

## **Weekly Board Report 25 March 2016**

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1534 as compared 1500 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 730 vs. 750; Middle School 351 vs. 323; High School 421 vs. 404; Accommodations School 32 vs. 23. South Verde Magnet School 70 vs. 100.

We received notice we are eligible for Sudden Growth Income of approximately \$94,000.00. This income is based on the increase in Average Daily Membership from Fiscal Year 14-15 to FY15-16. The purpose of Sudden Growth Income is to aid Districts with growing enrollment meet present expenses associated with that growth. The notice was based on our 40<sup>th</sup> Day Count while the final figure will be taken from the 100<sup>th</sup> Day. Sudden Growth allows us to increase our FY 15-16 budget by this amount.

Fire hydrants: Recently we learned that the fire hydrants on our campus belong to the district and are our responsibility to maintain and support. We are working out details with the Camp Verde Fire Department, but we have come to agreements on maintenance, training, support, and usage of our hydrants. Due to the fact that there is very little water on this end of the town, the fire department in the past has used our "water" from our hydrants. This will continue to occur, and in return the fire department will train us on maintaining the hydrants, and once a year come out and work with our facilities crew to test pressure and flow rates. A positive solution for the district and the fire department.

A lot has been in the planning process in the area of technology. First off, we are going to be entering into an IGA with the city of Camp Verde to provide technology support for computer systems with the city and Marshall's office. In exchange, the city will pay the district, \$50,000 in funds to provide necessary services to the city and Marshall's office. With these funds we will be bringing Aaron Moya back to Camp Verde as our Technology Director. He is bringing his family back to the valley in support of him moving back here. He will be 100% on campus in carrying out his duties.

As a result of the changes to the eRate system being more focused on technology infrastructures in schools, cell phone support is going away in 1.3 years. As a result we have moved from 23 cell phones in the district to hopefully 10. We will transfer of these phones to the current users, with a cost being paid by the user to purchase their phones. They will be paid by the district a monthly \$75 stipend which will clean up the phone usage within the district.

Technology will be implementing several projects this summer in preparation for the upcoming school year. These projects include additional bandwidth, increase in wireless access points, additional network switches throughout the district, google apps integration into current domain, cable runs, server upgrades to a 2012/2016 infrastructure (currently at a 2008/2012 platform), additional storage arrays, desktop upgrades/updates to windows 10, and other various IT projects.

These projects will go hand-in-hand with the increasing demand of technology resources and future initiatives of the district. To provide some further clarification, the increased bandwidth provides stability of internet use for the district for the next 5+ years. The increase in WAP's, network switches, and cable runs will provide more accessible options for wireless devices across all campuses – this gives increased coverage to support existing and future technologies and also provides a CISCO unified infrastructure. The google apps integration and SSO will provide a single point of authentication for both staff and students (i.e. 1 username, 1 password) / this will also allow for better manageability of devices and authentication. The server/system upgrades and additional storage arrays keeps the district ahead of the curve with current technology standards, best practices, all the while maintaining a cohesiveness among technologies and trends.

Additionally a technology proposal will be presented to the board at the April board meeting on the detailed direction and plans in supporting our district as we move forward in expanding our technology usage with our teachers and students. This year, the eRate world has changed their funding structure to better support infrastructure within school districts. We have completed our plans and cost estimates and this information will be provided to the board for approval. The new eRate costs will cover approximately 80% of the hardware costs in support of our district technology goals.

Camp Verde High School is in full swing after spring break. The SkillsUSA students are taking the state test for their contest next week in Phoenix. They have completed the pre-testing, resume and application part of the contest. They will compete on Tuesday, March 29th at the Phoenix Convention Center in automotive, digital media, fire science, cabinet making and culinary arts. We have over 17 students attending.

The softball team won their pool at the Gracie Haight Softball Tournament last weekend in Payson. They finished in the top 6 teams out of 18. The baseball team continues to win and compete at a high level. The golf team won their meet on Wednesday. The track team will compete in the Mogollon Invitational this Friday.

The students at CVHS are reviewing and working on AzMERIT testing skills this past week. All 9th through 11th grade students will take a Reading, Writing and Mathematics test on Tuesday and Wednesday (March 29-30). The students will test each morning with the classes in the afternoon. On April 12th all 10th grade students will take the AIMS science test. The end of April the 11th and 12 grade CTE students will take the End of Program tests. The AP English students are preparing for the AP exam coming up May 4th. Mrs. Lawrence has held one practice test for the students on Friday. She is holding another Friday practice in the next few weeks.

CVHS Site Advisory Council meet on Thursday, March 24th. The group discussed the CVS Expo on April 20th and who could judge some of the Art Fair projects and what the SAC members could do to help. The Expo is from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The group also discussed the 16-17 school calendar and updates to the student handbook. The last discussion was on the positives and improvements on graduation ceremonies from past years.

Mr. Howe would like to start this week's Middle School report by bragging about a couple of our students. The first one is a young man by the name of Austin Hansen. Austin is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student that recently wrote an article that was published in a magazine. The magazine is SWAT (survival, weapons, and tactical) and the article is about a knife sharpener that he, his father, and grandfather used to keep an edge on their knives. Austin will be recognized and share more about his accomplishment at April's Board meeting.

The second student is Bennet Holm. She is also an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Bennet is an athlete and the student body president. Thursday she came to me with a white lunch sack, with red and blue ribbon attached to it. (See picture) She told me she wanted to do something nice for the teams they would be playing in softball. Bennet took it upon herself, with her own money, to put these "care bags" together for each player of the opposing team. Inside the bag, is a Slim Jim jerky, sunflower seeds and a few pieces of candy/gum. On the outside of the bag it says "Capturing Kids 1 heart at a time! Thank you!" Another testament that what we're doing at CVMS is "making a difference". Bennet sure touched Mr. Howe...as he ended up with his eyes getting watery.



Thursday of this week, we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter awards assembly. Many adults from the community showed up to support their students. Some numbers that I would like to share:

Students with perfect attendance: 70 out of 350 = 20% of student body

Students on the honor roll: 67 out of 350 = 19% of student body

Students on the Principal's list: 20 to make this list the student has to earn a 4.0 grade pt. average and no referrals

Mark Colbert purchased trophies out of his own pocket to present to the students that participated in the Northern Az. Math Challenge. That is greatly appreciated Mr. Colbert!! Jeanette Helgerson, owner of Curves in Camp Verde, donated \$50 to the "Most Improved Student". Thanks Jeannette!!

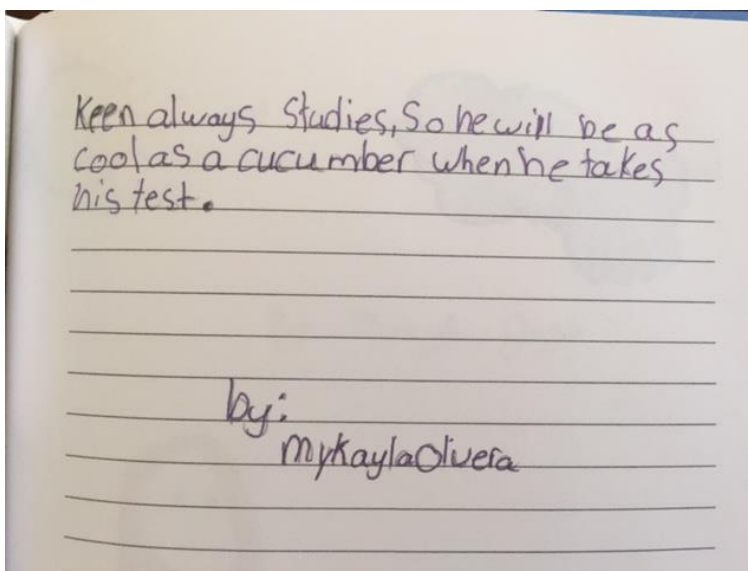
This coming week, CVMS is doing the AzMerit tests. On Monday, the students are taking the Writing piece. Tuesday and Wednesday, the Reading and Math tests will be given; part 1 of both on Tue. and part

2 on Wed. We finish up on Thursday with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders only taking the AIMS Science test. That's correct, the AIMS Science test. Hmmmm??? All testing will be done in the morning. Mr. Howe is confident that our students will do their best! Students that are here every day for testing will be rewarded Thursday afternoon with a dance or gym time. Make-ups will be taken care of at the beginning of the following week.

All sports are into their seasons, as Soccer had two games this week, and our Track team went to Prescott for a meet. The only home meet for our team is on April 7. This is always the best and biggest meet of the season as Camp Verde usually has between 15 and 20 schools participate.

Fifth-grade teacher, Joneé Elsea, has been working on figurative language with her students. Idioms like "it's raining cats and dogs" or "he's in a pickle" can be difficult to understand and use correctly, especially for non-native English speakers. To make the process easier, Mrs. Elsea challenged her students to pick an idiom and illustrate it. The result is a class book featuring the work of all the students in her room:





This week has been especially busy getting ready for AzMERIT and AIMS science testing. Students have spent time reviewing concepts, practicing bubble sheet use, writing letters to family members to explain how they are dedicating their test scores to them, and getting ready to “show what they know.” Meanwhile, the teachers have prepped their classrooms and assisted with organizing a testing schedule. We are ready to go—keep our students in your thoughts next week as they face the testing challenge before them.

The elementary school held its third quarter awards assemblies for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students on Thursday. Families gathered to see their children receive awards in reading, math, spelling, writing, citizenship and attendance. In all, there were sixteen students with perfect attendance for the third quarter in these three grade-levels.

Robotics will once again be back on the Friday programs menu at the elementary school. After the great turn-out for Battle of the Bots, we anticipate that this class will fill up quickly! Peggy Dickey will be teaching a “Concoct Your Own Creation” class where students will explore the world of STEM by free building a robot of their choice, which may or may not be inspired by other robot models.

In addition to robotics, Peggy is coaching a class called Friday Flag Football for Fun. Students will practice the art of good sportsmanship in friendly games of flag football. Girls and boys are encouraged to join in the fun from 8am to 9am. This is a perfect lead-in for the robotics class, and a discount is being offered for students who sign up for both.

Big news for the elementary school technology program—we are getting a technology teacher! In actuality, we have had one for a while now with Shelley Surber. She has been our P.E. teacher for a number of years, but also went back to school and got her master’s degree in educational technology. She will be reassigned to the computer lab where she will help build a technology program that will help our students prepare for the ever-changing technological world they will be navigating. We are really excited that this is happening for many reasons. The students need computing skills for test-taking, report writing, and information gathering. Teachers will now have help in integrating technology into their



lessons. We feel this is a big step in the right direction for meeting the needs of our students! Congratulations, Ms. Surber!

The kindergarten students participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt held on the high school football field. Students carried baskets while searching for “hidden” eggs. When they were done, they spent time comparing their loot and enjoying the goodies they found hidden in eggs. Great job as always, kindergarten teachers!



South Verde has been generating ideas for incentives to keep students motivated and productive for the remainder of the school year. Luke Hicks had custom-made hats created with the South Verde logo on the front and South Verde Bulldogs embroidered on the back. Beautiful! Students exemplifying lovely behavior befitting a student may earn a free hat. The staff is also looking at a field trip for later this quarter, again for those students who have earned a day of fun and education outside of campus. Denise Meyer came up with a list of possible locations, including the Music Museum, Pioneer Living History Museum, the Heard Museum, or the Science Museum. Many of our students rarely venture far from Camp Verde; therefore, any of these sites would be a way to broaden their horizons and elicit interest in other cultures and history.

The Outdoor Adventures Club at South Verde - sponsored by Luke Hicks - will have its first event next Friday, April 1, at 3:30 p.m. Thus far, five students have signed up to participate. Marie Zawel has been mentioning the event all week, hoping to incite more students to take part in this healthy and bonding activity with fellow students and staff members. Perhaps after the first hike the word will spread

far and wide and others will envision the benefits to a simple hike in nature, rather than merely a jaunt to Circle K.

Progress reports were sent off this week to SV parents, indicating the scores in the English lecture classes and progress in math, A+, PE, art, music, and nursery aide positions for this past third quarter. Gail Wilson has expressed how the parents are grateful to receive school news regarding students' productivity. While attendance was an issue for some students last quarter, which then affected their grades/goal marks, many students this week are being diligent and focused on their classes. The students who had poor grades/goal marks are trying to improve, and those who had done well are continuing with the persistence to succeed.

Friday, March 11, another senior graduated from SV. Val Honwytewa was a fifth-year senior and is expecting a child this summer. Although she expressed the desire to quit school many times (many times!), the staff convinced her to stay. Val eventually saw the light and listened to the pleas and realized within herself how important her education really was for her future, and for the future of her child. The father of her child, also a student at SV, is also intent upon graduating within the next couple of years. He told an employee he wants to keep plugging away so his baby can have both parents who graduated from high school. Val is now South Verde's ninth student to graduate this year. The school is anticipating at least twenty-two graduates on May 17.

AzMERIT will be in full swing next week in all schools in the District. AzMERIT material was delivered Monday and building test coordinators have been busy separating the material by testing class. Grade 3-High School will be tested in English Language Arts (Reading and Writing) and in Mathematics. The AzMERIT should take three days to test all three areas, where we are utilizing paper based tests to assess the students. Make-up testing for the AzMERIT will be the following week. South Verde Technology Magnet will be taking the AzMERIT using computers for their tests.

AIMS Science will also be given in all District schools in the next three weeks. AIMS Science will be given to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade and sophomore students. The AIMS Science test will take most, if not all of the morning when it is given. All AIMS Science tests will be paper based for the testing.