



Parent Prospector Press

To focus instruction for increased student achievement.

On Top of the World and Reaching for the Future

February 25, 2019 - March 2, 2019



Principal Update:

by **Principal Dr. Angela Chomokos**

One of this year's school-wide goals is that Apache Junction High School faculty, staff, and administration will regularly engage in meaningful communication about student learning, school improvement and campus updates. As measured by a parent survey administered in the Spring of 2019 we aspire to have the number of families who report that they have sufficient and timely information from AJHS will be at least 70%.

A climate and culture survey was distributed two weeks ago to our parents/guardians which includes a variety of questions ranging from school communication -- to the purpose and direction of the school. As of February 25, only a few have responded. In order to work towards achieving our school improvement goal we are requesting your assistance in completing the survey. The link is: <http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/8638725>

The following is an overview of our strategies already implemented to increase regular ongoing communications with our parents/guardians:

- ✓ Weekly Prospector Press Newsletter
- ✓ Establishment of AJHS Site Council--meets monthly open to public
- ✓ Teachers communicating via, Google Classroom, Email, and ParentVue
- ✓ Reworking the AJHS Course Description Book for school year 2019_2020
- ✓ Counselors communicating regularly with student and parents
- ✓ Parent/Guardian ~ Teachers meetings when requested
- ✓ Parent letters when appropriate per situations
- ✓ Parent Survey
- ✓ Comprehensive Needs Assessment for teachers/staff
- ✓ Counselors in classrooms regarding ECAPS--twice a year
- ✓ Parent evening informational meetings

As we continue to reflect on our current practices and updated educational trends, we look forward to increasing our partnership with our parents/guardians and students. Our ultimate goal is to enhance our community outreach while creating a team that accomplishes our vision of "focused instruction to increase student achievement."

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>		

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Field Trips

2/25	MLB Spring Training to perform National Anthem	Varsity Choir
2/26	ASU Language Fair	Spanish Club

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Fundraisers

Come join us at our 21st Annual NJROTC Benefit Car and Motorcycle Show. The event will be Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 10:00a - 3:00p at AJHS. For more information or to register contact Lisa Schroeder 928-460-0331 or Daniele Darnell 602-418-6633

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.

Student Council will be selling AJHS lanyards for \$7. Don't miss out on showing your school spirit! Lanyards can be purchased from any student council member.

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.

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General Information:

Teachers and Staff~~Funny Money!

For the next two weeks (Feb. 27-March 1 and March 3-March 8) we are going to have a Faculty Spirit Contest! For every day that you wear an AJHS shirt, you can receive "Funny Money" \$10 from Kathy Allyn. Thursdays are COLLEGE DAYS~~if you wear COLLEGE apparel in lieu of AJ apparel you can get funny money. You must physically come to Kathy to receive your Funny Money (no email entries). At lunch on Fridays: March 1 and March 8 we will post a "Funny Money" \$10 bill outside of Dr. C's office. If your serial numbers match the posted bill~~you will win an actual \$10 bill~~no funny business! There will be 4--\$10 bills handed out with a \$20 gift card drawing for all participants. Go Prospectors!

Did you know? Children of parents who talk to their teens regularly about drugs are 42% less likely to use drugs than those who don't, yet only a quarter of teens report having these conversations. An interview with Joronda Montano Prevention Director at notMYkd, was published in the Huffington Post about How to Talk to Teens about Drugs; it's a must-read:

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-to-talk-to-your-teen-about-drugs-6-tips-for-parents_us_599236c1e4b0ed1f464c0d98

Student Council Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenckert**

Please consider donating TUESDAY 2/26 at our Blood Drive. The drive runs from 8a - noon so we can find a time that works best for you. Currently there is a national shortage of blood which makes it even more important to donate now. Hope to see you there.

For those that have signed up for Powder Puff Volleyball, there will be open gym for practice on Wednesday 2/27 from 6p - 8p. You must be registered to come out and play. The cost is \$5. Registration packets can be found at the bookstore and in the Athletic Office. The tournament will be held on Friday 3/8. Come out and show everyone who's the kings of the court.

Interested in running for a Student Council position? Applications will be available on Monday March 4th and will be due on Friday March 29th. Come get involved and make 2019 - 2020 a fantastic year. If you have any questions, see Mrs. Schwenckert in room 186 or the Athletic Office.

Bragging Corner



Congratulations to Rylee Anforth! On February 16th Rylee competed for a rodeo queen title by completing a horsemanship pattern, performing a skit with her horse, being quizzed by the judges on her knowledge of horses and rodeo, completing a private interview and answering impromptu questions about rodeo. At the end of the competition, Rylee was crowned the 2019 Cave Creek Rodeo Day's Teen Queen! She'll spend the year representing Cave Creek Rodeo Days and the Town of Cave Creek.

AJHS NJROTC unit competed in another Academic Brain Brawl on Saturday February 16th at Moon Valley HS in Phoenix. The team consisting of Cadets Haiden Deal, David Hofman, Hayden Pride, Chase Adam, and Brayden Vigil were nearly flawless in sweeping the first four rounds. In a nailbiter finish they came in 4th! The team qualified for the regional competition in Los Angeles, California on March 23rd. Please wish them luck if you see them.



Cadet Brady Williams was recognized by the Better Business Bureau and Salt River Project for his "Ethical Cadet" essay and qualification package that included significant community service, unit support, academic prowess, and overall character. This recognition garnered him a \$1,000.00 dollar scholarship as well as an additional \$1,000.00 for the AJHS NJROTC unit. Great job and keep up the hard work!

Twenty-eight cadets from the AJHS NJROTC unit provided significant support to the staff, organizers and runners of the 18th annual Lost Dutchman Marathon held on Sunday February 17th. Arriving at 6:30AM the cadets eagerly expedited bag checks prior to the start and pushed water to the thousands of participants throughout the day till 2:00PM. Great fun was had by all and we look forward to serving next year!

Have Bragging News--please share!

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9/10 Academic Update

by **Ms. Tanya Loftis**

Please make sure you are reviewing your grades and taking care of both current and eligible make-up assignments, projects, tests/quizzes. Do **NOT** wait to address your concerns with teachers.

Continue to dedicate 15-30 minutes a night to study or to complete homework.

Utilize "Lunchtime Tutoring", the first 25 min. of your 45 min. lunch

Get a pass from you teacher for lunch time tutoring...

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11/12 Academic Update

by Ms. Sue Campbell

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AZ Merit testing is rapidly approaching. AzMERIT is an annual statewide test that measures how students are performing in English and mathematics. Assessments can be effective tools to support your child's learning, by providing information to help teachers drive their instruction. Students enrolled in English 9, 10 and 11 and students enrolled in Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry are required to test no matter what their grade level is.

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Celebrate your year with the purchase of a yearbook

To order your yearbook click the link below:

https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1001689/Apache-Junction-High-School/2019-Yearbook/2018070704194395070/CATALOG_SHOP/?utm_content=TOP-CTA-BUTTON&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=YBK_MER1469_YBA_HOLIDYGFT&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_term=Trigger%20Overflow&campaign=193015

AJHS has a proud tradition of offering a high quality yearbook for students to celebrate their high school years. Producing this type of quality yearbook is an expensive endeavor. We would like to always be able to offer this type of yearbook to our students. Selling copies of the **yearbook** is the most important source of the program's income.

Counseling Corner

Attention Junior and Senior students. **Grand Canyon University** is returning to campus on Thursday, February 28, during periods 3, 4 and 5. If you are interested in meeting with Karl for information, please sign up in the main office at the bookstore counter. He is promising pizza for attendees.

Seniors: The **PINAL 40 FOUNDATION Scholarship** is still available for you to apply. If you are going to a US college or university to study Agriculture, Agi-engineering or mechanics, Agi-business, animal sciences (veterinarian), crop production, horticulture (plants) or natural resources (usage/preservation) please apply for the scholarship by March 15, 2019. THIS SCHOLARSHIP IS \$2000, AND RENEWABLE.

Seniors, are you still seeking scholarship opportunities? Please visit the **Arizona Community Foundation** website to apply for their opportunities to help pay for college. It is an online application which can be found at: www.azfoundation.org/Scholarships/InvestinginEducationforArizonasFuture.aspx

Remember, there is a lot of money out there for you to apply for and win. If you need help please stop by counseling and see Ms. McFarlin.

Seniors, your **ECAP** is due by Thursday, February 28, end of the day. Please stop by counseling if you need help or have been locked out of the system. The counselors can assist you with this process.

There is a **Discover EVIT** opportunity planned for interested students and their parents/guardians on Tuesday, April 9, from 6:00 to 6:45 pm or 6:45 to 7:30 pm. Learn about the tuition free programs they offer at the open house to be held at their East Campus, 6625 South Power Road in Mesa. For more information call EVIT @ 480-308-3600, or see Ms. Jenkins in Counseling.

Seniors, here are a few more new scholarships for you to apply for:

Best Buy Scholarships are for high school students. Some good information about scholarships and grants for you to review as well on their website listed below:

Best Buy Scholarship 2019: <http://www.college-financial-aid-advice.com/best-buy-scholarship.html>
www.college-financial-aid-advice.com

Resolution Copper Scholarship Program 2019. They have four programs: General Scholarship Program, John Rickus Scholarship and Native American Scholarship programs. Please go to the website for more information:

<https://resolutioncopper.com/sharing-success/scholarships/>

The deadline to submit 2019 applications is March 29, 2019. If you need assistance with the applications stop by Counseling and see Ms. McFarlin.

Need answers about financing college? Scholarships? Grants? Educational loans? The **DISCOVER Card website** has a variety of answers to questions and LINKS to scholarships you can apply for as well. Check it out at:

<https://www.discover.com/student-loans/scholarships/award.html>

For all high school students ages 15 - 18, this includes summer graduates, interested in a career in medicine. **Camp Cardiac** is a 1-week summer day camp for high school students interested in exploring careers in medicine. With a focus on both education and real world experience, Camp Cardiac provides students with a unique opportunity to learn directly from experts in the medical field. In addition, this 1-week summer day camp provides a foundation for heart healthy living with an emphasis on both diet and exercise. Although Camp Cardiac's primary focus is on care and maintenance of the heart, it provides an excellent starting point for careers in all fields of medicine. Completers receive a certificate of graduation upon the completion of the camp.

Students may learn more and apply by visiting: www.campcardiac.org

Summer Medical Camp at ASU. Greater Valley Area Health Education Center (GVAHEC) at Empowerment Systems, Inc. is sponsoring a Future Health Leader Camp. It is a FREE week-long overnight summer camp held at ASU's downtown campus that brings together high school students from across Arizona and provides opportunities for students to interact with professionals from a wide range of health careers (the only cost is the \$25 application fee). It will be filled with tons of activities and experiences. For more information contact Brook Donnelly @480-367-6937, ext. 113. To apply go to: www.raceplanner.com/register/index/FHL19

