



# Parent Prospector Press

*To focus instruction for increased student achievement.*

*On Top of the World and Reaching for the Future*

February 18, 2019 - February 23, 2019

---

## Principal Update:



by **Principal Dr. Angela Chomokos**

As we reflect on this school year, I am proud of each of our student's, teacher's and staff's accomplishments in making it a memorable year thus far. All of our fall and winter sports athletes gave their best efforts and found success during their seasons. They represented AJHS with high character and pride. This allowed for other communities to see what Apache Junction has known all along about the quality of our students and programs.

The drama department showcased their musical "The Wizard of Oz" directed by Mr. Paul Lanphear. For four nights audiences enjoyed the music and entertainment presented by our students as well as Desert Vista Elementary and Peralta Elementary students. Fun times were had by all!

The Choir, Band, Orchestra, and NJROTC have competed across the state in various venues often receiving top honors for their performances. I recognize the hard work and dedication of each one of these students, and applaud them for the achievements and awards they have earned.

As we approach the last part of the 3rd quarter of the year, it is often a time when we get distracted and lose focus. However, this is the time when an even greater emphasis needs to be placed on staying focused, being on time, and making good choices. We still have benchmarks, SAT, AZMerit, AIMS Science, and ultimately final exams quickly approaching. Our work now should be amped up with a high level of engagement and purposeful efforts.

Remember, we still have a full calendar of events and activities for students to enjoy as the spring quickly approaches. (see a more complete list under the Important Dates to Remember Section of the Press)

- The spring sports are underway
- Student Council is planning some fun and engaging spring activities including the Junior/Senior PROM on May 11, 2019 (*Juniors and Seniors are eligible to purchase tickets and attend providing they have met their financial obligation with the school.*)
- Our music department will be holding their spring concerts
- Drama will be producing their spring play
- Academic Awards Ceremony
- and of course all of our senior activities culminating with our Commencement Ceremony on May 23, 2019 for those who have successfully reached their graduation requirements.

Henry Ford once stated: "A generation ago there were a thousand men to every opportunity, while today there are a thousand opportunities to every man." The faculty, staff and administration at AJHS would like to thank-you for the opportunity we have to assist your son/daughter to discover their opportunities, finding their best-self.

Best Regards,

*Dr. Angela Chomokos*

.....

## Our Administrators & Counselors

Dr. Angela Chomokos	<i>Principal</i>	Bria Jenkins	Counselor Grades 9/10
Ms. Tanya Loftis	<i>Assistant Principal</i>	Valerie McFarlin	Counselor Grades 11/12
Ms. Sue Campbell	<i>Assistant Principal</i>	Jillian Conway	Psychologist
Mr. Tim Vanda	<i>Special Services/EVIT</i>		
Ms. Dawn Schwenckert	<i>Athletic Director/Teacher StudCo Advisor</i>		

# Prospector Weekly Calendar

**Monday, February 18**

**NO SCHOOL - HOLIDAY**

**Tuesday, February 19**

**Wednesday, February 20**

2:00 pm	Softball @ Dobson/Westwood Tournament	Westwood H.S.
3:30 pm	Baseball @ Tomas Pinon/Matt Huffman Tournament	Casa Grande Union H.S.

**Thursday, February 21**

12:00 & 4:00 pm	Softball @ Dobson/Westwood Tournament	Westwood H.S.
3:30 pm	Baseball @ Tomas Pinon/Matt Huffman Tournament	Casa Grande Union H.S.
3:30 pm	Girls Tennis @ Vista Grande	Vista Grande H.S.

**Friday, February 22**

2:00 & 6:00 pm	Softball @ Dobson/Westwood Tournament	Westwood H.S.
1:00 pm	Baseball @ Tomas Pinon/Matt Huffman Tournament	Casa Grande Union H.S.
3:30 pm	Girls Tennis vs. Williams Field	AJHS
3:30 pm	Boys Tennis @ Williams Field	Williams Field H.S.
6:00 pm	Track Parent Meeting	9/10 Building, AJHS

**Saturday, February 23**

6:00 am	NJROTC Orienteering	First Water Trailhead Horse Lot
8:00 am	Softball @ Dobson/Westwood Tournament	Westwood H.S.
10:00 am	Baseball @ Tomas Pinon/Matt Huffman Tournament	Casa Grande Union H.S.
11:00 am	Winter Guard & Drumline @ WGAZ Competition	Casa Grande Union H.S.

***Important Dates to Remember:***

February 18	No School	March 1	Movie Night - Davis Field
February 21	Bus Evacuation	March 2	NJROTC Car Show
February 25	Site Council Meeting	March 5	ABODA Festival
February 25-March 1	IE Benchmark Posttest	March 6	Choir Concert
February 26	Blood Drive	March 8	Powder Puff Volleyball

March 9	SAT	April 30 - May 1	AdvancEd Visit
March 9	Drama Club Broadway Bound - NY	May 6 - 8	IE Biology Posttest
March 11-22	Spring Break	May 6	42nd Annual Senior Scholarship Night
March 25-April 19	AIMS Science Testing	May 7	Band Concert
March 29	Lock-in	May 8	Early Release
April 1-26	Spring AzMerit	May 9	Orchestra Concert
April 5	Color Run	May 10	Beginning Drama Productions
April 10	Early Release	May 10	Yearbook Signing Party
April 12	Mr. Prospector	May 11	Prom
April 15	Academic Awards Night	May 15	Choir Pops Concert
April 19	No School	May 17	Senior BBQ
April 24	Scholarship Night	May 23	Commencement (Graduation)
April 25-26	The Lion King Jr.		

## Field Trips

2/23/19	Drumline and Guard Festival	Band
2/23/19	NJROTC Orienteering	First Water Trailhead

If your field trip is not listed here contact Kathy Allyn at [kallyn@goaj.org](mailto:kallyn@goaj.org)

## Fundraisers

Track is selling activity cards for \$10. There are a ton of great food deals and services. See any track athlete to buy one today.

Student Council is selling Senior Shirts for \$12. Bring your receipt from the bookstore to Mrs. Schwenkert's room to order your shirt. This is a pre-sale. Limited quantities may be available after the shirts are delivered.

AJ Parks and Recreation helps host a Downtown Running Walking Series to help our athletic teams raise monies for individual sport teams. 100% of the proceeds benefit our Athletic Teams. It is \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth. All participants get a medal and if you participate in 3 or more events, you earn a t-shirt. We have two events remaining for this school year:

Girls Basketball: 3/2/19

Boys Basketball: 4/6/19

Check in is at 9:00 a.m. and the run/walk begins at 9:30. Both events occur at Flatiron Park.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our 21st Annual NJROTC Benefit Car and Motorcycle Show. The event will be Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 10:00a - 3:00p. Anyone interested in entering a vehicle or making a prize donation can contact Lisa Schroeder at 928-460-0331 or Daniele Darnell at 602-418-6633.

If your fundraiser is not listed here contact Kathy Allyn at [kallyn@goaj.org](mailto:kallyn@goaj.org)

## General Information: VAPING a National Problem

Parents, vaping is happening every day on High School and Junior High School campuses across the country, typically in restrooms before and after school and between classes. **We urge you to talk to your children about the dangers of vaping.** For more information or tips for having these types of conversations visit:

[https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR\\_ECig\\_ParentTipSheet\\_508.pdf](https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf)

# Student Council Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenkert**

AJHS' quarterly Blood Drive is coming up on February 26th, 2019 and is open to the public. Get a form from any Student Council member or from the Stuco Lunch table. You can also follow the link to sign up online @ <https://bloodhero.com> (Sponsor Code: Prospectors). Those who sign up and successfully donate will be automatically entered into a Raffle for a Senior Shirt (priced at \$12) or a Prospector Lanyard (Priced at \$7). Save a life and donate blood. Hope to see you there!

Powder Puff Volleyball is here! Guys come out and show us your skills. Applications can be picked up in the bookstore or athletic office. Cost is \$5 per participant and must be turned in to officially register. The tournament will be held Friday, March 8th in the North Gym starting at 7 p.m. Admission to tournament for spectators will be \$2. Hope to see you out there!

## Bragging Corner



**Apache Junction High school puts on a spectacular Military Ball at the "Views of the Superstitions."** Cadet Commanding Officer Noelle Franklin and her AJHS NJROTC unit staff scheduled and executed a formal Military Ball, February 1st. Apache Junction Mayor Jeff Serdy and City Manager Bryant Powel was in attendance and was joined by the School board Presidents for both Apache Junction and Combs School districts (Jodi Ehrlich and Shelly Hargis respectively). Apache Junction High School Principal Dr. Angela Chomokos was also in attendance. It was a splendid event where protocol and fun shared the stage in a manner the cadets won't soon forget.

**Have Bragging News--please share!**

This will allow us to recognize the many accomplishments of the Prospectors family. Send information to [achomoko@goaj.org](mailto:achomoko@goaj.org)

---

## 9/10 Academic Update

by **Ms. Tanya Loftis**

**~TARDY ISSUES~**

Apache Junction High School is committed to providing a learning environment that enables students to experience academic success. In an effort to reinforce responsible behavior and to minimize disruption during instruction , students arriving after the tardy bell may be sent to "in-school-suspension" (ISS) for the remainder of the class period.

When a student is sent to ISS for a class period, attendance will reflect 1 hour of ISS. It is the students responsibility to communicate with their teacher in regards to make-up work. They will have only the following day to address missing assignments, test, projects, etc.

Students that are tardy twice in the same day may be sent to "in-school-suspension" (ISS) for the remainder of that day. Again, when a student is sent to ISS for the remainder of the day, attendance will reflect 1 day of ISS. It is the students responsibility to communicate with their teacher in regards to make-up work. They will have only the following day to address missing assignments, test, projects, etc.

**Tardies Policy:**

1. 10 Tardies: ISS first 30 min of lunch for 1 day
2. 15 Tardies: ISS first 30 min of lunch for 5 days
3. 20 Tardies: ISS 1 Day + parent contact
4. 40 Tardies: 1 Day suspension + ISS first 30 min of lunch for an additional 5 days

**Administration will conduct attendance reviews with student and parent/guardian. Review may result in remaining in class, removal from class and loss of credit, and/or other action deemed appropriate.**

## 11/12 Academic Update

by **Ms. Sue Campbell**

**Online Student Registration for 2019-2020**

We are pleased to announce that AJUSD will be moving to Online Registration of Returning Students for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond. In order to make this transition, parents will need to have their ParentVue login information. If you do not have yours, please contact the office for your activation code.

**ECAP Completion**

All Seniors in the state of Arizona must complete an ECAP as a part of their graduation requirements. What is an ECAP? An ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan) reflects a student's current plan of coursework, career aspirations, and extended learning opportunities in order to develop the student's individual academic and career goals.

Students typically begin work on the ECAP their freshmen year and then continue working on it until it is complete in March of their Senior year. Ask your student about his or her progress. Students can also log in to their account at <https://portal.azcis.intocareers.org/> and show your their progress.

## Counseling Corner

**Seniors!** Interested in one stop shopping for scholarships? It takes 1 online application to apply for more than 100 scholarships through the Arizona Community Foundation. Please go to the following website:

[www.azfoundation.org/Scholarships/ScholarshipOpportunities.aspx](http://www.azfoundation.org/Scholarships/ScholarshipOpportunities.aspx)

These scholarships are available to any individual who will be attending a postsecondary institution in the upcoming school year. Some scholarships are renewable. If a student is offered a renewable scholarship they will be contacted in the spring regarding the renewal process. This can include two-year and four-year colleges, or trade and vocational schools. If you need assistance see Ms. McFarlin in Counseling.

**Phoenix Suns Charities** are sponsoring the SunStudent Scholarships. Applications by qualified high school seniors are being accepted for SunStudent Scholarships now through 5PM MST on Friday, May 17. Use the link below:

<https://azfoundation.academicworks.com/opportunities/1476>

Up to 12 (\$5000) total SunStudent Scholarship awards will go to Arizona students; 2 of which will be reserved for Native American students, and one for an exceptional student, who will receive the Kevin Johnson Scholar award of \$7,000.

**Career Factoid**

70% of the young people currently enter the workforce in a job that will be radically affected by automation. It's not all bad news, jobs are changing and 85% of the jobs that will be available in 2030 haven't been invented yet! Did you know these jobs exist today? Employee Experience Manager, robot trainer, digital storyteller.... For more information check out the article Careers to Experiences-The 21st Century Career Experience (2018, June 29), at [www.fuel50.com/2018/06/careers-to-experiences/](http://www.fuel50.com/2018/06/careers-to-experiences/)

CAC Rally- We will be taking a field trip to CAC-Superstition on Thursday, March 28 from 8:00-10:00 am. Students will be able to start or finish the registration process. They will be able to finish admissions, get a CAC photo ID taken, and make an appointment at a later date with an advisor. If you are interested in attending please see Ms. Johnson in the front office for the field trip slip.

# EVIT Update

By **Mr. Tim Vanda**

## IMPORTANT EVIT TRANSPORTATION CHANGE EFFECTIVE MARCH 25

All students traveling to EVIT Main campus or EVIT East campus will have a new pick-up and drop off location starting March 25. In an effort to provide the best safety procedures for our AJ/EVIT students, the busses will now depart from the AJHS front office gates near the ROTC building. On March 25th all students must have an ID card with EVIT credentials to exit campus and load onto the EVIT busses. The times will remain the same departing AJHS at 11:15 and returning by 3pm depending on traffic. New permission slips are being created and will be required to be on file asap. **More information will be added to this each week.**

## Culinary Student prepares for SkillsUSA

Daniel Vergos, a member of Apache Junction High School's Culinary Foundations Program, will be in the SkillsUSA Region 3 cooking competition Saturday, Feb. 16. The competition will be at the EVIT main campus, 1601 W. Main St. in Mesa. He is the first culinary student from Apache Junction High School to compete against other students from SkillsUSA Arizona Region 3 in the cooking battle, according to a release.

The contest is judged on areas of professionalism, technique and cooking skills, and it is timed. A panel of industry judges evaluates each contestant, awarding scores in each area. Top chefs receive medals. "Daniel loves the culinary arts and is very excited to participate in this competition," stated John Diana, who oversees the culinary program. "The art of creating food is an exciting and growing profession, and we are very excited to offer it at the high school."



SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce, the release stated. SkillsUSA serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually. The organization has 13,000 school chapters in 54 states and territorial associations, according to the release. More than 14,500 instructors and administrators are professional members of SkillsUSA.

# Athletic Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenkert**

Athletes will not receive their uniform until they have paid their pay 2 play for the spring season. Please see Ms. Romni in the bookstore to pay cash, check, or credit card. Tax donations may be used to pay the \$150 fee.

Athletes needing to see Belinda during lunch must pre-arrange a meeting. The 9/10 building is locked during the lunch period to allow teachers time to tutor students, eat lunch, or plan for upcoming classes.

Congratulations to the Boy's Basketball Team members that were voted into the 2018 - 2019 Black Canyon Regional Teams. Way to go Prospectors!

- 1st Team All Region - Jimari Grayson
- 2nd Team All Region - Dayton Baldwin
- Honorable Mention - Nicolas Moorhead

Congratulations to Taylor Neace for earning a full ride to Benedictine University in Mesa. Taylor earned an academic/athletic scholarship for all of hard work. Good luck Taylor!!



**Apache Junction High School**

2525 S. Ironwood

Apache Junction, AZ 85120

(480)474-3980 phone

(480)982-3787 fax

Office Hours: 6:30am - 3:00pm