

## **Weekly Board Report 4 March 2016**

The overall enrollment of Camp Verde Unified School District is 1535 as compared 1494 one year ago. Current enrollment vs. same time last year: Elementary 731 vs. 744; Middle School 346 vs. 322; High School 424 vs. 404; Accommodations School 34 vs. 24. South Verde Magnet School 77 vs. 94.

Free and reduced numbers: Camp Verde Unified School District; Free 1009; Reduced 115. Current numbers at Elementary free 505; reduced 50; Middle School free 219; reduced 26; High School free 218; reduced 32; Accommodations School free 25; reduced 1; South Verde Magnet School free 42; reduced 6. The percentages for each school: Elementary – 75.92%; Middle School – 70.81%; High School 58.96%; Accommodation School 76.47%. Camp Verde School district percentage of Free/Reduced – 70.1%. South Verde Magnet School District 62.34%.

The Arizona Auditor General has issued their School District Spending report based off our FY14-15 Annual Financial Report, School District Employee Report, and other data. This report gives a summary of the health/or not, of a district based on data submitted to the state. Some anomalies can exist to skew a year's data, but overall this report can be helpful to get a bird's eye view of strengths and weaknesses in a district. A few highlights: Our District spending on Instruction was 5 ½ percentage points above our Peer (similar schools in size and rural location, 29 schools were in our main peer group) group average and 2 ½ points above the state average. Administrative costs were very low compared to our Peer average and low compared to the State average. Food Service costs were low compared to our Peer average. Plant operations were high, probably due to the \$700,000.00 high school roof paid for by the School Facilities Board. Our overall financial stress level was low.

Camp Verde High School held a practice Lockdown on Monday. The staff did an excellent job and we are correcting the areas of concern. During the lockdown, we had CVMO and Cottonwood bring their drug dogs on campus and search several classrooms while the students were waiting outside the classroom. No drugs were found during the searches and all students participated in a positive manner. We continue to work with our students on making positive choices in regards to drugs and alcohol.

Track and golf had their first meets of the season and both were successful and a great learning opportunity.

The cheer team is competing this weekend at State Fairground for the state winter cheer championships. They perform at 8:45 am on Saturday morning.

The FFA program will take several students to the state FFA contest this Friday in Tucson.

The wrestling team is hosting the All Girls State Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. They are looking forward to over 150 participants from across the state ranging from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to seniors in high school. Go Cowboys!

Quarter 3 ends on March 9<sup>th</sup> and we will mail out grades on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

This coming week is Spring Fling week for Camp Verde High School. Students will dress up each day with daily activities at lunch. On Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March the talent show will start at 11:10 am in the theater. After the show the student council and staff will feed the students hotdogs and chips for lunch in the courtyard. The students will be able to participate in a dodge ball tournament, play with inflatable games, work with CVMO on car safety, driving under the influence simulation and club activities. This will be a great reward for the students for having good behavior and positive attitudes.

NAU representatives from the hospitality and culinary arts program visited the campus. They met with Dr. Goodwin and Mr. Weir to discuss future joint adventures in this program and other areas which can benefit Camp Verde Unified School District and Camp Verde High School. It was a very positive meeting with great opportunities.

Congratulations to the CVMS Math teams that competed in the Northern Arizona Math Championships on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at Bradshaw High School. There were over 250 students from private and public schools all over the state, which turned out to be the biggest middle school Math competition in the country! In spite of some very tough competition, and some very challenging Math problems, CVMS still managed to crack the top 10, with 7<sup>th</sup> grader Chelsey Battise repeating top 10 honors for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row placing 8<sup>th</sup> overall for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. 6<sup>th</sup> grader Casey Corder won a trophy for 5<sup>th</sup> place overall for 6<sup>th</sup> grade! Other students that participated included 6<sup>th</sup> graders McKenna Martin, Dylan Cooper, Emma Hester, Tara Daniels, Corey Johnson and Jacob Oothoudt; 7<sup>th</sup> graders Domanic Renik, Steven Mahan, and Paige Seneca; 8<sup>th</sup> graders Evan Kearns, Nayeli Gonzalez, Jocelyn Fitzgerald, and Mya Wetzel. Congratulations to all team members and thanks for representing us so well! Thanks goes to Mr. Hansen, Mr. Colbert, and Adrienne Wright for taking them!

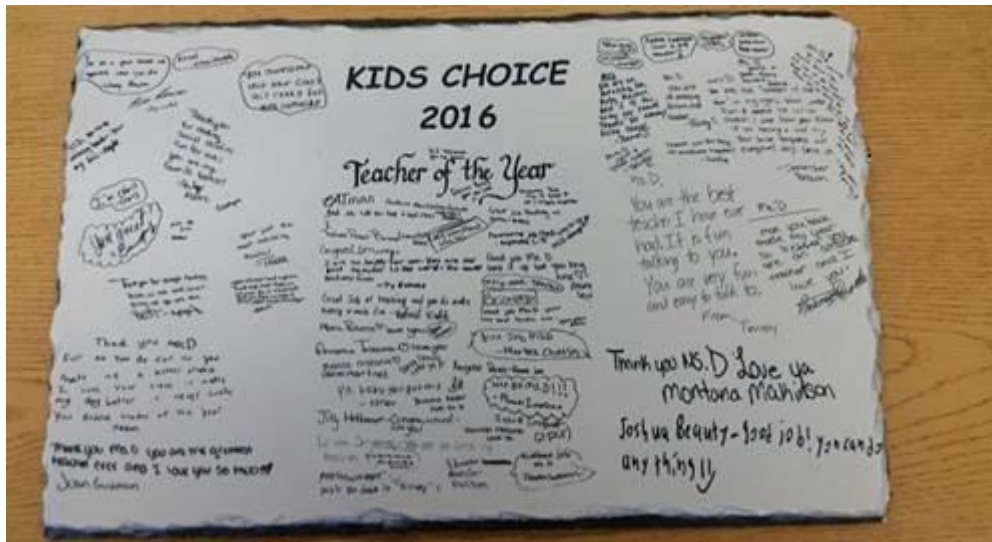


The 7th graders went down to the Elementary school and read to all the 2nd grade classes to celebrate and support Read Across America Week. They enjoyed it very much. Here's some of what the Middle school students had to say: "Justin was an outstanding reader!", "I felt like it was a good experience because I got to see how they read and they read really well."

Ms. Lena DiBartolomeo was surprised during her fourth hour on 3/1/2016 when all of her 8th grade students presented her with the "Kids' Choice 2016 Teacher of the Year Award". Ms. D graciously accepted with tears of joy in her eyes.



In Mrs. Tankesley's gifted classroom, the students have been introduced to a website that has them practicing web programming, or in other words, Computer Science. The students are experimenting with different programs such as blocking, and Java Script, learning how to create their own computer games. At this point they are in the beginning stages of a program but will eventually be able to tell stories through the games they create. The programs they are messing with have age ranges from 8-108 years old (it's a bit challenging, but they love it). The students are required to work out math problems, and they have to know angles to make their characters move. Computer Science seems to be the new hot deal.



On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders went down to the Arizona Renaissance Festival. They got to see a picture of what the Middle Ages and Renaissance time was like. Our students got to experience jousting, torture methods, camel and elephant riding, Black Death doctors, middle age science, blacksmithing, spinning wheels, and lots of shows. Students had lots of fun and did a great job representing Camp Verde.









On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Shanks' classes participated in Read Across America. Each class had a couple guest readers and then had time to read and enjoy a book of their choice. It was great to see all the students get into the stories they heard or read. Guest readers were: Dr. Goodwin, Mrs. Monroe, Mrs. Koeppe, Mrs. Tankesley, Mrs. Boland, Mrs. A and Mrs. Norman.



In Mr. Hansen's 6th grade Math, they have been working on Algebra. Students have been identifying the different terms of an algebraic expression and equation, as well as translating words into algebraic expressions. They can also solve one-step algebraic equations and inequalities, as well as graph their inequalities. They are summing up, (no pun intended) the 3rd quarter content this week, and they will be taking the 3rd quarter benchmark/final exam next week.

Next week, Mr. Howe, Jessica Smith, Jocelyn Alvey and Stacy Munger travel to Flagstaff for EDISA II training, to continue to develop a plan to improve reading scores at Camp Verde Middle School.

Spring sports are in full stride as track started Monday. Soccer has been kicking it around for two weeks and will have their first games after Spring Break. Baseball is batting a thousand as they are undefeated and softball is .500 with a record of 2 & 2. They host Big Park and Cottonwood next week on Tuesday and Thursday respectively @ 4:00.

The elementary school has been busy lately. Our first graders performed their musical last Thursday night. Titled *MOVE*, the show featured songs about physical fitness and included numbers like *Make Some Waves*, *Tiptoe-Skip*, *Sports Swing*, and *Limbo Rock*. Audience members got to participate in the performance during *Clap with Me* by joining in the conga line with their child as it wound its way through the auditorium. Below are some photos from the evening's events.



Robotics coach, Peggy Dickey, and her son, Joey (a robotics team member), appeared on an episode of The Verde Valley Experience hosted by Jennifer Cohen to discuss the robotics program at the elementary school. If you'd like to see their segment, go to [myradioplac.com](http://myradioplac.com) then click on the **Verde Valley TV** on the left side of the screen, then click the **plus sign by the Verde Valley Experience**. The robotics section of the video starts at **11:52 minutes in**. Great job representing Camp Verde Elementary Robotics, Peggy and Joey!

Throughout the month of February, fifth-grader Chandler Plante collected jeans for local youth experiencing homelessness. The *Teens for Jeans* drive, initiated and organized by Chandler, collected



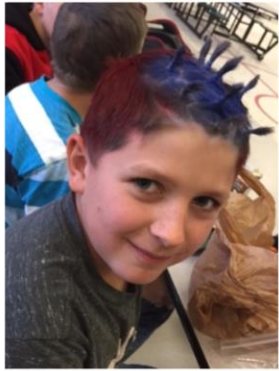
242 pairs of jeans to donate to a youth-centered charity. Chandler has done an amazing job of modeling community service and leadership at the elementary school! Way to go, Chandler!

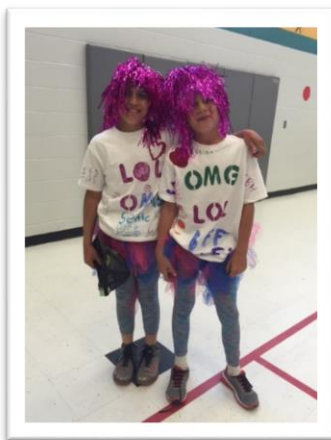


Elementary school special education teacher Chris Gilbert has suggested the idea of starting a “gentleman’s club” at the elementary school. The aim would be to teach manners, good choices, and leadership to young men. This idea ties in nicely with Capturing Kids’ Hearts, and we are currently exploring the idea as a possible Friday program or after school club.

Track season is here and our fifth-graders are gearing up for a great season. To facilitate their attendance at practice, we have set up a homework club for an hour after school each day. The athletes can stay at school rather than going home and returning for practice a short time later. This allows many students to participate whose parents cannot give them a ride back to campus due to work schedules. It also provides time and tutoring for those who need to complete homework. Paraprofessional Debbie Whitelaw is running the tutoring room until the end of track season in April.

Read Across America week was a great success at the elementary school this year. We had volunteer readers from a variety of sources including firefighters, police officers, parents, and other community volunteers. Each day of the week was themed: *Daisy Head Mayzie* Crazy Hair Day, *Thing 1 and Thing 2* Twin Day, and *Cat in the Hat / Fox in Socks* Crazy Hat and Socks Day. Read Across America celebrates Dr. Seuss’ birthday and encourages children to read by modeling great reading for them. Below are some snapshots of our themed costumes and some volunteer readers.





The first meeting of the newly formed Camp Verde Elementary Parent-Teacher Association was held Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Newly elected officers are: President—Leah Robbins, Vice President—Kerri Bickford, Treasurer—Sally Parker, and Secretary—Vanessa Siler. Lots of great ideas came from the first brainstorming session including fundraisers like silent auctions, yard sales, coin drives, mud obstacle courses, and movie nights. New members gave input on things they'd like to see happen such as activities that involve families, building connections with the community, and providing support for the teachers. It looks like this will be a busy and productive group of parents and teachers!

The Foster Grandparent Program is official at the elementary school. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Civic Service Institute at Northern Arizona University that sets the parameters for the program. The program focuses on bringing together retired seniors with students who need extra time and attention in school to provide one-on-one tutoring and mentorship. For next year, we are planning on partnering with Foster Grandparents to set up an after school tutoring program for those student who struggle with homework.

Sadly, our elementary art program, which has been grant funded for the past seven years, is ending this May. Carol Hildebrand has taught the program the entire time we have had it and has done an excellent job. She is moving this summer, and she will be greatly missed. We have been lucky in that the grantor has funded our art program for many years beyond what they would normally approve. In speaking with the grant manager, she has suggested that we apply for a grant to fund a performance from Childsplay and a Friday art program, so we will be pursuing this option for the next school year.

As you all know, we had to cancel school on the elementary campus on Thursday this week. We had a potential fire hazard with smoke filling room 524, and we wanted to inspect and repair the problem to ensure the safety of our students prior to resuming school. We have since done this, and activities have resumed as normal, including all of our Friday programming. A special thanks goes out to Danny and Melissa Howe, Rebecca McIlvaine, Gary Lagoy, Chris Hancock, Jim Frank, Dale Devries, and the Camp Verde Firefighters for responding so quickly and helping to solve the problem. It was teamwork at its best!

South Verde enrolled a new student this week, bringing the total enrollment to 76. There are five freshmen, twenty-four sophomores, twenty-four juniors, and twenty-three seniors. The school did have twenty-four seniors, but - drum roll, please - one senior graduated! Patrick Romero completed his required courses, joining the other six graduates from this school year. The staff will miss Patrick and his quiet, unassuming manner. Every day he strolled in discreetly and immediately got to work, providing an excellent example to the other students that persistence and productivity really do pay off.



The staff at SV met this week to confer and gain greater insight into Luke Hicks's vision of an official hiking club, a.k.a. Outdoor Adventures: Life in the Verde, at the school. A list of eligible students was constructed. Those particular students will have the opportunity to participate in the club, either for every event or whenever they are available. Beginning after Spring Break, every other Friday afternoon will include an event. Luke Hicks will lead the charge, with Sonya Williams-Rowe, Denise Meyer, and Deon Murphy also showing great enthusiasm in wanting to participate. (Mrs. Zawel will also take part when she is not chained to her desk!) The staff is very excited and hopeful that a true broadening experience will take place with the student population, and maybe the word will spread to others that good work/behavior yields great rewards.

As Spring Break approaches, students tend to get a bit more boisterous and lack focus (as we all know). Mrs. Zawel has felt compelled to use teachable moments this week to remind students of their purpose here in school. Students have been encouraged to utilize self-reflection and self-control when in the classroom/labs. Everyone, not just students, must remember to think before speaking and truly consider their goals on a daily basis. Apparently the talks are working - at least to some degree - because productivity did improve for some students and the math teacher, Ms. Max, thanked Mrs. Zawel Thursday afternoon, as her students were very well-mannered and worked diligently.



In Ms. Gilbert's room, one thing we constantly work on is citizenship. One day some of the first graders had finished their reading work and moved to work on Prodigy.com, a few first graders were finishing up their work with Ms. Gilbert and the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders had come in. I was so proud of the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. The first graders were struggling with math on Prodigy.com and the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders went over and began to assist them without being asked. It was so nice seeing the students working together and displaying citizenship in the classroom.

Another great event that is happening in Ms. Gilbert's room is 7 of the students in K-4<sup>th</sup> grade have advanced in their reading fluency from Below Target to Near Target or Above Target. Seventeen students have made improvement in their reading fluency and are working on reaching their grade level goals.

The Middle School Builder's Club delivered stuffed animal gifts to all the residents at the Haven on Feb. 16. The students got to see some great smiles and spend a few minutes getting to hear a little about the life of the resident they shared with. It is amazing how one stuffed animal can trigger some very cherished memories; birthdays, Christmas, stories of their children.