

MPS Calendar



Mesa Public Schools District
63 E. Main St., 85201
Dr. Mike Cowan, superintendent
480-472-0200

Website: mpsaz.org

- Monday, Jan. 25: Kindergarten registration begins
- Tuesday, Jan. 26: Kindergarten evening registration
- Wednesday, Feb. 3: Professional development - junior high and high school late start, elementary early release
- Monday, Feb. 15: Presidents Day - schools and district offices closed
- Friday, March 11: End of third quarter grading period, early release
- Monday, March 14-18: Spring break - schools closed
- Thursday, March 17-18: District offices closed
- Monday, March 21: School resumes
- Friday, March 25: Spring holiday - schools and district offices closed
- Wednesday, April 6: Professional development - junior high and high school late start, elementary early release
- Thursday, May 26: Last day of school and graduation
- Monday, May 30: Memorial Day - schools and district offices closed

Westwood's Ritter wins National Merit Scholarship

Brandon J. Ritter, a student at Westwood High School, has won a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship. This scholarship is supported by National Merit Scholarship Corp.'s own funds, according to a press release.

Recipients of National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships were selected by a committee of college admission officers and high school counselors who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by finalists and their schools. Evaluated were each finalist's academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned, scores from two standardized tests, contributions and leadership in school and community activities, an essay written by the finalist and the recommendation written by a high school official, according to the release.

Mesa students have artwork in transit education calendar

More than a dozen students – including one from Mesa – had artwork that was chosen to be included in the 11th Annual Cool Transit Stuff Art Contest. The winning art will be featured in the 2016 Valley Metro Transit Education calendar.

Third-grade students in Maricopa County were asked to design artwork showcasing the theme “Valley Metro: Ride With Me!” There were 629 entries

from 39 schools.

Artwork for December is from Ashley Nonthe-Paloma, a student at Mesa Arts Academy. A Mesa student with an honorable mentioned is McKenna Johnson from Hale Elementary. The winning artwork is displayed in a calendar that is distributed to the general public. All winning artwork can be viewed in the 2016 calendar. Learn more at valleymetro.org.



2016

December

Ashley N.

Mesa Arts Academy, Mesa

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Special to the Independent/
Valley Metro
Above is artwork by Ashley Nonthe-Paloma, a student at Mesa Arts Academy. At left is artwork from McKenna Johnson from Hale Elementary School in Mesa.

Two BASIS Mesa students earn perfect SAT scores

BASIS Mesa students Sean-Wyn Ng and Danial Shadmany earned perfect scores on the SAT tests – Sean-Wyn on the reading, writing and math sections and Danial on the math level 2 and physics subject tests, according to a press release.

The SAT and SAT Subject Tests are globally recognized college admission tests designed to assess a student's academic readiness. The SAT tests high school students' knowledge of reading, writing and math. The SAT Subject Tests are content-based tests that allow students to differentiate themselves in the college admission process and show their readiness to study specific majors or programs.

Sean-Wyn and Danial were also both named National AP Scholars and AP Scholars with Distinction. Sean-Wyn loves playing the cello and plays with the Phoenix Youth Symphony. Danial wants to be a physicist and loves playing the piano, according to the release.

“I am extremely proud of the hard work that Danial and Sean-Wyn put into everything that they do. They both have such positive attitudes and smiles that light up the school,” Head of School Matt Fitzmiller said in the release. “While I am not at all surprised with their achievements, I was delighted when we received the announcement about their perfect SAT scores.”

BASIS.ed manages 20 public charter schools, including 17 in Arizona, two in Texas, and one in Washington, D.C., as well as four independent schools in Silicon Valley, Fremont, Brooklyn and McLean, Virginia, and one international school in Shenzhen, China. For more information, visit www.BASISed.com.

For information on BASIS Mesa, go to www.basismesa.org or www.basisschools.org.

MCC prepares students for careers in agriculture

Beginning with the spring 2016 semester, Mesa Community College will offer an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Sustainable Agriculture, the first of its kind in Arizona.

The Sustainable Agriculture degree will provide students with both the technical and small business skills needed to manage or develop a small farm or agricultural business. The program is focused on small scale and urban agriculture with an emphasis on natural practices and sustainability. Courses include Field crop production, livestock production, aquaponics, integrated pest management and agricultural marketing, according to a press release.

Registration for the spring semester is open. Visit www.mesacc.edu/spring to sign up for classes.