



CANYONS
Community Schools



MIDVALE
MUSTANGS

Principal Chip Watts

801-826-8725

May-June 2017

Stay Informed on what's happening at Midvale Elementary:

Website: midvale.canyonsdistrict.org |



Facebook: @MidvaleElementary |



Twitter: @MidvaleMustangs

A Note from Principal Watts

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end. I'm pleased with the progress we've made at Midvale this year.

As I walk around the school I see a lot of great things happening. Many grades have writing samples hanging on the wall outside their classrooms. In one lap around the school you can read opinion papers on what kind of pet is best, or whether or not we should keep the penny in circulation. You can read Haiku's, reports on the lives of historical figures, persuasive essays and informational pieces on Utah's National Parks. Our teachers and students have really focused on writing this year, and it shows.

Teachers are incorporating the use of technology in their classrooms on a regular basis. Various electronic platforms are allowing teachers to assess learning faster than ever and get instant feedback on student understanding of concepts and lessons. These electronic tools are keeping our students engaged and help to make learning more interactive and fun. We are lucky to have access to as much technology as we do here at Midvale.

The Mustang News Crew was nominated as a finalist in the Canyons District Annual Film Festival. This dedicated group of students work every day to produce video news broadcasts that are aired every Monday here at school. You can check them out on our website if you'd like to see them – they are great!

Coach B and Playworks have completely restructured our recess routines and procedures. It is fun to see kids playing organized games and engaging in healthy play at recess. We are so glad to have them as partners in our improvement efforts.

Students in grades K-2 have enjoyed the opportunity to work with artists from Bad Dog Arts, through a grant funded from the Utah Division of Arts & Museums. The children worked with professional artists and their peers in creating multiple individual art pieces. Second graders made connections to the Golden Rule theme as well as cultures around the world, and kindergarten and first grade students linked their work to reading and stories. Throughout this experience, both the process and the product had equal value. Working toward the completion of these art pieces provided a sense of accomplishment, and students took pride in the finished pieces.

We are very happy with the APTT meetings we were able to hold this year with parents. As we reviewed feedback from the survey we gave after the last session of APTT we noticed that the overwhelming majority of teachers and parents believed that the meetings were a worthwhile investment of time and energy. I'd encourage parents to keep using the materials you took home from those meetings to practice the fundamental skills that were reviewed during APTT throughout the summer. What a great way to keep kids ready to learn in the fall!

I've noticed that teachers who were able to make home visits this year have strengthened relationships with students and families. That has made a big difference in the sense of community that we feel at school. We were able to make about 300 home visits this year, and hope to be able to continue this program in the future.

There are a lot of great things happening at school that I haven't mentioned in this newsletter – we are looking forward to our last round of academic data because our students are making great growth this year. We are excited to see where they end up. We are already planning for next year and we're looking forward to the opportunities for growth and progress it will bring

Have a great summer!

Important Dates

May 10	Mothers' Day Celebration 8:00am
May 11	APTT Family Focus Group 5:15pm
May 11	School Community Council Meeting 6:00pm
May 16	Parents Talk: Setting Routines and Summer Plans, FLC (English & Spanish) 10:30am
May 16	Mobile Food Pantry 3:00-4:00pm – Parents, the food is very heavy so if it is possible for you to come and pick up the food with your student it would be very helpful.
May 17	Informational session for parents: Immigration News and Consular Services
May 18	Last Day of Tutoring
May 19	Dual Language Immersion Performance for Families Grades K-2 9:30am
May 23	Parents Talk: Youth Financial Information, FLC (English & Spanish) 10:30am
May 25	Orchestra and Choir Concert 6:00pm
May 26	Dual Language Immersion Performances Grades 3-5, 9:00am and 12:30pm
May 26	Last Day of Mustang Club
May 29	Memorial Day – No School
May 30	Family Learning Center Graduation 6:00pm
June 1	Kindergarten Graduation 1:30pm
June 1	PTA Carnival 3-8pm
June 2	No School for Students
June 5	Field Day
June 6	Living Traditions Day – Performances and Picnic at Midvale City Park 10:30am
June 7	Last Day of School – 8:25am-12:25pm
August 23	First Day of School for Grades 1-5, 2017-2018 School Year
August 28	First Day of School for Kindergarteners

Don't miss our annual **Living Traditions Program and Picnic** at Midvale City Park!



Come to the park on **Tuesday, June 6**, and enjoy singing and dancing from students and other school and community groups. Students will walk over with their classes and bring sack lunches from school. Food trucks including Tacos El Pariente, Kona Ice, and La Creperia will be there for parents, staff, and community members to enjoy. Performance will begin at **10:30am**.

Midvale Elementary School's Teacher of the Year

Second grade teacher **Teresa Smith** was named Midvale's Teacher of the Year, and we couldn't be more excited. We asked Mrs. Smith a few questions about herself:

How long have you been teaching? I have been teaching since 2005. I started teaching at Oakcrest Elementary teaching kindergarten. I taught there for a year and a half. Then I became a MUSTANG! While at Midvale, I have taught kindergarten, first, and second. I was also an interventionist for one year.

Where are you from? I am from Wyoming! Go POKES!! Born and raised...

Where did you go to school? I graduated from Westminster.

What was your very first job? My first job EVER was babysitting Miss Johnson! I worked at Embers Restaurant for a bit.

What is your favorite sport? Uhhhh...I guess I'm a runner now. (Right Midvale Mini-Marathoners?!) But I do love watching University of Wyoming football and basketball...when they have a good team. I am what is known as a 'Fair Weather Fan'.

What would you do if you won a million dollars? I would give it to Chip Watts so he could hire another 2nd grade teacher AND another 3rd grade teacher.

What superpower would you want and why? I would like to fly. Then I would NEVER be late to work.

Where would you travel if you could go anywhere? Maybe you have traveled already? I have been to the Caribbean a few times. I love scuba diving. I wish I could travel somewhere every summer to scuba dive. I would love to see the world, Italy, Ireland, London, France...but I gave my million dollars to Mr. Watts.

What are your greatest accomplishments? My greatest accomplishment is graduating college and now receiving Teacher of the Year. Not gonna lie, it's a pretty great feeling to be honored. Another accomplishment, keeping 29 kids MOSTLY under control every day. My greatest future accomplishment will be helping our school to be spotlighted on KSL news because we have been awarded an NCUST award.

What is something unique about you? I do Agility with my movie star dog, Pippi. (Yup! My dog has been in a movie!) Other than that, I'm just a girl standing in front of 29 kids, hopin' for the best!

#EPIC #GRITTY



A big THANK YOU to our **Midvale Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** and our **School Community Council (SCC)** members for the time and energy that they have contributed to our school, students, families, and staff. Consider becoming involved with PTA or SCC and support

your school!!!



THANK YOU to some of our many Partners...to **South Valley Services** for the Healthy Relationship Classes for parents...to **America First Credit Union** for Financial Classes for parents...to **AARP** for sponsoring our **Utah Food Bank** Mobile Food Pantry each month and helping to serve the food items to families...to Hayden Borg for doing a Cereal Drive for our students...and to our WatchDOGS...HIP HIP HOORAY!



Canyons School District works within a Community School model that supports our students and families along 5 pathways to achieve academic success:

- Academic
- Youth Development
- Parent Engagement
- Health & Social Services
- Community Partnerships

Midvale News Crew



Check out the Midvale Elementary Weekly News by the News Crew on our Midvale Elementary website. Click on the "Our School" tab and on "Midvale's Weekly News" to see our students spread the news!

Canyons School District partners with United Way of Salt Lake in our Community School Model!



Summertime is Coming – Keep Kids Active and Learning!



Encouraging physical activities and good nutrition during the summer can help children enjoy their summer while staying on track in their physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and verbal development. Kids who keep up during the summer are more successful learners! Need ideas?

- *Encourage your child to get outside and play*, remembering to be Safe, Kind, and Responsible.
- *Be active with your child.*
 - Play a game at the park, go for a walk or hike, do a nature scavenger hunt, try geocaching, and more.
- *Encourage good nutrition and good health.*
 - Join us at the **Summer Meal Program** at Midvale Elementary. June 12 -August 4. Breakfast from 8:30-9:00am and Lunch from 11:30-12:30. Free meals for all youth through age 18. Adults may purchase breakfast for \$2.00 and lunch for \$3.50. Kids' Café is at the Ruth Vine Tyler Library from 3:30-4pm as well.
 - Plant a garden with your child, even a small container garden. Help care for the Midvale **School Community Garden** over the summer (contact Heidi Sanger at 801-826-8794).
 - Cook or bake with your child. Your child will learn a life skill as well as practice math, measuring, and reading skills, and enjoy time with you!
 - For healthcare needs, try the Mid-Valley Health Clinic and Behavioral Health Clinic (801-417-0131), the 72nd Street Clinic, (801-566-5494) or the CBC Clinic (385-887-9002). Family Support Center (801-255-6881) also offers supports to individuals and families dealing with various life stressors.
- *Take advantage of free or low-cost activities, and make a calendar of activities.*
 - Check out **Utah Family Magazine** and **Utah Kids Calendar** for many activities.
 - **Copperview Recreation Center** has Summer Camp, Adventure Camp, Summer Soccer, and more! Call 385-468-1515.
 - **Boys and Girls Club of Salt Lake's** summer program runs from June 8-August 15. Call 801-256-9008.
 - **Midvale Summer Nights**, enjoy free concerts in the Midvale City Park every Friday at 6:30pm.
- *Make reading a priority.*
 - Check out the Summer Read Program at all of the libraries. Your own **Ruth Vine Tyler Library** has Kids' Café from 3:30-4 Monday through Friday, with activities afterwards, as well as many other opportunities for families.
- *Turn off the TV, computer, electronics.*
 - Play a board game or card game. Do a puzzle. Read a book. Play outside. Draw a picture. Create a project.
 - If they do go online, guide them to games and sites that are educational and brain-boosting. Monitor the games and sites that your children visit to ensure safety. For more information, check out Canyons' Parent Connections, a technology resource for parents. <http://parentconnections.canyonsdistrict.org>
- *Encourage writing.*
 - Keep a nature journal, create poetry, write down recipes to share, keep a scrapbook of summer adventures, write to a friend or former teacher, make a comic book.
- *Encourage math skills in daily activities*
 - Encourage counting change, baking, counting objects, comparing amounts, playing games, and more!
- *Assign responsibilities and provide structure for your child.*
- *Have fun! Explore your community! Try something new! Volunteer! Make new friends!*