

FUSD Newsletter

FUSD has an Interim Superintendent Meet Dave Dirksen

Appointed on March 8th, Dave Dirksen is the Interim Superintendent as of March 16, 2016 and will be in this position until a new Superintendent is hired after the 2016 - 2017 school year.

Dave Dirksen has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the field of education which is characterized by a breadth and depth of experience. He began that career as a high school English teacher and athletic coach in Des Moines, Iowa. Upon leaving the classroom, he filled numerous administrative assignments at both the school site and district levels. Early in his administrative career he served as an athletic director, assistant principal and principal at the high school level. In subsequent years he served as a principal at both the middle school and ele-

mentary school levels. Upon leaving his home state of Iowa he continued his administrative career in Alaska where he continued to serve at both the site and district levels. As a district administrator he has served as a Special Education Director, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of Schools. Upon retiring from Alaska he moved to Flagstaff and continued his central office career at FUSD's Administrative Center. Over the past eight years at FUSD he has served in the capacities of Assistant Director of Educational Enrichment, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and, most recently, as a Special Projects Assistant. Over the years Dirksen has received both state and national recognition for his work in education. He traveled to Washing-

ton D.C. where he was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as National Principal of the Year. In addition to serving as the superintendent of his Alaska district, he concurrently served as the president of ASAA for six years. Later this spring he will travel back to Alaska where he will be inducted into the ASAA Hall of Fame for his many years of service representing all other superintendents and their districts in his role as president.



April	
Killip Kindness Run	30
May	
Snow make-up day if no more snow days used	9
Marshall's 6th Annual Adult Dodgeball Tournament	15
Elementary additional early release	19
Last day of school	26
SHS Graduation	26
CHS and FHS Graduations	27
Community Grad Night	27

Please remember to look for school specific flyers through the Peachjar button on your school's homepage.



BookPALS Volunteers Make a Difference in FUSD Elementary Schools

Everyone benefits when community members volunteer in our schools. Many parents volunteer in the classroom, help with parties and special events and chaperone field trips. Over the past two years a new group has emerged that brings more voices to the students and emphasizes the importance of reading. BookPALS, a program run by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA Foundation) has trained 40 volunteers in Flagstaff. BookPALS trains community members to read to elementary students and encourages a theatrical tone to the presentation. These volunteers work with the teacher in order to spend 20 – 30 minutes a week reading to the students while the teacher is in the classroom. Thank you to all of the BookPALS volunteers; you truly make a difference. The following are quotes from a few of our BookPALS volunteers:

Eugene Munger:

"My experience reading to one of the fourth grade classes at Knoles Elementary School, over the past two years has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my life. Reading to the students not only has been a life changing experience for me, but it can be the same for the students. I urge anyone who can read with expression and who wants to make their and the students' days special, contact Karin Eberhard at FUSD 928-527-6004 and start to make it happen."

Linda Kranz reads every week at Thomas Elementary School.

"I enjoy the interaction with the students. I like to see their eyes light up when they hear a story develop and their animated reactions when I read the very last page. Their attention to detail often surprises me. I'm thrilled at how a picture book can be a springboard for many topics of discussions. These reading days remind me of how nice it is, how refreshing it is, to view the world from a child's perspective.

Children have a way of resetting our buttons. And "Can you read just one more story?" is a delight to hear. When asked why the BookPALS program is special she reported that "This group is enthusiastic about books!! The volunteers want to share their love of books with students in hopes that they too will catch the reading bug."

Jim Tuck reads and volunteers at Sechrist Elementary School.

"It's fun and I owe the school our boys attended. I like having a structure for a program that anyone could do.

Fred Meek reads and volunteers at De Miguel Elementary School.

"I already volunteer at the school, but this is an added benefit for the Kindergarten kids. I have found they enjoy having stories read to them and I would hope the teachers find benefit in it. This program allows the young students the opportunity to be read to and in so doing, they learn to appreciate the ability to read. We hope this activity encourages them to improve their reading skills." When asked what he gets out of the program Mr. Meek stated "The joy of seeing the expression on the young student's faces as they listen to each story and then hearing the comments they add that tells of experiences they have had in their young lives."

Pat Pederson Giesemann and Tom Giesemann both read at Cromer Elementary School.

"I read to kids because I consider words magical, and I want them to realize that too and Tom agrees stating that "for the kids to realize the importance and the fun of reading is a joy!"

When asked why the BookPALS program is special Tom stated that "Book Pals is special because it's backed by celebrities, by folks who appreciate reading to children, and it's a forum for promoting literacy nation-wide. And Pat added that "BookPALS is special be-

cause it allows us to create possibilities with stories, true or made-up!"

Pat's favorite time is "when I hand a child a light (LED candle, etc.), & a picture and they sit in the teacher's chair and tell a story. [Note-- Pat has a part of our presentation where she gives the kids a subject matter, such as a puzzle cover or page from a calendar, and gives several kids, one at time, a chance to come up front and tell a story based on that; the one telling the story gets to wear or hold the light.]. Tom and I get rewards out of helping Pat w/ her program, and of course, from reading to the kids.

Becky Dagget

I read to Mrs. Edison's 2nd grade class at Killip and it is the highlight of my week. The students are so fun, curious, and enthusiastic. I enjoy exploring all kinds of books with them and finding books focused on the topics that the students are interested in. This has definitely been one of my all-time favorite volunteer activities.

I love reading and I know that this started when I was very young and was nurtured by my mom and my teachers. I hope to be someone who plays a small part in inspiring a lifelong love of reading in these students. When you love to read, you love to learn!



NEWS BRIEFS

Planning for Graduation

Dates and Times

Summit High School

May 26 - 5:30 pm at Sinagua
Middle School

Flagstaff High School

May 27 - 9:00 am at the NAU
Walkup Skydome

Coconino High School

May 27 - 3:00 pm at the NAU

Walkup Skydome

Grad Night

Flagstaff Grad Night is a community celebration for all of Flagstaff's graduating high school seniors put on by volunteers. The event will take place Friday May 27th from 9:00 pm - 2:00 am at the NAU Recreation Center. Some of the activities for the seniors will be: inflatable obstacle courses, rock climbing, a photo booth, games, food, drinks and prizes. This event is FREE due to community support. Adult volunteers are always welcome for planning and for the night of the event. Please contact them at flagstaffgradnight@gmail.com

Important Contact Information for Flagstaff Unified School District

Administrative Center Main Number - 527-6000

Curriculum and Instruction Office - 527-6021

Human Resources - 527-6070

Exceptional Student Services - 527-6160

Food Service - 527-6090

Bilingual Education - 527-6107

Transportation - 527-2300



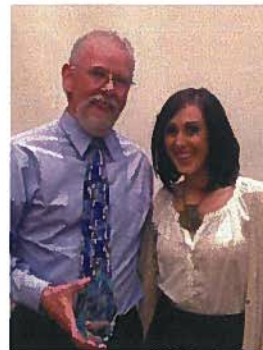
Love of Reading Week

Every year FUSD celebrates and has fun with "Love of Reading" week. As always this special week celebrates reading and honors Dr. Seuss and his influence on generations of children. Thank you to all of the community members who read to our students and to the special visitors who came to our schools during this week which included: Mayor Jerry Nabours, City Council Member Jeff Oravits, Clifford the Dog, Thing One, Thing Two and of course The Cat in The Hat.



FUSD Counseling Continues to Get Well Deserved Recognition

In addition to Katherine Pastor receiving the National School Counselor of the Year award at the Arizona School Counseling Association Conference, two other FUSD staff members were recognized. Doug Allan (FUSD) received the Counselor Advocate of the year award and Amanda Gabitas (FHS) received the "Rising Star" Award. FUSD counselors are hardworking and extremely dedicated to the students of Flagstaff; it is nice to see them appreciated on a state level.



A LETTER FROM THE FUSD SCHOOL NURSES

Spring 2016

To Parents and/or Guardians of 5th grade students:

This is a reminder that all students entering 6th grade next fall will be required to get two additional vaccines. These mandated vaccines, which can be given starting at 11 years of age, are Meningococcal (MV) and Tetanus/diphtheria (Tdap). Students cannot attend school until this requirement is taken care of.

We would like to encourage you to get your child's vaccines through their primary care provider, as this would also be a good time for a physical exam. If this isn't possible we would like to let you know about an opportunity to get your child vaccinated at their school through North Country HealthCare's Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) in April 2016. As you may already know, the MMU offers healthcare services at FUSD high schools and middle schools throughout the school year.

A nurse practitioner and an RN will be working the MMU immunization clinics and will send home a copy of the vaccinations that were given for your records. Your child's immunization records will also be updated in the Arizona State Immunization System; your primary care provider will have access to these records.

Please fill out the attached form and return it to your school nurse. You will not be required to be at the school on the day of the vaccine clinic but are welcome to attend if you would like to. If your child has already received these vaccines, please make sure a copy has been taken to your school nurse.

Immunization clinic dates:

DATE	MORNING/AFTERNOON
Wednesday, April 6	DeMiguel/ Kinsey
Wednesday, April 13	Marshall/Sechrist
Wednesday, April 20	Cromer/Thomas
Wednesday, April 27	Knoles/Killip
Friday, April 8	PdH – via NCHC MMU at MEMS

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or contact your school nurse. Thank you for taking care of this requirement for your child.

Sally McMillian RN BSN
FUSD Nurse Supervisor
928-527-6118

School Nurse _____
Phone No. _____



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We are on the Web at
www.fusd1.org

**Educating Tomorrow's Leaders
Strengthening the Community**

Please visit our Facebook page for all
of the latest
good news and events 

FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Statement of Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs, Motto and Goals

Vision Statement:

Excellence for All by All

Mission Statement:

The mission of FUSD is to provide the best comprehensive educational opportunities for all in a safe, collaborative environment of high standards and expectations.

Core Beliefs:

We believe in the power of expectation; in the impact of high standards; in the value of diversity; and in the six pillars of character.

Motto:

Education at the Top of Arizona

Goals:

- Maintain and Improve Comprehensive Student Opportunities and Services
- Recruit and Retain Highly Qualified, Motivated, and Excelling Staff
- Improve Student Preparedness and Mastery
- Research and Create Desirable and Relevant Educational Opportunities and Services
- Increase Public Engagement and Support for FUSD
- Develop Diversified Partnerships and Revenue Opportunities



Student Teams Are Getting Numerous Awards and Considerable Attention This Spring

Odyssey of the Mind

At the recent regional tournaments one team from Knoles Elementary (4th grade) and three DeMiguel Elementary teams (1st – 5th grades) advanced and will compete on April 9th at the Arizona State Competition.

The FHS Speech and Debate Team

The team continues their winning streak and had a great weekend at the Southwest Speech and Debate Institute Tournament in Gilbert. Maya Holliday competed in Original Oratory, advancing to finals and placing 2nd, earning her a bid to the National Individual Event Tournament of Champions in Denver. In congressional debate, Flagstaff High School had a very strong showing in a competitive field. FHS was the only school to have more than one student advance to the finals, Kaitlyn Parra and Yisha Ng. Yisha was the

congressional debate champion, also winning the Best Presiding Officer award. Her performance earned her a bid to the Tournament of Champions in Kentucky.



Coconino High School CocoNuts

After winning their regional competition and earning the Chairman's Award in San Diego the team will now be going on to the national competition in St. Louis. Due to their outstanding performance in San Diego the CocoNuts were not eligible for many awards at the tournament at NAU but were awarded the "Gracious Professionalism" award.



Marshall Elementary students did an amazing job at the Northern Arizona Regional Science/Engineering Fair at Tri-City College Prep in Prescott. With 23 entries Marshall students took home a record seven first place awards, four second place awards, two third place awards, one honorable mention, two student choice awards and one "best of" award.



FUSD will update the results of the competitions on Facebook as soon as we have them.