

PUSD

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter May 2024

www.pageud.org



Ty Bennett Named Head Football Coach	1
PHS Culinary Student Qualifies for National Competition	2
PHS Ceramacists Collaborate with Kindergarten Artists	3
Jodian Brown Honored at Teacher of the Year Award	4
Begay Places 2nd at Automotive Competition	5
2024 AVID Awards	6
Desert View Celebrates with Navajo Taco Day	8
PHS Art Teacher Wins “Best in Show”	10
Photos from Around the District	12
Employees of the Month	13
Students of the Month	14
Announcements	16

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.

Ty Bennett Named Head Football Coach



Page Unified School District's athletic director, Megan Moore, announced Wednesday that Ty Bennett will be the new head football coach for the Page High School Sand Devils.

The decision became official after PUSD's school board approved it during its April 9th board meeting.

Bennett is currently the Sand Devils head baseball coach. This is his third year as head baseball coach. He has also worked as an assistant football coach for the last five years, two of them as defensive coordinator, one of them as offensive coordinator.

"I love baseball, but football is my number one passion," Bennett said Wednesday. "I'm excited for this!"

Bennett will continue as head baseball coach through the end of the season, and will assume duties as football coach when baseball season ends. Bennett plans to hold spring football and summer football camp.

Even after he takes over the football program, Bennett says he'll remain involved with Sand Devils baseball.

"I don't know at what capacity yet, but I'll stick around with baseball," he said. "Even next season I'll be involved."

Competition for the head football coaching position was steep, with numerous candidates from out of state and all over Arizona applying.

"We went through an extensive interview process and the

candidate pool was very deep," Moore said. "The Interview Committee felt that Bennett embodied the core values we want in Page athletics. He understands the culture of Sand Devils football and he knows what it means to be a part of the community, and that's something you can't teach."

Bennett's move from coaching baseball to football comes on the heels of other recent PHS coaching moves. The movements began when Kyran Keisling moved from coaching high school wrestling to middle school wrestling. Bubba Billie then moved from PHS head football coach to the open position as PHS head wrestling coach, which left an open spot as PHS head football, coach which has now been filled by Bennett.

Bennett is looking forward to playing a larger role doing something he and his family have long been passionate about.

"My family has always been involved with Page football," Bennett said. "Myself, my brothers and my dad all played Sand Devil football, and my dad later coached at the middle school and the high school. We do it because we love football."

Bennett wants next year's football players to be ready for an intense experience.

"These kids need to show up ready to work," he said.

PHS Student Qualifies for National Competition

Miriam Lassen, a junior at Page High School, qualified to go to a national culinary arts competition after she took 2nd place overall at a statewide culinary arts competition in Tucson on April 2nd. The National competition will be held in Seattle, Wash., in June.

The culinary arts competition was sponsored by the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), the governing body that oversees Family and Consumer Sciences for Arizona. June's competition in Seattle will be overseen by the FCCLA's national division.

Lassen was one of about 100 students who had 60 minutes to prepare a pan-seared chicken breast, with a lemon pan sauce, rice pilaf, and garlic green beans. The dish is judged on taste, appearance and the chef's use of safety and sanitation during prep.

Lassen took first place in the Mise en Place category at last year's state competition.

Lassen was one of seven students from Page High School who competed at this year's state FCCLA culinary competition. The other students performed very well too. Landon Mansker took 4th place in Chicken Fabrication, Leikara Yazzie took 5th place in Mise en Place, Isaac Nelson and Myles Beam were top ten in baking and pastry, and Talia Barton finished in the top ten also.

The students are part of The Devils' Kitchen and the Culinary Club, both of which are extensions of Page High School's Culinary Arts class, taught by Chef Wyatt Swinton.

Chef Swinton was impressed by his students' creations at the state FCCLA competition.

"Miriam continues to impress and exceed expectations," he said. "And the group as a whole, I'm incredibly proud of them. As a group they did better than I expected them to do."

Chef Swinton has taught culinary arts at Page High School for eleven years. This is his first time having a student qualify for the National competition. He will attend the national competition in Seattle with Lassen in June.



Two-School Art Collaboration Leads to Monster Synergy



Two of PUSD's art teachers, Sue Tucker and Erica Pullin, synergized the ideas and creative talents of their students into a monster-sized collaboration that has everyone excited.

The art classes joining forces are the Kindergarten art students at Lake View and the ceramics students at Page High School.

In the first phase of the project, the Kindergarten students drew a monster – any kind they wanted – on a piece of paper. In the second phase of the project, the ceramics students convert the drawing of the monster into a 3D likeness made of clay. When all the paper monsters have been turned to clay – and fired in the kiln – they'll be returned to the Kindergarten students.

"It has been a very fun project," said Mylee Metz, a sophomore in Ms. Tucker's ceramics class. Ceramics is one of her favorite subjects.



"Ceramics is pretty much the reason I go to school," she said. "I love being able to create something that was just an idea in my head and the whole creative process of turning that idea into something real."

Metz loves the freedom of creation that working with clay allows her, but the Monster Collaboration Project moves away from the pure freedom of expression she's used to. On

Desert View Teacher Recognized at Teacher of the Year Ceremony



Desert View Intermediate teacher, Jodian Brown, was one of three veteran school teachers honored at this year's Coconino County Teacher of the Year ceremony.

The event was held Thursday night in the High Country Conference Room in Flagstaff, and was attended by more than 200 educators and administrators from school districts throughout northern Arizona. PUSD Superintendent Dr. Bryce Anderson; Executive Director of Academic Services Jeannie Wood; Desert View Principal Mary Stahl; Desert View teachers Samantha Wright and Shannakay Burgess attended Thursday's ceremony to show their appreciation and support for Ms. Brown and the many contributions she brings to Desert View Intermediate, Page Unified School District and the greater Page community. Ms. Brown was

also joined by her mother Valerie Brown and her daughter Ny'Asia Walsh.

Ultimately, the Teacher of the Year Award went to Jeremiah Smith, a world history and psychology teacher from Coconino High School, but the three finalists for Coconino County Teacher of the Year represent the crème de le crème of the county's teachers.

The Teacher of the Year Awards also honored a Rookie Teacher of the Year, a STEM Teacher of the Year, and two teachers for Lifetime Achievement.

Ms. 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.”

Congratulations Jodian on being one of this year finalists for Coconino County Teacher of the Year, and for everything you do to shape tomorrow’s leaders.



Begay Places 2nd at Automotive Competition



Jamis Begay placed 2nd in the Dixie Tech Automotive Competition earlier this week. He was awarded a tool box with tools and a full tuition scholarship to Dixie Technical College for his achievement.

Way to go Jamis!

2024 AVID Awards



The achievements and accomplishments of Page High School's AVID students were celebrated at a recognition ceremony in the CAB last Thursday night. The evening began with a welcome from Page High School Principal, Leigh Guenther. One of the program's students, David Dawavendewa, who delivered remarks about AVID resilience.

Shania Valentine is the AVID Site Coordinator for Page High School. The AVID instructors are Taylor Oneal, Ben Dalton, Julianne Hatt and Kayley Montes. During the ceremony, AVID students received a certificate of completion and the seniors were given a stole they can wear at graduation.

One of AVID's primary goals is to encourage middle school and high school students to go to college and it provides support, tools and other means to help them prepare for that. The AVID program can be a crucial resource for students who want to go to college, but who may feel intimidated by the process of navigating the challenges can come with getting accepted to college, followed by a successful college experience.

AVID seeks to facilitate good study habits, beneficial learning techniques and inquiry-based study. This includes good time-management and organizational skills.

Many of today's students possess a desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard, but many of them lack the opportunity to be college-ready. These are often the students who come from families where they will be the first to attend college, or may be from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. AVID Secondary equips teachers and schools with what they need to help these students succeed on a path to college and career success.

The AVID program also includes visits to different college campuses. This year, AVID students visited the campuses of Southern Utah University, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, Stanford University and the University of San Francisco. Such visits help students experience campus life first-hand. When visiting colleges, students are





given tours of the campus and its facilities, including a visit to dorm rooms. Such visits help the students visualize themselves in that environment. It plants the seed that college could be an enjoyable adventure, rather than an intimidating mystery.

PUSD offers AVID for students grades 7 to 12.

By teaching and reinforcing academic behaviors and higher-level thinking at the middle school level, AVID teachers create a ripple effect that continues into later grades. Middle school students develop the academic habits they will need to be successful in high school, and college in an age-appropriate and challenging way. During the first two years of the program, students learn about organization, study skills, communication, and self-advocacy.

During the awards ceremony, AVID instructors award students from each grade level ninth thru twelfth in four areas: AVID Greatest of All Time (GOAT), Binder Boss (the most-organized student), Hypebeast (the most enthusiastic student). And one student is chosen as the Bleeding Heart, which is the student who is most passionate about finding success.

This year's award winners were:

AVID 9

Certificate of Completion: Evelena Bennett, Ella Chief, Ashelynn Clark, Tanner Crank, Shaylin Curley, Sven Fowler, Hayley Herder, Makayla Nez, Ashley Neztosie, Tyressa Richardson, Kyra Salazar, Javan Shearer, Danielle Shirley, Kyle Smith, Jade Sombrero, Haley Stimmell, Azariah Stingley, Teairra Tadytin, Natalie Tejeda, Troy Touchin, Marxin Tsinnie and Anastacia Zander.

Binder Boss - Troy Touchin
 Hypebeast - Haley Stimmell
 AVID G.O.A.T - Javan Shearer

AVID 10

Certificate of Completion: Danielle Bedonie, Hannah Begay, Terolyn Begay, Leah Bighthumb, Deivonna Daniels, David Dawavendewa, Tasha Hayden, Natasha June, Aubrey Martinez, Rylee Natoney, Jacqaeka Tullie, Remy Weiss, Treyahna



Yazzie and Talen Yellowhair.

Binder Boss – Danielle Bedonie
 Hypebeast – Remy Weiss
 AVID G.O.A.T – David Dawavendewa

AVID 11

Certificate of Completion: Joanna Chee, Kaleigh Cody, Collin Cope-Kellar, Nastassjia Harris, Trent Jackson, Maridius Lee, Kai Lewis, Nyah Miller, Ketona Reed, Aevory Scott, Jeweliena Tony, Harrison Yellow-Redshirt and Shaila Young.

Binder Boss – Kai Lewis
 Hypebeast - Aevory Scott
 AVID G.O.A.T - Ketona Reed

AVID 12

Certificate of Completion: Shaunicey Begay, Lindell Bigman, Seandreona Bow, Lauren Campbell, Malia Delmar, Hannah Fowler, Deidre Hosteenetz, Emily Littleman, Mauricia Magana, Aimee Newlin, Louise Portillo Santacruz, Jade Reid, Jayden Robbins, Kailani Ross, Chassidy Scott, Kaydence Tsinigine, Giovanni Tsosie, Nia Valenzuela, Bryce Williams and Jessie Yazzie.

Binder Boss – Seandreona Bow
 Hypebeast - Louise Portillo Santacruz
 AVID G.O.A.T - Lauren Campbell

Shaunicey Begay received the AVID Ambassador of Excellence Award.

Hannah Fowler received the Bleeding Heart Award.

Desert View Celebrates End-of-Year Testing with Navajo Taco Day



Desert View celebrated the completion of their year-end testing with a special lunch of Navajo Tacos. The lunch was held outside on the lawn under awnings. Chartwells – the company that provides food services for PUSD – set up serving tables, and a meal-prep area under awnings also outside.

In addition to Navajo Tacos, Chartwells also served a variety of fruits, vegetables and milk.

“We wanted it to be more than just lunch, we wanted it to have a fun atmosphere, and it was,” said Desert View Intermediate Principal, Mary Stahl. “It was such a happy moment.

“The year-end testing can be stressful on the kids, especially the third graders, since it’s their first time.”

Stahl says the idea for the celebration came from three students in Seth Laughter’s xx-grade class: Marjorie Williams, Aiyana Begay and Savannah Tsinnijinnie.

“We should do something special after testing is over, because testing is stressful,” Williams told Ms. Stahl. When Ms. Stahl asked what she’d like to do, Williams suggested they have Navajo Tacos.

Ian Klay, the Director for Chartwells, just happened to be in the cafeteria at the time, so Ms. Stahl asked her if something like that was doable. A few days later, Clay reported back that they could do it, if Desert View could contribute some manpower to the effort.

No problem.

Desert View’s paras made all the dough for the frybread



ahead of time; enough to feed about 700 people. It was enough that they even had some left over afterwards. According to Chartwells, they served 720 meals that day.

And when it came time to cook, Chartwells and Desert View got additional help forming the dough into flat patties and frying it.

“Seeing the paras and teachers working and laughing together was really fun to see,” said Stahl.

“We were more than happy to make this happen,” said Klay. “We want to do more things like this for any school who requests it. It goes back to our motto of serving healthy and happy meals.”

Chartwells will do similar events for Page Middle School

on May 22nd for their year-end cookout, as well as for Page High School for their Senior Cookout.

“If we can find a way to make things like this happen, we’ll make it happen,” said Klay.

As for the three students who got it started – Marjorie, Aiyana and Savannah: They were so happy with how the Navajo Taco day turned out.

“My favorite part was the bread, and that everyone was so happy that day,” said Aiyana.

“My favorite part was having the kids and teachers all together having fun,” said Marjorie. “I hope we can do more things like that.”

PHS Art Teacher Wins Best in Show



Congratulations to Aimee Liu, Oliver Lytell, Tyra American-Horse and Sarrayan Begay, who had an amazing night at the Page Fine Arts Festival last Friday night.

Aimee Liu, an art teacher at Page High School, won Best in Show or 1st place in the adult artists category. In the Stu-

dent Artist category, PHS artist Oliver Lytell took 1st place, Tyra American-Horse took 2nd place and Sarrayan Begay took 3rd place.

Great job everyone, and keep creating your beautiful art!

ART from pg. 3

this project, she has to try to match her creation with the Kindergarten student's sketch. She has enjoyed that challenge very much.

Because there are more Kindergarten students than there are ceramics students, the ceramics students create more than one clay monster. Metz created clay monsters for three of the Kindergarten drawings. "It would be pretty disappointing if one of the kids didn't get their monster drawing turned into a 3D clay version."

The idea for the project came to Erica Pullin and Sue Tucker independently, but near-simultaneously last February. Pullin wanted something different and more tangible for her Kindergarten students.

"My second graders were making clay robots, and my first graders were making ShrinkyDink keychain robots, and I wanted a fun project for her Kindergarten kids to do," said Ms. Pullin. "I wanted them to have a more tangible creation too."

Pullin didn't know it at the time, but Ms. Tucker was having a similar conversation with Gentry Lund, one of Lake View's Kindergarten teachers, about the possibility of having the Kindergarten students and the high school ceramics students collaborate on an art project. It didn't take long for the teachers to realize they all wanted the same thing.

Since it was February – and Valentine's Day was coming up – Pullin kicked off the project by reading "Love Monster" to the Kindergarten kids, after which the students drew a monster.

Pullin showed her students a lump of raw clay and demonstrated how it could be formed into whatever shapes they wanted. She then explained to them how a kiln works to harden and set the clay into a shape it will hold forever. Then she passed out paper and colored pencils and told them to have fun creating a monster. She told them to make sure their monsters were colorful so the ceramics students could have extra details to add to the ceramic sculptures.

"They had such a fun time on the project and they did an excellent job," Pullin said. She added that the students are really looking forward to the day when they can see their 2D art turned into 3D art.

On the high school side of the project, Ms. Tucker has also greatly enjoyed watching her ceramics students bring the Kindergarten drawings to life.

"It has been fun seeing the different creative ideas and techniques my kids have used to form a final art piece," said Ms. Tucker. "They have really gotten into it. Knowing that what they create will be given back to the Kindergarten student has sparked them to add extra layers of detail."

One of those students is Tyra American-Horse. Ceramics is one of her favorite subjects.



"I like working with clay a lot," said Tyra American Horse, a senior at Page High School. This is her third year taking ceramics. "Whatever comes up in my mind, I can turn into art."

American-Horse says the process of working with clay is also a great way for her to decompress and release negativity from her life.

"If I feel negative emotions, I can usually work them away while I'm working with my hands."

The "Monster Project" has brought out a lot of creativity among both the Kindergarten and high school students, but it started with the creativity and innovative ideas from two of PUSD's art teachers. That component of the project shouldn't go unrecognized, said Lake View Principal Brian Henderson.

"The collaboration between Ms. Tucker and Ms. Erica is exactly the kind of thing we want to see more of in our district," Mr. Henderson said. "Bringing together these two powerhouses of creative energy and ideas brings out something special and exceptional in our students and has definitely been one of the highlights of the school year."

Photos from Around the District



Employees of the Month

Certified Employee of the Month March 2024



Jan Fehr

Classified Employee of the Month March 2024



Purcel Tallman

March Students of the Month



Karlie Tsoie
Lake View Primary



Justin Begay
Desert View Intermediate



Hunter Heatwole
Page Middle School



Bryce Williams
Page High School

March Students of the Month



Dana Yazzie
Manson Mesa High School



Isabella Wingrove
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Weston Nez
Preschool



Announcements

PUSD PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

— NOW HIRING —

Bus Drivers

Bus driver pay starts at \$17.67/hour

Drivers are eligible for ASRS retirement, and medical, dental & vision benefits.

9 & 11 month positions available

APPLY NOW



To apply or for more information, please call **928-608-4101**

PUSD PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

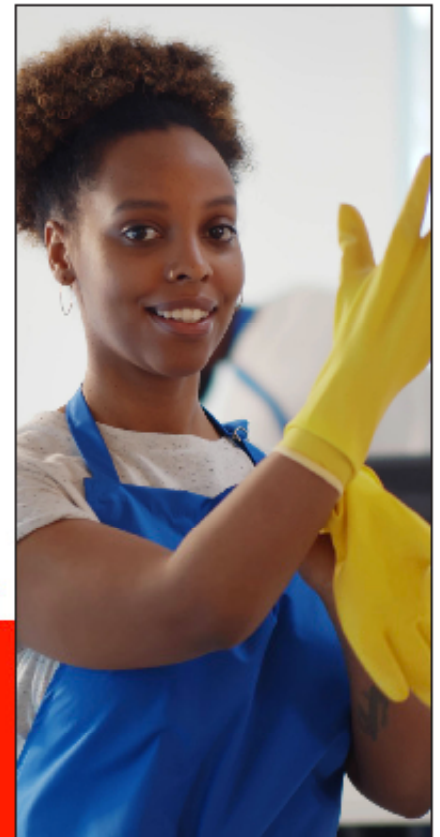
— NOW HIRING —

Custodians & Maintenance Workers

Custodians and Maintenance Workers are eligible for ASRS retirement, and medical, dental & vision benefits.

Earn vacation and paid time off.

APPLY NOW!



To apply or for more information, please call **928-608-4101**



COMMUNITY CHILD CARE CRISIS FORUM

MAY 8, 2024 | 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M. *AZ time*

Lunch provided from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Calling all businesses, non-profit organizations, faith based organizations, child care providers and parents. We invite you to come discuss the current child care crisis and how it affects our businesses and community. Together, we can develop a plan for how we as a community could address it.

The Ranch House Grille
819 North Navajo Drive
Page, AZ 86040



<https://bit.ly/4ajqggV>
Registration is required

SUPPORTED BY
 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

 **arizona
complete health.**



**FREE
ENTRY**

LAKE VIEW PRIMARY'S

**MAY
10TH
5-7PM**

**FAMILY PARTNERSHIP
EXPERIENCE**

**LOTS OF FUN
FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!**

GAMES DUNK TANK INFLATABLES

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

PRIMO'S FOOD TRUCK VENDORS



FRIDAY MAY 10TH 5:00-7:00

LAKE VIEW PRIMARY'S 1ST & 2ND GRADE PLAYGROUND