

Terrific Kids Jenkins settles in on school board



McDowell Mountain Elementary School is proud to present Justine Jimenez (kindergarten), Brandon Clark (first grade, not pictured), Tayla Rogers (second grade) and Max Mackiewicz (third grade) as Terrific Kids. The program, sponsored by Noon Kiwanis, recognizes students for positive achievements with respect to attitude, helping out, kindness to others, etc.



McDowell Mountain Elementary School and Noon Kiwanis Club member Phyllis Kern are proud to present Isabella Whalen (kindergarten), Adison Shroyer (first grade), Marius White (second grade) and Aiden Larson (third grade) as Terrific Kids.



McDowell Mountain Elementary School and Noon Kiwanis Club member Paul Appeldorn are proud to present Olivia Henslin (kindergarten), Adalia Petrone (first grade), DeMya Staten (second grade) and Amayah Kill (third grade) as Terrific Kids.



Fountain Hills Middle School is proud to present Sabastian Atkinson (fourth grade) and Andre Kill (fourth grade) as Terrific Kids for the week of March 31.



Fountain Hills Charter School is pleased to honor students who have displayed good character as Kiwanis Terrific Kids. Congratulations to Mackenzie Herman, Aralyn Dominguez and Gabriel Silva-Bello for the week of March 31.

By Joey Postiglione
Times Reporter

Nadya Jenkins has been the Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board's newest member since kicking off her two-year term at the Jan. 9 meeting, but Jan. 9 was not Jenkins' first school board meeting.

Jenkins, who moved to Fountain Hills with her family in 2016, has been attending FHUSD school board meetings for two and a half years.

Because of this experience, Jenkins said that a lot of the practices and procedures were not new to her when she officially joined the board.

"I am familiar with a lot of the policy the board had already put in place, items that they had previously approved or asked for follow-ups on," Jenkins said. "So there will be times when something, now as a seated board member, gets presented as a follow-up and I am nodding my head along because I remember."

While items on the board's agenda might not be a total surprise to Jenkins, the way she approaches those items as a board member are different than when she was a member of the public.

"Obviously, now that I am involved in voting on items, there is a lot more of the details that I am poring over at a level that, as an engaged parent, I wasn't doing," Jenkins said. "I also keep a closer eye on numbers like our finances and, of course, enrollment rate, one of our concerns as a district."

Jenkins now also considers decisions with the knowledge that she is speaking for more than just herself.

"Having that level of responsibility, it is something that I really keep in the back of my mind," Jenkins said. "Obviously, I have my own opinions, but I am an elected representative of all the constituents of Fountain Hills, which are people of all ages and all backgrounds. So I have to think about what is best for our students as stakeholders in the community, but also all our residents who pay taxes."

While there was a lot Jenkins already knew about her new role as a school board member, there was still plenty she learned when attending a recent orientation.

"In January I went to the BOLTS (Board Operation and Leadership Training Seminar) conference," Jenkins said. "And they went really in-depth on topics like, if you weren't



Nadya Jenkins, Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board's newest member.

already aware of Arizona open meeting law and what that means in terms of seeing another school board member on the street and talking with them about board policy.

"We really are only able to talk about school business in the meeting room, but that is because we are supposed to do everything

in the open. They talked about conflict of interest. Things that you need to be aware of if you wanted to try to do business with the school district."

With that training now under her belt and with two-plus years of school board meetings to her name, Jenkins has settled into to her new role.

School board meets tonight

The Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board will hold an open meeting tonight, Wednesday, April 10, at the District Learning center at 6:30 p.m.

Along with hearing the normal reports from FHUSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Allen, the school board will also hear a special presentation from the Foun-

tain Hills Pickleball Club.

The board will also discuss updates to Meet and Confer documents and what top five priorities members want to sub-

mit to the Arizona School Board Association for the association's 2020 political agenda.

This meeting is open to all members of the public.

Youth vaping raises new concerns

The Food and Drug Administration would like to hear from individuals who have experienced an adverse reaction to vaping nicotine. The FDA is reporting that some people who use e-cigarettes have experienced seizures, with most reports involving youth or young adult users. Seizures or convulsions are known potential side effects of nicotine toxicity.

A recent uptick in voluntary reports of adverse experiences with tobacco products that mentioned seizures occurring with e-cigarette use (vaping) signal a potential emerging safety issue, according to the FDA. The organization is encouraging the public to report cases of individuals who use e-cigarettes and have had a seizure via

the online Safety Reporting Portal. Visit fda.gov and click on the "Tobacco Products" tab at the top of the page. On the right side of the page is a box for "How do I?" Click "Report a Problem with a Tobacco Product" to be taken to the Safety Reporting Portal.

According to Fountain Hills Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Director Shelly Mowrey, the recent explosion of youth using vaping devices like Juul has reached epidemic levels in Arizona.

"The Fountain Hills Coalition offers a Vaping Toolkit on how to talk with your children about vaping," she added. "If you have a child already vaping and they would like to quit, go to thisisquitting.com."

The toolkit is available at FHCoalition.org.

Blessing Bags Donations sought

Fountain Hills Girl Scouts are reaching out to help those in need with "Blessing Bags."

A Blessing Bag is a small assortment of basic toiletries, snacks and life essentials in a Ziploc bag, given to those in need. The scouts will deliver these bags individually and to shelters each week, as they are completed, from now through May.

A suggested wish list is bottled water, Ziploc bags, granola bars, trail mix, tuna/cracker packs, peanuts, jerky, chap sticks, sunblock, deodorant, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, travel size first aid kits, combs/brushes, feminine products and toothpaste/toothbrushes/floss.

The Fountain Hills Girl Scouts are looking for some additional support with this community service project and are on the lookout for donations of trial size toiletries, snacks and life essentials. Their goal is to touch as many lives as they can in the next two months.

For those who wish to participate, contact Blessing Bag's coordinator Jennifer Brandstetter at 480-298-9284 or email jen.brandstetter@hotmail.com.

"This is a wonderful activity for families and for children to learn about the importance of paying it forward," Brandstetter said. "Thank you in advance for your generosity!"

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