

PUSD

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter June 2022

www.pageud.org



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Vision

A community of learners who direct our collective actions and resources toward the unique learning needs of every child in order for all students to become college and career ready and successful in a global society.

Motto

Collectively Committed to Every Student, Every Day, Every Minute.



Mission

Our schools are passionate about the learning-for-all mission and understand that every student matters. We are responsible and accountable for the education of every student that walks through our doors every day.



May 11, 2022

Notes from Regular Board Meeting: May 10, 2022

Page Unified School Board members convened for its Regular Board Meeting May 10, 2022. Board President, Desiree Fowler, and Board Members Sandra Kidman, Dee McKerry, Charles Weiss and Mike Mangum were present. Superintendent Dr. Bryce Anderson was also present.

During the meeting, Board President, Desiree Fowler, recognized PUSD teachers and staff who will be retiring at the end of the school year. The retiring employees are Maureen Batorski, Roxanne Wilmes, Sharon Draper and Leonard Edgewater.

During the meeting, Board Member, Sandra Kidman, recognized PUSD's Employees of the Month. The Certified Employee of the Month was April Hayes. The Classified Employee of the Month was Kalvintina Hudson.

Board Member, Charles Weiss, recognized PUSD's Students of the month.

They are:

Preschool: Harper Sloan

Lake View: Tatum Brenner

Desert View: Miakoda Yazzie

Page Middle School: Ny'Asia Jo-Lay Zhara

Page High School: Makenzie Nez

Manson Mesa High School: Tamera Benally

Sage and Sand Virtual Academy: Kaylynn Walker

Page High School student council formally invited School Board members and Superintendent Anderson to attend high school graduation.

The presentation of results for the Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey was tabled.

The Board approved all items on the Consent Agenda.

The Board approved the 2021-22 AFR Revision.

The Board approved to move forward with the FY 23 School Improvement Sustainability Grant.

The Board approved stipends for hard to fill positions for Special Education Teachers, and Special Education Paraprofessionals. The possible approval of the Superintendent's contract for Dr. Bryce Anderson was tabled until Thursday, May 12.

GOVERNING BOARD

Desiree Fowler
President

Sandra Kidman
Clerk

Dee McKerry
Member

Charles Weiss
Member

Mike Mangum
Member

Superintendent
Dr. Bryce C. Anderson

Page Unified School District
500 South Navajo Dr. Page, AZ 86040

PUSD'S Governing Board Congratulates PUSD's 2022 Graduates



Dear Class of 2022,

Congratulations! You have completed your public education and are now ready to move forward to bigger and better things. Take the things you have learned and build on them for a bright future. Remember to be kind to yourself and the people around you. When you slip and fall short, get up, resolve to do better and carry on. I wish you the best and hope that you will look back sometimes and remember the good times you had here. Continue to make us proud!

Sandra Kidman

For the Graduate,

Graduation is an exciting and wonderful time to look back – both an ending and a beginning. It's warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future. It's a wonderful time to look back through the years at the valuable lessons you've learned. Recognize all of the meaning behind the diploma you've worked for and earned.

It's a wonderful time to establish new goals, to discover new goals, to discover new paths to pursue, to see the exciting potential life holds... it's a wonderful time to be you.

Congratulations!

Dee McKerry



Congratulations class of 2022!

YOU DID IT! Thank you for all that you guys have done to keep our school top notch. You're great examples to the up and coming graduates. They have big shoes to fill. Keep your eyes on your goals and keep grinding to achieve them. All great things take hard work and all of you have it in you! Just keep going!

Mike Mangum





GRAD WALK 2022



One of Page Unified School District's greatest traditions occurred today: Grad Walk.

During Grad Walk, the graduating seniors don their caps and gowns and visit Lake View, Desert View and Page Middle School.

It's an important tradition for several reasons, said Page High School Principal, Brian Henderson.

"It's one last opportunity for our seniors to walk through the hallways of their former schools, and it's a chance for our younger students to cheer on the graduating students, and it shows them what they're going to become," said Henderson.

Grad Walk also gives teachers a chance to see students they taught in former years having reached this crucial point in their education.

"It was very exciting and rewarding," said Desert View

teacher, Fran Tucker. "It filled me with such pride."

Students in this year's graduating class were the students Tucker taught her first year at PUSD teaching fourth grade.

Tucker joined her current students lining the Desert View hallways and high-fived the seniors as they passed. On a few occasions, Tucker leapt out to hug some of her former fourth grade students.

"I am just so proud of them, and the amazing young adults they are becoming," Tucker added.

"It's great to see them again, as they're becoming young adults and moving on to their place in life" said long time fifth-grade teacher, Chuck Serventi. "Even though they're seniors now, I always see them as fifth graders. It takes a village and a lot of steps to get the students to this point, and it always fills me with pride playing a role in on of those steps."

Sonny Johnson Aces ASE Certifications

Page High School senior, Sonny Johnson, is one of only three students in the history of Page High School to have achieved nine out of nine Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications prior to graduating.

After graduating on May 21st, Johnson plans to the United Technical Institute (UTI) starting June 27th. After he completes the year-long course, Johnson is planning to stay an additional three months to become an expert technician for BMW, GMC or Penske.

"I just like working on cars," says Johnson. "I love diagnosing what's wrong and fixing it. I like the feeling I get when I get it running again."

UTI graduates are in high demand, says CTE Director Chuck Sharp. "Every one of UTI's graduates have job offers before they even finish graduating," said Sharp.

ASE-certified auto technicians make six-figure salaries after about a year of working at a repair facility.

Johnson lives in Kaibeto with his grandma, without electricity or running water, which has added additional challenges. "He's risen above his hardships with a positive, can-do attitude," says Sharp.

Attending UTI after having completed nine out of nine ASE certifications will give Johnson a huge head start, says Chris Green, Johnson's Auto Tech teacher. "The certifications we have here are the same as UTI," said Green. "He won't have to redo them. He's far ahead



Sonny Johnson and Auto Tech teacher, Chris Green working on a vehicle during class.

of his peers."

Every teacher who has worked with Johnson in the garage can see he's going to go far with his automotive skills.

"He's one of the hardest working, and most-dedicated students I've had," says Green. "If he gets an answer wrong, he goes back and finds the right answer. He strives to, and takes pride in, being the best."

During automotive class this year, Johnson was assigned to diagnose why a truck was overheating and fix it, which he did. But then he kept on going, above and beyond the assignment, just because working on vehicles is what he loves to do. He pulled out the engine and replaced the seals. He then replaced the drive shaft, and the transmission.

"I'm looking forward to doing this as a career," Johnson said. "I think it's pretty amazing that I'll get paid to do something I'd do anyway."

Runnin' Panthers Bring Home NAIC Championships

The Page Middle School track teams were crowned NAIC champions last week after dominating the competition.

The Runnin' Panthers boys team earned 142.5 points on their way to victory. The next closest team, Kayenta, had 113 points.

The Runnin' Panthers girls team accrued 167.5 points on their way to the championship. The next closest team, Ganado, had 97 points.

"When we showed up that day, we were very focused and we executed exactly as we had planned," said head coach Tim Martin. "Each kid had a job to do and they executed it perfectly and that's why we won by so much."

Along the way, some of the individual runners and relay teams also set new Middle School track records. The women's 4x100 relay team set a new school record with a time of 56.94 seconds. The 4x100 relay team is Kaia Manser, Eva Kidd, Kora Tappan and MiKalynn Candelaria.

The men's 4x100 relay team also set a new school record with a time of 54.28 seconds. The 4x100 relay team is Damian Brave, Remy Weiss, Colter Butler and Joseph Benally.

Symond Martin set two new middle school records during the championship meet. The first in the 400M dash, with a time of 57.62 seconds, the second in the 1600M run with a time of 4:52.08. Martin is the no. 1 ranked miler in Arizona in the middle school division.

Jonathon Prather, sprint and relays coach, says the teams have been dominating their opponents all season.

"Our girls team has been going one, two, four, seven in all the sprints, and winning the relays," he said.

Because of the Covid pandemic, this was the first track season for many of the Panther runners.

"It was all new for many of them," said Coach Prather, "but they were willing to be coached and had the will to work hard, and that was the key."

The track coaches emphasized to their runners to better



themselves every day, and increase their personal records each meet.

"If you took fifth at a meet, but PR'd (got a new personal record) we celebrate that," said Coach Prather.

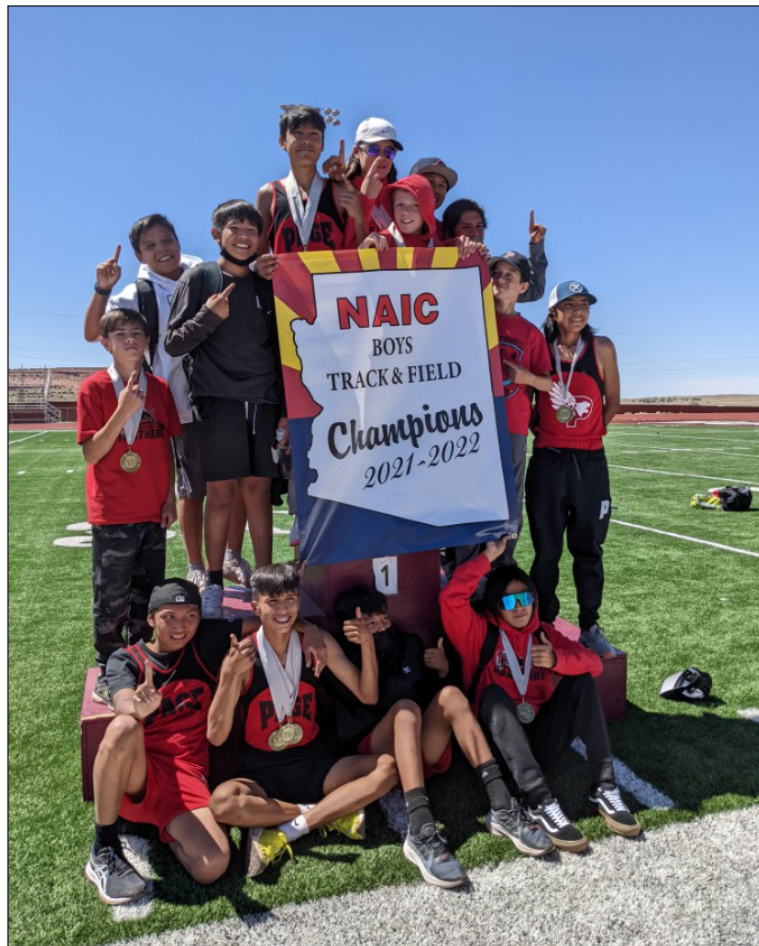
The Runnin' Panthers boys team had a surprise break-out runner join their team this year, Colter Butler who took first place at the championships in the 100M (12.99 seconds), 200M (26.81 seconds) and the mens 4x100 relay.

"He'd never been part of a team before. It was all new to him," said Coach Prather. "But he started training and just exploded. He went on to become the sprint champion of Arizona. At track meets, the other coaches would say, 'Where did he come from?'"

"It was so great having him on the team. He helped us set a new record in the 4x100M relay."

The middle school track coaches designed their workouts so that the runners would peak during the week of the NAIC championship meet. But being part of the middle school track team, goes beyond personal records and championships, said Coach Prather.

"Track and field is great at teaching self-discipline and goal setting, and it teaches students to be part of something bigger than themselves," said Coach Prather. "As coaches, we communicate these greater connections to life. Almost everything we coach to our runners to make them better athletes translates to make them successful in life outside of



school.”

The Runnin’ Panthers are coached by Tim Martin, head coach; Jonathon Prather, sprint and relay coach; Anne Cambridge, jump coach; Megan Moore, throw coach.

NAIC Champions Boys

Colter Butler
1st place 100M, 200M

Symond Martin
1st place (and new school records) 400M, 1600M

Maximus Reid
1st place 800M, 3200M

1st place men’s 4x100M relay team
Damian Brave, Remy Weiss, Colter Butler, Joseph Benally

1st place men’s 4x400M relay team
Nyall Prather, Maximus Reid, Joseph Benally, Symond Martin

1st place men’s 4x800M relay team
Alek Scott, Landon henry, Araillio Whiterock, Byrdan Bennet



Girls

Mikayla Candelaria
1st place 100M

Eva Kidd
1st place 200M

Isabella Manning
1st place 400M

Isabella Manning
1st place 800M

Women’s 4x100 relay team (ranked 22nd in Arizona)
Kaia Mansker, Eva Kidd, Kora Tappan, Mikalynn Candelaria

Women’s 4x400 relay team
Kasiya Akee, Isabella Manning, Myra Yazzie, Mackenzie Bedonie

Logan Rivers
Shot Put, runner-up

Saige Sloan
Discus, runner-up

Former Olympian Praises Lake View Runner

The Page Unified School District held its 43rd annual Walters and Wilson Track and Field Days last week and on the second day of action, Lawrence Rousseau set a new first-grade record in the 100M dash with a time of 16.94 seconds.

The previous record was 17.53, set by Ethan Schultz in 1987.

Rousseau's proud mother, Mariah DeJolie, posted on Facebook her son's accomplishment, along with a photo of him holding his blue ribbon and a video of the race. The accomplishment caught the attention of former Olympic runner, Billy Mills, who praised Rousseau on his own Facebook page. Mills' post read, "Shout out to Lawrence Rousseau! Page Elementary! Broke the record in 100m dash! 16.94! Keep running!"

Mills, an Oglala Lakota, won a gold medal in the 10,000 meter run in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Mills' victory is considered one of the greatest in Olympic history, as he was relatively unknown at the time and considered an underdog. Mills victory was the first time the USA took Olympic gold in the 10,000M.

Lawrence's father is Leo Rousseau, Jr., who is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. Leo met Mills when he was in kindergarten or first grade and the two took a photo together, which still hangs on the wall in Leo's mother's house.

DeJolie says her son is a natural-born runner. Whenever they visit the family ranch near Kaibeto, Lawrence loves to run across the rocks.

"He loves to run at the track and at the ranch," DeJolie said. "He likes to run or walk long distances to find the cows

and sheep."

On the morning of race day, Lawrence predicted he'd have a good race.

"He told me ahead of time that he's a fast runner," said De-

Jolie, who was in the stands to watch her son race. "I was prepared to be a mom in case he didn't take first, but then he took off and he was noticeably fast. Very fast! When we heard over the intercom that he broke the record I couldn't contain my excitement.

"That was a good day. That brought our family a lot of joy."

Later in the week, they threw a party at the park with family and friends.

"This is a core memory for Lawrence," DeJolie said. "We wanted to take some time to tell him

how he's made us all proud and how if he continues on this route he can become very accomplished."

Lawrence's father, Leo is also very proud of his son's achievement on the track last week, and it made him extremely happy to have it acknowledged by Mills.

"From a very early age I noticed he displayed tremendous athletic qualities," he said. He's interested in a lot of different sports. I'm looking forward to seeing what those abilities develop into."

"That brought so much honor to our family," said DeJolie. "For someone who is so well-known and accomplished as Billy Mills to take some time to acknowledge a first grade kid was a big honor not only for our family, but both native communities that he comes from. I look forward to seeing what might be ahead for him."



Congratulations!

Theresa Billah

Colbi Couts

PATTY LAUBHAN AWARD



Theresa Billah, John Laubhan and Colbi Couts at the Patty Laubhan Awards Ceremony.

This year Lake View Primary selected Colbi Couts and Theresa Billah as this year's recipients of the Patty Laubhan Award. Couts is a Kindergarten teacher, and Billah is a Kindergarten paraprofessional.

The Patty Laubhan Award is presented at the end of each school year to a teacher that is chosen by staff for "Dedication to students and staff at Lake View Primary". This award is a tribute to Patty Laubhan. She was an amazing teacher that many had the privilege to work with. Patty was an individual that would make sure that every student or child was well taken care of, no matter what it was. She was always willing to go out of her way for every staff member in our school on holidays or any day. There was a gift in our mailboxes to bring us a smile or make our day. You would always see a smile on her face no matter what kind of day she was having. She always made it a point to bring out the positive in everything. Patty was a person that everybody looked up to. She was a person that always put everyone first and herself last. Teaching was her life and her passion. Even when she became ill, she worked up until she could not work any longer.

Photos from Middle School & High School Orchestra Concert



Photos from Middle School & High School Choir Concert



Photos from Lake View Kindergarten Production of 3 Nanny Goats Gruff



Music Educators Concert



PUSD's music educators put on an AMAZING concert. We are very fortunate to have such talented musicians teaching our students. Their love for music was on full display, and our students are the recipients of that.

Those in attendance saw brilliant performances on xylophone, trumpet, baritone, vibraphone, bagpipes, drum, piano and vocals.

PUSD's music educators are Cheryl Weiss at Lake View, Josh Brink at Desert View, Alex Moore and Mikayla Forbes at the middle school, David Johnson and Mikayla Forbes at page High School, and Spencer Kimball at Manson Mesa, and Sage and Sand.

Thank you, for everything you bring to our schools and our community!

Photos from Track & Field Days



Photos from Kindergarten Olympics



Photos from Manson Mesa Commencement Ceremony



Photos from Sage & Sand Commencement Ceremony



Photos from Page High School Commencement Ceremony



Photos from Preschool Graduation Ceremony



EMPLOYEES RETIRING



Maureen Batorski



Roxanne Wilmes



Leonard Edgewater



Sharon Draper

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE!

APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Harper Sloan, w/ Ms. Peshlakai
Preschool



Tatum Brenner, w/ her parents
Lake View Primary



Miakoda Yazzie
Desert View Intermediate



Ny'Asia Jo-Lay Zhara, w/ Ms. Tarkett
Page Middle School

APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Makenzie Nez
Page High School



Tamera Benally
Manson Mesa High School



Kaylynn Walker
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Certified Employee of the Month

April 2022



April Hayes

Classified Employee of the Month

April 2022

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Kalvintina Hudson