

## Weekly Board Report 11 December 2015

Our District receives over \$1,500,000.00 in grants each year. Almost all our grants received are non-competitive grants, meaning we meet the eligibility requirements, fill out the application, jump through all the proper hoops and we get the money. As you are aware, we count on these non-competitive grants from year to year to fund many programs. Competitive grants are a little different. They usually have very specific criteria and are granted to the applicant who can best fulfill the provider's requirements. We received word this week our District meets many of the requirements for the competitive grant titled Indian Student Needs Grant. Debbie Witt has investigated this grant and we are looking to buy some technology to support tutoring for our Native American students. It is not a huge grant, around \$2,000.00, but every bit will help. The grant is on the board agenda for approval in January.

Wednesday, December 9, twelve South Verde students traveled to the food bank at the Seventh Day Adventist Church to help patrons in a variety of ways. Some students were assigned to help carry food boxes out to cars, others helped break down boxes that had held donated food, and another group assisted in sorting produce and soda and water. Deon Murphy led the students and, once again, raved about the quality of work the students produced, as well as their kind and generous behavior while working. One student even exclaimed, "I haven't felt this good in a month," proving that when one gives of oneself, you gain strength and a new perspective on your own struggles, which may then seem insignificant.

Southwestern Academy hosted the South Verde basketball team Wednesday afternoon. The Bulldogs held strong throughout most of the game, but were defeated in the end, with a final score of 27-39. Courtney Haddo, the coach, stated that the team played better than ever before and the players accepted the loss with grace.

The last day before Christmas break, December 18, the students may enjoy a break from academics and test their bowling skills at Shake, Rattle and Bowl at Cliff Castle Casino. A change of scene is definitely in order.

Camp Verde High School awarded three students with prizes for the "Pay It Forward" recognition program at the High School. This is the fourth year in a row the "Pay It Forward" program has allowed students and staff to write a thank you note and give it to a student or a staff member for doing something positive. We gave four prizes to staff members who had received staff pay it forwards. This quarter we had over 170 students pay it forwards and over 55 staff pay if forwards turned in.

The Camp Verde High School student council held their second United Blood Service blood drive. They had over 80 people signed up to donate and it went very well, with each person who donated receiving a free pizza from Streets of New York Pizza restaurant. Camp Verde High School is in line to be one of the top two schools in the state for the amount of blood donors over the entire school year. They conducted their Christmas gift sales for the elementary and middle schools, earning over \$1000 from this fundraiser. They will use this money to help with spring fling events and adopt a family program this Christmas.

The Camp Verde wrestling team finished third out of 14 teams last weekend at the 22nd Annual Verde Duals Wrestling Tournament hosted by Camp Verde.

Both basketball teams had a good showing at the Phoenix Country Day tournament last weekend. The winter sports teams will all compete over Christmas break at tournaments which will help prepare them for a run at the state tournament in late January.

A correction from last week, the Cheer team will compete at the state cheer competition this weekend not last weekend. Good luck to them.

Camp Verde High School has received a donation/grant for a VEX competition Robotics from the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC). The school has completed the team registration and has registered for a Competition on Feb. 20th at Salt River High School in Mesa. The sponsor of the team at Camp Verde High School is Mr. Kresge and co-sponsor is Mr. Weir. Board member Christine Schneider has volunteered to help with the team and finding past participants to help the students at CVHS. Semester 2 will be a time to recruit members and enjoy this opportunity to use what they have been taught in math and science in a competitive and fun arena.

Camp Verde High School is currently researching some exciting programs to offer on Fridays next semester and next school year. The programs will be offered to high school students and some of our current programs will be expanded as well.

Through specific research Mr. Benson and Mrs. Lawrence were participants in a webinar on teaching students in poverty. From this webinar, they have learned about a program which can help increase and/or reset the students' language deficits. We are currently researching the cost and more information on this exciting technology with the goal to offer these programs afternoon and on Fridays.

Students in Mrs. Anderson's class enjoyed a day of shopping in Prescott/Prescott Valley this week. The students were shopping for items they would need when they are taking care of their household. Students were teamed up to look for products that would be necessary in their homes. The students were told to look for products, write down a description of the product so that they could locate a similar one, if not identical product at another store. They used identical lists to compare prices and products, but were also allowed to purchase items for themselves, snacks, and were required to keep receipts and change from their purchases. The goal for them was to stay within budget for lunch and provide a tip for the server. Once the students returned to Camp Verde High School, they compared prices between the two stores to make informed decisions about which store would provide them the best value for their money. They also reviewed their purchases and made sure they were given the correct change from their purchases.

The students look forward to this activity. It allows them a chance to experience what it will be like when they are making these types of decisions on their own. In a controlled environment, this exercise allows students to experience what is necessary for them to be successful consumers once they leave Camp Verde Unified School District. They also get to enjoy the opportunity to eat in a restaurant that is not in the immediate area.

Ms. Carter's Builders Club has adopted a family for Christmas. They will be purchasing gifts for the family of six and making sure this family has a special Christmas. The Builders Club also held a food drive and raised over 1000 non-perishable food items from the Middle School. These food items were donated to "The Bread of Life" to help provide food to those who are less fortunate.

Camp Verde Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> grade student Chandler Plante is organizing the Fifth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. March on January 18, 2015. He presented a letter to Dr. Goodwin regarding his efforts this year. He is asking that the Districts help him honor the legacy of Dr. King. (See his letter below.) We have asked that the marquees at each school campus announce the upcoming event. Mr. Moya will also be placing Chandler's photo and his letter on the website. I have also asked Chandler to come speak to the board at the January 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Chandler has been leading the Town's MLK marches since he was 6 years old. Now at the wise age of 10, his efforts to share the message of peace, hope and love have not wavered. We are very proud to have Chandler as part of our Camp Verde School District community of students.



12/9/14

**MLK March 2015**

Hi my name is Chandler  
Plante, and this year on  
January 18 from 11:00 am  
to 1:00 pm I will be doing  
the fifth annual  
MLK Jr. March in downtown  
Camp Verde in honor  
of Dr. King's legacy.

Each year I like  
to get the area schools  
involved. I am asking  
your permission to  
put the event on  
the school marquee  
board, send it home in  
the news calendar,  
middle school and high  
school p.s. contest,  
and a Elementary  
school bulletin board  
contest.

Sincerely Chandler  
Plante

Hi!

My name is Chandler Plante, and this year on January 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. I will be doing the fifth annual MLK Jr. March in downtown Camp Verde in honor of Dr. King's legacy.

Each year, I like to get the area schools involved. I am asking your permission to put the event on the school marquee board, send it home in the news calendar, middle school and high school p.s. contest, and elementary school bulletin board contest.

Sincerely,  
Chandler Plante

It's definitely looking a lot like Christmas around the elementary school and the holiday musical was the perfect way to kick off the season! Honors Music students, kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students put on a festive show featuring Christmas classics as well as songs from the Disney movie *Frozen*. The concert took place on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with a packed house. Below are some photos from the event:



Mrs. Howe's class raised \$110.00 in candy cane sales PLUS they received a \$50.00 donation toward their adopt-a-family project. This will allow them to purchase presents this coming Thursday during their annual shopping trip to Walmart. There is still time to donate toward this worthy endeavor, so spread the word!

In keeping with the holiday spirit, Mrs. Wattenbarger's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class has decided to forego the usual gift exchange in their class this year in order to participate in the adopt-a-family as well. Rather than exchanging small gifts with each other at their holiday party, they will each donate that money to the purchase of a \$50.00 gift card to Bashas' so that their adopt-a-family will be able to enjoy a Christmas dinner.

Our elementary school Capturing Kids' Hearts progress is continuing by following the lead set by the middle school. Mrs. Howe has organized a group of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who have volunteered to act as greeters at the front door of the school. An integral part of Capturing Kids' Hearts is building relational capacity. Starting the day with a smile and a handshake not only builds community, it teaches the students vital life and job skills.

The Cyber Cowboys competed in their first event of the year in Flagstaff on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at Coconino High School. This is a competition hosted by the FIRST LEGO LEAGUE, an organization that empowers elementary and middle school-aged students to research a real-world engineering challenge, develop a solution, and compete with LEGO-based robots of their own design.

The vision, mission, and methodology of the organization fits perfectly with our S.T.E.A.M. push at the elementary school:

### **Vision**

*"To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders."* Dean Kamen, Founder

### **Mission**

The mission of *FIRST* is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting Mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

### **Methodology**

Engage kids in kindergarten through high school in exciting, Mentor-based, research and robotics programs that help them become science and technology leaders, as well as well-rounded contributors to society.

*Gracious Professionalism* is part of the ethos of *FIRST*. It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.

With *Gracious Professionalism*, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process. They avoid treating anyone like losers. No chest thumping tough talk, but no sticky-sweet platitudes either. Knowledge, competition, and empathy are comfortably blended.

In the long run, *Gracious Professionalism* is part of pursuing a meaningful life. One can add to society and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing one has acted with integrity and sensitivity.

One aspect of the competition is the TRASH TREK<sup>SM</sup>. *From the website:* "The TRASH TREK<sup>SM</sup> Challenge asks teams to explore the hidden but fascinating world of trash, from collection, to sorting, to smart production, and reuse. They must also invent a solution to help our trash problem and create their own LEGO MINDSTORMS<sup>®</sup> robot to accomplish trash-themed "missions" on a playing field, and show how well they practice *FIRST* LEGO League Core Values."

Our students ran with this and created a project where they showed how they could turn cafeteria scraps into bacon. Through their work, our students calculated that they could raise and harvest bacon from seven 250 lb. pigs with the table scraps from the elementary cafeteria.

Overall, the competition was a wonderful experience for our students. They placed 16<sup>th</sup> out of 30 teams total—a great start for our first competition. Keep in mind, our team is made of 4<sup>th</sup> graders who were competing against middle school students!

It must be said that the driving force behind all of this is Peggy Dickey. She has spent countless hours prepping, researching, and coaching. Our entire robotics program has been her vision from the start and it is amazing to see how far this program has come in such a short time.

This year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade spelling bee winner is Treyton Battise, with Reagen Warren coming in a close second. Treyton's winning word was havoc.



Camp Verde Middle School's student council is adopting a family. They are also selling Christmas grams to raise money to help support Donnie Shanks' Students in Tragedy, a local charity.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is moving forward with CKH and they have been seeing some nice and meaningful affirmations. They are working on building consistency within the grade level which will help their classes to be more efficient. During 4<sup>th</sup> period, they will begin an enrichment and STEM unit for Quarter 3. They will be watching a STEM video "Racing Extinction" a cutting edge, new documentary from Discovery. They will be doing multiple activities that tie all core subjects together, hitting on STEM and ELA. This is a great opportunity to mention that the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team has shown much improvement over last year, especially in Language Arts with the addition of veteran teacher Beth Aitken and in Science with Brian Tankesley. Way to go 7<sup>th</sup> grade!!

Rhonda Koeppe's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science classes have been learning about DNA. This week the newspaper came in to take pictures of the students building "Edible DNA" a hands on lab created by Mrs. Koeppe. The students learned a lot plus had a treat at the end. See Picture included.

On Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, Debbie Emery, Leadership Process Executive from the Flippen Group spent all day with Danny. She visited classrooms, interviewed students and staff, and got an overall feeling of the culture of Camp Verde Middle School. She had many great things to say about us and was very impressed by what she saw and heard. A decision will be made early next spring if we are a National Showcase School. Win or lose, Camp Verde Middle School is awesome!

It was a busy week this week as there were 3 nights of home basketball games. Tuesday evening our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> boys' team beat Pine's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys 35-32. Also Tuesday evening, there was a super turn-out of middle school students that showed up to speak at the monthly Board meeting. This morning there is a nice article on the front page of the Bugle about it. Last night's "Winter Ball", or Christmas dance at the cafeteria from 6-8 was a smashing hit for many students. All were well behaved and had a great time! Can you believe that after next week Semester 1 is over and we'll be on break.

This week 2 new students tested into the ELL program at the elementary school. Currently, there are 38 ELL students at the elementary; 10 ELL students at the middle school and 3 ELL students at the high school. The annual conference for the Office of English Language Acquisition was held this week in Tucson. Lori Hicks, Laura Norman, Jonee Elsea and Debbie Witt represented our school district. This conference offers sessions and resources for both SEI classrooms and teachers with students on ILLPs in the mainstream classrooms.

The Impact Aid Grant application has become available on the government website. Work has begun to prepare that grant application for both CVUSD and South Verde. This is the first time we have applied for this grant and Title VII on behalf of South Verde. The application does not close until February 1<sup>st</sup>. The district was just awarded the American Student Needs Grant for the first time. This is a \$2,000 grant that will be used to purchase Ipads to be used in tutoring our Native students.

The middle school students that have attending the Apache and Yavapai language classes held their graduation on Wednesday at the YAN tribal chambers. Fourteen students will be graduating from the language classes. Next semester, starting January 11<sup>th</sup> the language classes will be offered to interested high schools students.