

## **Administrator's Report for January**

### **Apache Junction High School**

#### **Celebrations/Highlights:**

- Ms. Chappel and the Prospector Marching Band marched in the Fiesta Bowl Parade
- Senior wrestler, Taylor Vargas keeps winning. He won the AJ Invitational and the Firebird Invitational. Sectionals and State!!!
- Mr. Gregor and Ms. Reid received \$8,000 worth of science supplies.
- Apache Junction was the top team in the Silver Division from Arizona and scored well enough to advance to the Nationals. Our cadets will be competing in the National Final Round on Feb 11, 2018. This is notable in that it is only our 2nd year in this competition.
- Mrs. Smith and her Student Council earned 3 awards at the State Convention
  - Gold Award for community service: 150+ hours
  - Gold Award for charitable donations: \$3,000
  - Outstanding Council of Distinction: 10-15 schools earn this award. This is our 7th year in a row to earn this award!
- NJROTC Rifle Team qualified for the Western Regionals in San Diego
- NJROTC Brain Brawl Team qualified for the Western Regionals
- Major Parker, Senior Chief Patti, and the 101 cadets had their annual AMI Inspection.
- One of our school goals for the 2017-2018 school year was to create and implement a Student Shadowing/Mentor Program with our local business community. We had two students participated this month;
  - Junior, Calista Smith shadowed Mr. Bryant Powell during a City Council Meeting on January 16.
  - Sophomore Will Cobb is our office aide with Mr. Soren Saggio who is our "IT guy".

### **Athletics**

#### **Celebrations/Highlights:**

- Coach Norm Hoefer and the Ladies' Soccer Team qualified for the State Playoffs
- AJ Parks and Rec held the first *IRUNFOR* AJHS Basketball Downtown Running/Walk Series
- Boys' and Girls' Basketball ended their seasons by beating Combs, our rival!!!!!!
- Congratulations to Coach David Smith and the following wrestlers who qualified for State:
  - Gabe Marquez 4th
  - Kavyn Mudd 3rd
  - Ethan Wright 2nd
  - Taylor Vargas Section Champion

### **Cactus Canyon Junior High**

#### **Celebrations/Highlights:**

- CCJH kicked off the third quarter sports season with football and girls basketball. Football won their first two games and girls basketball have won two games out of three.
- Student Council attended a leadership conference Arizona Association of Junior High Student Councils Annual Student Retreat at Talking Stick Arena last week.
- During January PD Friday, the staff reflected on their Fall goals set and determined their individual focus into second semester. We also talked about how to systematically conference with each student about their ELA and Math data and help them set goals for themselves.

- Thank you to the Apache Junction Mounted Rangers for supporting us for the month of January with our San Marcos crosswalk duty in the mornings before school.

Concerns:

We are in the process of hiring a paraprofessional to cover our San Marcos crosswalk but we need coverage for the crosswalk by the pool area. We currently do not have the resources to provide the coverage.

**Four Peaks Elementary**

Celebrations/Highlights:

Four Peaks is excited to start on our projects using our cookie dough fundraiser money...we have started refilling the small playground with additional sand to make the playground safer and more kid friendly. We are also adding an area of artificial grass so the small playground has a grass area to play on. We are also replacing the sound system in the FPES cafeteria. Our current system has run its course and it can be difficult at times to hear what is happening.

We have been experiencing a lot of phone issues lately. Our understanding from a phone company employee is that they will continue patching parts rather than doing the full repairs which would entail significant cost and effort on their part. So as each part fails, the phones will go until until the part is replaced since the primary repairs will not occur.

**Desert Vista Elementary**

Celebrations/Highlights:

- Our PTO voted to donate \$7,500 to combine it with other DVES fundraising efforts and donations from private community members such as Mounted Rangers, and Kiwanis to reach our goal amount needed to purchase phase 1 of inclusive playground equipment for the West side of campus. (Board Approval for purchase pending 2/13 board meeting)
- On January 11th, DVES families came together at Peter Piper Pizza to have a fun night of games and food together.
- 5th grade student, Nicholas McCracken took 1st place at the District Spelling Bee and will now be moving on to the County Spelling Bee in February.
- 3rd grade student, Gage Davis won the K-6 division for the Kiwanis sponsored Kids Idol in Apache Junction.
- On January 18th, the staff and students pulled together to attend the AJ varsity boys basketball game and performed a dance during the half-time. It was great to see all the students who participated and supported our Prospectors!

Concerns:

- We are down one custodial staff member and are currently looking for a replacement. When any others from the crew may be out sick, this affects the ability to clean the campus well due to the number of rooms, bathrooms and areas on campus; especially a concern during flu season. Our crew is on campus until the early morning (1:00 AM) and when someone is out I have recommended that a person not be here alone. We have had to make adjustments, however when there was a floater to fill in when someone was out, this helped tremendously to avoid this type of situation.

**Peralta Trail Elementary**

Celebrations/Highlights:

- We found an exceptional kindergarten teacher for our students!
- A wonderful Barber Shop Quartet from the community came and performed for our students during our January Bobcat Pride assembly.
- Our second grade students in partnership with the Superstition Mountain Astronomical League hosted a night of stargazing for our January Family STEAM Night.
- With the assistance of one of our students who is deaf, our third grade will be signing as they sing for our Bobcat Pride assembly this month.
- We had a great turnout for our Turkey Trot fun run. Parents came to run with or cheer on their children.
- Thanks to the dedication of our amazing staff, we currently have over 200 students participating in before and after school activities on campus!
- Thank you families for the amazing support for 3rd annual United Food Bank food drive. We collected approximately 1,500 lbs of food.
- Peter Piper Pizza with the principal.
- AZ-Dental will be on campus to continue helping our students with their dental needs. There are a few 2nd and 6th grade students who are under the care of the AZ Dental Sealant Program. They provide screenings, sealants, education on preventative at no cost to our students.

#### Concerns:

- Sub shortage
- Rampant illness
- Attendance
- Escalation in Student behaviors - many students with significant needs and families in crisis
  - Lack of sleep for students. Violent video games. Student exposure to drugs and violence.

#### **Food Service**

##### Celebrations/Highlights:

- Nothing at this time

#### **Facilities**

##### Celebrations/Highlights:

LED lighting : We have 95% done with the LED lighting on our TLC, CCJH and DVES campuses. They should be done with these campuses by the end of next week.

#### **Public Relations**

##### Celebrations/Highlights:

In response to a student injury sustained while crossing the street, a cooperative arrangement was made with the AJ Mounted Rangers to serve as temporary crossing guards near Cactus Canyon Jr. High from December through Feb. 1 while students were crossing the street in the early-morning darkness. The Rangers were quickly interviewed, fingerprinted and reference checked so they could volunteer. Their presence increased from one to three locations. A story about the cooperation between AJUSD, City services and the AJ Mounted Rangers was highlighted in the local and Pinal County newspapers. In addition to this joint effort, the monthly focus has been preparing for AJUSD's presence at the Lost Dutchman Marathon Expo and the Lost Dutchman Rodeo, ordering and updating collateral, and promoting AJUSD events and stories through flyers, press releases and social media posts. A preliminary marketing plan (minus an emphasis on the school calendar) has been developed.

Concerns:

There are numerous slots to fill at the AJUSD Lost Dutchman Expo and the Lost Dutchman Marathon. A sign-in sheet is posted on google docs.