

Administrator's Report for December

Apache Junction High School

Celebrations/Highlights:

- Paul Lanphear and his drama students did an outstanding job with Elf Jr. The inclusion of FPES and DVES students for the elves was a great touch to the shows
- Coach Kim Greer and her Varsity Cheer won the JAMZ Competition which automatically qualifies them for Nationals.
- Sue Redding proctored the AZ Civics test for students who need to meet this state graduation requirement.
- Mrs. Leen and her orchestra students were amazing during their concert.
- Coach Norm Hoefer hosted the 7th Annual Gold Cup for girls' soccer during Winter Break.
- Ms. Chappel packed the house during her Winter Band Concert.
- Ms. Chung and her CCJH Choir along with our Choir rocked the house during their Winter Concert.
- Prospector Graduation Rate for 2017
 - AJHS: 83.4%
 - State: 77.9%
- Remember to stay current by following our social media accounts;
 - a. Facebook: www.facebook.com/ajhsprospectors
 - b. Instagram: www.instagram.com/ajhsprospectors

Athletics

Celebrations/Highlights:

Would like to thank Dr. Harshman and our winter coaches for a great start to their season.

- Boys' Basketball: 29 athletes
- Girls' Basketball: 27 athletes
- Boys' Soccer: 27 athletes
- Girls' Soccer: 38 athletes
- Winter Cheer: 19 athletes
- Wrestling: 24 athletes
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- Coach Hoefer and the Girls' Soccer program hosted their annual Gold Cup Tournament during Winter Break. Great turnout and . .
- We want to thank Kevin Marteens for leveling out Davis Field with approximately 125 tons of dirt.

Cactus Canyon Junior High

Celebrations/Highlights:

- Our 2016-17 CCJH Yearbook took 2nd place for the Middle School Division Lifetouch National Yearbook Showcase Contest! Congratulations to Mr. Jason Davis and the CCJH Yearbook team for continuing to make our yearbook a success each year!
- The Girls Volleyball team took 2nd place in the championship game this week against Ben Franklin. The team showed a lot of improvement over the season and we are proud of their hard work! Thank you to Coach Regan Roach and Coach Norma Warren!

- The Choir, Band and Orchestra performed in the PAC this month for parents and friends. All of the students have worked hard this semester and did a nice job!
- The National Junior Honor Society had an angel tree in the front office and collected presents for families through Project Help. NJHS also made and mailed out cards for men and women of service and went caroling at retirement group homes this month.
- The CCJH Student Council did a nice job planning the entire 2nd qtr spirit assembly along with a choreographed dance for students. All students showed a lot of spirit and cougar pride!
- The CCJH PTO volunteered their time and collected several donations of food for staff appreciation throughout this last week.
- Both the Language Arts and Math departments met this week for a block of time to look at second quarter benchmark data. The teams looked at gaps in the data and mapped out a plan to reteach selected objectives into their 3rd quarter instruction.

Four Peaks Elementary

Celebrations/Highlights:

December 11th winter concert

December 14th Spelling Bee

Elf Performers November 30 and December 1

4th grade classes had a field trip to National Monument at Tonto National Forest - People of the Past - Archaeologically focused

Desert Vista Elementary

Celebrations/Highlights:

- On Saturday, December 9th, Desert Vista students participated in the district Elks Hoop Shoot at Cactus Canyon Junior High. 5th grader Blaze Collins earned 1st place in the boys 10-11 division and 6th grader Skylar Brindle earned 2nd place in the girls 12-13 division. Blaze will advance to the regional Hoop Shoot in Chandler on January 6th.
- On December 5th, we held our annual DVES Spelling Bee. 1st: Conor Wirries; 2nd: Payton Elizondo; 3rd: Simote Teumohenga; 4th: Nicholas McCracken; Alternate: Anna Brownlee.
- School-wide field trip for 1st-6th grade students to the HS PAC to see the production of Elf Jr.: The Musical
- On December 7th and 8th, DVES Glee Club students were part of the Elf Jr: The Musical production at the HS and were in the roles as the elves.
- Principal Smith dressed up as an elf for a day to reward the school-wide goal for 2nd Quarter AR which included going into classrooms spreading cheer and joy by dancing and then passing out treat bags to students who reached their AR goal for the quarter.
- On December 20, DVES Band, Strings, Keyboard and Glee Clubs performed for parents and staff at our Winter Concert.
- DVES Chess Club held its own tournament over the past two weeks with Ciara Anderson placing 1st and Nicholas McCracken placing 2nd.
- PTO held their Penguin Patch gift shop fundraiser this month. (*The total raised is not available yet for this report)

Peralta Trail Elementary

Celebrations/Highlights:

Our Holiday traditions Around the World celebration was a great success with about 200 in attendance. In addition to our learning opportunities and tasting fair, our band string and chorus provided entertainment for the evening!

- ❖ One of our students placed first in the Elks Hoop Shoot for her age group
- ❖ Our Spelling Bee went well and we are looking forward to the district Bee.
- ❖ Our Chess Club is preparing for tournament.
- ❖ Our giving Tree assisted 107 people with clothes, shoes, and gifts for Christmas.
- ❖ Our second graders rocked their benchmark assessments!

Please join us for our January Family STEAM Night - A Night Under the Stars!

Concerns:

- ❖ Escalating student behaviors
- ❖ Recruiting and retaining quality staff (SPED teachers, paras, psychs)
- ❖ The excruciatingly long time it takes to process volunteers

Food Service

Celebrations/Highlights:

The Feed the Children Program helped 371 students in 220 families with breakfast and lunch items over the Winter Break. 25 turkeys and 40 hams were also donated this year. What a great community!

Public Relations

Celebrations/Highlights:

The collaboration between AJUSD, city and community members regarding the crosswalk on Southern near CCJH resulted in great PR for the District. A front page article (above the fold) appeared in the AJ/GC News. We continue to receive volunteer applications from the newspaper article and community newsletter regarding volunteers, as well as requests about the School Tax Credit.

Concerns:

The AJ Mounted Rangers have been updating me regarding safety issues regarding the crosswalk on Southern near CCJH. The paint of the crosswalk is faded and hard to see. I emailed Al Bravo at the city to see if the crosswalk could be repainted with reflective paint. The students dress in dark clothing and visibility is impaired. I'm looking into possible donations of 3M reflective tape to give to each junior high student.