

CAT TRACKS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

A Wonderful Start to Fall!

Dear Mt. Vista Families,

What a wonderful start to the school year! I am incredibly proud of our students and staff and all they have accomplished so far this school year. I congratulate our Girls Volleyball, Cross Country, and Flag Football teams on a terrific season. We are so proud of the Cougar spirit, teamwork, and dedication you have shown!

I also want to thank all of our families and community members who joined us for Math and Science Night, Grandparents Day, and our Grades 6–8 School Dance. Your participation and support make our school community so special, and I am grateful for the many ways you help our students learn, grow, and thrive. Here's to a fantastic October!

Crystle Nehrmeyer
Superintendent

Cat Tracks is also Online!

If you ever misplace your printed copy of Mt. Vista Cat Tracks, our monthly school newsletter, you may find an online copy at www.osd2.org. We upload an electronic version of our newsletter each month to our website homepage so you can stay up to date and current on all this Mt. Vista, whether you have a printed copy or not.

Attendance Matters

Every Day Counts! We love seeing our Cougars at school, ready to learn, grow, and make the most of each day. Families, please help your student start the day strong by arriving on time. School gates open at 7:30 AM, and the tardy bell rings at 8:00 AM.

Contact Us

Crystle Nehrmeyer, Superintendent
520 896 3070, option 3
cnehrmeyer@osd2.org

Lydia Smith, School Office Manager
520 896 3000, option 2
lsmith@osd2.org

Mt. Vista K-8 School - October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 40 th Day of School! 12:45 PM Dismissal	2 Student of the Month Breakfast, 7:00 AM, CC @ HDMS, 2 nd Grade Field Trip to Rooster Cogburn's	3 Community Schools Soccer at Hayden Girls' Volleyball Tournament in Eloy
4	5	6 12:45 PM Dismissal	7	8 Registration for FREE SaddleBrooke Walk for Kids on 11/14/26 due today!	9 Hope Walk, 8:30 AM 12:45 PM Dismissal	10 Community Schools Soccer at Oracle
11	12	13	14 October Governing Board Meeting on Zoom, 5:30 PM	15	16	17
18	19	20 Quarter 1 Honor Assemblies 12:45 PM Dismissal	21 ASBA Pinal County Board Member Meeting, 5:00 PM	22 K-2 Field Trip to Theater for Play, 8 th Grade Trip Parent Meeting, 5:15 PM	23 Math Master Shirt Day!	24
25	26	27 12:45 PM Dismissal Winter Season Coaches Meeting, PTO Meeting, 1 PM	28 Winter Season Sports Practice begins! (Basketball and Wrestling) for Grades 6-8	29	30 Halloween Costume Parade, 1:00 PM, 3 rd Grade Field Trip, November Cat Tracks sent home 🐱	31

Calendar subject to change. Updates will be shared via your child's Class Dojo app and on our school Facebook page, Mountain Vista K-8 School.



MOUNTAIN VISTA
K-8 School

October

Menu for Mt. Vista K-8 School

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Bar Served Daily!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Did you know?

Cucumbers are 95% water. Along with water, cucumbers can help hydrate you. Cucumbers are technically a fruit because they develop from a flower and contain seeds.



Questions or Comments?

Karen Belknap, Food Service Director
520 896 3000, Ext. 3029 and kbelknap@osd2.org

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday



Menu is subject to change.

5 **Breakfast**
Frudel
OR Cereal

Lunch
Crispy Chicken Sandwich
Cheeseburger
Steamed Broccoli

6 **Breakfast**
Cheesy Omelet
OR Cereal

Lunch
Sloppy Joe Sandwich
PBJ Sandwich
Seasoned Corn

7 **Breakfast**
Pancake
OR Cereal

Lunch
Soft Chicken Tacos
Bean Tostada
Seasoned Green Beans

8 **Breakfast**
Waffle
OR Cereal

Lunch
Pepperoni Pizza
Chef Salad
Steamed Carrots

9 **Breakfast**
Biscuit & Gravy
OR Cereal

Lunch
Hot Dog
Spicy Chicken Sandwich
French Fries

12
Fall Break

13
Fall Break

14
Fall Break

15
Fall Break

16
Fall Break

19 **Breakfast**
Muffin
OR Cereal

Lunch
Chicken Parmesan Sandwich
Bean & Cheese Burrito
Steamed Broccoli

20 **Breakfast**
Breakfast Sandwich
OR Cereal

Lunch
Beef Quesadilla
Chicken Fajitas
Black Beans

21 **Breakfast**
Pancake
OR Cereal

Lunch
Spaghetti w/Meatballs
Hamburger
Seasoned Green Beans

22 **Breakfast**
Waffle
OR Cereal

Lunch
Pepperoni Pizza
Chef Salad
Steamed Carrots

23 **Breakfast**
Biscuit & Gravy
OR Cereal

Lunch
Corn Dog
Crispy Chicken Sandwich
Seasoned Corn

26 **Breakfast**
Frudel
OR Cereal

Lunch
Orange Chicken
Hot Dog
Steamed Broccoli

27 **Breakfast**
Cheesy Omelet
OR Cereal

Lunch
Soft Beef Tacos
Chicken Quesadilla
Refried Beans

28 **Breakfast**
Yogurt w/Grahams
OR Cereal

Lunch
Chicken Alfredo
PBJ Sandwich
Seasoned Green Beans

29 **Breakfast**
French Toast Sticks
OR Cereal

Lunch
Pepperoni Pizza
Chef Salad
Steamed Carrots

30 **Breakfast**
Breakfast Burrito
OR Cereal

Lunch
Boneless HOT Wings
Hamburger
Seasoned Corn



MT. VISTA K-8 ANNUAL Hope Walk

Walking Together • Sharing Hope • Building Community

≡ Friday, October 9 ≡

Join us for one of our favorite Mt. Vista traditions—the Annual Hope Walk! Our students, staff, families, PTO, and community will come together for a morning of walking, encouragement, healthy snacks, and HOPE! ❤️



WHERE DO WE MEET?

Students will load buses at Mt. Vista K-8 School and travel to the Oracle Court House to begin the Hope Walk.

Families are invited to meet us at the Oracle Court House at 8:30 AM.



Starting Point:
Oracle Court House



Family Arrival:
8:30 AM



OUR HOPE WALK ROUTE

1

We will begin at the Oracle Court House and walk down American Ave.



2

We will stop for a rest break at St. Helen's Church, where our wonderful Mt. Vista PTO and amazing grade-level sponsors will have water and healthy snacks available for everyone.



3

After our rest break, we will continue our walk and finish at:



Mt. Vista K-8 School



NEED A RIDE BACK?

A bus will be available to take families back to the Oracle Court House following the Hope Walk.

SHOW YOUR GRADE-LEVEL PRIDE!

Students are encouraged to wear their assigned grade-level color:

Kindergarten Pink

1st Grade Maroon

2nd Grade Yellow

3rd Grade Green

4th Grade Orange

5th Grade Purple

6th Grade Red

7th Grade Blue

8th Grade Black



COME PREPARED!

Please make sure your child:

- ✓ Wears comfortable walking shoes
- ✓ Applies sunscreen
- ✓ Brings a water bottle
- ✓ Wears their grade-level color
- ✓ Comes ready to walk, connect, and share hope!



PERMISSION SLIP

Your child's teacher will send home a Hope Walk permission slip.

Please return the completed permission slip to your child's teacher by Monday, October 5.

Questions? Please contact your child's teacher.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO WALK TOGETHER!

Mt. Vista K-8

Walking together. Sharing hope. Strengthening our community.



Mt. Vista K-8 School



Extended School Day Program

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY,
THURSDAY FROM
2:45 TO 4:00 PM



FREE



**WHAT
WE
PROVIDE**

- After-School Snack
- Tutoring by Mt. Vista Teachers
- Gifted Education (GATE) Club
- Band Club for Grades 6-8
- School Bus Transportation for Oracle residents

September - December Offerings:

**Tutoring for 1st Grade, 2nd Grade,
3rd Grade every M-W-Th,
Tutoring for 4th Grade on Weds,
Band with Mr. Bartolic on M-W-Th,
GATE (Gifted) Club on Weds,
7th and 8th Grade Tutoring/Study Hall
on M-W-Th**

**Contact your child's teacher for more
information!**



Parent-Teacher Conferences

We value your involvement in your child's education and are excited to invite you to our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences for Quarter 1 of the new school year. Please reach out to your child's teacher to schedule a conference.

We would like to connect with ALL parents and guardians during the week of September 28 - October 2.

Thank you!



Week of September 28 - October 2, 2026
Appointments available for in-person, virtual, and phone conferences.



Scholastic

Sponsored
by Mt. Vista
Student
Council!



BOOK FAIR



Discover exciting new
stories, inspiring books, and
unforgettable adventures
at our Fall Book Fair!

Sept. 28 - Oct. 2

Mt. Vista K-8 School
Growth Room

Read
Discover
Explore

- Great books to explore
- Find new favorites
- Fun for all ages
- Celebrate reading & learning!

**Free
Entry**



Scholastic Book Fair accepts cash and card payments.
You may preview online at
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/mountainvistaschool>

MT. VISTA K-8 SCHOOL

SPIRIT WEEK

OCT. 5-9, 2026

MON
OCT. 5



MOVIE MONDAY

Dress as your favorite school appropriate movie character!

TUE
OCT. 6



SAFARI GUIDE VS. ANIMALS

Dress up as a safari guide or a wild safari animal!

WED
OCT. 7



COUNTRY VS. CITY

Dress up country western or city urban, your choice!

THU
OCT. 8



2000S & BELOW

Dress up in nostalgic outfits from past eras, from the 2000s and beyond!

FRI
OCT. 9



COLOR DAY

Each grade level will wear their assigned Hope Walk color!

THANK YOU, MT. VISTA STUDENT COUNCIL!



FALL BREAK

Oct. 10-18, 2026



MOUNTAIN VISTA
K-8 School





FIRST QUARTER HONOR ASSEMBLIES

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Mt. Vista Cafeteria

Grades K-2: 8:15 AM

Grades 3-5: 9:30 AM

Grades 6-8: 10:10 AM

We will recognize students for outstanding citizenship, academic growth and performance, and proficiency on the Spring AASA assessments!

Walk for Kids

5K • 1 Mile Fun Walk

Hosted by
**SaddleBrooke
Community Outreach**



Do you enjoy the Mt. Vista Hope Walk? Do you want to participate in another fun, community walk? Join us for the annual SaddleBrooke Community Outreach Walk for Kids!

- Load bus at Mt. Vista K-8 School at 8:00 AM
- Walk starts in SaddleBrooke at 8:30 AM
- Return to Mt. Vista K-8 School following the walk

November 14, 2026

FREE for Mt. Vista
students, families, staff!

**Registration
due October 8**

**Registration form on
opposite side →**



2026 Walk for Kids



The 28th Annual Walk for Kids (formerly the Walkathon) is scheduled for **November 14, 2026**. The event begins at 8:30 am from the SaddleBrooke HOA1 parking lot, 64500 E. SaddleBrooke Boulevard. The full walk is approximately 3.25 miles, and the half-walk is approximately 1 mile. Both walks will end at the SaddleBrooke HOA1 parking lot where the Snack Shack will be available after the event.



Be sure to wear your Walk for Kids T-shirt



THERE IS NO SCHOOL REGISTRATION FEE

Before registering, each participant's parent and/or guardian is required to read the following and sign below:

Recommend students 11 or under take 1 mile walk. Students 12 or over may take the 3.25 mile walk

In consideration of acceptance of this entry, I hereby for myself, my heirs, my executors, and administrators waive any and all rights or claims I may have against SaddleBrooke Community Outreach, Inc., and all supporters associated with this event, their agents, representatives and successors. I will hold them harmless from any and all injuries suffered from this event. I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand my own liability. By signing below, the Parent/Guardian authorizes SBCO to use the photographic likeness of the student for various articles or advertising.

Walker's Name: _____

School: _____

Parent/Guardian Telephone Number: _____

Unisex T-Shirt Size (Please Circle) S M L XL XXL

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Deliver the registration form to your school administrator as soon as possible to ensure shirt sizes are available. Forms must be sent to SBCO not later than **10/12/2026**

For more information contact:

SaddleBrooke Community Outreach, 63675 E. SaddleBrooke Blvd., Suite L, SaddleBrooke, AZ 85739
520.825.3302 -- Open between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday or at www.sbco.org

Received by: _____ on (MM/DD/YY) _____

Mt. Vista PTO is collecting healthy treats and prizes for the Halloween Costume Parade!

The new Arizona's Healthy Schools Act does not allow public schools to provide ultra-processed foods, candy, snacks, or treats during the school day that contain potassium bromate, propylparaben, titanium dioxide, brominated vegetable oil, yellow dye 5 or 6, blue dye 1 or 2, green dye 3, or red dye 3 or 40.

However, that does not mean that we cannot give healthy snacks and small prizes to kiddos during our annual Halloween Costume Parade!

Starting October 1 and through October 26, our Mt. Vista PTO is collecting boxes/bags of any of the attached, approved snacks from the Arizona Healthy Schools Act list. We will also collect Halloween themed pencils, pencils, stickers, stress balls, bounce balls, etc. to distribute during the parade. The class that collects the most units (individual bags of fruit snacks, or pencils, or bags of crackers, etc.) will earn a PIZZA PARTY with delicious pizza free of any of the prohibited ingredients listed above.

Please be sure that the donated box/bag is labeled with your child's classroom teacher's name and delivered to Mrs. Fisher's classroom by October 26. Thank you!



If you're looking for foods that meet the USDA **Smart Snacks in School** standards, here are some of the most common items that are allowable to sell or serve during the school day.

Chips & Savory Snacks

- Baked Lay's
- Baked Cheetos
- Baked Ruffles
- SunChips (approved package sizes only)
- PopCorners
- Harvest Snaps
- Veggie Straws (approved varieties)
- SkinnyPop Popcorn (approved sizes)
- Smartfood White Cheddar Popcorn (approved sizes)
- Pirate's Booty Aged White Cheddar

Crackers & Pretzels

- Goldfish Baked Crackers (approved package sizes)
- Whole grain Cheez-It Snap'd (approved varieties)
- Mini pretzels
- Whole grain crackers
- Triscuits (single-serve)
- Wheat Thins (approved serving size)

Granola & Cereal Bars

- MadeGood Granola Bars
- KIND Kids Bars
- Nutri-Grain Bars (some flavors/sizes)
- Quaker Chewy Granola Bars (select varieties)
- Nature Valley Protein Bars (approved varieties)
- Cheerios bars

Fruit & Vegetable Snacks

- Fresh fruit
- Fresh vegetables
- Applesauce cups (unsweetened)
- Fruit cups packed in juice or water
- Raisins
- Freeze-dried fruit
- Dried fruit with no added sugar

Dairy

- String cheese
- Low-fat cheese sticks
- Light Babybel cheese
- Low-fat yogurt cups or tubes
- Cottage cheese cups

Protein Snacks

- Roasted chickpeas
- Roasted edamame
- SunButter cups
- Hummus with pretzels or vegetables
- Hard-boiled eggs (if refrigerated)

Beverages

- Plain water (any size)
- Sparkling water (no added sweeteners)
- Low-fat milk
- Fat-free flavored milk

- 100% fruit juice (size limits apply by grade level)
- 100% vegetable juice (size limits apply)

Popular Costco/Sam's Club Items That Often Qualify

- SkinnyPop Individual Bags
- Pirate's Booty Snack Bags
- MadeGood Granola Minis
- Bear Fruit Rolls
- Brothers All Natural Fruit Crisps
- Wonderful Pistachios (high school only if allergy policy allows)
- Unsweetened applesauce pouches
- Fresh Cuties mandarins
- Cheese sticks
- Baby carrots

There are quite a few sweet treats that meet the USDA Smart Snacks standards. Many manufacturers make school-compliant versions specifically for vending machines, fundraisers, and school stores. Here are some of the most popular options:

Cookies & Baked Treats

- Mini chocolate chip cookies (Smart Snack compliant varieties)
- Whole grain chocolate chip cookies
- Lofthouse Mini Soft Sugar Cookies (school-approved version)
- Mini oatmeal cookies
- Animal crackers
- Teddy Grahams (approved package sizes)
- Graham cracker packs
- Mini vanilla wafers

Rice Crispy & Marshmallow Treats

- Kellogg's Rice Krispies Treats (Smart Snack version)
- MadeGood Crispy Squares
- Whole grain marshmallow crispy treats

Brownies & Cakes

- Smart Snack brownies (many brands make individually wrapped versions)
- Mini chocolate muffins (whole grain)
- Mini banana bread
- Mini cinnamon crumb cake
- Whole grain coffee cake

Fruit-Based Sweets

- That's It Fruit Bars
- Stretch Island Fruit Leather
- Bear Fruit Rolls
- Brothers All Natural Fruit Crisps
- Crispy Green freeze-dried fruit
- Freeze-dried strawberries, apples, peaches, or bananas

Frozen Treats (if you have a freezer)

- 100% fruit bars
- Fruit pops with no added sugar
- Low-fat frozen yogurt cups
- Low-fat ice cream novelties that meet Smart Snack standards

Yogurt Treats

- Go-Gurt Low Fat (approved varieties)
- Light & Fit yogurt cups
- Greek yogurt cups with fruit

- Yogurt-covered raisins (some brands and serving sizes qualify)

Chocolate-Flavored Snacks

These aren't candy bars, but they can satisfy a chocolate craving:

- MadeGood Chocolate Chip Granola Minis
- Fiber One Brownies (school-compliant versions)
- KIND Kids Chocolate Chip Bars
- Chocolate chip baked snack bars
- Chocolate-dipped granola bars (approved varieties)

Popular Smart Snack Brands

These brands have many compliant products:

- MadeGood
- General Mills (Whole Grain Rich line)
- Kellogg's Smart Snacks
- J&J Snack Foods
- Snack Pack (certain pudding cups)
- Clif Kid ZBars (select flavors)
- Nature Valley (select products)

Easy crowd-pleasers for elementary students

If you're stocking a school store or concession stand, these tend to be favorites:

- 🍪 Mini chocolate chip cookies
- 🍫 MadeGood Chocolate Chip Granola Minis
- 🍌 Rice Krispies Treats (Smart Snack version)
- 🧸 Teddy Grahams
- 🍏 Applesauce pouches
- 🍓 Freeze-dried strawberries
- 🐻 Bear Fruit Rolls
- 🍫 Fiber One Brownies (approved version)

What you generally won't find

Most traditional candy doesn't qualify:

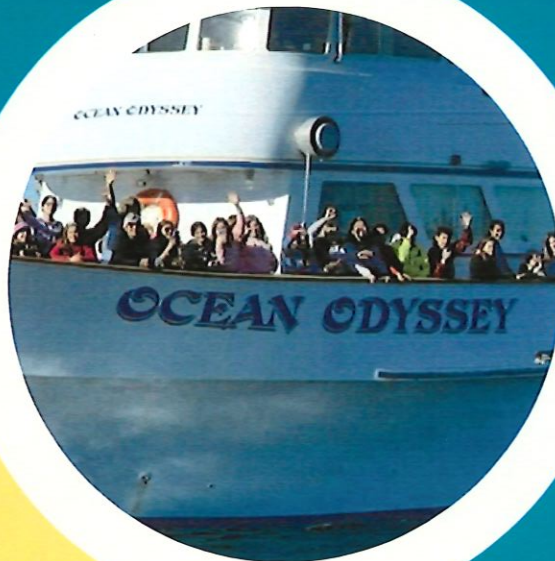
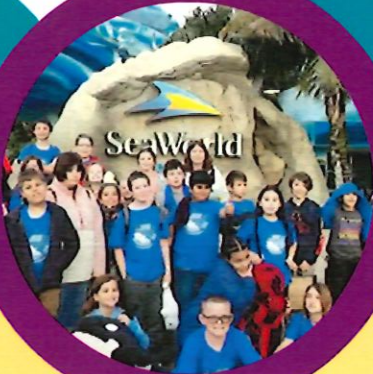
- M&M's
- Skittles
- Starburst
- Hershey bars
- Reese's
- Sour Patch Kids
- Regular Oreos
- Little Debbie snack cakes

OCT 22
5:15 PM

8th Grade Trip

PARENT MEETING

We have a special, educational trip planned for our Mt. Vista 8th Graders to San Diego, CA on **April 30 - May 1, 2027**! Join us for an informational meeting to review expectations, objectives, packing lists, etc. on Thursday, October 22, 2026. We will meet at 5:15 PM in the Mt. Vista Growth Room. The trip cost of \$345 per student will be paid for by the Oracle School District. Families will be charged \$60 for an all-you-can eat food pass for their child at Sea World. Questions? Please contact Mrs. Guerrero at cguerrero@osd2.org. Thank you!



MOUNTAIN VISTA
K-8 School

Oracle Public Library

BOOK SALE

Saturday, October 24, 2026

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Thousands of books!

- Paperbacks
- Hardbacks
- Fiction
- Non-Fiction
- CDs and DVDs



2-3 pm "Fill a bag with books" for only \$5.00 (We supply the bag, and your job is to fill it!)

565 E. American Ave., Oracle, Arizona 85623

Phone 520-896-2121

Proudly serving our community for over 100 years!

MT. VISTA K-8 SCHOOL'S ANNUAL

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE

FUN!

**HEALTHY
TREATS!**

TRADITION!

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
9:00 AM - PREK
1:00 PM - K-4**

**ALL MT. VISTA STUDENTS ARE
INVITED TO WEAR A SCHOOL
APPROPRIATE, DRESS CODE
APPROPRIATE COSTUME TO
SCHOOL ON OCTOBER 30. MASKS
MUST BE REMOVED DURING CLASS
TIME. NO TOY WEAPONS OR
EXCESSIVE BLOOD. THANK YOU!**

