



# Parent Prospector Press

*To focus instruction for increased student achievement.*

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

October 22, 2018 - October 27, 2018

## Principal's Update:

by **Principal Dr. Angela Chomokos**



Dear AJHS Students, Parents/Guardians;

I am deeply saddened to inform you of the loss of AJHS Junior student Andrew Karkutt. Andrew passed away this weekend after being in a tragic car accident. For those who knew Andrew, we ask that you remember and celebrate his life and his many positive characteristics. He was a good friend to many and enjoyed the interactions of staff and fellow AJHS students.

It is very difficult to accept and process the death of a young person. Throughout this week, our counselors, school psychologist and administrators are here to help and support students and faculty members who are in need.

When dealing with grief it is suggested that we allow our teens to talk about death and express their feelings while offering them loving support. Often the best support for teens is to encourage them to continue their routine by going to school and participating in their extra-curricular activities. Teens often do not know how to deal with loss, therefore, their emotions may manifest in a variety of ways. You may see some of the following emotions: anger, disbelief, tearfulness, irritability, clinging to loved ones, physical complaints--headaches, stomachaches, inability to concentrate, fear, depression, emptiness, loneliness, and deep sadness. These are common characteristics in the grieving process for teens. It is best to listen and show support, please know our Counselors will continue to be available to support and assist our students as they process through this difficult time.

The family has established a GoFundMe account to assist with the cost of the funeral services:

<https://www.gofundme.com/andrew-ryan-karkutt?teamInvite=CsC0iNi5R1FaxXaYTgrfEZOpbUeXqKo9jIPJlIEjri1MfaLr6uh2oZPnqcS6BVqz> They are currently working on arrangements for these services, we will share this information upon receipt.

I know that you join me in extending our sympathy to Andrew's family and close friends. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

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 Schwenkert	<i>Athletic Director/Teacher StudCo Advisor</i>		

# Prospector Weekly Calendar

<b>Monday, October 22</b>		
8:00a - 10:00a	Admin Meeting	Main Office
10:30a	Boys Golf - State Competition	Tucson National Golf Course
6:00p	AJHS Site Council	Room 295
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<b>Tuesday, October 23</b>		
<b>Writing benchmarks in English Classes</b>		
<b>Late Start for non-testing seniors</b>		
10:18-11:00am	Senior Cap and Gown Orders	In the cafeteria at lunch
4:00, 5:00, 6:00pm	Volleyball @ Combs	Combs High School
6:00pm	AJUSD Governing Board Meeting	District Office
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<b>Wednesday, October 24</b>		
<b>Writing benchmarks in English Classes</b>		
<b>Early Release All Students: 11:40am</b>		
9:05-9:49am	Senior Cap and Gown Orders	In the cafeteria at lunch
6:00pm	JVB Football vs. Combs	Davis Field
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<b>Thursday, October 25</b>		
6:00pm	JVB Football vs. Combs	Combs High School
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<b>Friday, October 26</b>		
7:00 pm	Varsity Football vs. Combs	Davis Field
	Senior Night * Football, Cheer, Marching Band	
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<b>Saturday, October 27</b>		
12:00 pm	Band ABODA Competition	Gilbert High School

## **Important Dates to Remember:**

October 22-24	Writing Benchmarks in English	January 21	No School
October 23-24	Senior Cap and Gown Orders	January 24, 25, 31, & February 1	Wizard of Oz
October 24	Early Release	February 13	Early Release
October 29	Bus Evacuation	February 18	No School
November 12	No School	February 21	Bus Evacuation
November 14	Early Release	March 6	Choir Concert
November 21-23	No School	March 11-22	Spring Break No School
	Happy Thanksgiving	April 10	Early Release
November 30	Talent Show	April 19	No School
December 12	Early Release	April 24	Scholarship Night
December 17	Band Concert	April 25-26	The Lion King Jr.
December 19	Choir Concert	April 30 - May 1	AdvancEd Visit
December 20	Orchestra Concert	May 7	Band Concert
December 21	End of Semester (Early Release)	May 8	Early Release
December 24-January 6	No School	May 9	Orchestra Concert
	Winter Break	May 10	Beginning Drama Productions
	Happy Holidays	May 15	Choir Pops Concert
January 16	Early Release	May 23	Commencement (Graduation)

# Field Trips

October 25 - 27

October 27

October 27

UofA Arizona HS Honor Choir

Gilbert High School (ABODA)

Drill Competition American Legion

Varsity Choir

Band

NJROTC

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

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# Fundraisers

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

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# Student Council Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenkert**

Student Council will be hosting the annual Talent-Show November 30 at 7 p.m. Please watch for try out times this week.

# Bragging Corner

We're very proud of our very talented Choir teacher, Ms. Andie Chung, for being named CLAES Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Ms. Chung was nominated by a student for outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the profession. The honor was presented to Ms. Chung because of her dedication to teaching and learning and because of the difference, she is making as a role model, being a source of inspiration and being a leader in her profession. Way to lead our future leaders, Ms. Chung!

Your Marching Prospectors placed 2nd in their division at the Williams Field HS band festival on Saturday. They also received recognition for Outstanding Percussion!

Congratulations the the AJHS Students of the Month: Madyson Uehling and Zachary Langenbach

Congratulations to AJHS Football~~quotes from AZCentral:

*This was a game for the ages.*

*Glendale led the entire game until Apache Junction staged 12-point rally late in the fourth quarter to beat the Cardinals, 53-52, in Glendale. Glendale (8-1) came into the game undefeated knowing that facing Apache Junction (6-3) could be a trap game for them.*

*Apache Junction is looking to accomplish a feat that has never been done by its program, winning two consecutive regional championships. Last season, it was the first time they won the region in 35 years, and the first time in the playoffs in seven years. (GO PROSPECTORS! Great Job Coach Miller and Staff~~the Prospectors are now ranked #8 in the 4A Arizona Republic Ranking Standings)*

**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)

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# 9/10 Academic Update

by **Ms. Tanya Loftis**

Many students have started to look at schedules for Spring semester and had questions about changes. YES, you will see that often times in an effort to balance class sizes the system gives you the same class with the same teacher, but a different hour. As long as the teachers remain the same, your schedule is perfectly fine. However, on occasion, the scheduling system will change your teacher. This is **not** what we want to see happen and would like to correct these situations ASAP. Please email your counselor if you notice that you have the same class but the **teacher has changed** for Spring semester.

9/10 Counselor- Bria Jenkins

[bjenkins@goaj.org](mailto:bjenkins@goaj.org)

11/12 Counselor- Valerie McFarlin

[vmcfarli@goaj.org](mailto:vmcfarli@goaj.org)

## 11/12 Academic Update

by **Ms. Sue Campbell**

After Benchmark testing on Tuesday, October 24, 2018 AJHS will participate in the Gallup Student Poll. Gallup launched the Gallup Student Poll in 2009. Gallup provides analytics and advice to organizations around the world.

The Gallup Student Poll is a brief, 24-item survey available on the web for students in grades 5 through 12.

The Gallup Student Poll includes the following themes:

- Engagement is the student's involvement in and enthusiasm for school.
- Hope is the ideas and energy students have for the future.
- Entrepreneurial Aspiration is the talent and energy for building businesses that survive, thrive and employ others.
- Career/Financial Literacy is the information, attitudes, and behaviors that students need to practice for healthy participation in the economy.

The Gallup Student Poll gives students a voice in building great schools, and results provide schools with important, actionable information beyond standard measures, such as grades and test scores, to help schools make kids ready for the future.

Please visit the Gallup Student Poll homepage on the web at <http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com> to view the survey items and learn more.

To date, there have been over 5 million completes of the Gallup Student Poll. This survey is anonymous and voluntary. That means Gallup cannot identify your student, and your student's individual responses will not be shared with anyone. Only grade-level and school-level information will be shared with our school.

Your student does not have to participate in this survey. There are no consequences or penalties if your student does not participate. Email Gallup Education at [educationhelp@gallup.com](mailto:educationhelp@gallup.com) if you have questions about this survey, or contact Ms. Campbell at [scampbel@goaj.org](mailto:scampbel@goaj.org). If you would like to opt out of the survey your student can pick up and return the opt-out form from their English teacher.

## Counseling Corner

**DID YOU KNOW???** **\$2.6B in Free College Money Went Unclaimed by 2018 Grads**—High school graduates who didn't complete a federal financial aid application missed their opportunity for free money for college. The money went unclaimed by 661,000 members of the Class of 2018 who were eligible for a federal Pell Grant but didn't complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. Source: High School Counselor Week, October 18, 2018 edition.

**Monday, October 22, from 5:00 to 7:30 PM is FAFSA Completion Night with Central Arizona College.** This is for parents and students to come in to learn about FAFSA, complete the actual form and if need be get the initial FAFSA ID and password information completed. To participate please bring your student's Chromebook, their Social Security Number, and the filled 2017 tax documents, since they are needed for completing the FAFSA Application.

**New DACA Scholarship! Golden Door Scholarships for students attending college in the Fall of 2019.**

**Applicants must have DACA.** Strong preference will be given to students interested in (STEM) Computer Science, Engineering, Technology or Math related fields. **Applications are due on 10/25/18 by 12 midnight. VISIT: [www.goldendoorscholars.org](http://www.goldendoorscholars.org)**

## EVIT Update

By **Mr. Tim Vanda**

EVIT Culinary and Construction have some fun and exciting events they are preparing for. The Culinary program is hosting the Mayor's Breakfast with United Way on November 8 at the Apache Junction High School Culinary Dining Room. Mayor Serdy and many dignitaries from our community and beyond will be served an incredible breakfast prepared by the EVIT/AJ students.

The EVIT/AJHS Construction students will be attending the Arizona Construction Career Days on November 1st and 2nd. This event is held at the Arizona Army National Guard Papago Site for two days. All construction students will have an opportunity to meet industry specialist from across the state and beyond. This event allows students to explore the construction industry from the ground up and often leads to new pathways.

## Athletic Update

by **Ms. Dawn Schwenkert**

Congratulations to Varsity Football. With the win against Glendale on Friday, they are headed to the playoffs. The AZ Republic has us ranked as #8 in our division.

### *What's the Score?*

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Freshmen</b>	<b>JV</b>	<b>Varsity</b>
<b>Football</b>	Glendale	Win 32 - 28	Win 42 - 6	Win 53 - 52
<b>Girls Volleyball</b>	Glendale			Win 3 - 0
	Cactus			Win 3-0
<b>Girls Swim/Dive</b>	Cactus			
	Charger Invitational			
	Craig Cummins Invitational			
<b>Boys Swim/Dive</b>	Cactus			
	Charger Invitational			
	Craig Cummins Invitational			



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