



# SIERRA NEWS

December 2022

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## Message from the Principal

Dear Sierra families,

Wow! It's hard to believe the first semester of the 22/23 school year is almost over. We've accomplished so much during this time. Most recently we had fun with a school-wide reading competition. Congratulations to the 4th grade who read almost 200 hours on Amplify over the 2 week competition! They will be rewarded with a donut party next week. We've also enjoyed many other events. Last week we held our 31st Annual Turkey Trot where we welcomed 539 visitors to campus! A big thank you to all who helped make this a Trot to remember. The PTO's Scholastic Book Fair was also a big hit. The students always look forward to purchasing fun items and books.

There are many things to look forward to next semester, as well. There are grade level field trips planned, Kindergarten Showcase Night, Date Night Dance Night, PTO Gala Night and the Spring Carnival coming up. I am excited about 2023!

From the entire Sierra staff, we wish all of our Sierra community a safe, happy and restful holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Brian Gibson, Principal

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## Upcoming Events

DEC 6: Choir Concert, 6:30pm  
DEC 7: MOD Pizza Restaurant Night  
DEC 9: General PTO Meeting, 10:00am  
DEC 13: Governing Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
DEC 16: Spelling Bee, 8:15am  
DEC 23: NO SCHOOL, Teacher Day  
DEC 26-JAN 6: Winter Break  
JAN 9: School Resumes

JAN 16: NO SCHOOL, Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JAN 17: New Student Registration Begins

[View Full Calendar](#)



***Tax Credit Information:***

This giving season, please consider making a tax credit donation to a Kyrene school. Arizona tax payers can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit when they contribute to extracurricular activities in public schools. Tax credit donations help students attend activities like athletics; art and music programs; character education; and field trips...anything that requires enrolled students to pay a fee to participate. When you make a tax credit donation, you can reduce the amount of taxes you owe to the State of Arizona. The amount you contribute (up to \$200 for single taxpayers or \$400 for married couples filing jointly) will be the amount you may claim as a state tax credit. Begin the donation process by visiting the Kyrene tax credit donation [webpage](#).

***Student Absences:***

If your student will be tardy or absent, a phone call must be made to the attendance line, 480.541.5201. Emails are not an acceptable notification of absence. Questions about attendance can be addressed by calling the office, 480.541.5200, during office hours.

***Lost and Found:***

The Lost and Found is full of jackets, sweatshirts, water bottles, lunch boxes, eyeglasses, books, etc. Please encourage your child to come and look for anything they may be missing. Parents are welcome to peruse also. The Lost and Found is located in the Health Office. All items will be put out in the cafeteria the last week before Winter Break for students to look through for convenience. Anything left over will be donated to the Kyrene Family Resource Center immediately after Winter Break.

***Dogs on Campus:***

This is a gentle reminder that dogs are not allowed on campus at any time. Thank you for keeping your pets home or in the car.

***Stay Connected:***

Sign-up for text message reminders! Opt in by replying "Y" or "YES" to 67587.

***Update Your Information and Emergency Contacts:***

If your phone number, address or emergency contacts have changed, please update by going to your [ParentVUE account](#). Choose "Health, Emergency and Address Information". It is important to keep the school up-to-date with demographic information for your student. All updates must be done online.

***Morning Parent Drop-Off:***

When arriving to school to drop-off your student, please pull as forward as possible. This will enable vehicles to enter the parking lot and not block traffic. Staff is there to direct and keep the flow of traffic moving. If it is necessary to assist your child from the car, please park and walk your child to the gate or door by utilizing the marked crosswalks. For the safety of you and your student, do not cross in between vehicles.

**Please do not leave your student unattended at the playground gates.** Staff arrives for duty at 7:00am and it has been noticed that there is a large amount of students being dropped off early and unattended. Kyrene policy prohibits students on campus prior to staff duty arrival.

***Food Services:***

Please visit the [Food Services website](#) for information on lunch menus and online payments. The December [lunch menu](#) is now available. Sierra does not serve breakfast.

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Looking for Winter Break options? Kyrene Community Education offers non-school day enrichment academies. Please visit the Kyrene Community Education [website](#) for information on after school programs, enrichment programs and non-school day enrichment academies.

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## Parent Reminders

### *Holiday Shoppe:*

The PTO Holiday Shoppe is next week from Monday, December 5 through Thursday December 8. Students will be able to shop during a designated lunch recess time. Volunteers will be available to assist your child with their choices.

### *Pajama Drive:*

Sierra's 8th Annual Pajama Drive to benefit the Kyrene Family Resource Center is underway. Please consider donating a new pair of pajamas for any age child (infant-teens). Our fifth grade students will categorize, count and box up all donations on Tuesday, December 6. We will celebrate the efforts of our community, students and staff by having a school-wide Pajama Day next Wednesday, December 7.

### *Registration for New Students for 2023/2024:*

New student registration begins on January 17. Do you have an incoming Kindergartner? We'd like to invite you to the Kindergarten Showcase on Wednesday, February 1st at 5:30pm. You do not have to be registered to attend. This is a family event! Bring your incoming kinder. More information will be coming soon.

Current 5th graders who are going to Altadeña do not need to register. All 5th graders will automatically be enrolled. If your student will not be attending Altadeña, please let your student's teacher and the school office know.

### *Hour of Code:*

Kyrene is proud to be participating in the Hour of Code™ again this year in celebration of the 2022 Computer Science Education Week annual event. During Computer Science Week, December 5-11, students throughout the District will have the opportunity to use their problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity to explore computer science.

### *Kyrene Foundation:*

Please Give Today Through Dec. 3rd

Needs may vary but our community never wavers.

Last year's donation drive was a tremendous success, due to an incredible outpouring of generosity from our community and partners.

Working together, The Kyrene Foundation, Sun Valley Church, the Kyrene District and YOU, our generous community, were able to ensure that over 200 families and 700 children did not go without the simple joys of the holiday season.

This year, we find ourselves faced with an even greater need. The number of families whose holiday could be made brighter, has increased by over 50%. Consequently, we have set an even more ambitious goal for this year's Winter Wonderland event. \$40,000 is the targeted amount to make certain that our Kyrene families and children have a joyous holiday season. Won't you help us get there?

Together we can do this. Please give today.

[Donation Form.](#)

Thank you!



## Contact Us

**Kyrene de la Sierra**  
1122 E. Liberty Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85048

**Phone:** 480-541-5200  
**Fax:** 480-541-5210  
**Attendance:** 480-541-5201

**School Hours:** 7:30 am - 2:15 pm  
*Early Dismissal Wed: 12:15 pm*

**Office Hours:** 7:00 am - 3:30 pm  
*Wednesday: 7:00 am - 1:30 pm*

*National Blue Ribbon School*



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