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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.

Lake View Implements New Kindergarten Initiative



Lake View Primary's Kindergarten classes began the new school year with a new look, a new layout and a new mission: to create students who are curious, academically brave and who love learning. The tool to bring that mission to fruition is a teaching method for early learners called The Kindergarten Experience.

Research that shows that 5-year-olds don't learn in the same manner as older children, and The Kindergarten Experience uses methods better suited for the ways a 5-year-old learns.

One of the most noticeable differences with The Kindergarten Experience is the classrooms are no longer arranged with desks in rows facing the teacher. Rather, it's arranged into several different learning centers, each one dedicated to different skill sets for young learners. The learning areas are dedicated to science, literacy and reading, math, dramatic play, art, manipulatives, and tinkering. Each area has a table with chairs, and the materials dedicated to that space's pur-

pose stored next to it.

The Kindergarten students still engage in direct instruction, which occurs with them sitting on the big rug in front of the projector with the teacher, or seated at a table in the learning stations facing the teacher.

Some of the creativity centers help develop a child's motor skills, some encourage creativity and others foster student-to-student cooperation, all of which are skills that will benefit them as they move into the higher grades.

Most of the activities and projects kids do at the learning station are designed to accomplish multiple things at once. For instance, a student in the Manipulatives learning center might be developing his or her fine motor skills while learning to use scissors, trace, color or draw.

"If the student is learning about the number two that

PUSD Preschool Adds Elevate Pre-K



Page Unified School District added a new pre-school program last Wednesday called Elevate Pre-K.

Elevate Pre-K is targeted toward 4-year-old children living in households with incomes between 101 percent to 250 percent of the Federal Poverty level and who are not currently enrolled in school. In essence, it's for families with incomes too high so they don't qualify for other low-income sources or revenue, yet they don't make enough money to afford outside child care.

Elevate Pre-K is designed, in part, to be a tool to help working families with young children return to the work force. One of the key components of the Elevate Pre-K program is that students are in school from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The program is also year-round. This differs from PUSD's preschool, which runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday. PUSD's preschool also closes during the summer months on the same schedule as the rest of the school district.

"This allows working parents with young children a chance to return to the work force, knowing that their child is in a safe, caring environment," said Beth Giacalone, Program Director of Northern Arizona Programs.

"Because of the families' incomes they don't qualify for Headstart or Department of Economic Security (DES) subsidies, and they don't bring in enough income to afford private child care."

This is Elevate Pre-K's third year in operation and its first time in Page.

"We were looking for a location in Page to open a classroom and Cheryl Mango-Paget [Coconino County Superintendent of Schools] mentioned that PUSD might be a good partner. After talking with them, it ended up being perfect."

Page's Elevate Pre-K will have 18 students, three teachers and a consistent substitute.

"We offer family wrap-around services to make sure they also have resources in other ways, and we use evidence-based curricula and experienced teachers," said Giacalone. "The overall goal moving forward is to support the infrastructure to make sure that all 4-year olds in Page can have a high-level preschool experience."

The launch of Page's Elevate Pre-K was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony, attended by several dignitaries from Page and northern Arizona, including Dr. Bryce Anderson, Superintendent of Page Unified School District; Kay Leum, Executive Director of Extended Learning at Coconino Community College; Beth Giacalone, Program Director of Northern Arizona Programs, Cheryl Mango-Paget, Coconino County Superintendent of Schools; Page Mayor Bill Diak; Scott Pettit, Worten Foundation Manager; Jillyn Anderson, PUSD Preschool Director, Peni Case, PUSD Exceptional Student Services Director and Lorie Frisby, Classroom Lead.

PHS Football Field Gets New Scoreboard



Workers installed a new scoreboard at the Page High School football field in August. The new scoreboard is capable of running video, which creates a lot of opportunities for future football games, graduations and other events.



Page High School Bids Fond Farewell to Kris Worley



If you go to the Sand Devils football field in autumn, you'll find the football team. Go to the Sports Complex and you'll find the soccer team. Go to the high school gym and you'll find the volleyball team. And for the last ten years, no matter the season, no matter the sport, when it was game time, you'd also find Kris Worley, Page High School's assistant athletic director, whose presence was nearly as constant as the Sand Devil logo emblazoned at the center.

Worley retired this week and PUSD's athletic director, Megan Moore, saw to it that she received a proper goodbye before she left. During halftime of the football game against Holbrook, Page High School held a teacher recognition ceremony and had its teachers gather on the football field. While the teachers were gathering on the field, Moore sent Worley on a fake task in the football field house. When Worley completed the red herring errand, she exited the field house to find Moore waiting for her with a golf cart, decorated for the occasion. Worley stepped into the cart, and Moore drove her to the center of the football field where she was greeted with balloons and flowers. Sand Devils fans cheered from the bleachers, and students held up signs that read, "Thank you Kris", "We love you Kris"

and We'll miss you Kris!"

"Kris has always been committed to the children and families of the Page community," said Ernie Rivers, PUSD's former athletic director, who worked closely with Worley for many years. "She always took the time to greet them by name, encourage them in their academics and their home life and build them up to help them be successful.

"She is a very genuine and caring person. It comes across naturally and the kids know it and that is what drew them to her. I feel it was a privilege to have her as an assistant and for all she did to help better our community. I consider it to be an honor to be her friend!"

Worley became PHS's assistant athletic director in 2015, but she's been coaching Page High School sports since the late 90s in her capacity with the Page City Recreation Dept. She worked as the Assistant City Recreation Director from 1997 to 2008, and as its Director from 2008 to 2013. During that period, Worley coached Page High School softball from 1998 to 2015, and soccer from 2000 to 2015. Worley has been involved with the annual elementary track meet since 1992.

Worley can be found at nearly every athletic event, help-



ing coordinate and carry out the multitude of details necessary for an event to be successful, but the majority what she does happens behind the scenes. This includes helping student athletes and their parents navigate eligibility forms and physicals. She helps book referees and umpires to officiate the games, and she helps the coaches arrange departure times, transportation, and hotels if the teams need to stay overnight. All of which is subject to change, and very often does. There have been occasions too numerous to count when Worley finished all the above details, all to have a game change to the new date. When that happens, Worley just chuckles, or sighs, and does it all over again.

Kyran Keisling, Page High School's head wrestling coach, said his job would be nearly impossible without Worley's help.

"Her attention to detail is impeccable and nearly perfect," said Coach Keisling. "Kris makes sure my roster is correct, she makes sure that my wrestlers are eligible. Before we travel to a meet, she gives me a list with all the information I need to know: our departure time, our arrival time, our weigh-in time and the start time of the meet. The hardest

part of being a coach is managing all those details, week after week, and Kris does it for me. Not only me, but all the other sports happening at the same time.

"What's more – and this is why everyone loves her – she knows and cares about all those kids. Kris probably knows every kid in every sport going back to the day she started."

Coach Keisling says he relies on Kris' experience as a former coach. With the practices, the meets, the travel and the time spent away from family can make for a grueling season.

"One of the greatest assets Kris brought to the position was her many years of experience as a coach," said Coach Keisling. "She understands how hard it can be at times. She's always been someone I could go to; sometimes just to gripe."

Worley was eligible to retire at the end of the 2022-23 school year, but in typical Kris Worley style of going the extra mile and seeing the job through, she stayed on till the end of August to get her replacement up to speed and properly trained.

Of course she did. Kris Worley is a legend.

Runnin' Devils Go Extra Mile to Raise Funds



The Sand Devil faithful got to see the Runnin' Devils in action a couple weeks ago when the Runnin' Devils held a Run-a-Thon during halftime of a recent football game. The Run-a-Thon raised funds to help pay for the team's gear and hotel rooms over the course of the 2023 cross country season.

Cross-country head coach Tim Martin says the team needs to raise about \$5,000 to meet its expenses and is pretty sure the team will be successful in that endeavor.

One of the biggest running events of the year is Casteel Invitational, a flat, fast course where runners set a lot of personal records. It's something the runners look forward to every year, but the high school can't afford to send every runner. But a runner will be allowed to travel to Casteel if he or she takes part in the fund-raiser.

Having the runners take part in raising some of the money it will need helps the runners take ownership in the team, said Coach Martin.

Symond Martin Places 1st at Peaks Invitational



Symond Martin placed first at the Peaks Invitational in Flagstaff last weekend with a time of 16:35 on the 5K course. It was the fastest time recorded on the course since 2010.

Martin, a sophomore at Page High School, is the son of Tim and Anne Martin. Last year, Martin was the fastest freshman runner in Arizona for most of the year.

The boys varsity cross-country team placed fifth overall. Maximus Reid placed 15th, and Nyall Prather placed 25th overall at the varsity level. Jaiden Jordan placed third among JV runners.

Jade Reid placed sixth overall for the girls squad.

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week, the teachers will have them cut out the letter two,” said Lake View Principal Brian Henderson. “It’s a great way to reinforce the things they are being taught that week.”

Lake View’s move to The Kindergarten Experience started last school year when Superintendent Bryce Anderson approached Mr. Henderson wanting to look at ways of re-vamping Kindergarten.

“He wanted some more hands-on, more developmentally appropriate for this age group. Something dynamic and progressive,” said Mr. Henderson. “I got some initial ideas from Penni Case (PUSD’s Exceptional Student Services Director), and she recommend we do The Kindergarten Experience program.”

Pre-Covid, the Arizona Dept. of Education had funded The Kindergarten Experience for numerous Kindergartens throughout the state, including Lake View Primary. But the program dissolved during the pandemic and returned to traditional teaching methods. Mr. Henderson contacted the organization last year and received from them information how to restart the program. Lake View Kindergarten teachers had a two-day training in April, followed by a second two-day training in July with the idea of having full implementation for the 2023-24 school year.

Lake View Kindergarten teacher Colbi Coutts, Sara Watson and Christina Knapp had been involved with the program when it was first introduced several years ago, and they were enthusiastic to bring it back.

One of the big goals of the Kindergarten Experience is to teach the kids how to be good students, and give them the tools to do that, said Lake View Kindergarten teacher, said

Ms. Coutts.

“The heart of the Kindergarten Experience isn’t standards or test data,” said Ms. Coutts. “Instead, it’s teaching and growing the whole child. If we build strong relationships with our students and help nurture healthy peer to peer connections, we can create a strong learning environment where students feel comfortable taking risks and learning from failure.”

“Our classrooms have been designed to offer rich hands-on learning experiences that will be more meaningful, relevant and memorable than traditional methods, such as worksheets. These experiences will prepare our students emotionally and academically for their traditional journeys ahead.”

Part of The Kindergarten Experience is encouraging students that they can be in charge of their success, said Kindergarten teacher Christina Knapp.

“The Kindergarten Experience gives them more ownership over the whole classroom space,” said Ms. Knapp. “Our job as early education teachers is to make sure we foster a love of learning, and also a desire to learn.”

“If we can exit our kids [to first grade] as confident learners – and not just confident learners but also as questioning learners – we have done our jobs. The Kindergarten Experience gives the teachers and the students all the tools to be able to leave Kindergarten as those types of learners. A confident learner is confident in their own knowledge, a questioning learner is someone who want to go forward. They realize they don’t know the answer but they’re confident enough to ask the questions.”

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