

## Weekly Board Report 23 October 2015

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1535 as compared to 1504 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 718 vs. 738; Middle School 351 vs. 320; High School 443 vs. 415; Accommodations School 23 vs. 27. South Verde Magnet School 71 vs. 95.

A thank you to the Ag. Science student for their floral and welding centerpieces, CVHS Choir students for their great performance and to the Culinary Arts III-IV students for their desserts and serving the dinner for the ASBA country wide meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 21st. It was a great success and terrific opportunity to show off how awesome our CVHS students are.

Camp Verde Fall Athletic teams held their final home games and honored the seniors in each sport with a gift and tribute to their parents. The Girls soccer team is ranked 7th and look to make the state playoffs next week. The Boys soccer team is holding on to the final spot for the state playoffs at this time. More information to come next week after the weekend games. Winter sports practice will start on Nov. 2nd.

Camp Verde High School held an awards assembly on Thursday, Oct. 22nd. The counseling department created certificates for each student and prizes from Sonic and Freedom Station. Fifty-one 10th grade - 12th grade students achieved honor roll (3.5 or higher cumulative GPA) from the 2014-2015 Semester two grading period; Thirty-three 9th grade students earned honor roll honors for quarter 1; Thirteen students raised their GPA by .5 from the last semester; Sixty-five students received perfect attendance for the first quarter of the 2015-2016 school year; Several students were selected from the award winners to receive additional Starbucks gift cards and cash prizes.

Camp Verde High School Student Council and the Arizona Injury Prevention Advisory Council launched the Battle of the Belts campaign for students at the High School, running for the rest of the school year. The event is promoting wearing your seat belt while in a vehicle. The students will view a PowerPoint and have discussion lead by a John C Lincoln Hospital representative, Camp Verde Fire and Camp Verde High School Student Council members. The members will do random seat belt wearing checks on the students, staff and parents who drive on the campus. If you are wearing your seat belt you get a smartie candy and if you are not wearing your seat belt you will receive a dum dum sucker. The students at the High School will be asked to sign a pledge to wear their seat belts at all times while in a vehicle. Look for more events related to the Battle of the Belts as the school year moves on.

Camp Verde High School and Jones Ford Verde Valley have kicked off the "Camp Verde Cowboy and Jones Ford Verde Valley Making a Better Community Challenge". The Making a Better Community Challenge brings Camp Verde High School clubs together to create, organize, and complete a project or projects, which give back to the community. Paying it forward activities and events are a key trait of a well-rounded citizen which Camp Verde High School strives to produce. With the help of Jones Ford Verde Valley the extra-curricular clubs from the High School will have an opportunity to teach our students the importance of giving back to their community. This may be through one event or several activities, which demonstrate the joy and importance of giving back to your community. The winning club will receive a \$1000 award to use for the club and the sponsor will receive a \$300 stipend from Jones Ford. We are excited to have a partnership with a local business who is excited to see our students achieve success while giving back to their community.

Mr. Howe has asked each grade level to give me one name a week, a student who is rocking it, never in trouble, or has greatly improved, and he is making "Positive phone calls home from the Principal". It is a positive moment for parents and Mr. Howe as parents give a sign of relief when they realize their students

aren't in trouble but rather being praised by Mr. Howe. He shared that recently one of the mothers began to cry as she was so proud of her child. Being a Principal is often a challenging and draining job, but these moments are great ways to fill the glass with a positive event.

Another positive happening at the Middle school is there is a group of 6 students that are spending the last 15 minutes of school (they chose to miss Channel 1) writing and delivering "affirmations" to other students in the school. They formed the group themselves and they are called the "A squad". They are also responsible for all the positive posters on the Teacher's doors you see when you walk through campus.

Camp Verde Middle School had their first quarter Awards Assembly Wednesday and it was amazing. 110 students on the Honor Roll; that is nearly 33% of all of our students; 35 students on the Principal's List; the most ever at 10% of all of our students with a 4.0 GPA; 95 students with perfect attendance; that's 27% of all of our students here every day.

In Mrs. Tankesley's gifted class they are creating their "Dream World". They come up with all their rules, regulations, dress codes...and the list goes on.

In Mr. Wilson's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies class are creating biography posters for several of the important people from the Texas and Mexican War era.

Mr. Eric Hansen and his 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math students have been doing math reteach/enrich and having his top few test scorers come into the reteach class to be "coaches". He pair them up with the really in need students for quality one on one tutoring. Generally those students in need have incomplete assignments from IXL or tenmarks, lacking practice in the area where they failed a test. Their tutors work with them on those specific areas one on one, not only to help them prepare for the retake test, but also to improve their classwork scores on those low assignments related to the retake test. Both the student coaches and the students being tutored benefit and enjoy the opportunity.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade team will be collaborating on a cross-curricular project (PBL or problem based learning) to plan how to best use the plot of land owned by the district during this quarter.

Throughout the months of Oct and Nov Susan Collier, our District nurse has a total of 8 nursing students that will shadow her for one day as part of their pediatric clinical rotation. They are all in their 2nd year of nursing school at Yavapai College. With her supervision, they can assess student complaints, provide treatment and chart. She really enjoys working with these Yavapai College Nursing students; they are eager to learn and have a genuine excitement about the nursing field. CVUSD has built a great working relationship with the Yavapai College Nursing Program.

Our middle school girls' volleyball team is playing in the league championship tournament this weekend in Clarkdale. We wish them Good Luck!

Middle School Basketball tryouts start next week, with games starting on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

The *Go Math!* Teachers (Karen Crownoble, Sam Freeman, Lisa Young, Brian Lewy, Sandie Reddell, and Jonee Elsea) observed teachers at the Pine/Strawberry School District on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The overall conclusion from this visit was that we are not as "lost" in the massive curriculum as we thought. The resources that accompany the program are plentiful and sometimes overwhelming, but it may not be necessary to use everything. We observed that all the Pine/Strawberry teachers used a truncated version of the lesson plan format.

The one “aha” that all teachers walked away with was that they would like the same technology used in Pine/Strawberry. Teachers there used small devices similar to iPads and digital pens from the eBeam company. This made the math lesson much more interactive and flexible. Our *Go Math!* teachers did report feeling a bit of relief that they are actually implementing the curriculum well, but also felt like they have had to do a great deal of “stop and reteach” because our students are starting the program without the prior foundation needed for current standards.

Our kindergarten class enjoyed the day at Mortimer Farms, visiting the pumpkin path and walking through the corn maze. In addition, they received a tour of the fire station next door to the farm.

Peggy Dickey, our robotics teacher and coach, is exploring the idea of expanding robotics by renaming it the S.T.E.A.M. Program (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math). She has been doing a great job of community outreach work and believes there is strong community support for funding S.T.E.A.M. education in our school. If we move forward in this direction, she believes we could secure enough donations to allow us to expand our Friday program to include gardening projects, arts programs, and science classes.

On Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> the fifth and sixth-grade classes will attend a free science enrichment assembly made possible by the Arizona Public Service Company. ***BrainSTEM*** is a professional live theatre program written, performed, and produced by the National Theater for Children out of New York. This is a funny, fast-paced show focusing on the exciting opportunities for learning in the world of science, technology, engineering, and math. Teachers will receive support materials for further exploration in the classroom.

The elementary school will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week this coming week with the following activities:

*Monday—Dress Red Day—“Showing our support for Red Ribbon Week!”*

*Tuesday—Mismatch Day—“Drugs and alcohol are a mismatch for college and career plans.”*

*Wednesday—Superhero Day—“using our powers to fight against drugs & alcohol!”*

Come out and join our elementary students, parents, and staff as they show off their Halloween costumes in our annual parade. The fun starts promptly at 1:30. Come early to get a great spot out on the lawn by the bus loading zone. Afterwards, you are invited to join a class (or two or three) as they enjoy their classroom Halloween celebrations.

Planning is underway for the elementary school’s first annual Fall Family Round-up. This is an event we hope will bring our families in so they can connect with our school in a fun and engaging way. Each class will host a different activity including games, readers’ theater, art projects, living book reports, and a few “surprises” as well. While still in the planning stages, we are hoping to be able to host a dinner and have a prize raffle. If you’d like to lend a hand, please feel free to join us on our planning committee or just come on by and be a part of the fun. We have set the date somewhere in the school week following Thanksgiving so that it coincides with our Scholastic Book Fair. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

South Verde progress reports were given out to the students last week and mailed to the parents this past Monday. The students were given a very clear picture of where they stand in every class. We do have a few students who are either failing English or who are not progressing well in A+ or Aleks. We are working one-on-one with students to keep them motivated and show them how to improve grades and plan out how many lessons to complete to finish A+ courses and Aleks classes on time. A number of students are now staying in the afternoons to get caught up in areas of deficiency.

Attendance is a major factor in student achievement. We have instituted an incentive program for students with no absences or only one or two. Those students get out of 4th hour class - right before lunch - ten minutes early and may listen to music or socialize with one another in a separate room. Hopefully other students will improve their attendance to earn this perk.

Thursday night, Kiwanis hosted a nice dinner at La Fonda's for South Verde's Student of the Quarter, Gloria Gomez. Gloria is a senior and is excitedly anticipating graduating in May and starting college classes at Yavapai College in the fall of 2016. She is a devoted student with a wonderful attitude and an infectious smile. The Kiwanis Club provided Gloria and her guest with a free dinner, free tickets to Out of Africa, and lots of support.

The cross country team was one team member short, with Rosa Davila pushing herself to the brink last week and, unfortunately, straining her knee in the process. But the remaining two students both - again - improved their times.

Title VII and the Yavapai Cultural Center hosted a Yavapai-Apache Nation Culture Presentation at the Yavapai- Apache Tribal Chambers for the teachers and staff. It was a beneficial evening of culture, history, food and tradition. Representatives from the different departments of the Nation introduced themselves and spoke of services available through their department. Mr. Randall gave a presentation on the history of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. Thank you to Laurie Kaaekuahiwi and the YAN Cultural Center for hosting this event. There were approximately 30 to 35 teachers and staff members attending from Camp Verde School District.

Wednesday, the first graduating class from the Apache and Yavapai language program was honored with a graduation celebration. Ten students, grades 2-5, completed the Apache language course and 10 students completed the Yavapai language course. Under the direction of Vincent Randall, the culture department taught language and aspects of YAN culture. The students did an impressive job presenting what they had learned. Thank you to everyone that has helped make this possible. In November, the Camp Verde Middle School YAN students will get the opportunity to participate in this program. Classes have limited capacity and are filled on a first come basis. We are very excited about this program and eager to see it expand.

The Special Education Department provided CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) training to the Transportation Department today. There were 21 drivers who were involved in the training. This training will help the drivers deal with situations with students in a non-violent way protecting themselves and others in a situation where a child has become unruly or violent on the bus. The use of CPI in dealing with students has been the standard in the District for many years. CPI teaches a verbal de-escalation portion that is emphasized before the use of any physical restraint. The only time physical restraint is allowed is as a last resort and only when a student is hurting themselves or others.

The Special Education Department also provides this training for Beaver Creek School District and Sedona Oak Creek School District through a partnership agreement.

The training is provided to the Special Education staff of Camp Verde and South Verde as well. The training allows the staff to deal effectively with many situations that arise in the classrooms.