposal that will take effect during the second semester of this school year, while the bulk of the proposal will take effect during the 2016-2017 school year. Once the Governing Board has acted, I will let you know the outcome in this section of our January parent newsletter.

The next event to take place during the time we have left in the semester is Galileo testing. Galileo Benchmark testing will take place starting on November 30<sup>th</sup> and conclude on December 11<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who may not be aware, this testing takes place at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and tests students' knowledge of the standards taught in their Math, Science, and English courses during a given quarter. The results are then reviewed by our teachers and we use the results to formulate a plan to re-teach key concepts prior to our statewide test, the AzMERIT test. Please make sure your student is present during the Galileo testing window so they are able to "show what they know."

The last event I wanted to make you aware of is Final Exam week, which will take place December 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>. You should have already received a postcard from me detailing the requirements for attendance during Final Exam week. If you have any questions about this or need to schedule an appointment because of an event taking place that falls within one of the reasons allowable to re-schedule a final exam, please contact me. As a reminder, Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> is a half day of school, so please make the necessary arrangements to ensure your student is in school until 12:00pm.

Finally, I wanted to inform you that as we open next semester, we will be tweaking our bell schedule once again. The reasons for this are twofold:

- We need more time to re-teach and enrich our students during our Sand Devil Block. When looking at other schools that are highly performing, they are providing students with four days of re-teach or enrichment options during their intervention time. We will be doing the same during next semester.
- Consistency in scheduling. Right now we have three different schedules during our school week which is confusing for teachers and students. By providing for a consistent schedule on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, Friday, we are going to eliminate a lot of confusion.

A copy of the new bell schedule will be sent home in the December parent newsletter so stay tuned.

As I close this letter, I would like to take a moment to remind you that our parent, teacher, administrator group called Site Council meets the last Tuesday of each month at 4:15pm in the conference room next to my office. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact me at 928-608-4133 or you are welcome to show up at a meeting.

Yours in Education, Paul Gagnon

