

## **Weekly Board Report 26 February 2016**

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1529 as compared 1509 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 725 vs. 747; Middle School 346 vs. 324; High School 425 vs. 410; Accommodations School 33 vs. 28. South Verde Magnet School 77 vs. 96.

A quote from one of the team members on the next phase of strategic planning: "The Strategic Team is great. I feel so empowered when I leave our meetings. Today something kept running through my mind when we were talking about attendance and Capturing Kids Hearts. What about if we amp it up a bit and call it Capturing Kids and Parents Hearts." Another comment "Thanks for a wonderful meeting... it's refreshing and overwhelming yet very hopeful!". We are making great progress. Our next meeting will be taking the long list of thoughts and ideas and start to create programs and models to meet our districts vision and mission. I am very pleased with the open and creative ideas...but love the passion our teachers and staff have for our District.

The South Verde Technology Magnet School conversion will be discussed, voted, and enacted in the March board meeting. Because it is required we convert by 30 June 2016, the law allows the superintendent to just make this happen...or a board vote. Because I want the board to understand the process, I recommended the board vote to approve this transition. Frankly, the board has to vote yes...but it will allow a discussion and understanding to occur on the process and actions the two districts are taking, to integrate South Verde Technology Magnet into South Verde High School...a high in the Camp Verde Unified School District.

Also, in the March board meeting, I will be asking the board to approve a Principal position for South Verde High School. Marie has done a great job this year, but has made it clear to me that she loves teaching, and stated "I have no idea why anyone wants to be an administrator!" So, she will move back into the position of full time English teacher next year.

A few weeks ago, I had mentioned that I met with NAU president and several of her staff members regarding bringing more opportunities to the Verde Valley, and in particular Camp Verde. From our original meeting, several discussions have led to meetings being set up to discuss Culinary Arts, teacher cohort, student teachers, and dual credit with Coconino College/NAU. I anticipate more will follow from these discussions.

Congratulations to the girls' basketball team for qualifying for the state basketball tournament. They lost on Friday, Feb. 19th to Pima by a score of 50 to 38. They had a successful season even with all the injuries. Spring sports have started with softball winning on Wednesday at Scottsdale Christian and baseball attending the Bagdad HS Tournament this weekend. Track and golf will have their first meets next week.

The 10th and 12th grade English classes participated in the Arizona Youth Survey on Feb. 23rd. The survey is about substance abuse and social issues for teens. We will get the results in late May. Camp Verde High School has set March 29 & 30 for the AZMerit testing in the mornings and classes in the afternoon. April 13th will be the AIMS science test. The final testing will be the 3rd week of April for the state CTE End of Program testing.

This week was National FFA week. The FFA did an outstanding job of organizing dress up days and activities around campus. On Wednesday, they served nachos to the staff and FFA members. On Thursday, Feb. 25th the FFA held Young Aggie Day for the Elementary students. Over 675 students participated and they learned how to make butter, the five C's of Arizona, how a seed grows into a plant,

different livestock demonstrations. V Bar V Ranch taught about soil and texture, welding, fish, beef nutrition and the National Park Service explained Arizona Wildlife with several display items.

Course registration for the 16-17 school year has been completed and the course request numbers have been calculated. We are currently looking at 138 incoming freshmen. This is an increase from last year and will help bring our enrollment up with graduating 85 students this year. The staff will be looking at who is going to teach each course and potential staffing needs at Camp Verde High School.

Quite a few things happening this week at Camp Verde Middle School. Bryan Pelfrey's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science had a guest speaker this week; Erin Cody, from the Verde NRCED Environmental Education Center. She talked with the class about groundwater and the importance of conserving and caring for it. She brought in models and spent two days talking about the importance of water conservation in the Verde Valley. On Thursday, they took a 1/2 day field trip to the Tavasci Marsh and Big Spring near Tuzigoot in Clarkdale. This is the first time they have included a field trip as part of the presentation.

7<sup>th</sup> grade Science students in Mr. Tankesley's are learning about the continents, movement of plate tectonics, mountain building and earthquakes. They have created a continental map exemplifying continents, oceans, tectonic plates, plate direction and major mountain locations. Students read articles on the five major mountains in the world and are now creating a news article displaying how, when, and where the mountains were created. Next, students will learn about earthquakes and in the end design an earthquake proof city on paper.

Mrs. Koeppe's 8th grade Science students rounded out their unit on Genetics with a section on Biogenetic Engineering. They explored the founders, mechanisms and components involved in DNA manipulation and its effect on our world. This was topped off beautifully by Emily Clark. She is a senior at NAU who captivated the students with a presentation on her cancer research in genetic engineering. She designed her own plasmid to target specific cancer-causing proteins during her internship at Max Planck Institute in Germany! If you'd like to know what a plasmid is, or a restriction enzyme, recombinant DNA or transgenic organism, just ask any 8th grade student at Camp Verde Middle School!



Steve Wilson's Technology Lab students have had a blast working with Legos and creating many different models. 7<sup>th</sup> graders Nicole White and Stefani Granados were out testing their battery operated car.





PE started the Archery program this week. It will last for 2 weeks to finish this quarter, and then 2 more weeks to start the 4th quarter. Coach Stone teaches all students a brief history of archery, the anatomy of the bow and arrow, the three main uses for archery (defense, providing food, competition). They will learn all the classroom safety considerations, the shooting range protocol (whistle system), and proper shooting form. The kids are excited and have lots of fun.



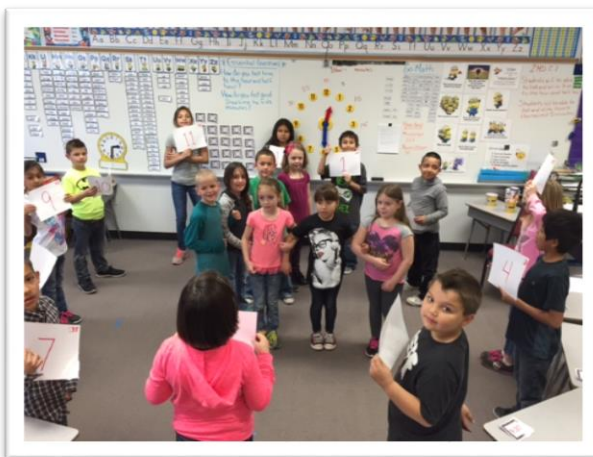
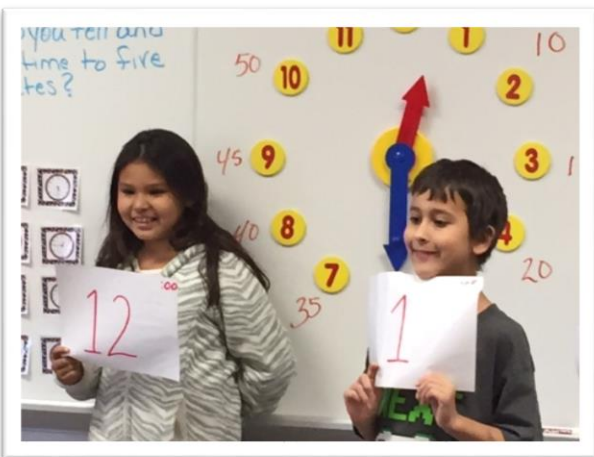
On Wednesday, during the last ½ hour of the day, the whole Middle School went down to the auditorium for the Native American Exodus presentation. Students watched as the Yavapai-Apache Bird Dancers sang songs and performed many dances. They did a terrific job!





Wednesday morning, Matt Schumacher, the principal from Cottonwood Middle School, brought four of his staff members to visit Camp Verde Middle School and its Capturing Kids' Hearts campus. They spent two hours with Mr. Howe asking questions and visiting classrooms. They were thoroughly impressed by our school's culture and climate. Their jaws hit the floor when they entered a room and were greeted by the whole class coming over to shake their hands and welcome them in. They asked many questions of the students including, "How has it helped bullying?" and "How would you feel if the school did away with Capturing Kids' Hearts?" Answers were respectively, "Bullying and referrals have gone way down," and all the students saying, "We would go on acting the way we are now, because CKH is just who we are!" It was heard and talked about today, that the teachers that visited on Wednesday could not stop talking about CVMS with their colleagues back in Cottonwood. Camp Verde is leading the way!!!!

Mrs. Young's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students learned about time in a big way this past week. They practiced telling time by creating a human clock in their classroom. All student had a part to play either as a number on the clock, a member of the minute and hour hand detail, or as a "time checker." As the time checker called out a time, the minute and hour hands had to move in a clockwise direction to create the correct time on the human clock. The numbers helped coach the hands to the right destination and the time checker gave a thumbs up or down once the hands decided they had the correct placement.



*Go Math!* is a go! We are still in the pilot year for *Go Math!*, but the teachers who have been learning and using the curriculum have decided to recommend to the superintendent and board members that we adopt *Go Math!* for next year at the elementary school. Our teachers initially found the program to be very challenging from both a teaching and learning standpoint. It is a resource-rich, rigorous curriculum that is directly aligned to the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards (ACCRS). Over time, the teachers piloting *Go Math!* have found that the students are developing tenacity and precision with their problem-solving skills that have not been evident with our current math curriculum. We will be presenting our recommendations to the board at the April board meeting.

The elementary school literacy team is working in conjunction with the E.D.I.S.A. team to research and select a writing program for our students. They have focused on several areas—research-based results, ease of implementation, rigor, and professional development support—in selecting a program. The committee has narrowed the field down to six programs: Being a Writer, Lucy Caulkins, Empowering Writers, Write Bright, Write Steps, and Strategies for Writers. Once the committee has narrowed the choices down to two, teachers in the committee will teach a lesson from each curriculum to “try them on” and reconvene to discuss the pros and cons of each curriculum. Our hope is to have a program identified, board approved, and purchased before the next school year.

Miss Erica, our new Fit Kids instructor, has been working diligently this week to create a Friday program for our elementary students. She has reported that, so far, she has 70 students signed up for Friday Fit Kids! This is an exciting and dynamic program that focuses on whole health—fitness, nutrition, and lifestyle choices that lead to good health. In the coming weeks, look for updates about Miss Erica’s classes.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have been studying Arizona history in social studies classes and have had several “hands-on” experiences. Prior to a recent field trip, a park ranger came to the school to present a lesson on the difference between pictographs and petroglyphs. (Hint: one is carved, the other is painted.) Students were given notebooks and canvas bags to bring on the field trip to help them in collecting information and data.

The field trip itself included visits to Montezuma’s Castle, Montezuma’s Well, and Tuzigoot National Monument. All of these sites were built and inhabited by the ancient Sinagua people and included dwellings, petroglyphs, pictographs, artifacts, and pottery. The Sinagua were farmers and artists with trade connections that spanned hundreds of miles. Our students learned that archeologist still have no idea why they left this fertile valley.

The lessons did not end with the field trip, however. The Verde Valley Archeology Center sent volunteers who presented a large variety of exhibits to the students, complete with hands-on activities. (Fun fact: The Verde Valley Archeology Center has been coming to our school for the past four years.) At the centers, students learned all about Sinagua housing (cavates and pit houses), artifacts, petroglyphs, pottery, corn-grinding, plants used for food, projectile points for tools and weapons, and beads used for decorating.

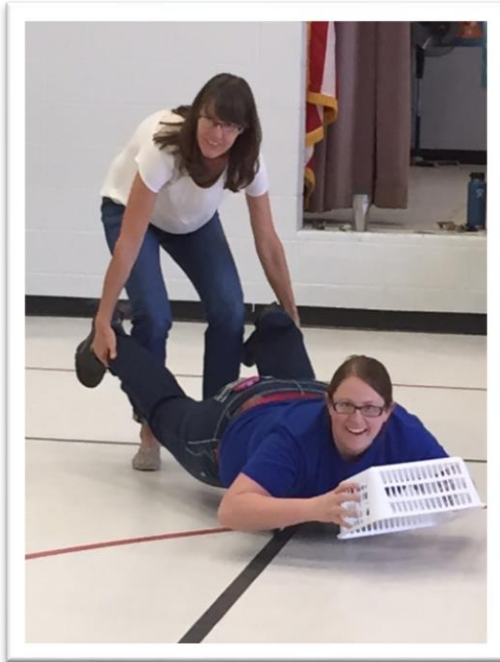
Below are pictures of the Verde Valley Archeology Center volunteers presenting to the students.



Next week is Read Across America Week—a celebration of Dr. Seuss' life, work, and love of reading. Our new PTA volunteers have been working hard to line up readers while the staff and students have been preparing for our theme days: *Daisy Head Mayzie* Crazy Hair Day, *Thing 1 and Thing 2* Twin Day, *Cat in the Hat / Fox in Socks* Crazy Hat and Socks Day, and *Red Fish, Blue Fish* Wear Your Grade Level Color Day. Come join us as a reader or just to show off your crazy hair!

What do elementary teachers do at the end of a long week? Play Human Hungry, Hungry Hippos, of course! The action was fast, the stakes were high. In the end, Mr. and Mrs. Showers proved to be a formidable team and took home the grand prize—a framed hippo photo. *Special thanks to Mrs. Surber and Miss Erica for a great stress-relief game!*









South Verde has been encouraging the students, as well as the staff, to bring in a pair of jeans for the Jeans for Teens program. The school is now up to twenty-three pairs! One more final push, with the hope of thirty or more pairs of jeans. Hopefully when Chandler Plante arrives next Monday to get his haul he will be staggering out, weighed down with pounds of denim!

In lieu of a softball season, SV is considering offering a hiking club for eligible students. Luke Hicks has suggested this club to promote camaraderie and physical exercise for interested students. Luke laid out a plan and evaluated the benefits of a hiking club. For one thing, only two students need to participate. Additionally, there is no pressure as exists with other sports that involve multiple participants and spectators. And there is the fact that there are no fees for referees or league fees. As we all know and love, the winter and spring months are beautiful in the Verde Valley; time to take advantage, get out of a comfort zone, and appreciate the natural surroundings. This club puts a positive spin on an old derisive directive: Take a Hike!

Since January, four students have been engaged in a Yavapai College course. One student, a senior named Ocean Brown, commented recently on her online class: "I am enrolled in 'First Year Experience 103'. The class helps you take notes and become a more positive student. My instructor is kind and understanding, and I really enjoy being a part of her class. I suggest this particular class to any new college student because of how helpful it has been for me." Ocean and the other three students eagerly await their next college course, and many more to come.

Tuesday, February 23, SV held its third senior meeting for the 2015-2016 school year. This year's list of graduates have been given a thorough breakdown of the credits they have earned and what is still deficient, class-wise. The impending graduates, along with receiving paperwork regarding credits, were also given a packet of information from Balfour relating to caps and gowns and other pertinent information. Excitement was in the air! Now the home stretch!

The District is getting ready for the upcoming AzMERIT test as well as the AIMS Science test. The staff will be getting training in the coming weeks for test security, test procedures and for room preparations. Camp Verde Unified School District will be taking the tests utilizing paper and pencil. South Verde

Technology Magnet will be taking the AIMS Science test utilizing paper and pencil and will be utilizing online testing for AzMERIT.

The Director of Student Services and two staff members attended the AZCEC/AZCASE conference at Black Canyon Conference Center last Friday. Topics presented dealt with law and Special Education, law and Section 504 of ADA, Co-Teaching, Legislative updates, Alternate Assessment, Avoiding Due Process, Law review at the State and Federal level, Inclusive Practices, Communities of Practice and several other topics. The conference was very educational and provided an insight into the direction that Special Education is going with the State and with the Federal Government.