

Weekly Board Report 18 December 2015

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1538 as compared to 1508 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 729 vs. 740; Middle School 343 vs. 322; High School 435 vs. 419; Accommodations School 31 vs. 27. South Verde Magnet School 63 vs. 96.

Free and reduced numbers: Camp Verde Unified School District; Free 974; Reduced 126. Current numbers at Elementary free 502; reduced 53; Middle School free 213; reduced 29; High School free 209; reduced 38; Accommodations School free 20; reduced 1; South Verde Magnet School free 30; reduced 5. The percentages for each school: Elementary – 76.13%; Middle School – 70.55%; High School 56.91%; Accommodation School 72.41%. Camp Verde School district percentage of Free/Reduced – 68.84%. South Verde Magnet School District 55.56%.

While we are all aware our budget is a calculated estimate of revenues and expenses, the 16-17 budget looks to be an even greater estimate than ever before. The Arizona legislature has decided the 16-17 school year budget, and future budgets, will be based on current year Average Daily Membership (ADM), not on prior year ADM, as in the past. The significance of this change is far reaching for our school district funding process and much of it still remains to be clarified. In general, what this means is our funding will be based more on future projections of ADM rather than past. For our present, 15-16 school year you approved a budget based on the 14-15 100th Day Count. Although ADE will be finalizing the numbers July of 2016 and many factors are still in play, the main portion of this year's budget is based on a known number, the prior year's 100th day count. For the 16-17 school year our budget that is prepared for the board in the spring and adopted in July of 2016, and will be based on an estimate of what our 100th Day count will be in February of 2017. Some positives are our enrollment numbers continue to be up over last year, with our current estimates showing a potential increase of 20 to 30 more students above our current numbers. Understanding this will cause uncertainty to our forecasts, but with an anticipated increase in ADM, our funding will more affectively align with our spending needs. There are obviously a number of questions and issues that have been raised and there is still a lot of uncertainty, but I wanted to make you aware of this change for next year.

Camp Verde High School Choir held a very successful and entertaining Christmas Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 15th. Mrs. Worden did an outstanding job organizing and leading both the high school and middle school choirs. Additional thank you goes out to Mrs. Worden and the Camp Verde staff members who performed. It was a treat for the students and audience to see our staff involved in the concert. The new uniforms the high school picked out looked great. It was a great investment made by CVHS from the Auxiliary general bookstore and concessions account.

The counseling department and English department partnered with Taco Bell and their Graduate for Mas Challenge Program this past semester. This was a fun, friendly competition among high schools to motivate and inspire students to come to school every day, make the promise to graduate high school, and connect with a great website created by Taco Bell full of educational tools to help students reach their goals. Camp Verde High School had over 30% of our students make the promise to graduate and complete the required assignments and thus won \$500.00 for the high school to spend on our students for positive student reinforcement award assemblies.

The students finished semester one this past week completing their finals exams on Wednesday and Thursday. The report cards will be mailed out on Friday morning for semester one. Included in the report card is the 2015 tax credit for donation to Camp Verde schools. We are promoting the tax credit program through radio ads and the newspaper.

CVHS Sports over the Christmas break:

Girls basketball, the 18th Annual Yvonne Johnson Memorial girls basketball tournament at home. They will play at the middle school and high school gyms on Dec. 29th -30th. It is sponsored by Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Boys basketball will be at the Phoenix Christian tournament on Dec. 29 – 30.

Wrestling will be at the Window Rock tournament on Dec. 18 -19.

It was an incredible first semester at Camp Verde Middle School. It came to a close today as I watched students in Mr. Hansen's 6th grade Math class create their own "healthy sodas". They having been learning about ratios and this task was to make a soda that was not too sweet, and that had just enough "fizziness" by combining the right ratio of juice to seltzer water. It was great to see that teaching and learning was still happening even on the last day of school before Christmas break.



A few days ago, I was in an amazing teacher's classroom, 7th grade Language Arts teacher Beth Aitken, where she had students dressing up in costumes to act out scenes from Greek mythology that they had been reading. It was neat watching students get so excited and involved in their learning.



On Tuesday evening, the Middle School choir sang Christmas songs at the Middle and High Schools' concert. I also sang with a group of staff from the Elementary, Middle, and High School. We had a blast, and are looking forward to performing again in the Spring.



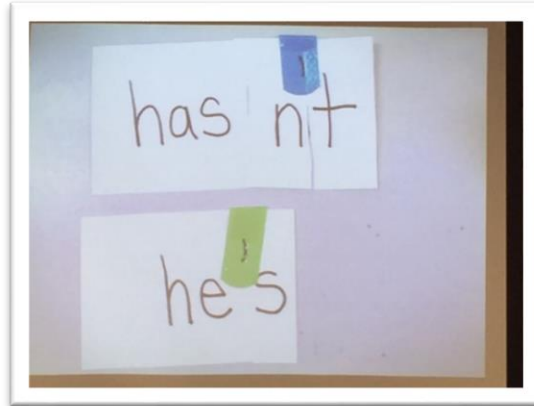
The 7th & 8th grade basketball teams had a very successful free throw contest raising enough money to adopt several families for Christmas. Coaches Donnie Shanks and Steve Stone said their kids had a blast shopping as well. Way to go kids!!!!!! Camp Verde Middle School would like to wish everyone a very

Merry Christmas!!!! And a Happy New Year as well!!!! We are looking forward to a very successful semester 2 in 2016.

Mrs. Howe's 5th graders raised a grand total of \$407.00 from candy cane sales (including a \$50.00 donation.) On Thursday, Mrs. Howe's class went on a shopping field trip to Walmart where they spent the entire amount of money on their chosen adopt-a-family. The students had a great time and learned some very valuable lessons—math, budgeting (including the importance of allowing for tax when figuring out the cost of items), and citizenship. Below is a picture of the class with the presents they purchased and wrapped.



Hands-on is definitely the way to go when teaching everything from math to science to reading. Mrs. Meheut exhibited an excellent example of this type of teaching and learning recently when she had her 1st grade students perform “surgery” in order to create contractions. The doctors donned their surgical masks and sutured together words, and followed up with putting a bandage on the spot where a letter was removed.



Our fifth grade class went on their second reward field trip on Wednesday, December 16th. The students who had all their work turned in, had no D's or F's, and had no behavioral referrals were taken to the bowling alley where they spent time socializing and trying their hand at ten-pin bowling. These field trips have done a great deal to motivate students to keep applying themselves to their academics and behavioral choices.

Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Meyer took their third grade classes to see a stage version of the Roald Dahl classic story *James and the Giant Peach* in Prescott at the Center for the Arts. The classes really enjoyed watching one of their favorite stories come to life. Experiences like this serve to reinforce connections to real-world applications like reading and writing.

The elementary school held their first semester awards assemblies on Thursday. Families and friends cheered on the students as awards were given for reading, math, spelling, writing, perfect attendance, citizenship, and honor roll. It was incredible to see the support of so many families and friends in the audience.

A side note about honor roll--Honor roll is an award that is reserved for 4th and 5th grade students. In order to earn a spot on the honor roll, students must earn A's and/or B's in every subject. In 4th grade, there were 42 honor roll recipients (almost half the class!) and in 5th grade there were 31 honor roll recipients. These are impressive numbers! Way to go students and teachers!

Last week, we reported on our elementary school Cyber Cowboys' first competition. It was reported that they placed 16th out of a field of 30 teams. Mrs. Dickey has reported that the Cyber Cowboys actually came in tied for 14th place at their recent competition. It is worth noting that these 4th grade students competed against 8th grade students and teams that have several years' worth of experience going into the competition.

The next big thing in elementary robotics is the new Friday program **Battle of the Bots!** For six weeks, students will investigate the world of science, technology, engineering, and math through robotics. Each team of up to four students will build a Lego NXT or EV3 robot. They will spend time learning how to program their robots and engineer them to compete in a "robot battle" where one robot will neutralize or push the other robot out of a marked area.

We recently had a 5th grade student lose their home to a fire. Mrs. Rodriguez's 1st grade class raised money to help the family during the holiday season by collecting pennies. In all, the class raised \$45.00!

Mrs. Reddell's 4th grade class sang Christmas carols for other classes around the school. Here is a picture of them singing *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas* for the front office staff.



Mrs. Zawel interviewed five prospective students this week, all of whom will be starting after the winter break on January 4, 2016. Three of the five students had been drop outs. South Verde is looking to steadily increase their number of students throughout the course of the second semester.

Thursday, December 17, SVHS provided a senior meeting, giving out individualized graduation check reports to each senior. Of the 29 seniors currently attending, 19 are set to graduate on time. Of the remaining ten, two of them are fairly close to graduating either in May or after summer school in June.

Two more graduates have joined the previous two graduates from earlier this year! Seniors, Cortlynn Meyer and Jake Kelley, successfully completed their high school credits Thursday, December 17. These individuals have encountered major stumbling blocks in their lives, and yet they persevered and finished a major life milestone. Both of them have jobs outside of school, and both have been in the position of caregiver to younger siblings. Cortlynn will be continuing with higher education at Yavapai College. Jake will continue working at Verde Sol-Air.

Jalen Peters, a youth adviser, will be coming to SVHS starting January 11 to meet with the students and provide counseling services to those in need.

Deon Murphy and Terry Teach used some funds from the Haunted House fundraiser at Halloween and purchased clothing and toys for children of families in need. Some of those children attend the childcare center at SVHS, and others are young siblings of some of the high school students. Mrs. Murphy has organized this charitable event for eight years, providing a happy Christmas for lots of tots.

Special thanks to Mr. Barker and Shake Rattle and Bowl for providing transportation and facilities to over twenty SVHS students who are in need of a break from the daily routine of school and are looking to share laughs and be a team player on the lanes.

The end of each quarter is busy for all teacher but it is especially busy for those teachers that have our ELL students. Along with report cards, teachers of ELL students must update their Individual Language Learning Plans for their ELL students. Individual Language Learning Plans (ILLPs) consist of four components: Oral English/ Conversation and Vocabulary; Reading; Writing and Grammar. Teachers choose 4 goals based on English Language Proficiency standards for each of the component areas. Teachers also write a quarterly progress report for the ELL student based on progress in relation to English language acquisition. The AZELLA spring reassessment window is February 8th – March 25th. AZELLA determines whether a student continues in the ELL program or whether they are considered “Proficient” and exited from the program.

The last half of December is a quiet time in the grant world. The third step in the SEI grant for FY17 was completed this week. January is busy with Title VII grant and Impact Aid grant for FY17. Most of the funds from the entitlement grants have been spent or allocated for expenditures this spring. We have submitted the compliance paperwork for Cycle 5 monitoring which is monitoring of our Gifted Education Programs and are waiting for ADE’s final acceptance. A quick reminder that the Teacher Evaluation Acceptance which requires a board signature is due February 1st.

The Special Education Department is looking at the past semester and seeing all of the wonderful things that have occurred this school year already. The staff of the Special Education Department, Janet Anderson, Tammey Carter, Chris Gilbert, Marie Gustin, Jenni Jackson, Debbie Justus, Stacey Munger, Trish Pittman, Lisa Powers, Lois Warren, Sonya Williams-Rowe and Dr. Sami Lynn Story Worssam have made an impact into many lives in the District. These ladies work with amazing students to bring out the strengths and provide support and resources to the students that the students will need to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Mr. DeVries visits classrooms weekly and is always amazed at the wonderful job these ladies do with the students. There has not been a week that something exciting and new is not being done in the classrooms. These ladies have a true passion for the students they teach and Camp Verde Unified School District is privileged to have such a great staff. Mr. DeVries encourages the Board and the Superintendent to stop by the classrooms of these ladies to see what is going on and how the students are growing and succeeding.

Mr. DeVries would also like to take a moment to thank Jocelyn Alvey, Special Education Coordinator for the job she does in the Special Education Department. Ms. Alvey keeps track of all Special Education files and records as well as does many of the reports that are required by the State.

Assessment is gearing up for the upcoming AzMERIT testing session. This year the testing window for AzMERIT and AIMS Science is overlapped. The testing window for AIMS Science is March 14 through April 22, 2016. The testing window for AzMERIT is March 28 through May 6, 2016. There are two deadlines during these testing windows that will make it challenging to schedule testing. The first is the final day for the AIMS Science test which is April 21, this is the final day for the district to complete the science testing. The other deadline is April 14 when all writing must be completed for the AzMERIT testing. These deadlines are within a week of each other and involve different testing instruments. The challenge comes with trying not to stretch out the testing for too long so that student effort suffers and the network and its capabilities. This is not much different than last year, the deadlines just seem closer together this time. AzMERIT Testing will be online again this year. The AIMS Science test is paper and pencil based.

Transportation is gearing up for bus inspections and a lot of maintenance work over the Christmas break. We look forward to having the buses parked so we can spend some quality time on each one.

Facilities will be deep cleaning all campuses and continuing to provide a great educational atmosphere for students to learn.