

NOVEMBER 2024

HERRERA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



# PANTHER PRINTS



## IMPORTANT DATES

November 4- Coffee with Principal & PTO Meeting (9:00 am)

November 7- Fall Picture Retakes; Fall Student Art Showcase at Emerson Court (4:00 pm); Soccer Game at Garfield (5:50 pm)

November 8- Sylvestre Herrera Honor Day; 4th Grade Drama Field Trip

November 11- Veteran's Day (No School)

November 12- AZSA Tree Planting Event for 1st and 2nd Grade

November 14- Musical Auditions

November 20- November Student of the Month

November 22- Turkey Trot during specials

## ● Note from the Principal

Thank you to everyone for an exciting and fun-filled month of October at Herrera. It was great to see everyone involved in our Costume Parade, Trunk or Treat celebration, Student of the Month recognitions, and more. I want to give a special shout-out to our PTO and parent volunteers that have helped make these opportunities successful with their time and effort that they dedicate to our school.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, whether it be for special events or everyday assistance for classrooms, please reach out to our Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Specialist, Adriana Ramirez, at [adriana.ramirez@phxschools.org](mailto:adriana.ramirez@phxschools.org).

*Don't have Class Dojo for school updates or ParentVue on Synergy to view your student's grades? Reach out to your child's teacher or the front office for support!*



## School Goals for the 2024-2025 School Year

Every year our school site identifies areas to focus on for improving and growing our campus community and academics. This year, we will be focusing on:

- Increasing our Mathematics proficiency scores on the state assessments by 5%, moving from 21% to 26%.
- Increase our Reclassification rates for our English Language Learners.
- Grow our Arts and Electives into programs that compete with local Arts schools, and tying this learning into academics.
- Strengthen partnerships and communication between staff, students, families, and community members



**Dia de los Muertos at Herrera**



### Upcoming Field Trip Experiences

November 8- 4th Grade  
Drama Field Trip

November 12- AZSA Tree  
Planting Event for 1st and 2nd  
Grade (on site)

November 22- 5th and 6th  
Drama Students at the Mesa  
Arts Center

*Ask your grade level teacher for  
more information!*



### Clubs and Activities

This year we have new and returning clubs on campus!

Soccer Team- 7th/ 8th Grade

Club Soccer- 5th-6th Grade

Cheerleading- 5th-8th Grade

Student Council- 3rd-8th Grade

Tabletop Games Club- 5th-8th Grade

Intro to Orchestra (starting this month!)- 3rd & 4th  
Grade

Musical/ Theatre Club- All Ages

Running Club- All Ages- Parents are welcome!

## Welcoming our Newest Staff Member

Ms. Morton is our newest member of the middle school team! Ms. Morton brings a wealth of experience, having taught middle school science for more than 15 years, 5 of which were here at Herrera. She holds a Master's in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and is certified in K-8 General Education and Middle School Science.

Ms. Morton is passionate about making science come alive through hands-on activities, interactive technology, and real-world applications that inspire curiosity and critical thinking. Her goal is to create a supportive, engaging environment where every student can succeed and feel excited about learning.

## Communication Updates

To continue communication with families and the community at Herrera, we will be using robo-calls, texts, and emails when information needs to be sent out quickly or in emergencies. For any events or general updates, we will continue to use Class Dojo. To help with this process, please take a moment to do the following:

- Connect to both our Herrera Class Dojo and your teacher's individual Class Dojo (reach out to your student's teacher for assistance).
- If you changed your phone number, email address, or home address since you enrolled your student(s), contact the office to have your information updated.
- Communicate with our Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Specialist for support or questions about events or volunteer opportunities to be on school campus.



## Herrera Parents

### *Coffee with the Principal*

When: Monday, November 4, 2024

Where: Herrera Media Center

Time: 9:00am

PTO meeting: 10:00am

Join us at the Media Center for some coffee and a talk with the principal about what's happening at Herrera.



This is a great opportunity to stay connected and get involved with your student's school!!



If you have any questions please call the office

Office hours  
7:45am to 3:45pm

Office number  
(602)257-3885

## 1st Preschool Field Trip to Burton Barr Library



## October Student of the Month Recipients



## November School Partnerships

We want to give a special thank you to all of our amazing partners that have contributed to our student learning and overall well-being this past month!

- YMCA
- Arizona Sustainability Alliance
- Sky Harbor Airport
- Arizona Diamondbacks
- Arizona Cardinals
- Friendly House (TRIO Program)
- MVP Foundation
- Teach for America
- Health Corps
- Southwest Behavioral Health



## PTO UPDATES

Thank you to our PTO and Parent Volunteers for helping out around campus with Trunk or Treat, dinner for staff members, and assisting with classroom needs. If you would like to join the group, you can start by attending our next PTO Meeting at 9:30 am (immediately after the 9:00 Coffee with the Principal) on Monday, November 4th or at 4:00 pm on Monday, November 18th. We will be looking for help with our upcoming Turkey Trot, our AZSA tree planting event, and other activities around campus!

If you are interested, reach out to Adriana Ramirez at [adriana.ramirez@phxschools.org](mailto:adriana.ramirez@phxschools.org)

