



SCHOOL NEWS

April 2023

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Scottsdale, AZ 85256
480-362-2200

Monthly Newsletter to Early Childhood Education Center Parents, Families, and Community

I WILL ACHIEVE

UPCOMING EVENTS



APRIL

3 & 17: Salt River Schools Education Board meeting, 5:15PM

5 & 19: Car Seat Checks, 7-9AM

6: College Wear Day

6: Education Fair "Exercising Minds, Bodies & Spirits" in the ALA gymnasium (open to all!), 4-7PM

7: Spring Holiday: No School/Salt River Schools Offices Closed

11: Policy Council, Gathering Place, 5:30PM

12: Last Early Release for ECEC

14: First Friday Chats with Higher Education, MS Teams, 10

25 & 27: Pre-K Cap Decorating, 4-6PM
(Eagle, Cougar/Wolf, Cottontail on 4/25 | Turtle, Butterfly/Bear, Quail on 4/27)

MAY

1 & 15: Salt River Schools Education Board meeting, 5:15PM

3 & 17: Car Seat Checks, 7-9AM

4: Burritos for Dad, Gathering Place, 8-9:30AM

16: ECEC Pre-K Promotion, 9:30AM-12:30PM

O'odham/Piipaash
Word of the Month

Hyosik (O'odham)

Thavsh (Piipaash)

Flower (English)

Attendance Hotline
480-362-2239

If leaving a message, please include:

- Child's Name & Classroom
- Your (Caller's) Name
- Reason for Absence

MESSAGE FROM TAMI

We welcomed two staff to our management team at the ECEC on March 13: Tianee Lane is now the ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance) Coordinator. Lekisha Morris (aka "Kisha") is the Assistant Program Manager for the Early Head Start (Infant and Toddler) program.



I have worked at the ECEC for the past seven years, and I look forward to working with families and building collaborative partnerships as it relates to the application process within ERSEA. I have more than 20 years of diverse experience in education, including 11 years within Head Start. I have a bachelor's degree in communications studies and a master's degree in education with an early childhood specialization.

I am originally from Mississippi. I have many years of Head Start experience, as well as a master's degree in educational leadership. In 2009, I moved to Arizona where I worked as a private preschool director. Then I moved to Japan for three years and was a supervisor for an ECEC program located on a Marine Corps military base. We moved back to the states in 2016, and I was a site supervisor for a Head Start program in Virginia. I moved back to Arizona and worked for two different Head Start programs as an EHS teacher, a professional development coach, a program assurance supervisor, and an education manager. I am excited to begin work here in Salt River, and I look forward to working with the staff, children and families of this Community.



2023 EDUCATION FAIR
Thursday, April 6
4-7PM | ALA Gymnasium
Exercising Minds, Bodies & Spirits

Our biggest event of the year features more than 60 of our education, Community, and business partners for a night of fun activities for all ages, amazing raffle prizes, and BBQ dinner for the first 500 people! This event is FREE and open to the public.

SaltRiverSchools.org



Just try new things. Don't be afraid. Step out of your comfort zones and soar, all right? — Michelle Obama

A PLAYHOUSE FOR ABDIEL

Congratulations to Abdiel from the Piglets class; he had 95% attendance and was entered into a drawing to win a playhouse gifted by staff at Health Equity and Odyssey Teams. Special thanks also to the Discover Salt River team for coordinating the opportunity.

Abdiel and his parents attended the presentation at Talking Stick Resort, and they got to put their personal touch on the playhouse (handprints!).

There are currently 76 ECEC students with 85% or higher school attendance. Great job ECEC families!



Early Release Update: In order to meet the Early Head Start contact hours for the 2022-2023 program year, the last Early Release day the ECEC will participate in this year will be 4/12/23.

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

EARLY RELEASE

8/10 | 8/24 | 9/7 | 9/21 | 10/26 | 11/9

1/18 | 2/1 | 2/22 | 3/22 | 4/12

School begins at the same time, but releases early. Call

ECEC

NOON DISMISSAL*

480-362-2200

*Child care is available until 5:30 p.m., if needed.

SRES

NOON DISMISSAL

480-362-2400

The last Early Release Day for ECEC is 4/12 and ECEC will not participate in any future dates.

Behavior Intervention Counselors

The Behavior Intervention Counselors have started a book study for classroom staff, who are reading "Conscious Discipline Building Resilient Classrooms," by Dr. Becky A. Bailey. The book study will extend through 6/1/2023 to give our school family the opportunity to understand and become proficient in Conscious Discipline and overall social emotional development.

We will also conduct Safe Space trainings for ECEC staff. The purpose of Safe Space is for children to learn co-regulation skills and eventually self-regulation. Ask your teachers about your classroom's Safe Space (or the Safe Space people for infant/toddler classrooms). Questions? Contact Martha or Marcel at 480-362-2267 or 480-362-2218.



SALT RIVER FAMILY Read-Aloud Challenge

The Salt River Family Read-Aloud Challenge encourages families to read 25 books together February 1 through May 3. Sign up today and we'll give you a FREE read-aloud family journal to record the books and stories your family shares.

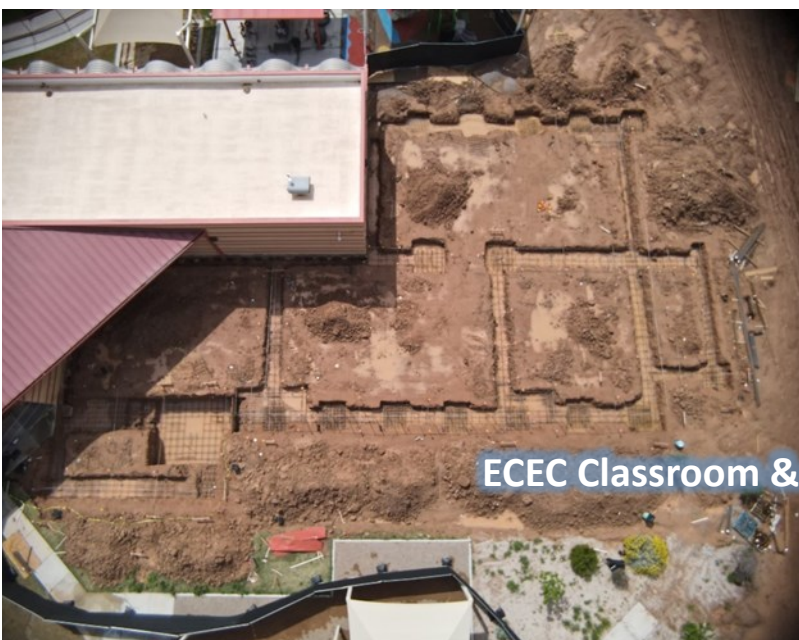


Sign up and get your FREE family reading journal:
Literacy@saltriverschools.org
or call 480-362-2063.

Open to all SRPMIC Families!
Prizes awarded to families who complete the challenge!

CHALLENGE:
READ 25 BOOKS
AS A FAMILY
BY MAY 3
(ORAL STORYTELLING COUNTS!)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE





Accepting Applications

Early Head Start (Prenatal to 3 years)

Preschool/Head Start (3 to 5 years)

Home-Based Program (Prenatal to 3 years)



Our program promotes early learning, development, health, wellness, and family partnership. Applications are available at the Early Childhood Education Center or at ECEC.SaltRiverSchools.org. For more information, contact Jessica Holmes, Enrollment Technician, at 480-362-2222.

Early Childhood Education Center
4836 N. Center St., Scottsdale, AZ 85256

ECEC.SaltRiverSchools.org

FIRST FRIDAY CHATS WITH HIGHER ED



Ask questions, get advice, learn from the experts & feel confident about your higher education goals.

Friday, April 14
from 10-11:30AM
via Microsoft Teams.

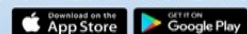
Email HigherEd@saltriverschools.org to register!

Follow, Like & Share!

@SaltRiverSchools



Check out our NEW APP free!
Search "Salt River Schools"



#AIMHIGHER

MOCK INTERVIEW MONDAYS

WITH HIGHER EDUCATION

- Test your answers to tough questions
- Enhance your communication skills and delivery of responses

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE | VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
9 AM - 4 PM

CONTACT JOYLA GATES TO REGISTER

480-362-2542 | Joyla.Gates@saltriverschools.org

Nurturing Parenting Group

For Teen Parents



Open to all SRPMIC teen parents. You'll receive free diapers and books for your baby in a safe and supportive atmosphere! Light refreshments will be provided. Learn more and sign up today!

Margaret Lehn | 480-765-0617
Margaret.Lehn@saltriverschools.org

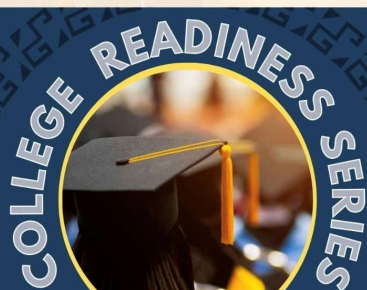
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

March 21-May 4

Tuesdays 4-6:30PM In-Person
Thursdays Virtual TEAMS Mtg

Funded by
FIRST THINGS FIRST

Community Recreational Services
Recreation Education Division



A 3-day college readiness series ideal for high school students and their families.

Open to all WOLF members and enrolled Community members.

Sessions

Choose One

Session 1: Feb. 13-15

Session 2: March 13-15

Session 3: April 17-19

Sign up starting Friday, Feb. 3
<https://sugeni.us/dERh>

All sessions are 5:30-7PM in the
Way of Life Facility, room 56.

Questions? Call the Salt River
Tribal Library at 480-362-6600.

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDING APPLICATION DEADLINES



the journey begins here.

Higher Education is there to uplift you every step of the way.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

- APR 30: School start date in May, June & July
- JUL 30: School start date in Aug., Sept. & Oct.
- OCT 30: School start date in Nov., Dec. & Jan.
- JAN 30: School start date in Feb., March & April

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

- Fall Semester: JUN 30
- Spring Semester: NOV 30
- Summer Semester: APR 30

If deadlines fall on a weekend, applications will be accepted on the following business day.

480-362-2500 | HE.SaltRiverSchools.org

ECEC.SaltRiverSchools.org

ESS Updates

April is Occupational Therapy Month! A big thank you to our occupational therapist, Ms. Kristina, for all she does for our children.

We are going to talk about **body awareness** and **heavy work**! Do you know the important role that heavy work activities play in our ability to focus, attend, learn, and participate in everyday tasks? We *all* need calming and organizing sensory input that provide proprioceptive input through our muscles and joints.

BODY AWARENESS

PROPRIOCEPTIVE INPUT (HEAVY WORK ACTIVITIES)

This type of input gives our muscles and joints information about how our arms, legs, head and trunk move. Any weight bearing activities are technically proprioceptive input. Here are some examples: wheelbarrow walking, jumping, stomping the feet, push ups, pushing/pulling, carrying heavy objects, etc.

- play games that involve identifying body parts (simon says or 'head, shoulders, knees, and toes')
- practice spatial awareness. set up an obstacle course for your child to go under, over, through and around objects.
- create a self-portrait and name body parts as they are drawn
- copy poses in a mirror. have your child try to mimic poses of different movements

websites & apps

- GoNoodle
- Cosmic Kids
- Toca Boca
- Super Stretch Yoga
- Kipptto Human Body Blocks
- Miss Renee OT (YouTube)
- Bearfoot OT (YouTube)
- Dan the OT man (YouTube)

spatial awareness

Spatial awareness is the ability to understand and interact with the environment around you. Whether it be avoiding obstacles when walking, reaching out to grab a pencil or determining left from right these are all examples of tasks that require spatial awareness. Developing the skills to express and understand spatial skills are the first step in understanding spatial ability and awareness such as math skills, visual perceptual skills, and body awareness.

heavy work

Complete heavy work activities such as pushing, pulling or carrying heavy objects. This will help to reinforce where the joints and muscles are in space.

Early Childhood Education Center

CHILD CAR SEAT CHECK

Injury Prevention Program



Make sure kids are traveling safe all year long!

1st and 3rd Wednesday
7am to 9am

ECEC Drop-Off
February / March / April / May 2023

Melinda Hansen - (480) 362-2206




The Fountain Hills Coalition is sponsoring a \$500 cash prize raffle open to all attendees. Must be present to win.



Lack of sleep, FOMO – fear of missing out, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem. These are just a few of the symptoms many users of social media platforms are experiencing. And no wonder, according to the Pew Research Center, 81% of teens in the U.S. use social media, putting a large population at an increased risk of feeling anxious, depressed, or ill over social media use.

The Town of Fountain Hills is proud to present this Fountain Hills Cares program featuring experts on how social media platforms affect youth and how parents can stay in touch with their children.

Thursday, April 20
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Community Center
13001 N. La Montana Drive




To learn more about the Social Media and Mental Health event scan the QR code with your phone.

Social Media and Mental Health Issues

A special program for teens and parents

Fountain Hills Cares Presents



TO TOWN OF
FOUNTAIN HILLS
CARES