

Weekly Board Report 5 August 2016

Over the last several weeks Mary Hudson has been working extremely hard to get our web site to a functional level of support...to much frustration. She has done a great job of fixing...working long hours to update and make our site legal. We are still going to do a new web site, but know how much she has put into bringing our site from a "mess" to a functioning level.

Our school district offers many avenues to influence the lives of our students in a positive way. One of the greatest opportunities we have is through coaching. Our District is intentional in our preparation of coaches through an agreement with an organization called Character Matters. The purpose of Character Matters is to equip and empower coaches to intentionally integrate character in their sport. Character Matters comes in once each year to train our coaches. They also supply each head coach with curriculum to work with their players throughout the season. Recently we had our annual training and it reminded us of the importance this program plays in raising our coaching standards above simply wins and losses. Here are some of the quotes from the training: "Do you demand or command respect? Your first and greatest victory as a coach is improvement. The number one question kids are asking: Do you care? We are in the people business." Through Character Matters coaching becomes one more instrument used to further our District vision.

Registration at Camp Verde High School was on August 1st and 2nd and it was chaotic and amazing at the same time. Currently it appears as though our enrollment numbers will be up (possibly significantly) from the previous school year...we will see how it holds up after school begins on Monday.

We are in the process of updating our gymnasium drinking fountains and lobby restroom facilities. Since a key introduction to visitors to our school is when they are in our high school gym...we would like to show off our amazing facilities.

We were also very thankful to have found a woods teacher. Being able to keep that program going was a priority.

A huge shout out to our custodial staff. They have done everything asked of them and the campus looks great for the start of the school year.

The 2016/2017 school year is underway, but without kids until Monday August 8th. On July 25, bus drivers, custodians, and food service people went through a Capturing Kids' Hearts training given to them by the Camp Verde Middle School process champions. The process champions team consisted of Abbie Monroe, Donnie Shanks, and Robin and Brian Tankesley. All the staff came away with a better understanding of CKH, along with some ideas of how they can implement it in their respective areas. Staff also shared that the team did an outstanding job of training them! Way to go CVMS!!



On July 26-28, the remaining staff from all three sites attended the 3 day training provided by the Flippen Group of CKH.



August 1st and 2nd found the new staff on the High School campus for new teacher orientation, provided by Rod Benson. At 7:30 on the morning of the 2nd, new teachers were treated to breakfast at Babe's Roundup, paid for by the admin. team.

On August 3rd, it was welcome back time for everyone in the district. All staff were greeted at the gates by middle and high school students Liliana Anzar, Kyria Roa, Nina Aguayo, and Bennett Holm. It was neat to see our young people shaking hands and looking adults in the eyes to welcome them back!

Mr. Howe kicked off the assembly with the Pledge, and a very well liked "Good Things" shared by many of the staff. Mr. Howe then introduced his new crew. Tracy Franklin is a new Title 1 teacher, Heather Gillman is the new 6th grade LA teacher, Brandon Yost our new Band teacher, and Ruth Bohanan is covering SS for Jessica Smith who is on maternity leave until Oct. Austin Hudson, son of Mary Hudson, is joining the Middle School as an ELL para, and though not new as they came at the end of last year, Mr. Howe recognized Michael Michelle Penrod and Tayler Rezzonico as para professionals. Currently the Middle School has only one custodian, a new one, and his name is Bob Thomas. He is doing a terrific job! Britta Booth and Jason Douvikas followed with their new staff and it was on to Dr. Goodwin's words of wisdom. By 8:45 staff were off to their own sites.





Mr. Howe held his staff meeting from 9:30-1:30 in Robin Tankesley's room. Many housekeeping things were discussed, a social contact was built, and a CKH refresher was led by Brian Tankesley. It's going to be another fantastic year at CVMS!! During this first week, CVMS counselor Sarah Boland enrolled at least 43 new students. Current numbers are as follows: 147 6th grade, 121 7th grade, and 120 8th grade for a total of 388 students. When you figure in Accommodation students, the Middle School is over 400!!!

Students return to school Monday, August 8th. The Middle School gates will open at 7:00 on Monday for this first day. Normal gate hours are 7:15 to 4:30. CVUSD is the place to be! Go COWBOYS!

The elementary school is in full readiness mode for students on Monday morning! We had an incredible turn out on Meet-the-Teacher night (Thursday) with teachers reporting more parents and students attending in their rooms than ever before. One teacher reported that she actually had every single family on her roster show up! It was a great event, and everyone is excited about the start of a new year.

Our rooms are ready:



Our display cases are filled (special shout-out to Angi Grubbs for the beautiful work on the see shell case and the Native American dying and weaving case):



Our bulletin boards are decked-out:





In our kindergarten and first-grade hallway, as well as the front foyer, free books were offered to families during Meet-the-Teacher night. They were a big hit with everyone and provided reading materials to our students to start the year off right. Parents had choices for reading, too, with many offering on homework help, parenting skills, and resources available to them.

Capturing Kids' Heart One Teacher at a Time

Teachers from the elementary school completed Capturing Kids' Hearts training last week. For three days, they were taught the finer points of building relational capacity with their students. The shift in perspective was amazing to see. Many of these teachers had been using the structure of CKH last year without having an understanding of the "why" of this amazing program. By the end of the training, elementary staff members were buzzing with anticipation—they couldn't wait to put their newly-gained knowledge to use in the classroom. They were so

appreciative of their experience that they arranged group photo-op so they could send a thank you message to Bob Case, their CKH trainer:



Here is the text message they received in return:

That is so cool! You guys definitely "grabbed my heart!" I saw this text as I finished a training in Austin TX! You know how I am.... Tears came to my eyes! I cannot wait to see and hear about the impact you guys will make on your kids! SHOW CASE DISTRICT here we come!!! Go Change the world one kid at a time...I hope I get to come back to Camp Verde...you guys are truly special!! Love you guys! Tell all I said hi!!!

Elementary School Social Contract

Speaking of Capturing Kids' Hearts, the elementary school staff took time on Thursday to build their social contract for the year. It was a good opportunity to express our own opinions on how we would like to treat each other, while refreshing our memories on the process for building social contracts with our classes. If you are in our building, please stop by the mail room and sign our contract in the next week or so. We will be framing it and hanging it permanently in our mail room.

The new Director, Kim Peaslee, is honored and excited to be working in the Camp Verde Unified School District.

Lisa Young has accepted the open Special Education Resource Teacher position at the Elementary School.

CPI training by Dale DeVries and Tammey Carter was held at the Middle School for special education teachers and paraprofessionals. Plans are underway to schedule training for campus administrators and counselors by mid-September. Mr. DeVries and Ms. Carter will also be training the Beaver Creek, Cottonwood-Oak Creek, and Sedona districts later in August.

Dr. Sami Worssam, School Psychologist, and Kim Peaslee met with the staff at each of the campuses to provide IDEA required annual training in:

- Confidentiality
- Family Rights Education Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Child Find responsibilities and procedures for children from birth to 21 years old
- Special Education Policy & Procedures
- The Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
- Discipline and Special Education/504 Students
- Graduation Requirements

Thursday morning the high school special education teachers and the district psychologist met with research analysts from General Accountability Office (Washington, DC) about the post-secondary transition needs for students with autism spectrum disorder. The GAO has been charged by a Congressional House committee to research opportunities for education, employment, independent living, health and safety. They are reaching out to urban and rural district across the country to gather information about the post high school needs for this population. Camp Verde was chosen at random to represent rural districts with urban districts in Phoenix as well as Flagstaff Unified. Our staff engaged in a rich discussion with the GAO researchers about the significant preparation and supports throughout the high school years that is required to successfully transition a young adult with autism to adult living.

At the end of June district mentor Rod Benson and high school English teacher Lara Lawrence attended a workshop led by Eric Jensen. The workshop focused on teaching kids who are growing up in poverty.

Mr. Benson returned to work July 12th as a part of the high school committee to select the high schools new principal. Beginning on July 13th Mr. Benson has been working with Mr. Douvikas in preparation for the new school year. During the remainder of the month of July, Mr. Benson has been greeting and preparing for the new teachers who are employed in the district. A new teacher survival guide has been prepared for each of the teachers new to the district. On August 1 and 2 the new teachers will be trained in district and site specific policies, Assertive Discipline, poverty and Essential Elements of Instruction.