

## Weekly Board Report 12 February 2016

A reminder that this coming Wednesday 17 February, Camp Verde High School will be holding their incoming freshman orientation. Currently 167 potential freshman have signed up to attend this event. The current 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students have already registered for next fall. With a graduating class of 82...we are expecting the high school to have an increase in enrollment next school year. The next registration date of focus is 1 April, as that is when the elementary school will begin to register Kindergarten students for the next school year.

This coming Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, I will be meeting with NAU President Dr. Rita Cheng along with the following NAU staff members and Verde members:

Joanne Keene, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff  
Christy Farley, Vice President of Government Affairs & Business Partners  
Fred Hurst, Sr. Vice President, Extended Campuses  
Astrid Klocke, Associate Vice President, Extended Campus  
Vice-Chairman Darlene Rubio - Yavapai/Apache Nation  
Council Woman Annette Mendez - Yavapai/Apache Nation  
Dr. Dennis Goodwin, Superintendent Camp Verde Unified School District  
Sandy Moriarity, Mayor, City of Sedona  
Bob Oliphant, Retired Lawyer and Professor (Cottonwood)  
Ruth Wicks, Retired Educator (Clarkdale)  
Carol German, Camp Verde Town Council

My specific goals are to discuss dual credit opportunities here at CVUSD, a cohort of teachers taught at CVUSD with the goal of earning their masters' degree in education, and post-secondary opportunities for adults in the Verde Valley.

This last Monday the first meeting was held of the second phase of the strategic planning process. As the board approved the new mission and vision statements, this second committee will be creating a school model to implement here at CVUSD and fulfill the mission and vision as defined by the board. This committee is made up of 12 teachers, 4 from each building, 4 principals, Mr. Hicks, Mary Hudson and myself. The board will be provided updates as the planning progresses.

We had a meeting this week with Steve Ayers the Economic Development Coordinator from the town exploring opportunities for partnership with CVUSD. The town has focused on three areas that have great potential for 5<sup>th</sup> Day Programs: Entrepreneurial Program, Service Volunteer Program, and River Recreation Program. The town has opportunities for grants and the prospects look very positive for integrating our students with these programs. It is anticipated these programs will break into numerous opportunities for our students to participate in hands on education. Some of the 5<sup>th</sup> Day Programs discussed were involvement in the planning and creation of a river recreation area and program with our Science department; high school students organizing sports, painting, and dance programs for younger students; and Junior Achievement.

Camp Verde High School athletics are coming to an end for winter sports. The Boys Basketball team lost in the first round of the sectional tournament on Wednesday by 6 points to Hopi. The Girls basketball team lost to Hopi on Tuesday night. The girls' basketball team is currently ranked in the top 24 teams and will qualify for the state tournament starting next week. At this time, they will play on Friday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> in Prescott Valley. More information to come as brackets are filled in. The wrestling team will compete in the state tournament on Friday starting at 11:30 am to 7:00 pm at Prescott Valley Event Center. The

semifinal round will start at 9:00 am on Saturday with the championship (medal round) round to start at 4:00 pm. They won the sectional tournament last weekend.

Spring sports practice and tryouts started on Monday, Feb. 8th for track, softball, baseball and golf. The first games are Feb. 19th. The robotics club has started building the new robot with the help and donations from Board member Mrs. Christine Schneider. They will compete on Feb. 20th at Salt River High School in a state qualifying VEX Robotics competition called "Nothing But Net." Mr. Kresge has over 12 students working on the project at this time.

Camp Verde High School honored their December Kiwanis Student of the Month Matt Mejia and the January Kiwanis Student of the Month Celena Allen on Thursday, Feb. 11th at the Kiwanis morning meeting. Please see attached picture. The Rotary Student of the Month for January was Joel Beauty.

Camp Verde High School will host the 8th grade orientation on Wednesday, February 17th. It will start with an introduction by the student council and CVUSD Administration in the theater at 9:30 am. The students will tour CVHS and the CTE classes. The student council will serve hotdogs at lunch to the students as they have time to visit the booths set up by CVHS sports teams and clubs. That night the 8th grade parent night will be held in the courtyard starting at 5:30 pm with food and introduction. The students and parents will have time to visit staff, classrooms and sports/club tables. It will conclude at 6:30 pm. The students will register for classes on Feb. 18th at their school sites.



This week at Camp Verde Middle School, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Mr. Pelfrey's Science class began learning about the different tissues of the human body. The epithelial, connective, muscular, and nervous tissues of the body and how they work together and independently of each other. They will be completing that section next week and then going on to the skeletal system.

The past two weeks in Mrs. Monroe's Math class, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have been learning about functions and the connections between graphs, tables and equations. They did an activity where they bounced a tennis ball for two minutes and graphed their results. The students then discussed the different graphs and what caused one graph to look different from another. It really helped them make the connection that graphs show a relationship between two things.

Sometimes the clues to our own uniqueness lies at our very fingertips! Arches, whorls and loops are under investigation as our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science students in Mrs. Koepp's class categorize their fingerprints.

They will be implementing techniques used by forensic specialists in determining ridge patterns and minutiae points. There are 12 ridge characteristics they will be able to identify. They will learn about the AFIS - Automated Fingerprint Identification System. Today a fingerprint can be scanned digitally using a smartphone!

The PE classes are playing a very exciting game called capture the flag football. It's an adaptation of regular capture the flag. Teams play both offense and defense at the same time. It is very fast paced. The game includes strategy and a high level of activity for players of all skill levels. The kids really enjoy it.

Sara Boland, Middle School Counselor, recently took 5 6th grade students per day down to the Elementary School to meet with the 5th graders regarding middle school. She took students who were in good standing and they spent about an hour talking and answering questions. The middle school students did a great job and got a lot of positive feedback from the Elementary teachers.

Tuesday of this past week, Oak Creek School's Principal, Christine Griffin, brought three of her staff with her to tour the Middle School. She was at the Capturing Kids' Hearts conference that our students spoke at, and she is looking at implementing the process at her school. They were able to visit several classrooms and observe the process in action. The next day she sent me a thank you, and these were her exact words; "Your campus, staff, and students are AMAZING!"

There are a lot of "great things" going on inside the classrooms of Camp Verde Middle School. However, Mr. Howe would like to take this opportunity to give a big public shout out to the "Grounds Crew" for the amazing job they do at my school and in our district, of making it a beautiful place that everyone can take pride in. A big THANK YOU! To Mike Baker, Jim Frank, and Robert Plante. You guys rock!

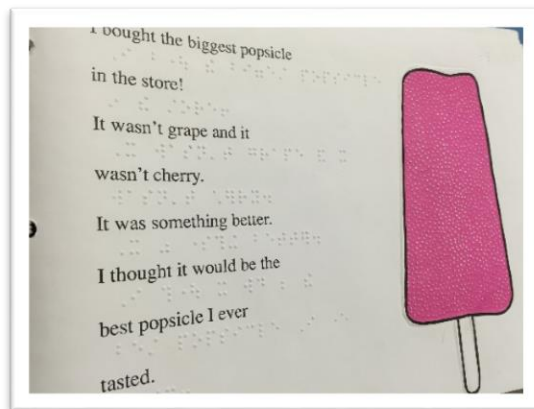
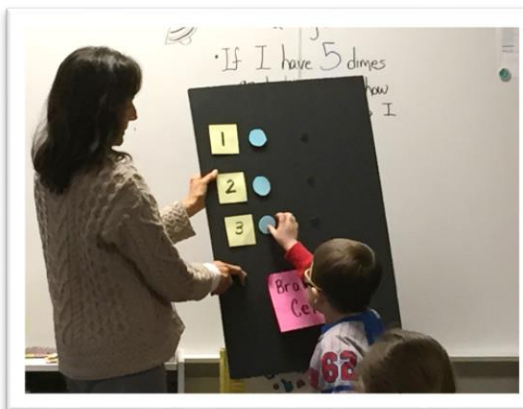


Ms. Ayers' class was introduced to the concept of Braille reading and writing last week when Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB) presented a lesson to the class. One of Ms. Ayers' students is learning braille and assisted with the presentation.

Students learned that Braille was created by Louis Braille in France in 1824. They learned that the Braille system uses a Braille cell that consists of six raised dots arranged in two parallel rows each having three

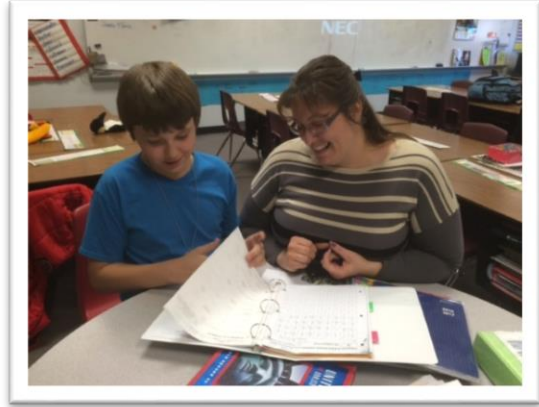
dots. The dot positions are identified by numbers from one through six and the positions of the dots determine what letter that cell is representing.

The students practiced writing in Braille by creating their names using peas glued on paper in Braille cells. They also got to see and touch several books that were written using the Braille alphabet.



Mrs. Wattenbarger has taken a novel approach for parent-teacher conferences in her 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Students have been keeping data binders to give them real-world practice in the use of data and to help provide ownership over their scholastic progress. During conferences, the students presented their data binders to their parents, leading to discussions about successes and plans for improvement. The students explained their score graphs that included STAR Reading, STAR Math, Math Facts, and Reading Fluency as well as personal goals with their quarterly grades and their personality/quality traits. Students and parents were very engaged and the parents were proud to watch their student tell them what they were doing!

*The pictures attached are of Treyton Battise showcasing his data binder to his mother during his Parent/Student/Teacher conference.*



The elementary preschool class has spent the past week learning about doctors. They spent time this week comparing items used by a doctor with items from last week's lesson on construction workers. Student created their own doctor bag complete with cotton balls, Q-tips, bandages, and tongue depressors. The students all participated in the discussion about the use of each item, even going so far as to explain to Miss Jenni that the medical gloves were important in keeping out germs! The lessons helped build understanding among students, some of whom have medical issues that impact their daily lives in the classroom. The final activity of the week was dressing up as doctors.



Melissa Howe's 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been working on United States geography in the past two weeks. Along with creating large maps of the U.S.A. that now adorn the hallways, the students must research and report on a state of their choosing. Once the research is complete, students present their findings to the class in a variety of ways—power point, oral report with note cards, or poster. *Pictured below: two U.S. maps created by Mrs. Howe's students.*



Title 1 at the elementary school will begin data tracking for every student throughout their academic career with us. Title 1 teacher Karen Castillo has created a booklet that will be used in multiple ways including the Student Study Team process, grade level brainstorming sessions, and individual progress monitoring. Having an easily obtainable score history in each student's file will allow us to respond to student needs and changing abilities in an expeditious manner. The Title 1 teacher and paraprofessionals will use time during our testing window to enter the data into books for every student at the elementary school.

Denise Meyer, elementary gifted and talented teacher/coordinator, attended the first of a series of gifted workshops sponsored by the Yavapai County Education Agency. Instructor, Karen Brown, is the gifted specialist for Paradise Valley Unified School District. The workshop focused on instructional strategies relevant to all students increasing the complexity rather than simply the difficulty of assigned tasks. Participants discussed encouraging standards mastery with engaged students rather than complacent students.

South Verde's softball season will soon be in gear. Nine students, with the hope of more, are awaiting practice time and game days with friendly rivals. Luke Hicks and the lead teachers will be conducting a meeting next week to discuss eligibility and sportsmanship. As always, the staff recognizes and will impart the dual responsibilities of any high school athlete: role as a student, role as a player, and role as a leader. Hopefully, the participating students will take these roles seriously and will be willing to make small sacrifices and work hard toward a successful season.

Chandler Plante graced SVHS with his enthusiasm and snappy attire - which was seen as very impressive by the student body - last Friday, February 5, speaking eloquently of the Jeans for Teens program. Thus far, in four days, six pairs of jeans have been collected. Students are reminded daily of the program and strongly encouraged to give to those in greater need. The goal is to amass at least twenty pairs, but many more would be wonderful and a true testament to the quality of selflessness.

Friday, February 5, SV hosted its second parent/teacher conference this year. In September, twelve parents came to the campus to speak to the teachers about progress, athletics, and other aspects of high school life. This time, twenty-five parents/guardians representing twenty-four students, a highly impressive number for such a small school. In fact, one-third of the student population was represented, much to the delight of the entire staff. Parents received a thorough report of their students' progress in every area of the school. Parents of juniors and seniors were also given information of ACT/SAT testing and Yavapai College. One student's father is hoping his son joins the Air Force; his son scored very high



on the ASVAB in the fall. Both the parents and the staff are working jointly to encourage and support every student. Especially those who may be reluctant to share their talents with the rest of the world, and to branch outside of the Verde Valley. College, the military, self-ventured business, and travel are all on the table for students to consider/embrace.

Wednesday, February 10, Deon Murphy led her troops to the Food Bank for South Verde's monthly volunteer effort, despite the fact that Deon was not feeling well. But as she said to Mrs. Zawel Tuesday morning, "Even if I have to drag myself out of bed, I will be there to help." What dedication! Fifteen students who have displayed responsible and respectful attributes at school were chosen to assist Deon and the other volunteers at the center. A few students were chosen specifically because they are new to SV and have never experienced the program. One student, a freshman, stated after the experience, that it was very enjoyable and she would be more than happy to volunteer again and again. She was given an inventory sheet where she marked clothing items taken and the amounts. Two other students helped her. Another student, a junior, deemed the experience as unique. She relayed, "I had a great time meeting and seeing people, new people in the community. I enjoyed having nice talks with the community members. I felt useful."

AZELLA testing began this week with the middle school students. The AZELLA Reassessment is given every spring to all ELL students to measure the level of their English language proficiency. There are two parts to the test: written and oral. The written test is given in grade level groups and takes approximately 3 hours. The oral portion is a phone conversation that is conducted one on one. Students dial in for a computer initiated conversation which records their voice and pronunciation.

Thursday we received news that the elementary school was approved for the Character Matching Grant in the amount of \$10,000 through the ADE which goes towards The Flippen Group fees for Capturing Kids Hearts training on the elementary campus.

Website Redesign and Development (this is a yearly function to keep up to date with current code and security best practices)

Current website redesign and development is underway. The district website(s) are to be expected to be back online by Monday with all revisions made. Some of these new revisions include a better backend interface for ease of use for staff members. I've been under development for some time now on creating better use features for staff, including a drag & drop of word documents for transcription of word to web post. We are also in preliminary works in collaborating with Tina Scotts' Media Team to create district website videos that promotes the district in several areas.

You can view the current site development here if you wish to see it in progress: <http://campverdeschools.org/>

We are awaiting the last of the eRate bids for the district Wi-Fi project. We can begin evaluating vendors at 3:00pm 02/12/16 to select the best candidate for equipment purchasing and installation. We are expected to have final vendor selections made within the next week. As a reminder, this project would accommodate the increased usage of Wi-Fi devices across the district. This also plays a crucial role with the bandwidth increase project and future initiatives.

...More information to come as we get closer to finalizing the eRate evaluations. If you would like to review the soon to expire RFP, it may be viewed at [http://campverdeschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/CVUSD\\_2016-01\\_RFP\\_WLAN.pdf](http://campverdeschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/CVUSD_2016-01_RFP_WLAN.pdf)

The technology infrastructure is sound and maintained with multiple tiers of backups. We are in preparations for the upcoming projects and have measures in place to make the upgrade transition easy for staff with no interruption of service. We will be updating all district systems over the coming breaks and will be doing a google migration into our Active Directory to allow ease of sign on and password manageability. Domain systems will be prepped for the windows 10 upgrade / no staff data will be lost during this migration. Technology will also be upgrading to the latest 2016 Microsoft Servers from our current 2012 servers to stay ahead of the curve.

In Ms. Carter's Middle School Language Arts classes the students enjoyed watching super bowl 50 commercials and determining what persuasive technique were used. "Over protective dad" was voted best commercial.

Eight High School students have spent part of a morning working with a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor from the Department of Economic Security. These students are working to refine skills to get the schooling and locate jobs that they want to work at once they are finished with high school. Many of the students have goals that will push them even farther in their education after graduating from Camp Verde High School.

Ms. Powers' Financial Literacy Math class at the High School has students talking about what life holds for them after graduation. Ms. Powers said "My students often tell me that they are going to use this as adults. I have adapted what my students write in their journals to help them copy down the information so that they can use it when they are adults. I have had them copy down websites that they might be able to use in making wise financial decisions as adults."

She also said, "I spent extra time on the chapter; "Life After High School" tying it into their Transitions Programs. I feel they are better prepared to go onto school, vocational programs and the world of work." Ms. Powers also stated, "We cover how to save, having an emergency fund, renting a place, buying a home, avoiding student loans, the truth about all loans, and how to invest and make money. I emphasize where to find the resources they need to make wise decisions."

This week the middle school will be having some repair work done in a few classrooms, with this work being completed by outside contractors. Unfortunately a few classes will be displaced for a few days during this process.

This week Facilities finished up the Tier Three Trust Loyalty Program which will allow us to save money on our insurance. This program includes premise inspections, safety meeting coverage, emergency management contacts, and completion of the Risk Management Summit. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year completing this program and it provides a great deal of help with planning, and implementation for issues that may pop up in the facilities area. This in turn helps keep students and staff safe and helps provide a great educational environment that we can be proud of.