

Weekly Board Report 15 January 2016

The auditors were on our campus for three days this week, finalizing the Fiscal Year 14-15 audit. They “drilled-down” pretty deep in a number of areas testing for compliance, accuracy, and transparency. We always learn from this process of interaction with our auditors as they hold us accountable. This visit was very positive. The auditors had a few suggestions, but only one write up. The suggestions will help us be even more effective and productive in handling public funds.

Camp Verde High School held senior night for the wrestling program on Tuesday, Jan. 12. Five teams participated and the Cowboys won all four duals they wrestled. The program honored six seniors and their parents/guardians for their accomplishments in wrestling over the past four years. The basketball teams played in Chino Valley on Tuesday and both varsity teams won their games. The basketball team will play at home this Friday starting at 2:30 pm with girls JV and continuing until the boys’ game at 7:00 pm.

The teachers at Camp Verde High School worked on their pre-post testing data from semester 1. They will calculate the percent gain and perform an item analysis from the testing results. They will use it to enhance and update the curriculum from semester 1. The use of data at CVHS over the last two years has been beneficial to the incorporation of the new college and career ready (Common Core) standards in the existing curriculum.

The clubs at CVHS continue to complete community service projects for the Jones Ford “Pay it Forward” program. Several clubs have completed projects and several new community service projects have started this semester. The winner of the program will be determined by a group of community members the first part of May. CVHS greatly appreciates the support of our new local business partner in Jones Ford.

The counseling department is holding the 2nd Annual Senior/Junior College and Financial Aide Night for students and parents on Wednesday, Jan. 20th in the theater and cafeteria starting at 6:00 pm with a presentation in the theater on required financial aid forms and help. The presenters are from around the state of Arizona. After the presentation, the students and parents will have time to tour over 20 colleges and programs in the cafeteria. Also, there will be time for them to fill out the financial aid FSFA paperwork with help from one of the presenters. A special thank you goes out to the counseling department, maintenance department, technology department and Yavapai College for the set up and organization of this great event.

CVHS held its Semester 1 awards program on Thursday, Jan. 14th. Over 57 % of the students received perfect attendance for the semester, 123 students receive honor roll certificates and awards for a 3.5 GPA or higher and 31 students received awards for increasing their GPA by a .5 over the semester. The students received Sonic awards and certificates. Several students from each category were drawn to receive gift cards or cash prizes for their accomplishments. The last award was the students receive ice cream as they exited the awards program.

The Intro and Intermediate Digital Media students secured 13 honorable mention wins in MATFORCE's recent Anti-Underage Drinking Campaign. Each student receives a \$10 Amazon gift card. We submitted 46 posters and are pleased with this positive recognition. Please see attached file for a copy of the honorable mention winners from CVHS for the MatForce poster contest.

2nd year Digital Media (Intermediate) students are tackling Adobe's InDesign program. This is best known for being the layout and design program used by magazines and newspapers to publish their periodicals. They are hoping to launch a monthly school newsletter sometime this spring.

TEAM Digital (Advanced Digital Media) students continue to perfect our news productions. Just before Christmas break, Samuel Villalobos and Nic Westervelt took great initiative and said announcements in Spanish. As a student of languages myself, I am extremely proud of them, as they translated from English to Spanish as they were reading the prompts. Please make sure to watch all of our productions, but this one in particular! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQRGMKh1_ng

TEAM Digital is working with Mrs. Dickey to re-shoot footage of the Elementary's Cyber Cowboys Robotics Team. Our crew is hoping to have a great video put together for her in February barring any more technical set-backs.

TEAM Digital has graciously volunteered to help the CKH's middle school team out by creating a video production to be submitted by Mr. Howe to the Flippen Group as part of our CKH nomination package. Creative strategy is coming together this weekend and our TEAM will begin filming Tuesday, January 19th and have it ready to present by January 30th.

Yearbook is rolling along towards what we believe is another award winning book! Our theme, Find Your [SELF], has a colorful, clean look with a positive message promoting the adventure of finding our passion, spirit, style, and drive. We have submitted a third of our 152 pages with the remaining pages due in early March. To add to this excitement, our staff surpassed last year's ad sales! Between senior dedications and local business ads, we deposited \$6,625. We have also sold nearly half of our books. All of this information leads to the very relieving fact that our book is paid for! From here on out, it's creative fun harnessed by tough deadlines.

Camp Verde Middle School would like to congratulate its students of the month for January; 6th grade: Jacob Oothoudt, 7th grade: Conrad Noone, 8th grade: Brian Vega, and athlete McKenna Martin. Each month I go to the Kiwanis meeting and the Kiwanis recognizes our 8th grade student of the month, buying the student and their parent breakfast. Yesterday morning I attended with Brian Vega and his mother Maria.

In Jessica Smith's 6th grade Language Arts classes this week, they learned about the different types of figurative language. When they finish that, they will be moving on to poetry. Brian Tankesley's 7th grade Science students made fossils out of Play-doh, and then traded with one other, each student trying to identify what object made the fossil.

The Middle School is still in the hunt for being named a National Showcase School by the Flippen Group for Capturing Kids' Hearts. Next week we are teaming up with Tina Scott's High School Media class to shoot a video about our Middle School to submit for another requirement. The whole school, students and staff, are also participating in a survey about the culture and climate of our school since implementing CKH. On January 27, a group of teachers and Mr. Howe are taking 6 students from the Middle School to speak at a CKH conference. More to come on that as we get closer. Really exciting times here at Camp Verde Middle School!!!

It was a rough day yesterday for the Middle School basketball teams. All teams but Coach Stone's 7th & 8th grade girls lost to Beaver Creek. Ouch! Pictures for basketball and cheer are this coming Thursday, January 21st. The teams only have 2 more regular season games. The 7th & 8th grade boys' tournament will be in Clarkdale, while the girls' is at Big Park. This weekend the wrestlers travel to Chino Valley for the Northern Arizona regionals tournament. Wrestling pictures are a week from this coming Monday, on January 25th. The wrestling team will be attending the State tournament at the end of the month in Tucson. Good Luck to all the teams in the coming weeks. Spring sports are just around the corner. We are posting for a new baseball coach as well as a boys' soccer coach.

The Camp Verde Bugle/Verde Independent has a program that puts newspapers into the hands of students. The program is called *Newspapers in the Classroom* and has a goal of providing real-world reading opportunities to students. The elementary school was contacted to see if they would like to receive newspapers for their classroom use and seven teachers have taken them up on their offer. Grade levels range from 1st through 5th and include Special Education as well. The newspapers will be delivered every Tuesday and will include Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday copies from the prior week.

Over the past five years, the elementary school's PTO has struggled to maintain forward momentum. The entire PTO has historically consisted of one or two people running the entire enterprise and quitting after the first year due to a lack of support. Last year, we had no PTO as the person running it became a teacher and turned her focus to the students in her room.

We are happy to report that there is a small core group of enthusiastic volunteers who are requesting to start a new PTO at the elementary school. We have met with them and they are in the process of researching the legal requirements for establishing an organization of this type as well as setting some preliminary goals. These are very energetic, dedicated parents and we believe there will be great things that come from this group—including building connections in our community that will help support the mission and vision of our district.

This is a final reminder about the MLK Jr. March for the town of Camp Verde. This will take place on Monday, January 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Main Street in Camp Verde. Chandler Plante has done a fantastic job of inviting students, staff, and board members to join him in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event includes a visit to Haven Health of Camp Verde, a nursing home located off of highway 260. This portion of the day starts at 1:00 p.m. and Chandler would like everyone to know that they are invited to participate in this activity as well.

More Chandler Plante news – the *Teens for Jeans* program is kicking off at the elementary school with boxes being delivered to each classroom. From the Teens for Jeans website:

The Problem: Over a million young people experience homelessness in the US every year. One item they often request? A pair of jeans.

The Solution: Run a gently-used jeans drive in your school or community and donate them at a local shelter. You'll be directly providing an essential clothing item for youth in need. Jeans are the perfect item to donate. They can be worn multiple times between washes, can be dressed up or dressed down, and provide a sense of normalcy to the person wearing them.

If you have jeans of any size that fit the requirements above, please bring them to the elementary school by February 11th and Chandler will add them to the collection, which will be donated to a local youth-servicing agency. (An aside: Get this student's autograph now because we are convinced he will be a world-renown humanitarian and President of the United States someday!)

Our 5th grade team is busy planning their remaining field trips for the year. These include an academic field trip to see the stage production of *The Big Friendly Giant* at Yavapai College in February, a reward field trip to see a movie in March, and the annual trip to Wet-n-Wild in Phoenix after their "Forty Days of Focus" push at the end of the school year.

Teachers at the elementary school are using PD time for the month of January to examine data. Our two main sources for data collection are STAR reading and math scores. STAR is a computer-based assessment system that provides many avenues for data examination including grade-level equivalency ratings, common core standards mastery levels, and recommendations for differentiating instruction to meet individual learning needs. STAR tests are given three times per year in August, December, and May. Many teachers choose to test more frequently, as STAR provides line graphs for measuring student growth as well.

AIMSweb is our other source for data. Three of these assessments are paper and pencil based, with the fourth being an oral reading fluency test. AIMSweb assessments are given in August, December, and May by the Title 1 paraprofessionals. The data analysis is more limited with AIMSweb, but does provide for some nice "snapshots" of how a given class or grade level is performing. Below is an example of the 2nd grade AIMSweb scores for the year so far. The idea with this type of data analysis is to examine how the students are progressing as a group. This example shows that our second graders have moved from having 42% of them reading at grade level to 53%. In five months, 11% of our students have grown at a higher than normal rate. This is the type of growth we want to see, and it is what allows us to move students from below grade level performance to on-level or even above-level reading rates. Ultimately, we want to see the green section grow, and the red section shrink as each school year progresses.

Preparations for spring sports have started on the baseball field and track. Plans are in place for leveling the track and working on some curbing safety issues. The baseball field looks great but will have some touch ups done to the dirt and backstop.

This coming week the elementary school roof will receive a great deal of attention to deal once again with the leaks that occurred from the rain storm last week.

Transportation enjoyed a week without slippery roads and muddy feet so all in all it was a blessed week.

South Verde currently has an enrollment of 75 students, five of which are new arrivals this week. Two freshmen, two sophomores, and one junior have joined the ranks. At least two more students will be completing their enrollment process next week. SVHS is thrilled to have these students and will do everything possible to help them assimilate into our family and be actively involved in the programs offered.

The Bulldogs traveled south to Phoenix this past Wednesday, January 13, to take on Bella Vista. The team lost by eighteen points, yet the point margin is an improvement on past losses. The team has had two days of practice this week, and they are hoping for a strong win today against Leupp, where SV will have home advantage.

Deon Murphy took thirteen students over to the Seventh Day Adventist Church for South Verde's monthly volunteer program at the Food Bank. Seven of those students have participated before, while six were new. Mrs. Zawel and Mrs. Murphy discuss beforehand those students who would benefit from the volunteer work, including students who are new to South Verde. Mrs. Murphy has her "go-to" students who are exemplary assistants at the Food Bank, always willing to help with any aspect needed. Every month a line of students crowd around Mrs. Zawel when the list is broadcast, hoping to be added to the list. A limited number of students may help each month, so names go on a rotational basis. Every student who has ever been part of the program wholeheartedly enjoys serving the Verde Valley community. They have repeatedly said how good it makes them feel to contribute, not to mention the self-esteem boost the program affords.

Cass Mitchell, a volunteer at the Camp Verde Christian Assembly, has observed the band class this week and has expressed an interest in being the lead instructor for those students. Cass is a talented guitarist and his youth and enthusiasm have matched well with the intimate class of five students.

Tanner Ruiz, a senior at SV, has been named their Student of the Quarter for quarter two of this school term. This is Tanner's third year at SH. He has always been a productive student, a serious young man with an infectious laugh. In addition to school and being on the basketball team, Tanner has worked at Sonic for nearly two years, supporting himself. He is one of the best math students SV has ever had; additionally, he scored so high on his ASVAB test that an Army recruiter relayed that he could virtually pick any type of work he wanted to do, if he chose a military career. Tanner is a well-loved student, and the staff has high hopes for his future.

This week 3 items were accepted by the ADE in ALEAT for annual compliance. ADE formally accepted all documentation for Cycle 5 which is the annual review for this year which focused on our gifted programs. The exemption for Comparability was also accepted since we do not have overlapping of grades except in the accommodation school which is less than 100 students. The Assurance of Teacher Evaluation System was also signed and submitted. Final touches are being put on the Impact Aid grant and signatures gathered. Impact Aid is the grant that provides funds to compensate for reduction in property taxes gathered due to federal lands. With the approval of the American Indian Student Need Grant, we are moving ahead with the purchase of iPads to get them into the hands of the tutors.

Starting the first week of February, Laurie Kaaekuahiwi will also be in classrooms much of the day at the elementary school tutoring Native students.

Resource language arts classes, at Camp Verde Middle School, wrote essays on a quote of their choice made by Martin Luther King Jr. Six of the students wanted to submit their essays to the contest sponsored by Mrs. Plante. Ysmael Valdez was selected as the winner of the contest. He wrote about the quote, "You don't know why you're alive until you know what you'd die for." He will read his essay on Monday at 11:00 am during Camp Verde's MLK Jr. celebrations.

The Special Education Department, Camp Verde High School and the CVUSD Maintenance and Transportation Department are beginning a Transition Program. This program utilizes career exploration, teaches students how to write a resume', how to fill out job applications, and teaches job skills in various areas of the Maintenance and Transportation Department. This is a program that will help students learn what it is like to hold a job and learn job skills with some of our District employees. Mrs. Anderson will be heading up this program for the students, she will work closely with Mr. Weir, Mr. Barker and Mr. DeVries as this program develops.

The AzMERIT test will be assessed this year using a paper based test in the Camp Verde Unified School District. South Verde Technology Magnet will continue with the online assessment. The change to paper based is different from last year when both Districts used a computer based platform for the AzMERIT assessment. The testing window for the paper based assessment is March 28 through April 8. The computer based assessment window is March 28 through May 6 with the writing portion of the test having a deadline of April 15.

To better prepare students for the ever-changing demand in technology, the Technology department has several areas of concentration. These concentrations focus on providing an increased capacity on infrastructure as well as bettering the student to computer ratios to accommodate technology demands.

With the onset of state mandating testing and cloud technologies, the technology department has been actively pursuing options to increase the capacity of the infrastructure.

Several key factors include: increasing the bandwidth speeds from 100mbps to 1 gig to the outside world (the internet), increasing the districtwide wifi to a unified CISCO management interface while providing more wireless access points throughout the district, increasing the student to computer ratios (with a concentration on iOS devices, and chromebooks), providing better interfaces for new technologies (i.e. apple airplay, smart tvs, and other communication devices), establishing Moodle servers with integrations with google apps for education (this way we get the best of both), integrating google API into our current Active Directory for SSO (Single Sign On Authentication) and better management of future devices/technology, increasing the amount of network drops throughout the district (180+ drops), increasing the amount of gig switches per campus for better LAN capability and support of Wireless Access Points, as well as other infrastructure intricacies.

To allow all the above areas of concentration, Technology will capitalize as much as possible from the eRate program. Historically the eRate program covers 70% - 80% of the expenses for internet, installation of WiFi, switches, and network drops. We are currently accepting bids for increased bandwidth, WiFi project, and network drops/cabling project and have the intention of completing these projects for YR 16/17.

As a side note: the 1-1 student to computer ratio initiative is evolving and still a work in progress as new technologies and cloud computing are rapidly changing. To give an example, Apple recently released an announcement of their Apple Education Suite and management system (which would be an ideal candidate at the Elementary School level), and we are proactively pursuing the above mentioned Apple Education Suite Beta to pilot.