

Hello to our wonderful Cherokee Families!

On behalf of the entire APT (**A**ssociation of **P**arents and **T**eachers) Board, we welcome you with joy and enthusiasm to our 2011-2012 school year. It is going to be an amazing year of working together and having fun! **Together we can**....accomplish great things!!!

We chose as our theme this year, **Together We Can**, to communicate to our Cherokee community, that together, we can all make a difference. With the support of our wonderful principal, Walt Chantler, our talented team of teachers and staff, and our dedicated and involved families **together we can!**

Last year, the APT Board's funding decisions were made based on the desire to continue to enhance our childrens' education. In doing so, with your generous funds raised throughout the year, the Board voted to fund ten support staff positions (aides and specialists) for the 2011-2012 academic year, increasing our funding of school aide positions by 26% over last year. Additionally this year, we are directly gifting each grade level with funds to purchase supplemental learning tools for their classrooms. In listening to the feedback of our community, and in light of continued SUSD budget cuts, we are hopeful that the provision of these positions and funds will help our teachers continue to provide the highest quality education at Cherokee.

As well, we continue to fund projects that bring vital improvements to our building and campus. Be on the lookout this coming year for a new shade structure to be installed over the area adjacent to the cafeteria. This will allow students the opportunity to enjoy lunch in an outdoor setting, weather and staff permitting. It is because of **YOU** and your generous support of our school, that all of this critical funding support can continue to be provided. **Together we can**, and did, make it happen this past year. We are hopeful that our community will match this generosity in our upcoming school year, so that we can continue to provide Cherokee students with these valuable resources.

There are many ways for you to become involved with the APT! From being a room parent, to participating in our various APT fundraising and school events, to simply lending a set of hands when neededthe APT is always welcoming you with open arms to join us in the work we do for our school. The **A**ssociation of **P**arents and **T**eachers is a strong, dedicated team of parents and staff at Cherokee. We encourage your support as an active participant on any of our committees. A complete list of officers and committee chairs is available on our APT website at www.cherokeeeapt.com. Please feel free to contact any APT Board member or chairperson directly at anytime. They are happy to answer any questions you may have!

August and September are filled with some important events, so please be sure to mark your calendars.

- **Orientation Celebration** will be held on Friday, August 5, from 12:30-3:00pm, in the Cherokee cafe. We welcome our new families, as well as Kindergarten and Pre-K families, at 12:30pm. All returning families are welcome to come join the celebration at 1:30 pm. Classrooms will be open for all families from 1-2pm.
- **First Day of School** is Monday August 8. School begins at 8:45am.
- **Boo Hoo/Woo Hoo Breakfast** is Monday August 8, immediately following morning drop-off, at 8:45am in the café. Everyone is welcome from 8:45-9:45am, and a light brunch will be served.

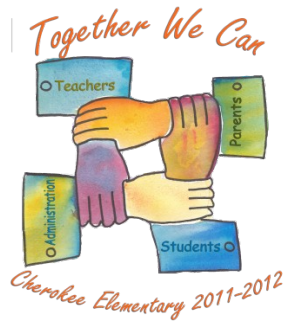
- **Back to School Nights** are August 16th and 17th. A letter from Mr. Chantler will detail your specific grade level dates and times.
- **Picture Day** is Thursday, September 1. Smile and say cheese!
- **APT General Meeting/Chat with Chantler** is Wednesday, September 7, at 6pm. This is an informal forum hosted by the APT several times throughout the year, either during the day or in the early evening, so that all can attend. This is an opportunity to come hear from our Principal and APT Board about current school news, and as well as seek any information from them that you may find helpful.
- **Sock Hop** is Friday, September 16, from 5-7pm. This is our first school social event of the year, and it is sure to knock your socks off!

We feel privileged to serve as your APT Co-Presidents this year, and thank you for this opportunity. We are always open to your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions, and are available to you at any time. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Together We Can... ... make it a great year! **TOGETHER WE CAN!!**

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Cherokee Calendar of Events

1st Quarter

AUGUST:

- 5 – Orientation Celebration – 12:30-3p.m. cafeteria
- 8 – First Day of School – 8:45a.m.-3:15p.m.
 - Boo Hoo Woo Hoo Breakfast – 8:45-9:45a.m. cafeteria
 - APT Sponsorship Drive Begins
 - Adopt-A-Book Class Contest Begins
- 10 – Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – 8:00-10:30a.m. teacher's lounge
- 16 – Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night – 5:00-7:00p.m.
- 17 – Early Release Day – 8:45a.m.-12:15p.m.
 - Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night – 5:00-7:00p.m.
- 25 – Community Fundraiser – look for details on times and location
- 31 – Early Release Day – 8:45a.m.-12:15p.m.

SEPTEMBER:

- 1 – Picture Day
- 2 – APT Sponsorship Drive Ends
 - Adopt-A-Book Class Contest Ends
- 5 – Labor Day – No School
- 7 - General APT Meeting/Chat with Chantler – 6:00-7:30p.m. cafeteria
- 16 – Sock Hop – 5:00-7:00p.m. cafeteria
- 21 – Early Release Day – 8:45a.m.-12:15p.m.
 - Community Fundraiser – look for details and location
- 30 – Art Works Drive Begins

OCTOBER:

- 3-7 – Spirit Week
- 5 - Family Game Night – 5:00-7:00p.m. cafeteria
- 7 – End 1st Quarter
 - Directory Distributed

Dates and times subject to change, check out www.cherokeeeapt.com for up to date details.

WELCOME BACK CHEROKEE FAMILIES!

Don't Miss the **“All Together Now”** Orientation Celebration.

Friday August 5th, 12:30-3pm

1-2 classrooms open to all

12:30 new families arrive

1:30 returning families

Our Orientation Celebration is THE event to learn all about what's going on at Cherokee!

Parents: don't miss this opportunity to take a school tour, meet teachers, and sign up for after-school activities. Also, remember to sign up for the lunch program, check out bus routes, and greet new families.

Kids: this is a great time to say hello to new teachers, buy spirit wear, and catch up with old friends. Stop by the cafeteria to design a hand-shaped decoration for your classroom too.

YOGURTOLOGY will be selling treats, so bring cash

This year's APT theme is “Together We Can”

Together, we can have an amazing year, so remember to sign up for the APT, and to volunteer with the many activities happening at our wonderful school.

Go to www.cherokeept.com for the most current and up to date info.

BOO HOO WOO HOO BREAKFAST

If just thinking about sending your baby off to school is throwing you into tears, or maybe the kids are the ones crying and leaving is harder than you expected, then come by the café Monday (first day of school) morning after drop off and get some support. It will be a great chance to meet other parents and dry your eyes. The APT will have coffee, donuts, and plenty of Kleenex for ALL!



BUS TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

Bus Info can be obtained from the district website at www.susd.org. Simply go to the site, mouse over “Parents” and click on “Bus Routes.”



School Supplies

Please go to the Cherokee website at <http://susd.cherokee.schoolfusion.us/> then mouse over the “About Cherokee” tab in the left-side navigation and click on “Suggested Supply List.” You will then be able to obtain the grade-specific school supplies your child needs to start the year off right.



Cherokee Spirit Wear for Sale

Please come visit the Cherokee Corral during orientation. We will be selling the latest Cherokee spirit wear, along with shorts and skorts. We will also be selling insulated Cherokee cups, pencils, bracelets and chapstick. Come and support Cherokee and show your spirit. Any questions please contact Amy Pickett [858-336-5004](tel:858-336-5004) or Jennifer Harmon [602-319-7723](tel:602-319-7723)

Cherokee Parking Lot and Express Lane

We are in need of Express Lane Volunteers. It requires only 30 minutes of your time from start to finish.

Just choose your preferred day (M-F) and time (8:15-8:45 AM or 3:00-3:30 PM). Pick a day and try it for a month. We'll provide training and vest. Please volunteer for this very important job! Contact Noreen Flood at 602-809-0917 or Flood.noreen@gmail.com

Cherokee Parking Lot Safety Guidelines

- Use the crosswalks and set a safe example for all our children. Walking across the lanes is unsafe and the children will follow you. Cross correctly and promote safety for our children.
- DO NOT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP IN THE PARKING LOT. Drop-off and pick-up of students is done from the Express Lane only. There is too much traffic in the parking lot and it is unsafe. When parking, walk your children to the crosswalk and/or meet them in front of the school.
- The parking lot will not accommodate all families during pick-up and drop-off. Be prepared to park on side streets and walk to the school. Plan your timing accordingly.

Cherokee Express Lane Procedures

Tips

- Avoid the traffic by dropping off early in the morning at 8:30 AM, and picking up a few minutes later at 3:20 PM. There is supervision in front of school in the mornings starting at 8:30 AM and after school until 3:30 PM. Children still waiting for their ride after 3:30 PM are asked to wait in the office.
- Reduce backups during Express Lane times by entering the parking lot from the northbound lane of 56th Street when possible.
- Arrange car seats so children can exit and enter your car on the passenger side. It is unsafe to exit on the driver's side in traffic. Otherwise, park and do not use the Express Lane.
- Share the Express Lane procedures with the drivers of your children so they will know what to expect.
- Kindergarten children must be picked up from the classroom. Please arrive early and park. In some cases, arrangements may be made with the teacher for a responsible older sibling to bring the child to the Express Lane.

Morning Drop-off 8:30 - 8:45 AM

- Have students ready to exit the cars before entering the Express Lane. Backpacks should be packed and zipped, breakfasts put away, hair combed and shoes on. This is a Stop, Drop and Roll system.
- Pull forward all the way to the cross walk, or as far as you can, before letting the children exit the car.
- Children should exit the cars in waves, from the first car just before the crosswalk, to the last car in line in the express lane. Do not wait until you are closer to the school. This impedes the flow of traffic and slows down the process.
- Pedestrians will have time to cross while the drop-off lane of traffic is unloading. As the unloaded cars exit, the pedestrians will be held back to keep the traffic flowing efficiently.

Afternoon Pick-up 3:15 – 3:30 PM

- Arrive after 3:15 PM to pick-up your children. Cars will not be allowed in the Express Lane until 3:15 PM. Before that time special buses and services will be using the lane.
- Create a sign with the student's full name (BIG, BOLD, LEGIBLE letters) and place on dash.
- As names are seen and relayed to the megaphone volunteer, they will be called out. Tell your children to be looking for their ride and to quickly come as they hear their name called.
- We will call the child's name three times. If the child does not arrive, we'll ask you to circle around and reenter the queue or you may park.
- After 3:30 PM supervision ends in front of school. We ask all children to wait in the office for their ride to ensure their safety. If arriving after 3:30 PM please park and pick up your child in the office.

TAX CREDIT

A Win-Win That Costs You \$0

Cherokee Elementary School

Dollar-for-Dollar Tax Credit

In Arizona, you can give a \$400 per couple (or \$200 per single) donation to Cherokee Elementary School and qualify for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your AZ State taxes. The great news is that this tax credit does not compete with PRIVATE school tax credits.

Cherokee Elementary School needs your help! Please consider making a lasting positive impact on the children and families by supporting the school this year. It's simple as 1, 2, 3. Here are the steps:

1. Donate \$400 as a married couple (or \$200 as a single),
2. Give the donation receipt to your tax professional.
3. Receive the dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your 2011 taxes!

Donate online here: <https://touchbase.susd.org/taxcredits/login-form.aspx>

To mail, donations must be postmarked by 12/31/2011 to qualify for 2011 tax year.



Positions are available at Cherokee for the 2011-2012 School Year. Are you or someone you know interested in working at Cherokee? Principal Chantler is looking to fill a handful of positions prior to the start of school. We are looking for three Special Education Aides, a PM Crossing Guard, a Second Grade Instructional Aide and a Computer Teacher. Please contact Mr. Chantler directly for the details.

Anyone who is interested in applying for these positions must go to the SUSD website and submit a Classified Application. The website is www.susd.org. Mr. Chantler can be reached at [602-510-7216](tel:602-510-7216) or e-mail: walter.chantler@susd.org



Cherokee Community,

Summer is almost over and the 2011-2012 school year is just about to begin. The Cherokee APT and Cherokee staff have been working throughout the summer, planning for the upcoming school year, and I know you'll be pleased. The theme we have chosen for the upcoming year is, "Together we can..." which we will apply to all of the great things we do this year. There are many educational and fun events planned throughout the year by the APT....truly something for everyone. I encourage you all to support the APT, and become involved in any way you would like. "Together We Can" make this a great year at Cherokee!

I would like to share with you one of the highlights of this summer. Over 80% of our teachers attended a specialized training on the "Prompts of Depth and Complexity," which is an instructional model that will help teachers to modify their instruction for Gifted children, and children who are performing above average. Our teachers are serious about differentiation of instruction, and are dedicated to bringing this model into our classrooms. It was wonderful to see that so many of them attended this training!

With regard to staffing, each year student enrollment dictates the number of teachers we have. At the time this letter was submitted for publication, and comparing staffing to last year, we had to decrease the number of kindergarten sections to three, and decrease the number of second grade sections to three. If current trends continue, however, I am hoping that we can bring back the fourth section of Kindergarten, as well as increase the number of teachers in second and third grades. Our numbers are very close, and only time will tell.

You and your children will be able to find out who their teacher is for next year during our annual Orientation Celebration which will take place on Friday, August 5th. Class lists will be posted on campus by 12:30 PM. New families are encouraged to attend at 12:30, and returning families are welcome from 1:30 – 3:00pm. During the orientation, you will have the opportunity to meet with the teachers, find out more about the Cherokee A.P.T., purchase spirit wear, and start your child's lunch account. Parking is always scarce, so please carpool with another Cherokee family, if possible.

There are a few upcoming events to mark on your calendars. Besides our Orientation Celebration on the 5th, please join us on the first day of school, August 8, immediately after drop-off, in the school cafe. We will host our annual Boo Hoo /Woo Hoo Brunch, from 8:45-9:45am. I will be there, as well as our APT Board, and we would love to see you! Also, our Back to School Nights will be held on August 16th and 17th. Stay posted for a letter detailing specific grades and times, but please do plan to join us on those evenings, and hear about the upcoming school year from your child's teacher.

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer, and check our school website in August for updates on staffing adjustments, supply lists and other important information. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Walt Chantler
Cherokee Principal