AJUSD Bond and Override Election Approved

Apache Junction Unified School District has been approved to go out for a $60 million capital bond and a $2 million capital override election. The election is scheduled for Nov. 5, 2019 and will be mail-in ballot only. The outcome will be decided by voters in the AJUSD attendance area. Registered voters will automatically be mailed a ballot. Pinal County residents can register to vote at Registration Link

Important Election Dates

Voter registration deadline Oct. 7
Early voting begins Oct. 9
Last day to request an early ballot Oct. 25
Mail your ballot by (or before) Oct. 29

More information is available at Election information on the district website, www.ajusd.org.

AJUSD to Pilot Program to Help Sniff Out Drugs

In an effort to provide a safe and drug-free environment at our junior high and high school, AJUSD will be working jointly with the Pinal County K-9 Unit to pilot a new program to help deter drugs and drug use at our campuses.

The program, which will be provided at no cost to the district, will allow the Pinal County Sherriff's Department to enter AJUSD campuses with specially trained police service K-9 units to sniff for contraband. Each unit will consist of a specially-trained service dog and a handler as well as an AJUSD school administrator.

Once a search is authorized, the school will be placed on lockdown, removing one or more classes of students from their rooms, and then the K-9 units will sniff for drugs and drug-related contraband such as narcotics, paraphernalia, wax pens and vaping items.

Flagged items will be given to the school administrator to handle in accordance with district policy and discipline procedures. AJUSD will evaluate the effectiveness of the program in June, 2020.
Homecoming Game and Parade Kicks Off Sept. 13th at Apache Junction High School

Last year’s football team was victorious for Homecoming. The Prospectors plan a repeat victory on Sept. 13.

Students and staff at AJHS, 2525 S. Ironwood in Apache Junction are gearing up for the school’s annual Homecoming festivities beginning Monday, Sept. 9 through Friday, Sept. 13. This year’s theme is “One Night in the Big City” (New York City.)

The events will culminate with the Homecoming Game against Casa Grande’s Vista Grande High School’s Spartans on Friday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. on Davis Field. Prior to the game there will be a Homecoming Parade at 5:30 p.m. which will include floats from AJHS’ sport teams, groups and clubs, as well as entries from other schools in the Apache Junction Unified School District.

“Homecoming is a time of excitement and camaraderie – not only for our students and staff – but also for the community,” said AJHS Principal, Dr. Christopher Lineberry. “I would like to personally invite AJHS alumni, as well as our friends and neighbors, to help support our team and cheer our Prospectors to victory on September 13th.”

Tickets to the game are $5 for adults, $3 for students with ID as well as senior citizens, and children age six and under are free.

Schools interested in having a float need to email Claire.Williamson@goaj.org.

AJHS Principal Receives National Award

AJHS’ new Principal, Dr. Chris Lineberry, left a little something behind at his former school, Stanfield Elementary School in Stanfield, AZ. He recently learned a program he implemented is the recipient of the American School Health Association’s Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Award.

The award recognizes collaboration between education and health in order to improve each child’s cognitive, physical, social and emotional development.

“Making improvements in a child’s educational development takes a multi-prong approach that includes addressing his or her academic growth as well as their physical, social and emotional development,” said Dr. Lineberry. “I am very pleased the work at my former school was recognized and I look forward to applying those techniques to helping the students at Apache Junction High School.”

Grease is the Word as AJHS students work together on the first read-through of the popular musical. Production dates will be in November. Stay tuned to learn more.

“I Love AJUSD. Every person you encounter is welcoming and willing to help. There is a collaborative effort amongst all departments to strive for a better AJUSD for both students and staff.”

McKalie Leininger, Print Shop
AVID Learners Embrace Challenges

Erin is an AVID advocate.

Congratulations to Cactus Canyon Junior High student, Erin S. for being recognized as Advancement Via Individual Learning (AVID) Student of the Month. Erin joined AVID to help her become more organized and be more successful in school. She said she is very excited about the class and feels more confident about herself now that she has joined. She likes that she is learning habits early that will help her through high school and college to create a path of success.

Her plan is to graduate high school and then attend a university to study engineering or study in the medical field.

Project Help Lends Support to AJUSD Families

Project Help loves to give and receive to support others.

Whether you know of a family that needs help, or you want to make a donation, Project Help provides needed assistance to AJUSD families. Rosie Portugal Brastad oversees the program. To learn more about the program, who it helps, how to make a donation or how to volunteer visit Project Help.

AJ Teachers Helper Facebook Page Offers Unique Support and Supplies

AJUSD Volunteer Genie Marshall, loads her car with supplies for teachers.

She may not have a magic lamp, but Genie Marshall, AJUSD volunteer and moderator of the AJ Teachers Helper Facebook Page grants wishes nearly every day for district teachers. The Facebook page posts supplies that AJUSD teachers need and that community members can fill. The requests can be as mundane as empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls to lamps, furniture, cameras and even sewing machines. The requests must come from AJUSD teachers, but “wishes” have been fulfilled by community members, out-of-state benefactors, as well as business owners and corporations. Guidelines are posted at Teachers Helper. The Facebook page has been active for nearly two years. Recent fulfilled requests include: books, fabric, costumes, iPads, hand sanitizer, area rugs, snacks, Kleenex, art supplies, bottle water and Legos.

“If it is reusable teachers can probably put it to good use,” said Genie who enjoys the dual benefit of moderating a page that helps teachers and reduces landfill waste.

Whether you’re a teacher in need of supplies, a benefactor who wants to help, or an environmentalist who believes in the three “rs” of reduce, reuse and recycle, checking out AJ Teachers Helper is a great way to make a difference.
AJHS Stagecraft Class Sheds Light on Stage Sound, Lighting and Stage Management

Students in AJHS’ Stagecraft class presented lighting designs while other students played instruments on stage. Students also set up audio with speakers and monitors so the musicians and audience can hear them play. This project focused on an introduction to lighting designs, stage management and audio visual set-up.

Superhero Donation Drive

AJUSD will be partnering with “Put on the Cape: A Foundation for Hope,” by collecting new (in the box) action figures and Barbie dolls, superhero t-shirts (with tags on them) Sept. 9 through 27. All donations will be given to child advocacy centers of “Put on the Cape”. Monetary contributions can be made through www.putonthecape.com. Clothing and action figure donations can be dropped off at District Office. Put on the Cape is a non-profit organization to assist child victims with food clothing and other needs. Before each child leaves “Put on the Cape” they receive their favorite Superhero or Barbie action figure. For more information contact Dr. Krista Anderson at 490-982-1110.

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Employee Spotlight – Kobe Brubaker

Kobe Brubaker replaces a heater valve in a school bus.

Kobe Brubaker is proof that training from the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) helps prepare students for real-life careers. The AJUSD Transportation Department recruited Kobe as their top pick due to his training and expertise in diesel mechanics. Kobe helps maintain, fix and prevent mechanical failure on all of AJUSD’s transportation vehicles.

“EVIT helped prepare me for a real job and gave me the experience needed to succeed in the diesel mechanics field,” said Kobe.

Even though he is the new guy in the shop he already feels like a part of a department that operates like a well-oiled machine.

“I enjoy working with my team,” said Kobe. “Jon and Woody have truly welcomed me to the team. The office staff and bus drivers are always very nice to me.”

When he isn’t working Kobe enjoys playing basketball, football, ping pong and billiards. He loves movies and is a big marvel fan.