

School Briefs

Conferences, fall break inbound

Both the Fountain Hills Unified School District and Fountain Hills Charter School will hold parent/teacher conferences this Thursday and Friday, Oct. 11-12.

At the Charter School, all students will have a half day on Thursday with no school on Friday. Within FHUSD, only grades K-8 will have a half day Thursday with no school on Friday.

Fall break runs from Oct. 15-19. Classes will return to normal schedule at both FHCS and the FHUSD on Oct. 22.

Three receive PSAT honors

Margaret Rutkowski, Kelsey Timms and Sarah Traylor have been named Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2013 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 competition by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT.

"I am proud of the academic excellence Kelsey, Maggie and Sarah demonstrated on the PSAT," said high school Principal Tom Brennan.

"They are three highly motivated, high performing students and I know they will do great things in the future."

MMES receives STEM grant

Grand Canyon University's Partners in Learning, Leading and Serving (PLLS) program has awarded a STEM grant to McDowell Mountain Elementary School to provide funding for the school's project, "The Grand Canyon- Our Own Wonder of the World."

PLLS' grant program supports STEM education, an initiative that encour-

ages education in science, technology, engineering and math to prepare students for jobs in a global economy.

McDowell Mountain is one of six schools across the Valley to receive a STEM grant from PLLS. Other grants are funding projects like robotic engineering, building steamboats and harnessing the power of the sun.

*Red Ribbon Day next week

Fountain Hills Middle School will celebrate Red Ribbon Day tomorrow, Oct. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Parents of middle school students are invited out to this special day geared law enforcement, which will feature presentations from the DEA, the bomb squad, a canine demonstration, robotics, MCSO and a helicopter landing.

The FBI will also have a presence, as well as U.S. Marshalls and the local Text-a-Tip initiative. The local Dunkin Donuts will also donate a free coupon to anyone who enters the Text-a-Tip info into their cell phone that day.

The event is being organized by the Fountain Hills Coalition.

'Punkin chunkin' volunteers sought

Fountain Hills High School teacher Dr. Paul McElligott is registering up to four teams to participate in the Mortimer Farms Punkin Chunkin Contest, scheduled for Oct. 27.

McElligott needs assistants to help students design, build and trans-

port one of the three types of devices being utilized; slingshot, trebuchet and catapult.

The contest will be held at 10 a.m. on Oct. 27. Those interested in chipping in are asked to contact McElligott at pmcelligott@fhUSD.org.

PTO preps holiday boutique

The local PTO is hosting a Boutique Extravaganza at the Middle School on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The goal of this event is to help promote local businesses and provide for a fun-filled day of shopping for parents and students, as well as community residents.

This month the PTO is recruiting businesses, craftsmen, artists, chefs and anyone else who has something to sell and would like to participate in the Boutique.

A six-foot banquet table and chair rental will require a \$75 donation (extra tables are \$25 each for up to four) until Oct. 12, at which point the donation will increase to \$100. This deposit is refundable until Oct. 19.

Organizers promise that the event will be heavily promoted and is expected to draw close to 1,000 attendees.

For more information or to reserve a spot at the Boutique Extravaganza, contact Lisa Meyers at 602-550-7339 and lmeyers9200@yahoo.com, or Cindy Muggford at 602-710-8412 or cindymug@aol.com.



Check mate!

The Four Peaks Chess Club celebrates a fifth place finish at the recent 2012 Earthquake K-6 tournament.