

PUSD

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter Feb. 2024

www.pageud.org



| | |
|---|----|
| PUSD Adopts 4-Day School Week | 1 |
| Board Recognizes Boys Cross-Country Team | 1 |
| 4 PUSD Teachers Nominated for Coconino County Teacher of the Year | 2 |
| Middle School Soccer Wins Championship | 4 |
| Cheer Returns to Page High School | 6 |
| CTE Students Earn ASE Certifications | 8 |
| 5 PHS Students . . . | 8 |
| 11 PHS Students Earn Scholarships from Dixie's LACT | 9 |
| Middle School's ECAP Program is a big Success | 10 |
| November Students of the Month | 12 |
| Employees of the Month | 14 |
| December Students of the Month | 16 |
| December Students of the Month | 18 |

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.

PUSD Will Move to 4-Day School Week Beginning 2024-25 School Year

Page Unified School District will move to a four-day school week beginning in August at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. The first day of school will be August 5th.

PUSD's school board voted on the measure at last night's regular school board. Four of the five school board members voted in favor of it, with one member abstaining.

The board's decision came after considering input from PUSD parents, teachers, students and the community, which was collected using an online survey. As part of the consideration process, the district created two sets of school calendars; one for a traditional five-day school week, and one for a four-day school week. The board spent several hours on Monday during a study session going over the survey results and discussing the merits and disadvantages of adopting a four-day school week.

Results of the survey showed that 72.65 percent of sur-

vey-takers were in favor of a four-day school week, with 16.10 percent against it and 11.25 percent neutral.

Schools converting to four-day school weeks is a growing trend in Arizona, and it's especially popular with Arizona's rural school districts. One of the main reasons schools give for moving to a four-day school week is that it helps them recruit and retain teachers. That was also one of the main reasons PUSD wanted to take a deeper look at it.

Additional information regarding how converting to a four-day school week will affect sports and other extra-curricular activities will be shared with the public in the coming weeks and months. After adopting the four-day school week, the governing board also adopted the calendar for the next three school years.

PUSD has posted additional information on its website under the 4 Day School tab. It includes such things as next year's school calendar and the full results from the survey.

Governing Board Recognizes Boys Cross Country Team



The PUSD School Board recognized the achievements of Page High School's Boys Cross-Country team at December's regular school board meeting. The Boys Cross Country team

4 PUSD Teachers Nominated for Coconino County Teacher of the Year



Kayley Montes



Jodian Brown



Erica Pullin



Eugena Trujillo

Four teachers from Page Unified School District have been nominated for Coconino County Teacher of the Year. Name visited the school district in December to personally thank each teacher for the important contributions they are making to their schools.

The teachers are Erica Pullin, art teacher at Lake View Primary; Jodian Brown, 4th Grade Teacher at Desert View Intermediate; Eugena Trujillo, Industrial Tech Teacher at Page High School; and Kayley Montes, Math Teacher at Page High School.

Erica Pullin

Erica Pullin was PUSD's Certified Employee of the Month in xx as well as its Certified Employee of the Year for the 2022-23 school year.

Pullin is known for dressing up in a new costume every day. She creates most of her costumes at home. The

costumes she wears reflect the Kindergarten's pacing guide for what letter they're studying that day. For instance, when the Kindergarten class was learning about the letter L, she dressed as a lion and she points this out to her students. "What am I today?" she asked her class.

"A lion," one of her students answers.

"And what letter does that start with?"

"An ell," one of the students answers.

"That's right," Pullin says. "Well done!"

Pullin displays her students' art throughout the Lake View hallways. Each display is accompanied by a description of the art unit, such as line, curve, etc.

Lake View Principal Brian Henderson was happy to see Pullin nominated for Coconino County Teacher of the Year. And not one bit surprised.

"She's incredibly dedicated and brings a great balance having fun and being creative and also being firm and holding her kids to high expectations," said Mr. Hen-

derson. “She uses her own time to put up the student artwork around the campus. It looks very fun and exciting and best of all, it has a big impact on how they feel. They can see their work and the work their friends did and that gives them a great deal of pride.”

As much fun Pullin brings to her classroom and Lake View in general, she takes her work very seriously, said Mr. Henderson.

“She is incredibly meticulous and reflective,” he said. “Every lesson she gives her students, she continues to evolve it. Whatever art lesson she does for second grade on Monday, she continues to evolve it. Whatever class has it on Friday has a really polished lesson. And each new year, she looks back on her notes and picks up on last year’s lesson. It makes for really refined teaching.”

Jodian Brown

Jodian Brown is a 4th grade teacher at Desert View Intermediate. This is her fifth year teaching at Desert View.

“She’s a leader and she want to support the growth of her fourth grade class and her team,” said Desert View Principal, Mary Stahl. “Her students love her and trust her. She has created a special learning environment that is safe and supportive so that her students can take risks and try new things.”

One of the reasons Brown was nominated for Teacher of the Year is her drive to go the extra mile for her school. Last year she organized a Career Day at Desert View, which required dozens of hours of extra work outside of her regular work load. Brown invited a wide range of Page professionals to the event. It was a huge success, with area professionals filling the Desert View gym. Brown organized the Career Day to expose Desert View students to different career choices, and what route they’d need to take to reach those goals. Brown will organize Desert View’s Career Day again this year.

“One of the most beneficial things Jodian is able to teach her students is to develop a growth mindset,” said Mrs. Stahl. “It’s pretty incredible to see the progress her students make during the year they’re with her.”

Eugena Trujillo

Eugena Trujillo is an Industrial Tech Teacher at Page High School. This is her ninth year teaching. She teaches Construction I and II, and Drafting I and II as well as coordinates internships for students in those classes.

Trujillo recently represented the CTE programs for six Coconino County high schools: Page High School, Fredonia High School, Williams High School, Grand Canyon High School, Flagstaff High School and Coconino High School. The excellent job she did at that really made her and the achievements of her classes stand out, said Chuck Sharp, Page High School’s CTE Director.

Last year her students had the highest technical skills assessments in both construction and drafting. “That really made her stand out,” said Sharp. “After seeing her students’ skills assessments that right here sold it. It was a slam dunk.”

Sharp believes Trujillo gets big results from her students because of her classroom management and the rapport she builds with them.

“Her relationship with her students is outstanding,” said Sharp. “They follow her. She’s very strict. She’s firm but fair. She’s able to get great results from her students because they have so much respect for her.”

Kayley Montes

Kayley Montes teaches math at Page High School. She is a second-year teacher. She is actually nominated for Rookie Teacher of the Year.

One of Montes’ most prominent character traits is fearlessness in the face of challenges.

“Kayley has willingly taken on any and all challenges that have been thrown at her,” said Leigh Guenther, Page High School’s Principal. “Nothing seems daunting to her.”

Another one of Montes’ big positives is the rapport she has built with her students.

“One of the cool things she’s done to make her kids feel welcome in her classroom is she has them all give her their music playlists,” said Mr. Guenther. “When the kids are working, she’ll put on one of their songs. It brings a good vibe to her classroom. And since she is a young teacher and pretty close to the students’ age, she’s not far removed from being a student herself. It makes it easy for her to relate to her students and for them to relate to her.”

Another thing Montes does that her students appreciate is keeping her classroom open during lunch period. It gives the students a safe, fun place to if they need to chill out for a while.

“Kayley is one of our up and comers,” said Mr. Guenther. “She’s got a bright future here at PUSD.”

Middle School Soccer Wins Championship



The Page Middle School soccer team is the NAIC champions after last Friday's 6 to 1 win over Tuba City Boarding School. This is the second year in a row the middle school soccer team won the NAIC championship.

After Friday night's victory, the Dust Devils finished 8-0 for the season. Tuba City's goal against the Dust Devils on Friday, was the only goal the Dust Devils have allowed all year.

The Dust Devils soccer team is coached by Kimberly Codner. It is her second year as the middle school soccer team's head coach. She was also the high school girls soccer team's assistant coach the year before that. Prior to moving to America, Codner coached soccer for two years in Jamaica.

Revington Babu served as the Dust Devils assistant

coach this year.

Zachary Smith scored three goals in Friday's game, and Styles Christiansen scored three goals. Both players are Dust Devils forwards.

As great as the Dust Devils offense is, Coach Codner also gives her team's defense a great deal of credit too.

"Our defense is amazing!" she said. "The kids who are on defense can see the game and read the action. They know where they need to be to defend and they do a great job communicating with each other. That's the key. They're very good at knowing when to fall back and when to push forward."

The Dust Devils defense is led by Kaia Mansker, says Coach Codner.

"She does an amazing, amazing job," said Coach Codner. "She keeps the defensive line together, and the entire team



together too. The team respects her so much. She's a proven and strong leader."

Although Mansker is primarily a defensive player, she still scored two goals this season.

The team's goalie, Noah Nelson also scored a goal this year off a penalty kick, something the coach's elected to do to show Nelson how much they appreciate his great work at goalie.

"Star Yazzie, Ashely Tucker and Kaisya Akee also had amazing seasons," Coach Codner said. "They are the most improved players. Abigail Goldtooth did an exceptional job on the wing and her enthusiasm was contagious. We look forward to seeing her playing on the women's national team in the near future as that is her goal."

Perhaps one of the season's happy surprises came from

the successes of one of its youngest and smallest players. Meyson Perry is only a sixth grader, but he started every game and played nearly every minute of every game.

"He seemed kind of shy at the beginning of the season, but as the season progressed he became such a great mid-fielder," said Coach Codner. "He's our smallest player, but his presence on the field is big."

Coach Codner was proud of her entire team.

"The middle school soccer team is a very respectful group of students," she said, "and they're as committed to academics as they are to soccer.

"Our goal this year was to make sure was that the grades they started with didn't drop during the season," said Coach Codner, and they did it. They proved themselves in so many ways this year."

Cheer Returns to Page High School



After a year and a half hiatus, cheerleaders have returned to Page High School. And their presence at basketball games, wrestling matches and other events has been instantly and distinctly noticeable. When the cheerleaders are in the house, the energy level is much higher, the vibe happier, the shiny moments more sparkly. They bring an instant boost of energy, like 5,000 milligrams of vitamin C.

The thing that makes it pop, the thing that makes it work is the authentic energy and happiness of the cheerleaders themselves. Their smiling faces glow brighter than Santa Claus's Christmas tree. On its best day, the Navajo Generation Station never produced this level of energy.

One of those bright, happy faces belongs to Grace Barney. This is her first time as a cheerleader. She is also one of the Cheer Captains.

"I like it a lot!" she said. "I was a little nervous to join at first, but the school seems super-supportive of it."

Barney danced ballet and jazz with Jan Kocjan before she closed her studio. Because of Barney's previous dance experience, the cheer moves came naturally to her.

Lucy Byrom, a yearx, is also a first-time cheerleader. She

says she's a bit surprised to find herself on the cheer team. Her favorite part about being on the cheer team is the new friends she's making.

"I never expected to be a cheerleader," she said, "but I'm loving it."

"It has been fantastic to see the transformation at the games," said PUSD Athletic Director, Megan Moore. "They bring a level of enthusiasm that wasn't there before. It has completely shifted our game day culture."

Even when the high school had a cheer squad a few years, it was a relatively small unit of eight to ten girls. This year's cheer squad boasts an impressive 29 girls. For the majority of the girls on the squad it's their first time being a cheerleader.

The cheer coaches are Kelly Hansen and Brittany Hansen. It was Kelly's idea to bring cheerleading back to the high school. Kelly was a cheerleader and member of the dance team when she was in high school, and found that it was a constructive, growth-promoting time of her life.

"I loved it!" she said. "It's one of the things I look back on with very happy memories."

She wanted Page High School students to have that op-



portunity too. When asked, “What is her Why,” she paused a moment, then said, “Because life can be hard. I want these girls to know that they can put in the hard work, and practice and accomplish hard things. I want them to know the feeling that comes when they play an important role in something that’s bigger than they are. The school spirit that they bring to the high school culture, to the players and the fans is actually a big deal.”

Kelly was the assistant cheer coach the last time Page High School had cheerleading. She had to take, and pass, an exam with the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA), and the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) to become certified to be head coach.



See CHEER pg. 15

CTE Students Earn ASE Certifications



CTE Instructor Chris Green with Jessie Thompson, Jamis Begay, Zack Hansen, Nathaniel Summers and Hayden Hunter who recently earned ASE certifications. Students can get certified in nine areas. They have the opportunity to test in the fall and spring. Total certifications on average earned each year in the program is 25.

5 PHS Students Qualify for All-Region Choir



5 PHS choir students qualified for All-Region Choir.

Sara Kidman earned 5th Chair Soprano, Timothy Kidman earned 10th Chair Tenor, Reed Nolan earned 8th Chair Tenor, Samuel Robertson earned 4th Chair Tenor and James Nolan earned the highest score in the tenor section and received 1st Chair Tenor.

In addition to excelling in choir, this group of talented students can be found on stage performing in the Fall Musicals, and singing the National Anthem before some basketball games. Sara Kidman is also one of this year's Cheer Captains.

Dixie's Lower Antelope Canyon Gives \$7.7K in Scholarships to 11 PHS Students



Madelyn Zimmer, Skye Cummings, Kylee Sam, Keara Tsoie, Shaunicey Begay, Lauren Campbell, Jayden Robbins and Chassidy Scott each received scholarships from Dixie's Lower Antelope Canyon Tours during their annual Shoot for Scholarships event.

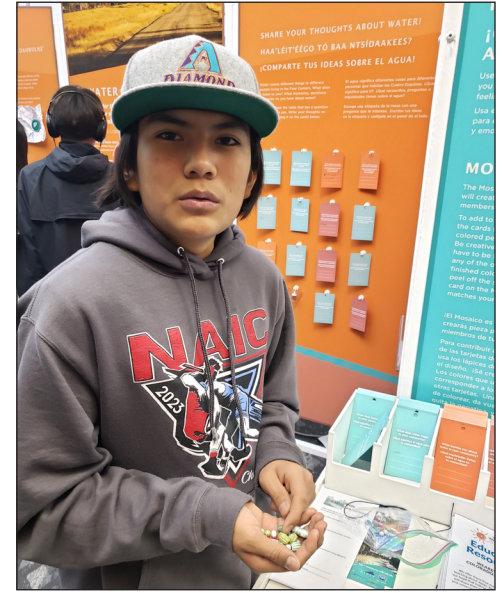
Dixie's Lower Antelope Canyon Tours has been awarding scholarships to Page High School scholars for years. To make the scholarship event more fun for the participants and spectators, Dixie's LACT had the recipients shoot baskets from the foul line and three-point line. Any student who made the shot had additional funds added to their scholarship.

Dixie's does a similar event during football season, where scholarship recipients try to kick field goals through the uprights.

"Here at Dixie's, our values are reflected in how we treat our children as a society," said Dixie's CEO, Leilah Young. "Dixie's Lower Antelope Canyon takes immense pride in creating scholarships for Page High School seniors."

Thanks Dixie's Lower Antelope Canyon Tours for all you do for our students and our schools!

Middle School's ECAP Incentive Program is Popular, Successful



Page Middle School's Education Career Action Plan incentive trips is very popular with students and teachers alike.

The Education Career Action Plan is a statewide program designed to help students create a plan of coursework, explore career aspirations, and extend learning opportunities that will help them expand their individual academic goals, career goals and postsecondary plans.

Page Middle School's ECAP program is headed by Jeremiah Stewart, the school's Counselor. Erinn Benally and Stephanie Olander also help with ECAP.

One of the big things Stewart brings to the ECAP program is introducing the students to new career opportunities, some of which don't exist in Page.

"If you ask some of our students what they want to do as a career, a lot of them will tell you hotel housekeeping or welding, because for a lot of them, those are the only careers they've been exposed to," Stewart said. "My goal is to show them other career opportunities."

The majority of the student-to-professional discussions happen over Google Meets. It's a great way to bring professionals to Page classrooms who wouldn't be able to do such a trip in real life. Recent professionals who have talked to PMS students have included archaeologists, voice actors, stunt actors, composers and electrical engineers, to name a few.

Under the ECAP umbrella, the middle school established a correlating incentive program as a way to reward and encourage middle school students who have completed, or on

track to complete, the ECAP.

Most of the incentives are field trips. In early January, the ECAP incentive took middle school students to the Page Public Library where they visited the an interactive, "We Are Water" exhibit. In late January, the ECAP incentives trip took students to Flagstaff where they visited the Lowell Observatory, NAU's Native American Heritage Center and a trip to the mall. Forty students took part in the trip to Flagstaff and 58 took part in Page Library's water exhibit.

Stewart hopes that the fun trips will encourage the students to finish their ECAP goals, or at least get back on track.

"If we present them with cool, fun opportunities, the more likely they will be to participate in the next one we do," he said.

The middle school students enjoyed the field trips because it was a fun way to broaden their horizons and experience new things.

One of those students was 8th grader, Peyton Miller. Miller is also the middle school's STUCO treasurer.

"I thought it was a lot of fun, and a nice break from school," she said. "It's a great way to reach the students. I know it interested me."

For 8th grader Kylie Roberson, the trip to the Lowell Observatory was one of the highlights of her school year.

"It was so cool, and I learned a lot," she said.

One of the Lowell Observatory tour guides told the students about the facility's history, and ways it has evolved its technology to stay modern. The visit also included a



demonstration how scientists can use light wavelengths – visible through telescopes such as the one at Lowell Observatory – to determine what elements a distant star possesses.

“One of the things we learned is that the planet Pluto was discovered using the telescope at Lowell Observatory,” Robertson said. “These trips are a great way to learn things we don’t learn in the classroom.”

Stephanie Olander, who helps facilitate the middle school’s ECAP program said, “The places we visit have resources and expertise that we don’t have here. It’s such a great way to take advantage of that.”

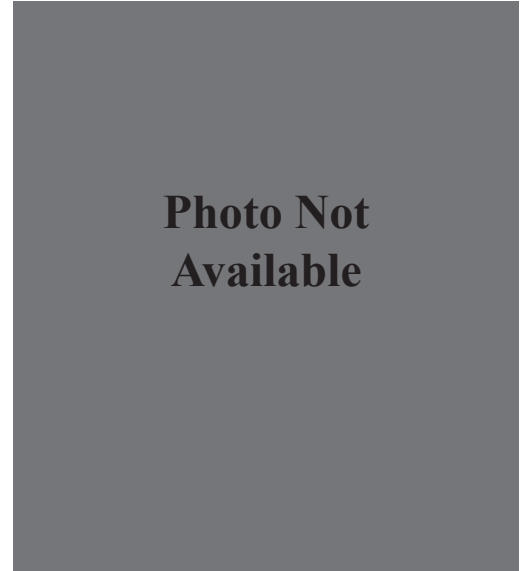
Eighth grade students took part in the ECAP incentive trips in the first semester, the 7th grade students will get to do it in the second semester.



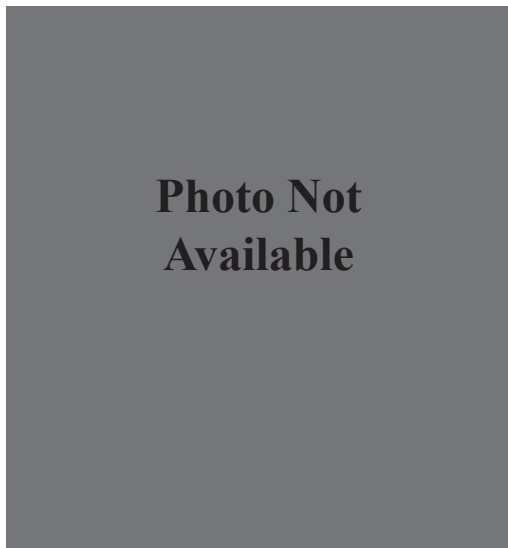
November Students of the Month



Rhea Dodson
Lake View Primary



Allie Mauger
Desert View Intermediate



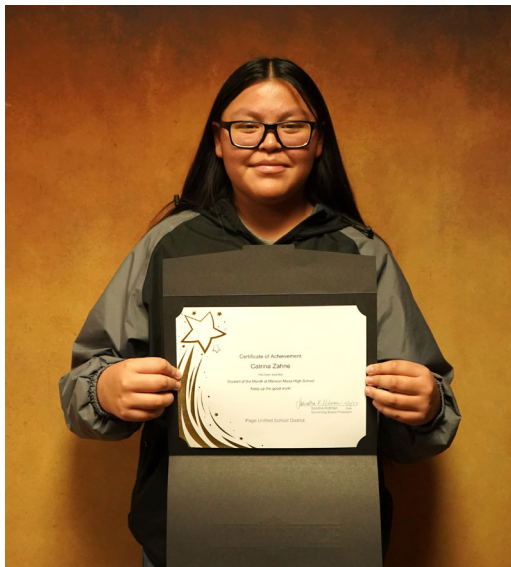
Nataliya Longworth
Page Middle School



Madison Case
Page High School

November

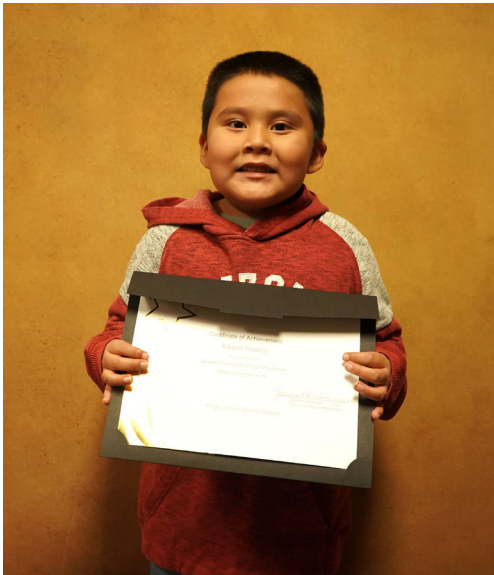
Students of the Month



Catrina Zahne
Manson Mesa High School



Qulandro Jim
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Kason Haskie
Preschool

Employees of the Month

Certified Employee of the Month
Nov. 2023



Gail Savage

Classified Employee of the Month
Nov. 2023



Rijelyn B. Magpusao

Certified Employee of the Month
Dec. 2023



Nephi Bunch

Classified Employee of the Month
Dec. 2023



Logan Beam

CHEER from pg. 7

Brittany Hanson joined as assistant cheer coach to help Kelly facilitate a safe environment for a group of students who wanted to try something new.

“I want the girls to have a positive, new experience and I wanted to give them a safe place to do it,” she said.

Kelly and Brittany held tryouts last November, and the cheer team was selected. After that they chose five cheer captains and began holding practices. In the beginning weeks, the team learned arm, leg and body movements, the words to the cheers, which they perform and shout out from the sidelines. In addition to the sideline cheers, the team has also learned different halftime performances, which required learning a new set of synchronized movements.

The cheerleaders have also been working on back handspings, back walkovers and cartwheel roundoffs since December and the squad is incorporating those actions in more and more of their cheers and routines.

Kelly is also certified to teach lifts, throws and other stunting moves and the cheer squad has been incorporating them into the cheer repertoire as the program moves forward.

More than two months into it, Kelly is happy with the

progress she’s seeing in her team.

“It’s going really well,” she said. “It was a really steep learning curve those first few weeks, especially since most of the girls are first-time cheerleaders. But now, we’ve got the basics down, and now we’ll start stunting.

“Cheer is back and in full swing!”

This year’s Cheer Captains are Hannah Barnes, Grace Barney, Sara Kidman, Allie Hansen and Kenzie Hansen. The captains were chosen by the other cheerleaders. Each captain leads a small group of cheerleaders and helps them learn the movements and the cheers.

This year’s Cheer Squad is Gabrielle Cummings, Grace Barney, Hannah Barnes, Sara Kidman, Mazie Zimmer, Anastasia Christiansen, Zoe Tate, Maycie Talbot, Lexi Johnson, Kenzie Hansen, Allie Hansen, Sophia Boshane, Sienna Wertz, Madison Case, Haleigh Smith, Emily Hawker, Traidyn Sutherland, Taliana Morgan, Ny’Asia Walsh, Mylee Metz, Riley Cliburn, Ozlynn Begaye, Alyssa Zimmer, Lucynda Byrom, Audriana Ramirez, Addy Brazell, Kimi Kawano, Haylee Hunter and Leana Tso.

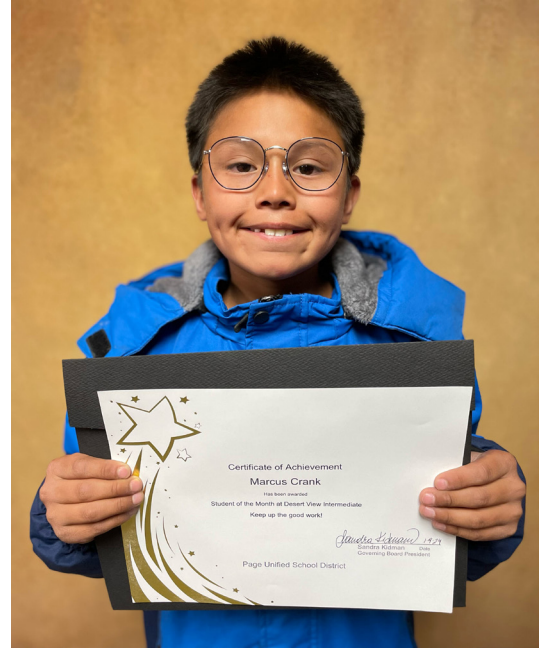


December

Students of the Month



Hanssel Casillas
Lake View Primary



Marcus Crank
Desert View Intermediate

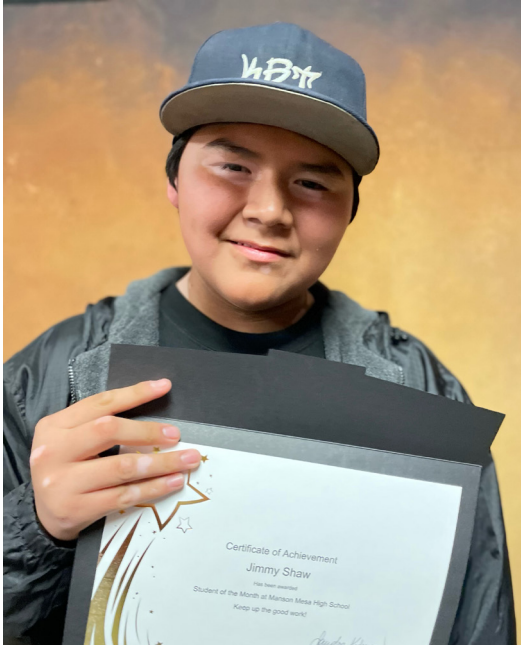


Emmalynn Wischmann
Page Middle School



Jazmin Tax Reyes
Page High School

December Students of the Month



Jimmy Shaw
Manson Mesa High School



Rhianna Daw
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Kamesha Ashley
Preschool



Announcements

**Page Unified School District
is the Only Northern Arizona
High School to offer this.**

BE A PART OF A UNIQUE AUTO COLLISION PROGRAM



Get the chance to attend the Auto Collision Program At Page High School !

- Quality Education
- Earn Industry Certifications
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- Dent repairs
- Pathways to Dixie Tech, UTI or Wyotech
- Student Club
- New Mixing bank
- And Much More!

To get registered into the "Auto Collision"
Email: sjohnson@pageud.org



(928)608-4138Ext# 4159



<https://phs.pageud.org/>



sjenson@pageud.org

HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FLU, RSV, COVID-19, AND THE COMMON COLD

Common symptoms may include cough, headaches, sneezing, runny nose, and congestion. Different symptoms may include:



| | COLD | FLU | COVID-19 | RSV |
|------------------------|------|-----|----------|-----|
| ACHES | XX | XXX | XX | X |
| DIFFICULTY BREATHING | X | X | XXX | XX |
| FATIGUE | XX | XXX | XXX | X |
| FEVER | X | XXX | XX | XX |
| LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL | X | X | XX | X |
| SORE THROAT | XXX | XX | XXX | X |
| WHEEZING | X | X | X | XXX |

Did You Know: CDC recommends a 3-step approach to protect yourself and others from respiratory viruses this fall and winter:

- **FIRST:** Take time to be up to date on your recommended immunizations.
- **SECOND:** You can take other CDC-recommended preventive actions like covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing, and staying home if you are sick, if possible.
- **THIRD:** There are treatments for some respiratory illnesses including flu and COVID-19. If you are at higher risk of developing serious complications from flu, COVID-19, or RSV, talk to a health care provider sooner rather than later and follow their treatment advice.

This is the first fall and winter virus season where vaccines are available for the three major respiratory viruses –COVID-19, RSV, and flu. Updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months and older. This season provides a unique opportunity to protect people with multiple vaccines recommended to help prevent respiratory illnesses and more serious outcomes from flu, COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and pneumococcal disease.