

Phone Friend Program

Phone Friend, a program of the Association for Supportive Child Care, provides safe resources for children who are bored, home alone and/or need extra support or guidance, including a free, bilingual phone line, safety trainings, a safe, interactive website and a youth volunteer program. Safety Tips include: (1) Trusted adults are people who take care of you and help you stay safe; a stranger is anyone you do not know whether they seem nice or not. (2) Always check first with a parent/guardian before going with anyone, anywhere, anytime. (3) Never go with a stranger or even someone you know without checking first. (4) If home alone, be sure to lock your door. (5) Never open the door for someone you do not know. (6) Never tell anyone your personal information or that you are home alone, if they ask for an adult, say "They are busy." (7) Never give out your full name, address, phone number, location, school name, or what you look like over the Internet. School age children who are bored, lonely or need help with homework may call the phone line, Monday-Friday, 1-6:30 p.m. at 602-253-9099 or 1-800-308-2000. For more information, visit phonefriend.org.

Showings for the Hearing-Impaired

Butterfly Wonderland, American's largest rainforest atrium now offers special 3-D showings for the hearing impaired. »The experience begins with a viewing of the "Flight of the Butterflies" and the specially-edited film for the hearing impaired introduces them to the fascinating life of butterflies. According to Executive Director, Dee Mangulins, "We are thrilled to be able to offer this program for the deaf and proud to be socially conscious and sensitive to this important sector of our community." »The special showings take place the first weekend of every month. For times and dates, call 480-800-3000 or visit butterflywonderland.com.



Gifted Pre-K

At Desert Cove Elementary School, a school in the Paradise Valley Unified School District, gifted preschool students start and end the day with a meeting on the rug. They have two half hour outdoor learning times in addition to lunch in the cafeteria. Though the class meets for two designated circle times (whole-group instruction), two large portions of the day are devoted to learning centers. Learning centers are areas within the classroom where materials that are related by subject, purpose, or projected skills are used independently, or with teacher direction, to reinforce and enrich one or more skills or concepts. »Technology is on the forefront of learning in the Gifted Preschool class at PVSchools. Mrs. Torrilhon, a teacher at Desert Cove, integrates clips and videos to bring learning to life, and students have the opportunity to explore and create on iPads, Chromebooks, MacBooks and iMacs. "My students have created multimedia projects via 30Hands and Pixie, progressed through a course in computer coding, and even individualize their learning and practice in math and reading skills in the classroom and at home," she says. Every day brings new questions and discoveries. But mostly it is the raw delight exhibited in "ah-ha" moments that Mrs. Torrilhon loves the most. »The Gifted Preschool program at PVSchools is offered at Desert Cove Elementary, Fireside Elementary, North Ranch Elementary and new for the 2015-16 school year at Desert Trails Elementary. Learn more about the Gifted Preschool program at pvschools.net/preschool.

New Valley Water Attraction

Wet 'n' Wild Phoenix is thrilled to announce the grand opening of their new experience – The Crazy Cactus Roaring River. Formerly the lazy river, the new experience features wave action, fast-moving water, tipping buckets, refreshing waterfalls and water curtains in an invigorating river ride. »Once upon a time, the Cactus Castaways went to Monsoon Bay for a relaxing day on the water. Suddenly, a Tornado hit and turned Monsoon Bay into a Raging River. With Serpentes and Constrictor being dropped into the water by the Phoenix Flyers, they had no choice but to head toward the deadly Mammoth Falls and fall into the Super Bowl. They achieved Maximum Velocity and were shot into the waters of the Crazy Cactus Roaring River. Their speedy journey took them through a magically cool oasis of waterfall, mist, and sudden splashes from above. Suddenly, their raft beached on a desert bank in the middle of the river. The Castaways are still there looking for other riders to pick them up and show them the way out. Join us on this journey to help save the Castaways. For more information, visit www.wetnwildphoenix.com.

