

Weekly Board Report 30 October 2015

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1539 as compared to 1493 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 724 vs. 736; Middle School 351 vs. 321; High School 440 vs. 411; Accommodations School 24 vs. 25. South Verde Magnet School 69 vs. 96.

District wide enrollment continues to be up and climbing. The elementary is down slightly, 12 students, but the middle and high school are up 59 students over this time last year. Of course funding is based on Average Daily Membership, but enrollment can be a good indicator of ADM. South Verde continues to be steady at 69 students.

This week's big news in Arizona education has been the progress reached in a tentative settlement of the "Inflation Funding Lawsuit." Specifics of the agreement still need to be ratified in special legislative sessions and voter approval, so there is still a lot that can change. Nonetheless, we are encouraged, steps are being taken in the direction of improving education funding. From the initial information we are receiving regarding the possible settlement it looks like the District budget would be receiving around \$220,000.00 more with another \$70,000.00 on top of that restricted for teacher salaries. Again, all this is pretty preliminary. Early estimates of when this might be finalized suggest May of 2016.

Mr. Moya will be working on a Superintendent's Welcome Page for the district's websites. He is also currently working on a new announcements section where he will populate "news feeds" as he receives them from Mary and the campuses.

AIA (Arizona Interscholastic Association) sports passes for the governing board were ordered earlier this week. The passes should be issued within a week or so. When given your pass you will be able to attend all sporting events around the State of Arizona without paying a fee – a small token of appreciation for board members volunteer work.

The annual ASBA (Arizona School Boards Association) conference is coming up - December 9-11. I've been told that the conference hotel fills up quickly (Arizona Biltmore). Mrs. Freeman and I will be attending. If you plan on attending please let Mary know as soon as possible. The purchase order process can take some time.

Camp Verde High School and the Verde Valley Fire Departments (Sedona, Camp Verde, and Verde Valley etc.) held the annual Hands on CPR training in the gym for CVHS students on Tuesday, Oct. 27th. History teachers escorted their students to the gym for the training during each class period, with over 180 students earning their CPR certification. The lead instructor, Skip, from the Verde Valley FD told our teachers and nurse aide that Camp Verde High School students were the best group they have worked with this year.

Camp Verde HS Student Council kicked off the Battle of the Belts program. The student council presented a video and lesson on wearing seat belts to our students during the first 15 minutes of their English class on Wednesday. As students drove onto campus on Thursday, Oct. 29th, some of our students checked CVHS students checking to see if they had their seat belts on. If the student was wearing their seat belt they were give a smart candy if they did not have the seat belt on they were given a dum dum sucker. This process will occur randomly throughout the rest of the school year...hopefully a positive impact on our students to wear their seat belts.

The cross country team will travel to Holbrook for the Sectional meet today. The Boys and Girls Soccer teams competed in the first round of state playoffs on Thursday. The girls traveled to Round Valley the number two seat and the Boys traveled to Phoenix Country Day the number 5 ranked team. The football

and volleyball teams finished their season on Thursday and Friday. On Monday, Nov. 2nd winter sports practice starts after school.

Thursday morning five of our middle school teachers and Mr. Howe were in a conference call with Flip Flippen founder of Capturing Kids Hearts. Camp Verde Middle School is one of ten schools out of over 400 across the nation nominated to be a National Showcase School. We are in the running with schools from Alaska, North Carolina, Texas, to name a few to be recognized nationally for the work that we are doing with our students. Within the next couple months, Camp Verde Middle School will be visited by a team from Flip's organization to observe our school, students, and staff. They plan to pick a school or schools by January to be recognized nationally. This is an exciting announcement and they are sending us a press release to share with the local news and papers. Mr. Howe and his staff are excited, thrilled, and so proud of the work that our middle school staff and kids have done to achieve this. We are a great school that this district and community can be proud of.

The Verde Fire District was here Wednesday teaching hands only CPR to our 6-12 grade and they commented that we are their favorite district to come to in the valley because our students are so polite and respectful. Way to go CVUSD!

Older news, the middle school won first place in the education division for its float in the Ft Verde Days Parade. The volleyball team took fourth place in the tournament with Bennett Holm and Brittany Gunter named to the all-tournament team.

The Halloween dance at the middle school was a big hit last night and the kids were great! Student council is getting ready to serve Thanksgiving dinner to the middle school staff during the week of Thanksgiving.

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Encryption, phishing and password safety

Camp Verde Elementary School students explore cyber security



Camp Verde Elementary School students take a break from their after-school Cyber Security program studies. (Courtesy photo)

CAMP VERDE – On Oct.26, Camp Verde Elementary School will conclude what could be the first Cyber Security program for elementary school students in Arizona.

This after-school program provides students an opportunity to explore the world of cyber security.

Students get to investigate hacking (how to limit vulnerabilities), encryption (secret coding), phishing (not fishing) and password safety.

According to the National Security Agency's website, "Educating the next generation of cybersecurity experts is a priority for leaders in both the public and private sectors.

Cyber threats are only growing, and improving defenses to better protect the nation is a must in this digital era."

Some schools have offered cyber security programs for high school students, very few for middle school students, but the Camp Verde Unified School District is piloting the idea of introducing elementary school children to cyber security.

Instructor Peggy Dickey designed the program after being inspired by the GenCyber program that she attended over the summer.

"GenCyber is a new partnership between the National Security Agency and the National Science Foundation to help young people learn about cybersecurity and how skills in that area can pay off for them in the future."(NSA website)

The goal of this program is to inspire a passion for learning S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related activities and skills that may lead the way to college scholarships and successful careers in their futures. It's never too early to begin this process.

One of the requirements of our elementary school Cyber Cowboys Robotics Team is that they produce a video about robotics. We are thrilled that Ms. Kathleen Francis, an Emmy Award Winner, has been volunteering as the acting coach for this project. We look forward to sharing that video with the board members when it is completed.

The Camp Verde Firefighters squared off against Mr. Hendrikse's 4th grade class this week. It was a close game with the firefighters taking the lead late in the game. The game came after a fire safety presentation in Mrs. Wattenbarger's room. Many of the firefighters are parents of Camp Verde Elementary students and one EMT trainee was a former student!



After school tutoring has started at the elementary school for 2nd and 3rd grade Tier 3 students. This is an extra 45 minutes of small group help for those students who are struggling with reading and math. The *Successmaker* program is helping us to differentiate instruction and meet students at their current academic level, while moving students at an accelerated pace in order to bridge their gaps in learning.

Red Ribbon Week was a great success at the elementary school. Each day was themed with messages about good choices and fighting alcohol and drugs use. Our Kindergarten teachers got into the act during superhero day (“Using superpowers to fight drugs and alcohol!”)



South Verde received the ASVAB results for the six students who took the test on the 14th. The average score was about a 60 out of a possible 99, which is fairly good. One student who scored a 76 is getting some advice and encouragement from a student who graduated from South Verde two years ago and has entered the Navy. We are also encouraging him to enter the service and serve our country with distinction. He is appreciating the perks of military life, yet is getting the full picture of the sacrifices, too.

Last Friday, October 23, Mrs. Zawel's first hour English class-comprised of freshmen and sophomores-received an art tutorial from the art teacher Jason Voss. The students finished reading *Animal Farm* a couple of weeks ago, and as part of the unit have been working on writing and illustrating a fable based

upon certain characters and situations in the novel. The projects are due Friday, October 30, which is just in time to share with Mrs. Meyer's third grade class next Wednesday at the elementary school.

The cross country championships, scheduled to take place at the Verde Valley School Thursday afternoon, was postponed due to poor weather.

Camp Verde Fire Department brought in a number of CPR dummies for all the South Verde students to simulate giving hands-only CPR, in the event of an emergency. The students were also trained in how to use an AED. The experience included lecture, videos, and, of course, actual manual chest compressions. The students received a certificate for their work, and we are grateful to the fire department for their dedication and for providing this valuable service to the community.

South Verde is avidly anticipating the annual Halloween Spook House this Saturday from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Admission is only \$1.00. Candy and a raucous fright will be provided. At least ten students have volunteered to participate in creating a truly memorable scare for Verde Valley patrons. Deon Murphy, for her eighth year, is the creative force in charge of masterminding the Spook House and all its spooky twists and turns. Mrs. Murphy has exceptional talent in visualizing art and bringing it to life. (Or death, as in the case of Halloween and its macabre elements.)

This is an update that the District received after the State Board of Education voted to repeal the English Language Arts and Mathematics standards.

*You may have heard conflicting information about what the action taken today by the Arizona State Board of Education (SBE) means for Arizona's English language arts (ELA) and mathematics standards. Please know that **today's vote does not mean that the current Arizona College and Career Ready Standards have been repealed.***

What the vote does mean is that complete control of the ELA and mathematics standards has been returned to Arizona, as had been the case before the Common Core standards were adopted in 2010. Those standards will now be developed the same way they always were before and the same way standards for all other subjects are developed, through an annual process during which ADE reviews standards, makes recommendations and gathers public input.

This year we have already seen the adoption of updated physical education, arts, world and native language standards. At a minimum, ADE will recommend over the next year adding higher mathematics standards, which do not currently exist in Common Core. However, until such time as the SBE chooses to adopt any new standards those currently in place remain in use. ADE is also sensitive to making changes on a gradual basis and for future school years so as not to create a financial or other crisis related to their implementation.

With this information the District is still planning to continue to test student progress utilizing the AzMERIT as it did last year. The AzMERIT is a test that was normed utilizing the NAEF test that is in use in other states. The NAEF is a test that often has a lower pass rate for students who initially take the test.

New Board Member Welcomed to Yavapai County Education Foundation

Tim Wiederaenders, president, welcomed newly elected board member Laurie Kaaekuahiwi, the Title VII coordinator for the Camp Verde Unified School District. Recommended by the Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council for the board, Kaaekuahiwi works on a daily basis with native students not only from the

Yavapai-Apache tribe but also other tribes. The Arizona native joins 14 other board member representatives of Yavapai County in administering the functions of the non-profit foundation which supports and promotes educational activities in the county.