

THE ROAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Echo Canyon PTO

HAPPENINGS

Dining for Dollars
"Baked Goods for Bucks"
October 21, 22, 23
(on our half days)

Who's hungry after school? Stop by **My Three Girls Bakery** after school to get a dessert, snack or late lunch, **mention you're with Echo Canyon School** & our school will receive a portion of your purchase. Everyday a lucky customer at random will win a free sweet! Please join us to support your school fundraiser.

4801 E. Indian School
Phoenix, AZ 85015
*Located in the complex
by Arcadia Tavern*
Call ahead for curbside pick-up:
602-509-0307
<http://my3girlsbakery.com/>



MASK UP
ECHO CANYON STYLE
\$10 child
\$15 adult
[Click here to order!](#)

Echo Canyon PTO Meeting
4th Tuesday of the Month
Held virtually via zoom,
this month we meet
Tues., Oct. 27, 12-1 pm
*November's meeting will
be held in the evening.*



WELCOME BACK ECHO FAMILIES! BY VALERIE RAMOS

Welcome to our first edition of The Roar—Echo Canyon's PTO monthly newsletter! Through this newsletter, we hope to connect our ECS community and find ways to support each other.

The Echo Canyon Parent Teacher Organization's goal is to continually develop a collaborative community and support our student and staff needs through family involvement. There are no fees or dues and all are welcome to join any time. What does the Echo Canyon PTO do, exactly? This past year, we supported our community in the following ways:

- Members attended SUSD Board meetings to remove our school from the district's growth plan, and succeeded!
- Planned and hosted the family Valentine sock hop dance.
- Hosted breakfast for Exploration Friday presenters.
- Created, funded, and distributed Echo Canyon tee shirts for every student.
- Raised funds through our annual Santa's Workshop, Dining for Dollars, events and...

This year, we are focusing on creating enrichment opportunities for our community by fundraising through our [online store](#). Echo Canyon masks are now available for purchase! Items purchased support Exploration Fridays, school spirit items (such as tees and bracelets), and our ongoing efforts to bring our school community together.

ECS PTO is here to work with families and teachers to support and build a better community—greater connections from home to school. As volunteers, we work to enhance the educational experience for our students by supplementing and supporting the needs of teachers to promote academic and enrichment activities. As we continue our pandemic schooling journey, the PTO wants to hear from our families, teachers, and staff. How can we help? What can your PTO do to support you during this time? Drop us a line here communications@echocanyonpto.com.

Find more information about areas we support, our events, and how to volunteer at www.echocanyonpto.com.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hi Everyone, Thanks so much for being a part of our team. **Just by reading this, you are a member!** We are excited to be in the middle of a new year, no matter how different it looks. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions or ideas for fundraising. If you have a special skill you think would be an asset to our team, let us know! **The biggest support we can have from you is your participation in our events.** We are having to think outside of the box this year and get creative so we can continue to do amazing things for our students and staff. Please come to our next dining for dollars! Please order a mask! Here's to a great year!

We are in this together, - Stephanie Peyton



JAGGY TALES

BY MORGAN KANE

Echo Canyon's very own tortoises live right along the school's front entrance and if you look closely, you can spot one of the two girls strolling for snacks or watching our energetic jaguars coming and going. Yes, that's right two! Many of us go weeks, months, or even a school year without seeing them but try to take a moment next time you pass by to catch a glimpse of our desert beauties hiding in plain sight!

When you return to campus, you'll notice the habitat looks a little different. In August, strong monsoon winds blew down the Palo Verde in the tortoise habitat. Staff worked quickly and with the assistance of SUSD's landscape team, the tree was cleaned up. Now, shade sails give them protection from the sun but maybe you'll get a better chance to spot one, or both!

GARDEN UPDATES

BY ANN & LOU (AKA "THE PIKLES")

It's fall and this is the most exciting time for gardening in the low desert. While other schools across the nation may be shutting down their gardens for a cold winter we are just getting started for our best gardening weather. We are now planting kale, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, peas, onions, tomatoes, cilantro, sage, dill, fennel, and flowers. The remainder of the summer crops are still in the ground but will be replaced with new plants.

The "Hope" Garden is new and it's in the middle of the campus in the round raised garden with the Mesquite tree. It has zinnias, sunflowers, pumpkins and loofahs in it, also a couple of eggplants survived the hot weather and are starting to fruit. New in the main aisle across from the library is pumpkins. In the north gardens by the 5th and 6th grades, pumpkins and squash have overtaken the place, someone said it "looks like they are trying to make an escape from the raised garden". There is also a three sisters garden with corn, squash and beans, this planting trio is a planting system devised by Native Americans. In addition, there's two papaya plants now growing in this same area.

New this year, Ann is planting seeds in seed starter containers – she's planted pumpkins, sunflowers, beans, amaranth, and tomatoes. While we won't be having our traditional Chef in the Garden we're cooking up some new ways to integrate the garden harvests with Chefs and students. If you have a garden it's time to plant.

GET TO KNOW YOUR PTO

STEPHANIE PEYTON
PRESIDENT

JENNA HARDEN
VICE PRESIDENT

BRETT ROGERS
TREASURER

VALERIE RAMOS
PAIGE ROGERS
SCOTTSDALE PARENT COUNCIL
REPS

JACQUE DAVIS

JESSICA IRWIN

MORGAN KANE

RUTH RAY

JARETT RAY

CHARITY RECLA

JESSICA SCORDO

communications@echocanyonpto.com



SCOTTSDALE PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

BY PAIGE ROGERS

The Scottsdale Parent Council (SPC) was founded in 1977 with a mission to promote communication and collaborative relationships between Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) families, district leadership, and staff to support and advocate for the highest quality of education for all students attending schools in SUSD. The SPC recruits 1-2 representatives from each school within the district. Valerie Ramos (ValerieRamos1@gmail.com) and Paige Rogers (Paige@CommunityConsulting.net) are the SPC reps from Echo Canyon School. The SPC holds general meetings monthly, which are open to any interested SUSD community member.



2020-2021 General Meetings

- August 19, 2020 @ 6pm (virtual)
- September 16, 2020 @ 6pm (virtual)
- October 21, 2020 @ 6pm (virtual)
- November 18, 2020 @ 9am (or 6pm if virtual)
- December 16, 2020 @ 6PM
- January 20, 2021 @ 9am (or 6pm if virtual)
- February 17, 2021 @ 6PM
- March 17, 2021 @ 9am (or 6pm if virtual)
- April 21, 2021 @ 6pm
- May 12, 2021 @ 9am (or 6pm if virtual)

September General Meeting Notes

JoAnn Crohn – parent, teacher, blogger and podcaster from NoGuiltMom.com shared ideas and suggestions to help parents and students **avoid homework battles**. Crohn talked about how hectic routines can cause stress, and suggested that just as we parents want control of our own routines, so do our kids. She broke down her advice into three simple categories:

What can parents do? We as parents should remember that we like to have control over our own schedule and build in opportunities for our children to have some control of their schedules. For example, ask them when they would like to get their homework done. Perhaps we have been mandating that they work on their homework as soon as they get home from school, but maybe they would prefer to do it after dinner. We all have different preferences – we empower our kids to take ownership of their educational experience when we ask them about their preferences. Whenever possible, make efforts to give them control.

What can teachers do? Parents can remember to clue the teacher in on what is going on at home. If there is a homework battle at home, consider sending a simple email to the teacher, explain the problem, and ask their advice.

What can the student do? Students can be given the responsibility to take care of their own supplies and keep their homework space at home organized. They can be encouraged to devote “focused time” to homework – this is a specific, agreed upon length of uninterrupted time (such as 20 minutes), which is often tracked by a timer. During focused time, you can encourage the student that they don’t have to get it all done, but see what they can accomplish without distractions and with focused effort within the specified time frame.

October General Meeting

The October General Meeting will be focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Once the SPC has published a link to register for the October meeting we will share the link with all Echo Canyon families via our PTO email communications.

On September 29th, the SPC held an SUSD Governing Board Candidate Forum. The forum was recorded and available for viewing on the SPC [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. The following SUSD Governing Board candidates participated in the forum:

Kathleen Angelos, Julie Cieniawski, Elizabeth Hart-Wells, Zachary Lindsay, and Rose Smith. Candidate Lucy Digrazia declined to participate.

Social Responsibility

The Social Responsibility Committee is seeking members. Contact your Echo Canyon SPC Representatives if you are interested in getting involved. The Social Responsibility Committee is committed to investigating best practices among SUSD schools to reduce and prevent bullying and harassment. The group will share recommendations of experts that address and prevent bullying, with a focus on parent education about preventative actions to take, and also how to address bullying and harassment at home and with the school.