

Weekly Board Report 20 November 2015

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1541 as compared to 1505 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 727 vs. 739; Middle School 346 vs. 324; High School 439 vs. 416; Accommodations School 29 vs. 26. South Verde Magnet School 69 vs. 96.

District wide enrollment continues to be up and climbing. The elementary is down slightly, 9 students, but the middle and high school are up 58 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 slowly climbing to 71 students.

Free and reduced numbers: Camp Verde Unified School District; Free 948; Reduced 121. Current numbers at Elementary free 503; reduced 51; Middle School free 220; reduced 30; High School free 211; reduced 39; Accommodations School free 14; reduced 1; South Verde Magnet School free 34; reduced 6. The percentages for each school: Elementary – 76.2%; Middle School – 71.43%; High School 56.82%; Accommodation School 62.5%. Camp Verde School district percentage of Free/Reduced – 69.37%. South Verde Magnet School District 56.34%.

The Administrative Team met on Monday and discussed campus security at length: lock down drills, fire drills, and the securing of doors and gates. We will be purchasing more security cameras for the Middle School and South Verde campuses. We will also be purchasing two way radios for immediate communications among the administrative team, their assistants, the library and the cafeteria. Quick communication is imperative in the event of emergency.

Other topics of discussion: Strategic Planning expectations, district technology, 5th Day programs, student enrollment predications and potential staffing needs for next year, and planning the 2016-2017 calendars.

For our upcoming April 1, Teacher In-Service we have reserved the services of Suzie Boss, author of *Bringing Innovation to School: Empowering Students to Thrive in a Changing World*. She is an expert in Problem Based Learning and focuses on helping teachers to bring out their students innovation and creative problem-solving potential. She will be working with our teaching staff for the full day. 2015 – 2016 unused Forest Fee PD funds from the County will be used to purchase her services and pay her travel expenses.

Camp Verde High School TAG (Theater Arts Guild) Club and Mrs. Worden's Drama class did an outstanding job producing the play last Thursday – Saturday in the Phil England Performing Arts Theater. Several people attended the play and the students did a terrific job in each of their roles. The crowd loved all three short plays ranging from scary to humorous. Look for the upcoming Christmas choir concert for another entertaining event produced by Mrs. Worden and students.

Senator Sylvia Allen toured CVHS on Wednesday, Nov. 18th. Dr. Goodwin and Mr. Weir escorted Senator Allen around the campus and into several classrooms. She was very impressed with our staff, students and facilities. The conversation was on the success of our students and how the state could help fund CVUSD to reach our goals of producing well rounded and productive citizens. She is an education advocate and is working to help restore the Joint Technical Education District's state funding (JTED). Camp Verde FFA gave Senator Allen a metal pumpkin and potted flower as a gift for her visit to CVHS.

Ms. Scott and four SkillsUSA officers traveled to Williams, AZ for the SkillsUSA fall leadership camp. They learned leadership skills and activities to improve the Camp Verde SkillsUSA club and help prepare

our students for the regional and state CTE contest in January and April. The camp was held November 18 – 20.

The students at CVHS were busy this past week. The Career Technical Education (CTE) juniors and seniors took the End of Program State test in each of their program areas. The test is part of the students earning a completion certificate in each of the program areas they have taken two or more classes while in high school. The results and pass rates will be available next week for the teachers to view and access. CVHS administration and CVHS FCA club held a motivational assembly on Thursday, Nov. 19th in the theater. The speaker talked about academic success, choices, work ethics and character skills the students can develop in order to have a successful life. Next week the winter sports programs will start their competitions with the Boys and Girls basketball teams traveling to Mayer for games on Tuesday and the Wrestling team will compete at home on Tuesday hosting seven schools.

Tuesday and Wednesday Jessica Smith, Stacey Munger, Eric Hansen, Jocelyn Alvey, and Mr. Howe were in Flagstaff for the second round of EDISA training. We are in the process of looking at data and putting together a plan to improve Reading scores at the Middle School. Laura Norman was also gone Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at a Title 1 conference in Tucson. It puts a little strain on the school with that many gone, but nice to see the staff participating in professional development that will help our students.

Abbie Monroe's mother, Tracy Franklin, a long time teacher from Beaver Creek, came in this week to help her teach her teen leadership class. They taught a lesson on reframing negative thoughts/situations through reverse poetry. They showed several poems that had a negative connotation when read top to bottom, then a positive connotation bottom to top. The students then wrote their own reverse line using a negative thought they had about themselves. Also, out of all of her math students, only 4 of them have an F. They started Pythagorean Theorem this week and so far, the students are really getting it.

Rhonda Koepp's 8th grade Science students are creating a stop-motion movie, on the process of Mitosis, using 3 x 5 index cards. When you flip through the cards quickly, it will look as though the chromosomes are replicating and exact copies are being pulled to opposite ends of the cell, then split into two new daughter cells! They will explain and label all parts of the cell during this process.

When Donnie Shanks got to practice on Monday and after warm ups they had their practice meeting. A couple of the boys asked him if they could honor the victims of the France attacks during their game against West Sedona Tuesday. One of them suggested ribbons of the French flag. He told them he would see what he could come up with. They made stickers for the jerseys (picture attached) of the French flag with the Eiffel tower on them. The boys were so proud to wear them. The 7th and 8th grade boys basketball team ROCKS!

Middle School basketball is off to a great start. Steve Stone's 7 & 8 girls and Eric Hansen's 5 & 6 boys are both undefeated at 3-0. Donnie Shanks' 7 & 8 boys are 2-1. Lena DiBartolomeo's 5 & 6 girls are struggling as they are 0-3. In a couple of weeks the Middle School wrestling team will host its duals in the high school gym.

Mr. Howe has not seen the article yet, but was told there is a nice front page article in the Bugle today about Camp Verde Middle School being nominated as a National Showcase School for Capturing Kids' Hearts. On December 9th, several executives from the Flippen Group will be on our campus all day to interview staff, students, and parents, and to see all the wonderful things going on at our campus. The press has been invited to attend as well. A decision will be made early Spring and hopefully Mr. Howe will be writing to tell all that we were chosen as a National Showcase School. On December 1st-3rd our trainer will be back to work with the Elementary and High Schools' process champions. His Middle

School team will be joining them as well. CVUSD can be proud, as we are the forerunners of this process in the Verde Valley. Clarkdale just began the process this year and now Cottonwood is sending staff to investigate the training.

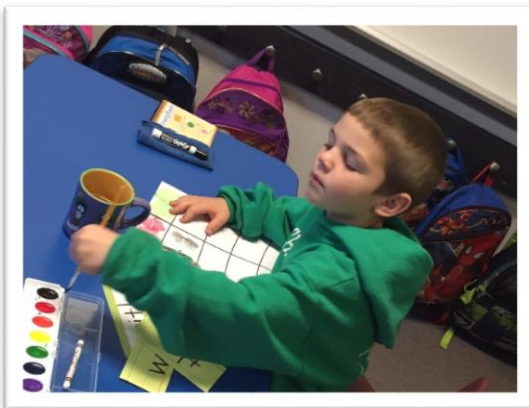
As you know, recently there was a training for elementary teachers on a new phonics program called Reading Horizons. Teachers are already implementing Reading Horizons program at the elementary school with great enthusiasm.

In Mrs. Crownoble's class, Reading Horizons is used in conjunction with a wide range of engaging activities. The students were using writing and kinesthetic activities to learn new words: look, see, did, and dad. One of the best aspects of this program is that it uses physical activities and signs to build connections to sounds and words. For example, an "itch" motion is used for the vowel "i." The motion of taking a bite out of an apple is used for the vowel "a." It is really wonderful to see students understanding the construction of a word based on movement. (Below is a picture of Mrs. Crownoble helping students construct a word using this technique.)

Mrs. Crownoble has mastered the task of engaging the students in learning using a variety of activities while maintaining a structured environment in her room. It is a joy to see all of the students actively learning!



Sounding out words using Reading Horizons techniques Building site words using Unifix Cubes



Each year, Mrs. Howe's class sells candy canes to raise money for the adopt-a-family program. Once all the money has been raised, the class takes a field trip to Walmart to purchase items for the family they

have chosen. Last year, candy cane sales totaled \$500, enabling Mrs. Howe's class to adopt two families and purchase four extra coats for donation to the adopt-a-family program. Mrs. Howe's class is beginning the candy cane sales drive after Thanksgiving, and we are expecting a big response to the program. This is such a great way for students to directly participate in community service and learn lessons around planning, budgeting, and citizenship.

The elementary school *Examining Data to Improve Student Achievement* (EDISA) team (Lucy Rodriguez, Chris Gilbert, Britta Booth, and Karen Castillo) just completed workshop two (of three) in Flagstaff. During the workshop, the identified strategies were refined, rationales were written, and integrity checklists (timelines) were created. There is still a great deal of work to do, so we will be meeting monthly in order to complete the work we have outlined for ourselves. Our plan is to market the ideas to staff and parents to gain their support.

Just as a reminder, our two areas of focus are:

- A need for a writing program
- Increasing targeted interventions in kindergarten and 1st grade by refining our diagnostic tools.

Our goals for this project are:

- Narrow the gap in assessment scores between general education students and Sp.Ed./ELL students.
- Improve overall student performance in reading by 5% as assessed by AIMSweb fluency scores.

Our elementary school Cyber Cowboys and their coach, Peggy Dickey, are receiving Robotics Training and Mentorship from Mr. Alan Minner, Educational Director at Verde Valley Robotics, Inc.

Because our coach and team are all rookies in the First Lego League (FLL), they are learning a lot this first year about robotics competitions. The FLL recommends that rookie coaches seek out a veteran mentor, so Mrs. Dickey has asked Mr. Alan Minner to act as the Consultant/Mentor for the upcoming competition.

Mr. Alan Minner is not only a veteran FLL coach, but has won awards in FLL competitions and has many years of experience with building and designing robots in general. He is providing Mrs. Dickey and our team an opportunity to increase their knowledge base on robotic programming and designs in addition to helping the team be more prepared for this FLL competition.

Mr. Alan has agreed to give occasional workshops on robotics focusing on accomplishing the missions of this FLL competition. These workshops will be held during the weeks right before the upcoming competition, but Mrs. Dickey is hoping to have him consult occasionally at other times as well.

We are thrilled to have Mark Showers join the elementary staff as the new Assistant Principal. For the remainder of this year, Mr. Showers will be at the high school until 11:00 a.m. From 11:00 – 3:00, he will be at the elementary school where he will be in charge of student discipline. Next year, Mr. Showers will be at the elementary school full time. (The staff at the elementary school would like to extend a special *thank you* to the board and Dr. Goodwin for recognizing a need and acting quickly to find a solution.)

Last Friday CVUSD sent a bus to provide transportation to and from the YA Cultural Center for a new Friday class that is being offered on culture and crafts. Three students took advantage of this opportunity but hopefully more will join soon. The Yavapai and Apache language classes are currently being held for the middle school students. There is a good level of interest and the classes are near

capacity. The Title VII Coordinator has been working to collect as many completed 506 forms as possible for our Title VII and Impact Aid grants that will be opening soon. Each form has a direct correlation to the amount of funding that we receive.

A new student has entered the fold at South Verde, a young woman who has been out of school for nearly a year but has chosen to finish her high school credits and graduate in the spring. She is just one of eighteen South Verde students this year who had left school for one reason or another and made the mature decision to complete their secondary education.

AZMerit test scores were mailed out to the parents this past Monday. This year there will be a greater emphasis on performance and striving to attain at least the "Proficient" range for both the English Language Arts and mathematics tests, Practice tests will be taken in the second semester, well before the testing window, to expose the students to the intricacies of the assessments.

Allen Griffin, a motivational speaker, graced South Verde with his enthusiasm, humor, and powerful words of encouragement to the student body. In all of Mrs. Zawel's nineteen years in education and hearing other lecturers, this gentleman was by far the most effective in reaching the ears and hearts of both students and staff alike. Mr. Griffin's ability to rise above his low-income childhood and early struggles with learning, is a testament to the power of positive thinking and sheer will-power. The students were captivated by his resounding message and appreciated his hilarious tales of life as a son of a strong mother, who was also a teacher. At the end of the presentation, students gave him high praise and begged for him to come back to their campus before the end of the school term.

The South Verde band is sounding better and better every week. Jesse Ebel has worked diligently with his ten students this semester. Some students are even branching away from their comfort instruments into other avenues of sound, to truly appreciate the art of music. Mrs. Zawel was blessed with a performance Thursday afternoon in the classroom they are utilizing from the City. The students have learned songs from the 1960s, '70s, and '80s, all classic hits, such as "Come Together," "Sweet Home Alabama," "Free Bird," and "Rihanna." Confidence has soared. The musicians will be performing next month for the entire student population.

South Verde had its first co-ed basketball game Thursday afternoon, the opponent being Oak Creek Ranch School, a school notorious for its strong athletic ability. One S.V. player--a female--hit three three-pointers. Although South Verde had to accept its first loss, the team is determined to work hard toward improving their skills. Their next game is set for Friday, November 20 at 3:00 at home versus Tri-City Prep.

Next Monday, November 23, twelve juniors and seniors will be returning to Yavapai College to register for second semester concurrent enrollment classes and attain their account at the bookstore. These students are eagerly awaiting their ability to shine at the post-high school academic arena.

This week Karen Castillo (elementary school reading specialist), Laura Norman (middle school reading specialist) and Debbie Witt attended the Annual State Title I Conference. They attended sessions on compliance issues, Native Language programs, technology in the classroom, using data to drive instruction and the new kindergarten development inventory that is being developed. It was also an excellent time for the specialists from both campuses to spend time together comparing notes and challenging one another with new ideas. Good news that the Race To the Top grant may be returning to Arizona next year.

Mrs. Witt met with ADE specialist to discuss the possibility of using the 21st century grant to fund a pre-school. But further discussions are needed to see if this is possible. Discussions with ADE were also

held about the possibility of South Verde becoming a Title I school and whether that would mean addition funds. Further exploration of that is needed as well. The issue is the amount of direct instruction vs the amount of A+ classes.

The Special Education Department participated in the second round of trainings for EDISA (Examining Data to Increase Student Achievement) this week. There were two teams from Camp Verde Unified School District that went. There was a team from the Elementary School and a team from the Middle School. Team members were: Britta Booth, Chris Gilbert, Lucy Rodriguez, Dale DeVries, Danny Howe, Jocelyn Alvey, Eric Hansen, Stacey Munger and Jessica Smith. Both teams are looking at reading scores for their school and both teams are examining data from AIMS, AIMSWeb as well as other data sources. Both teams have developed goals and activities that they feel are causes that are affecting reading performance. The goal of EDISA is to increase reading achievement scores for students in the districts where the EDISA program is implemented.

The teams will return to Flagstaff for additional training from the Arizona Department of Education in March. Between now and then the teams will be meeting monthly to implement groundwork for changes that will be coming in the following school year. The teams will also continue to collect data to monitor student progress and to see if the goals and strategies that the teams believe, are the causes for the students reading achievement.

Transportation is in the process of restructuring the special needs routes to aid in efficiency, and shorter route times for the students. We will also be looking into the addition of another sped route due to overcrowding.

Facilities is looking into a plan for growth that will aid in helping to plan future budget needs. The principals will be asked to help as we move further down the trail and more information is needed.

On Monday of next week we will be having tests done on our buildings for potential mold issues. We have had an increase of illness complaints particularly in the elementary building. The last time the buildings were tested was in 2009.