



FUSD Newsletter

Issue #28
December 2015

MITe Works with CCC Students

Gretchen Downey, 8th grade MITe (Middle School Institute of Technology and Engineering) teacher at Sinagua Middle School, took her engineering students on a field trip to Coconino Community College. The field trip was funded by the SFAz+8 grant which funds 8th grade students from Mt. Elden and Sinagua Middle Schools to explore engineering pathways in higher education and businesses. Addison Guevara, NAU student and STEM City Intern, assisted with organizing and leading the trip. Philip Martinez, the engineering, math, and physics instructor at CCC, organized the

events at the college. Students were divided into three groups that rotated through two engineering challenges and a tour of the college. CCC students informed the middle schooler's about dual enrollment and CAVI-AT programs available to them in high school. Christine Baze, science instructor at CCC, led one of the engineering activities, while Philip led the other one. The engineering challenges were: Heavy Lifting (crane challenge) and Launch it (balloon launcher).

- Crane Challenge - Students were given a shoe box, fishing line, 3 pencils, and scissors and they were instructed to build a crane that could lift the most

and at the highest height. The record weight was 2,500 g!

- Balloon Launcher - Students were given paper, a balloon, scissors and straws and were instructed to build a launch that would propel the straw at a bulls eye. Students had a great time building and testing a crane and a balloon rocket!



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| December | |
| Winter Break | 21—Jan 1 |
| School will resume January 4th. | |
| January | |
| All schools and offices closed for Martin Luther King Holiday | 18 |

Tax Credit Reminder

Where do you want your tax dollars to go?

You have a choice. You can send all your tax dollars to the State or have some of them used directly to improve education in Flagstaff.

Arizona allows individual state income taxpayers to receive a tax credit of up to \$200 and married couples filing jointly up to \$400 for contributions made of public schools to support extracurricular activities.

The school of your choice can

use tax credit money for a variety to extracurricular activities such as:

- art, drama and music programs
- educational field trips
- sports programs and fees
- before and after school programs, activities and clubs

For a tax credit to be claimed for 2015 the donation must be post-marked or delivered by April 15, 2016. Credit card transactions must also be done by April 15, 2016.

For more information, or to make a donation to the school and/or program of your choice, please visit any FUSD school or www.fusd1.org.



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



FUSD Counselor and Teacher Honored

Kathrine Pastor

Ms. Kathrine Pastor Flagstaff High School Counselor has been awarded the 2016 School Counselor of the Year by the American School Counselor Association. This national award will be presented to her in late January in Washington D.C. where Ms. Pastor will meet with members of Congress, attend a congressional briefing, be honored in a White House ceremony and she will be formally recognized at a black-tie gala. FUSD Superintendent Barbara Hickman and FHS Principal Tony Cullen will accompany Ms. Pastor to Washington D.C.

The award, honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation's students addressing their academic and social/emotional development and college and career readiness.

"Kat embodies what it means to be a professional school counselor," said Amanda Gabbitas, school counselor, Flagstaff High School.

"She goes above and beyond her duties to ensure she is providing services to all students, improving herself and our department through professional development, and advocating for our profession. In the three years I have known Kat, I have learned more about being a school counselor than I could have ever imagined. I feel it is an honor and a privilege to serve our students alongside Kat."

"She is often sought out in the community and school by parents who recognize her as a person who commits to the success of their children," said Tony Cullen, principal, Flagstaff High School. "She has also had exceptional results in reaching out to community resources in making them part of our school operations and having our students benefit from those resources."

"Katherine's success is the result of her drive to elevate the profession of school counseling combined with an unparalleled ability to in-

spire others to get involved," said Anne Lassen, assistant vice president, Flinn Scholars Program, Flinn Foundation. "There are many people in the profession waiting for change to happen at higher levels, but Katherine is one of the few people who consistently looks for ways she can have a positive impact not only her own career but the career of all school counselors. Her passion for the profession and unyielding integrity make her an indispensable asset to any school, and we are fortunate to have her in the state of Arizona. I am a better professional for having had the opportunity to work with Katherine."

The School Counselor of the Year winner and finalists were judged



Jessica Soifer

Knoles Art Teacher Jessica Soifer has been awarded the 2015 AZ Art Educator of the Year and the 2015 Outstanding Elementary Art Educator by the Arizona Art Education Association.

Ms. Soifer is proud of this honor stating "I have devoted my time to my students to encourage confidence, inspiration and a time to explore and discover one's self and the world that surrounds us through the eyes of an artist." According to Knoles Principal Lisa Hatch, "Ms. Jessica Soifer is a teacher that inspires her students to think independently and to be

creative. She dedicates many hours to supporting the school by displaying student artwork at different venues in the community. She has a unique ability to connect with students in such a way that every student realizes their artistic talent and creativity, feels respected, and believes that learning is about having fun. Her approach to using art into the interdisciplinary classroom sets students up for success. Her integration of visual art lessons is a continuous connection of concepts in math, reading, science, and social studies. Ms. Soifer connects with her students and meets their needs

at multiple levels. She is committed to their well-being both inside and outside of the classroom. By creating strong relationships, she is able to affect virtually every aspect of their lives, teaching them the important life lessons that will help them succeed beyond standardized tests."



News Briefs

Pink Shirt Project Helps Flagstaff Women

Together, Coconino and Flagstaff High Schools held fundraising events dedicated to supporting women's healthcare and screenings during the month of October. This year 1263 shirts were sold by the student councils and cheerleaders from both schools. The \$5800 raised from the Pink Shirt Project t-shirt sales was donated to North Country HealthCare's Well Woman HealthCheck Program. The funds provide free breast and cervical cancer screening to women over the age of 21 who are uninsured or under-insured and meet specific income guidelines.



Important Contact Information for Flagstaff Unified School District

Administrative Center Main Number – 527-6000
Curriculum and Instruction Office – 527-6021
Human Resources – 527-6070
Food Service – 527-6090
Bilingual Education – 527-6107
Exceptional Student Services – 527-6160
Transportation – 527-2300



Toyota—Drivers Education Car

Findlay Toyota is proud to partner with the Flagstaff Unified School District and the student driving program! Technology is changing so rapidly, they thought it would be good for the students of Flagstaff to learn how to drive in something new, so they decided to donate a 2015 Prius C to the program. "Kids these days think a Prius is cooler than a Camaro" says General Manager Robby Findlay. Findlay Toyota also wanted to send the message encouraging kids to put their phones down when driving. "We wrapped the car in bright colors for safety and printed "DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE" on the back as a reminder" says Mark Monthofer, Marketing Director for Findlay. In addition, Findlay Autogroup designed a Parallel parking course at their Volkswagen store for additional practice while in the drivers training cars.



Marshall Taiko Drums

Marshall Elementary Magnet School has completed their annual Taiko Drumming Artist in Residence. Supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts AND tax credit contributions, the 5th grade class at Marshall began this fantastic 3-week Artist in Residence in October. The students worked with Tony Trapasso on Asian Music and Culture. Specifically, the students focused on Japanese Taiko Drumming. The exciting residency concluded with a community performance.





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Excellence For All By All

Please visit our Facebook page (Flagstaff Unified School District/Facebook) for all of the latest



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

Thomas Elementary and Coconino High School Link Leaders Work Together to Create Positive Behavior Videos

In October, 5th grade Thomas Elementary students and the Coconino High School Link Leaders gathered at Thomas Elementary to watch their Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) videos that they produced together. The high school students worked with the 5th graders for several weeks to complete expectation videos for; the classroom, restrooms, playground, the field, kindergarten, hallways, lunchroom and getting ready for the bus. This was a unique and successful collaboration and these videos will be shown throughout Thomas School for years to come. CHS students were excited to see the final videos. Rachel Dufek, a senior, said that "working with Thomas Elementary was a very fun and unique experience and brought CHS and Thomas even closer together while helping others in the district." Chase Hubbell, also a senior, is "thankful to have the opportunity to work with such great students and having fun filming in the process."

The adults were equally excited about this project. Thomas teachers Jana Fix and Annie Crego enjoyed working on this project with their students. Ms. Crego

said "This project was a perfect collaboration between the two groups of students. Our 5th grade students were given a chance to really become leaders at Thomas School, and the Coconino Link Leaders were given a chance to show them how to lead. With PBIS being an important element for all of FUSD, it was a great way to make videos that can be used as teaching tools for Thomas School -- but an even better way to collaborate with real High School Leaders." Krista Dobosh from CHS added "The collaboration between the two schools on this project was developed out of the need to spread Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) throughout the district and enhance the pieces of PBIS that Thomas already had in place. Annie Crego was instrumental in organizing the 5th grade students and prepping them for this collaborative project with the CHS Link Leaders. The Thomas 5th graders showed both respect for the Link Leaders who were directing and filming them and responsibility to their school to display behav-

iors that are indicative of a successful student at Thomas. Along with directing, storyboarding, and filming, the CHS Link Leaders also spent countless hours editing each of the 8 Expectation Area Videos. Some videos took 20 hours to edit. Although the mission of this project was to create videos for Thomas students, something else occurred as a byproduct. A bond between some of the elementary and high school students was formed. One Link Leader told me she saw one of the Thomas students assigned to her video group in the grocery store recently. The Thomas student ran up to the Link Leader and gave her a hug. This is just one example of the tremendous connections made between these two groups of students."

