



SIERRA SUMMIT ACADEMY

A Brand New Year by Mr. Siamak

Welcome back to school. As we promised in the last edition, this year is going to be an exceptional year for us. We celebrated opening of our technology center, Library and the Physical Education room, hired a stellar faculty and upgraded our business office procedures and personnel. We now have brand new computers for faculty, access to the internet and networked with the administration office.

Speaking of technology, Homework can be accessed through our website at www.sierrasummitacademy.com. You can also email the specific faculty and/or staff and ask them questions about progress and or assignments.

We have also added counseling with an outstanding adolescent therapist on Mondays for those who wish to take advantage of Ms. Garcia's expertise.

Starting last week, we began offering professionally catered hot lunches. The menu is available at the registrar's office where tickets could be purchased. So far, lunches have been very popular. We have made sure that all food served on campus adheres to the latest nutritional guidelines mandated by the Department of Education. Thanks to our parent volunteer Ms. Valencia who attended a two day workshop in Phoenix, we now have a wealth of information on procedures and detail of providing the lunches as a part of the National School Lunches Program.

Our new school uniforms have brought professionalism and a sense of identity to the school. Surprisingly, there have been very few complaints about the shirts with the exception of the sizes and that black color absorbs too much heat. As a result, we have ordered smaller sizes and yellow shirts with black logos to arrive in October.

In order to cope with the sky rocketing expense of running the school bus and save unnecessary fuel consumption, we have purchased a station wagon to pick up and drop off students wherever and whenever possible. We truly appreciate everyone's cooperation with the arrangement. We would like to pioneer the energy saving effort by asking all parents who transport their student to bring other students with them.

AIMS testing for mathematics, reading and writing was administered on October 25th through 27th. All juniors and seniors who did not take the test and/or did not pass the test or wished to improve their performance were required to take it at that time. We have been providing tutoring for all classes after school as well as one week of intensive preparation leading to the test

We have begun our incentive field trips. Every month students with perfect attendance and best academic performance will be eligible to participate in these outings.

Our parent and teacher led committees have begun their activities and tasks. The Spirit committee in conjunction with the Student council conducted our first dance of the year at the Academy. The Halloween dance will be on October 28th at the Country Club.

Speaking of the student Coalition Council, were held and the following were elected as the officers:

The first Adopt-A-Highway of this year was held on Saturday October 1st. 14 students as well as three staff were present for the clean up. The event is sponsored quarterly to enhance students' sense of community and citizenship.

I am proud of our family of students, faculty and parents. Our aim is to become the best educational institution in the area, offering the highest academic as well as citizenship standards. Thanks to everyone who has dedicated countless hours to make that goal a reality.

Book Fair

Earlier this semester, Sierra Summit Academy hosted a book fair. One of our parent volunteers, Mrs. Kellett, orchestrated the entire event. She has also helped us build our school library, in addition to putting on an amazing book fair that was held on August 24th and the 25th. As a result of the book fair the school had earned \$125.00 credit to be used for more books. Throughout the day, teachers and their students would tour the book fair. All the students were amazed at all the cool stuff that the book fair had to offer. The merchandise ranged from pencils to posters and book covers and erasers as well as books. This book fair was a huge success, so once again we would like to thank Mrs. Kellett for all of her hard work, and we all look forward to the next book fair this spring.



New Staff

This year Sierra Summit Academy has many new face on campus, as we have recruited new members of our faculty. First, we would like to welcome Ms. Jacobs, our Math teacher who also teaches Music Appreciation. Next we have the hilarious Mr. Haverberg. He teaches World History, AZ and U.S. History, Economics, Art History, Astronomy, and a Kendo Class that he teaches in the mornings before school starts. Everyone loves how he tells jokes to keep the classes more interesting and easier to go through. He and Ms. Jacobs have also taken over the responsibilities of Student Council Advisors for this year. Next we have Mr. Forbes, our computer teacher. We have a saying for him, "If there is something he can't do, it's not possible." Our new fun and energetic Physical Education teacher, Ms. Zizza, always brings a warm smile to each class. She is also our in charge of our Educational Support Department. Now for the woman that keeps everything on track, or in the files I should say, is Ms. Jessica, our Sierra Summit Academy Office Manager. Mr. Stedman is also back to serve as head of security and maintenance. On behalf of Sierra Summit Academy, we would like to welcome you all to our school and thank you for all of your contributions.



Spirit Week

Our school had lots of fun with a traditional Spirit Week. The students planned many crazy and fun things to do during this week such as:

Monday 17th : P.J. Day

Tuesday 18th: Crazy Hat Day

Wednesday 19th: Wacky Clothes Day

Thursday 20th: Jersey Day

Friday 21st: Class Color Day

As you can see we had a full schedule of creative and exciting things that the students created in order to ensure that this week was a complete success. The Students and Faculty both actively participated in these events. The spirit of the school was very apparent. GO AZTECS!!!! Student Council would like thank everyone who participated.



AIMS Testing

During this week we will be doing the AIMS Testing on:

Tuesday October 25th 2005– Writing

Wednesday October 26th 2005-Reading

Thursday October 27th 2005-Math

Sierra Summit Academy offered AIMS tutoring to ensure that our students would be well equipped with the right knowledge for everything on the tests. If students know what to expect, then they are more likely to be successful. As you may know, Arizona now requires the passing of its AIMS test as a prerequisite for students to graduate. After the tutoring, all of the students said they felt as though they would do pretty well and succeed.

Vision Quest

Imagine the surprise of students arriving to school on a Monday morning and seeing teepees and horses spread around the campus. This is exactly what happened to the students of Sierra Summit Academy. This year our campus had some visitors from the company called Vision Quest. It is an organization that gives troubled teens one last chance to change their attitudes. How do they do this you ask? Well the group, of about fifty, traveled all the way from Philadelphia, PA and were headed to Phoenix, AZ on horseback, Yes horseback. The group travels on the back of a horse for twenty miles, and then sets up camp for the night. Also they have to take care of the horses that they rode on. The horses are fed and given water everyday, and are either bathed or brushed everyday as well. This particular group had been riding on horseback for the past three months, but were very near the end of their trip.



School Lunches

This year Sierra Summit Academy has put on a brand new lunch program, which the students love. This lunch program provides the students with a well balanced meal that typically includes a main course, along with a side of fruit, a side of vegetables, and a desert, and the choice of white or chocolate milk. This is a big improvement from last year. The students have been very impressed with their new lunches, and the best thing, they say, is that on most days they are able to get seconds. This program has also been designed to cater to the needs of those students qualifying for free and reduced lunches. If you feel you may qualify for either one of those programs, please pick up a form from Ms. Jessica in the office.

Thank you

Special gratitude to our parent volunteers: Mrs. Valencia for coordinating the Safety and Discipline committee as well as traveling to Phoenix to attend the National School Lunch program, Mr. and Mrs. Kellet for their leadership in Academic Performance committee and orchestrating the book fair and finally Mrs. Redd for helping us with the Welcome Back dance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Party.....October 31

Veteran's Appreciation Day.....November 11

Picture Day.....November 17

Thanksgiving Potluck.....November 23

Thanksgiving Break.....November 24-27

End of Second Quarter.....December 16

Winter Formal.....December 16

New Library

With the new year here we also have a new Library, thanks to the help of Sarah Kellet, a student at Sierra Summit Academy. Sarah spent a majority of her summer working on book donations for the school and collecting monetary donations the school could use towards the purchase of new books. She managed to get 1,012 books donated for our school. Now thanks to Sarah Kellet we have many encyclopedias and dictionaries that the students can use for research. Along with the reference book there are also many novels for students and faculty to read. Sarah said the reason why she devoted much of her summer to this cause is because she loves to help out the school with the supplies that are needed. All the students love the new library and are all very pleased with how many book that were collected. Thanks Sarah and all who donated.



New Computer Lab

This year at Sierra Summit Academy we have a brand new computer lab thanks to our Director, Mr. Siamak. He has purchased 16 Dell computers for the students to use in the computer lab along with 5 new Dell computers that the teachers are using in their classes. Thanks to Mr. Forbes, our IT genius, the entire campus is now set up on a wireless system and all the computers are connected with internet. The computers have been a wonderful asset for the students. They are able to do all kinds of research with the help of the internet, and they are able to write papers, learn hardware and software as well as design their own web site. They are thrilled to have such a valuable resource. It is a hit!



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Leadership Committees

In order to improve the school for parents, students, faculty and staff, Sierra Summit Academy has several committees. These committees each have a specific focus that allows the members to concentrate on one area. This approach has allowed us to vastly improve the school for all of those involved. Volunteers are always welcome and definitely encouraged. We can all work together to truly make these years the best of a person's life.

The Discipline Committee reviews policies on discipline as well as evaluate, revise and implement measures to enhance discipline and citizenship among students.

The Health and Fitness Committee was created to increase student awareness of health and life skills issues as well as promote healthy lifestyles and encourage athletic and recreational activities for students and faculty.

The Fundraising and Public Relations Committee was created to increase and enhance the school's profile in the community as well as raise funds for specific projects.

The Spirit (formerly Special Events) Committee plans, coordinates, and executes special functions such as dances, trips, and graduation. Also they enhance the sense of school spirit and belonging among students and faculty.

The Academic Performance Committee enhances the academic performance and experience of each student and increases the test scores and grades in order to assist the students in post-graduation placement.

**If you are interested in joining
one of the committees you can
call the school for information
on when the meet and at what
times.**

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