

# PUSD

# PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter March 2024

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### ON THE COVER

Kylie Robertson, Karcyn Mangum and Emmalyn Wischmann at the March choir concert.

## 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

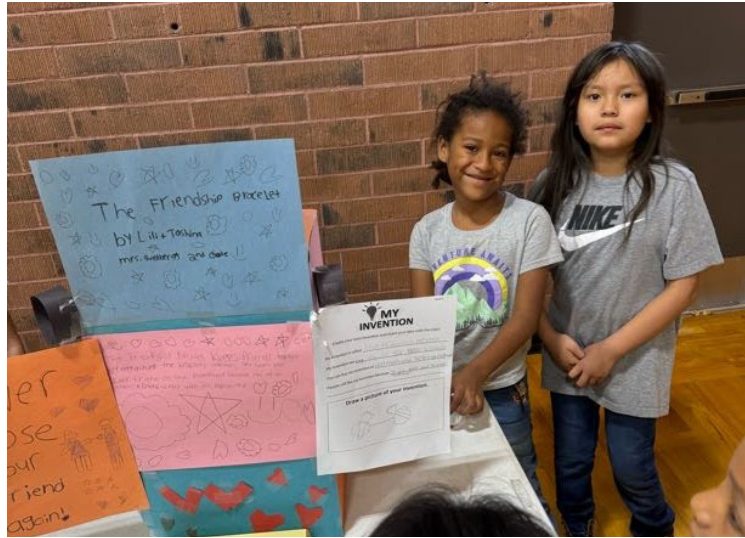
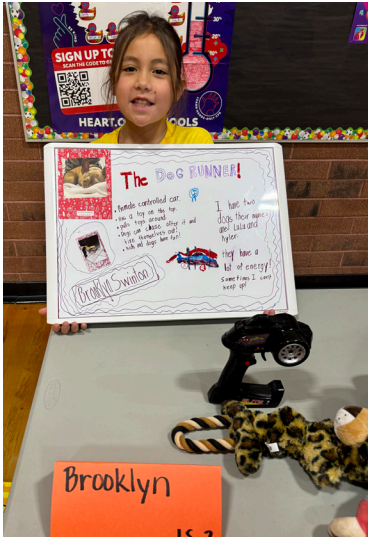
Our schools are passionate about the learning-for-all mission and understand that every student matters. We are responsible and accountable for the education of every student that walks through our doors every day.

# Tyree Stingley is 3A North Boys Basketball Player of the Year!



**T**yree Stingley, a junior at Page High School, was named the 3A North Boys Basketball Player of the Year. The 3A North Player of the Year is voted on by all the boys basketball coaches in the 3A North. Stingley, who plays Guard Post for the Sand Devils, had a stand-out season. He was the team's leading scorer and in January he scored his 1,000th career point, a feat very few basketball players achieve. It was made all the more remarkable that he reached that milestone halfway through his junior year. Stingley is known for his work ethic, coachability and overall athleticism. Stingley was also the 3A North Player of the Year for football this year and was 2nd Team All-State in Football. Page Unified School District Athletic Director Megan Moore presented Stingley with the award during a recent girls basketball game.

# 2nd Grade Science and Inventors Fair Ignites Imaginations



Lake View Primary held its 5th Annual Science and Inventors Fair last week and many of the students showed a great deal of creativity and inventiveness with the items they submitted.

The inventions and science displays were created by Lake View's 2nd graders, some of whom spent weeks developing their projects. On the day of the fair, the 2nd graders set up their inventions on tables in Lake View's gym. The students' parents and grandparents were allowed to visit and peruse the displays. The school's Kindergarten and first graders also viewed the displays.

The Science and Inventors Fair was organized by Lake View's second grade teachers, headed by Julia Redman.

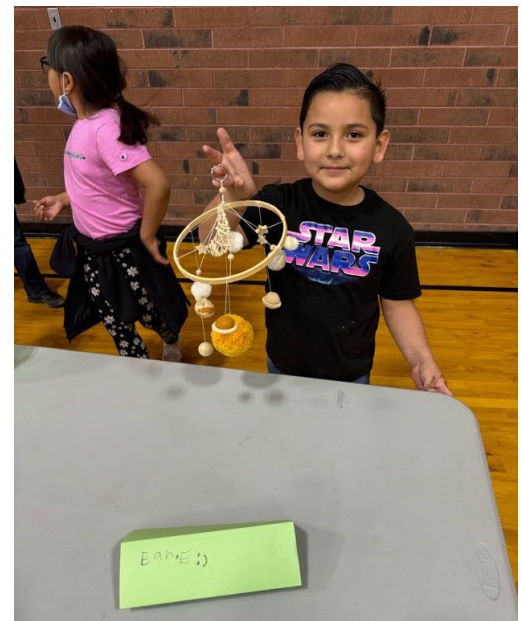
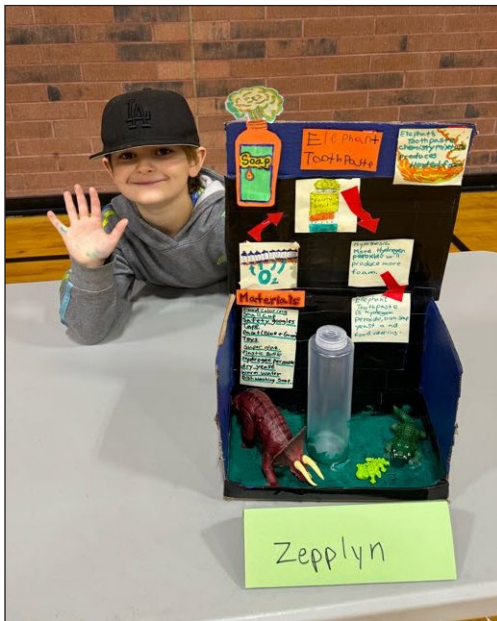
Studying inventors and scientists is part of the 2nd grade science curriculum and having students create their own

inventions is the final part of that curriculum.

"The essential question we pose throughout the curriculum is, how do inventors come up with their ideas?" said Miss Redman. "They usually start with a problem and the invention is usually the solution to that problem."

"When they're trying to come up with ideas for their own inventions, this is a good place for our students to start. We have them think of a problem they have at their house and come up with a solution to solve it. They did it and they came up with some awesome solutions. I saw some great displays of imagination and entrepreneurship. Some students took their inventions to the next level and laid out how they could be marketed."

The first-place prize in the Inventors category came from Brooklyn Swinton, who developed a dog exercising device



called The Dog Runner.

The second-place winner was Dario Porras, and third-place was Charlotte Begay.

First place in the Science category was Theresa Brown; second-place was Gracia Garcia and third-place was Gabriel Jackson.

In order to win, the inventions have to be created by the students, not their parents. It's okay for parents to help with part of it, but student involvement is a must. The inventions and science displays are made at home in the days and weeks ahead of time.

The judges judge the inventions and science displays on three criteria: The idea itself. How well the idea was implemented into a practical, usable form, and how well the student explained it. Did the viewer understand the concept

and practicality of the invention.

This year's Inventors and Science Fair had more than 50 entries. Students are not required to submit an invention.

Miss Redman was impressed by how well the students did.

"One of the big parts of this is being at your table and explaining and demonstrating how your invention works," said Miss Redman. "It was interesting to see some of our kids who are normally shy come out of their shell when they got to be the center of attention with their project. They really liked it.

"One of the main goals with the Inventors unit is to make the next generation of creative thinkers and problem solvers and a lot of our students really came through."

# Lady Sand Devils are Champs!



Celeste Claw walked into Veteran's Memorial Coliseum Saturday night wearing a red suit and her game face. She walked out wearing a smile and Victory Lace.

The Lady Sand Devils were crowned 3A champions after defeating the Window Rock Fighting Scouts 35 to 29 Saturday night, after which they kissed the golden trophy, took the Champion Selfies and cut down the nets. Each Lady Sand Devil got to keep a square of the net, then they placed the Victory Lace (basketball net) over their coach's beaming face and settled it around her neck.

Saturday's title game was the fourth time the Lady Sand Devils and the Scouts have met this year. Window Rock won the first game 55 to 44; Page won the second game 48 to 36; Window Rock won the third time, 57 to 51, which was also the 3A North Regional Championship Game.

The Lady Sand Devils entered the State Championship Tournament as the no. 1 seed, which earned them a first-round bye. They faced the Ganado Hornets in the second

round on the Sand Devils home court. It was the third time the two teams have met this season, and Page emerged the victor, 60 to 38.

After playing each other three times, Page and Window Rock teams were familiar with the other's plays, and offensive schemes, as well as each player's strengths and weaknesses, which was a factor in the low-scoring game.

Window got the first points on the board, a three-pointer. The Sand Devils first points came from a free throw and Jade Reid hit a 12-foot jumper to tie the game at three. The Scouts followed Reid's tre with a three-pointer of their own. Page's Tayla Franklin – who had a monster night against Ganado in the second round – hit a jumper, followed by a three-pointer from Alyssa Harris which gave the Sand Devils its first lead of the game, 8 to 7 with 50 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Lady Sand Devils head basketball coach, Celeste Claw credits a great deal of the team's successful season to the tight bond between the players, which formed over the



Christmas Break when the team traveled to San Francisco to compete in a tournament.

Another important thing happened during that tournament: The confidence level of Alyssa Harris, the team's point guard, grew by a large leap. Harris' increased confidence and improved ball handling skills were noticeable to all Sand Devil fans when the team returned home and resumed regular season play. Harris went on to become the team's leading scorer, as well as its offensive architect. So, Coach Claw and Sand Devil Nation were nervous when Harris got her second foul in the final minute of the first quarter. Coach Claw kept her star player in for the second quarter and Harris didn't pick another foul till late in the game.

While the Sand Devils offense was spread out among several players, the bulk of Window Rock's points came from Jamie Tso, who hit three 3-pointers in the first quarter, which was nine of her team's ten points. Tso hit her third 3-pointer in the quarter's final seconds, giving the Scouts a ten to eight lead at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was a low-scoring outing for both teams. The Sand Devils produced just four points (a field goal each from Leikara Yazzie and Harris) and the Scouts added just two points. The score was tied at 12 at halftime.

The Sand Devils had a great third quarter. They opened the quarter going on a six to two scoring run with Leikara Yazzie scoring four more points and Sofia Cambridge adding her first two points of the game. Cambridge also got her fourth blocked shot of the game.

The score was briefly tied at 14 points. When Page went ahead 16 to 14, they would keep the lead for the duration of the game; their lead fluctuated three to seven points till the end of the game.

Cambridge had a brilliant third quarter getting seven of her team's eleven points. For the Fighting Scouts Jada Brown kept her team in the game hitting four out of four

# Desert View Career Day Exposes Students to New Career Ideas



At this year's Career Expo, students were encouraged to dream big and plan accordingly.

This was the second year Desert View hosted a Career Expo for its third, fourth and fifth graders. The event was organized by Jodian Brown, one of the school's fourth grade teachers, who says the purpose of the Career Expo was to provide students with an opportunity to see what their future could look like.

"A lot of our students don't leave Page or get too far out of the region and because of that a lot of them have a limited idea of what careers exist, or could be available to them," said Brown. "Other times they do have an idea what they might want to do but don't know how to get there. We wanted to show them different paths available to reach their post high school plans."

The Career Expo was held in Desert View's gymnasium and lasted for a little more than three hours. Each grade got to spend 55 minutes in the gym visiting the booths and asking questions. The National Park Service, Page Police Department, Page Fire Department, Coconino County Sheriffs Department, Adams Chiropractic, Ken's Tours, Antelope Point Marina, Tuba City Regional Health Care, Page Utility Enterprises, Coconino Community College, Chartwell Food Services, Dr. Nelson from Canyonlands, Army Officer Amanda Hammond and former Marine, Keanu Silvens all had booths and displays at the expo.

When the students visited a booth, they were encouraged to ask questions.

"Since this was the second year, the students were more prepared about how it works, what to expect and they had





their questions prepared,” said Brown.

This is Brown’s fifth year teaching at Desert View and her second year organizing the Career Expo. She is also one of four finalists for this year’s Coconino County Teacher of the Year.

Brown is a native of Jamaica. She also taught school in Jamaica prior to moving to America. Brown also organized a career expo for the school she taught at in Jamaica.

“It was a big deal – something we did from elementary to high school – to expose the students to college and career paths. Some wanted to go straight into a job after high school and we helped them get the right certifications to do it.”

Brown put in many hours of planning and preparation in the months leading up to this year’s Career Expo, including

calls to businesses and other organizations to invite them to be part of the expo, then sending them information packets and follow-up reminders.

Brown put together a committee to help her with the many hours of preparation. Tanya Nez, Regina Mountain, Orlinda Tso and Seth Laughter served as her Immediate Committee Members, and Jonalyn Diez and Navarina Boshane prepared the decorations and booth spaces, and several other teachers and staff jumped in the day before to help with the set up.

“I think it turned out great,” said Brown. “It helped shift the mindset for some of our students. Some seeds were planted. I think good things will come from this.”

# 2024 Kids Heart Challenge



Lake View Primary and Desert View Intermediate schools held their annual Kids Heart Challenge last week, with great results.

Kids Heart Challenge has a two-fold mission: the first, kids learn ways they can keep their hearts healthy; and second, they raise money for the American Heart Association.

The activity part of the Kids Heart Challenge centers around jumping actions and movements which include jumping rope (both individually and in groups), jumping on pogo sticks, bouncy balls and mini-trampolines onto high jump pads. Rachael West, Desert View's P.E. teacher, sets aside one day during P.E. class where her students do the jumping activities.

Stacy Zinnecker, the P.E. teacher at Lake View, likes to

spread it out over a week.

The students raise money by asking family, relatives and friends to pledge money. And they were very successful at it. Desert View students raised just over \$6,900 and Lake View students raised a little more than \$3,200.

"The kids really get into it," said Zinnecker. "They understand that what we're doing helps someone else. They get the kindness aspect of it."

"I'm proud of these kids," said West. "They really put in a lot of effort raising money for the American Heart Association, and they are full of energy and enthusiasm about it. Having a day set aside with fun activities is a great way to reward them."

# CTE Students Win Awards



**Deegan Sloan, Caleb Tsinnijinnie and Jacob Begay.**

A group of Page High School's CTE students competed in a recent SkillsUSA regional competition in the category of Construction, and Automotive and brought home some hardware.

Deegan Sloan took 6th place, Caleb Tsinnijinnie took 2nd place and qualified to go to state, Jacob Begay took 4th place and qualified to go to state.

Jamis Begay and Colby Robison took 4th and 5th at the SkillsUSA regional competition and qualified for state.

The state competition will be held in Phoenix on March 28th.

Good luck, you guys!



**Jamis Begay and Colby Robison.**

# Sand Devil Wrestlers Find Success at State



Five Page wrestlers returned from the state tournament with some impressive hardware around their necks: Connor Peterson, Ian Yellowhair, Trina Bennett, Ilina Robbins, and Mya Tsinniginnie all wrestled in the state championship medal rounds.

Nine Sand Devils qualified for state, but only Peterson and Yellowhair advanced into the medal rounds.

Head wrestling coach Kyran Keisling chalked it up to injuries, some poor performances and nerves.

“Overall, we just didn’t perform up to expectations,” he said, “but I was happy with their effort and attitude. All but two of these wrestlers are coming back next year and they’ve all learned deep lessons on how to improve for next year.”

## **Connor Peterson, sophomore, 120#**

Connor Peterson capped an excellent season with an excellent state championship outing. Peterson advanced all the way to the final round and wrestled for the title. He came up just shy of perfect and finished as runner-up.

“Connor was really disappointed on losing that final match, but to be wrestling for the gold medal in state as a sophomore is something to be very proud of,” said Coach Keisling.

Coach Keisling believes the experience Peterson gained from this year’s state tournament will serve him well in the future.

“He came up a little short this time, but he learned some important lessons while he was in there,” said Coach Keisling, “and there’s only one way to learn those lessons and that is to be there, go through it, internalize it and improve on it.”



## **Ian Yellowhair, junior, 190#**

Ian Yellowhair, a junior, placed 5th at state, one position higher than his performance last year.

“He finished strong in his medal match and got a pin,” said Coach Keisling. “As a team, we had some disappointing matches throughout the tournament and it was nice to finish the tournament with a pin and go out on a strong note.”

## **She Devils**

For the She Devils, the state tournament proved an impressive finish to an impressive season.

“I feel like we did really awesome!” said She Devil coach Steven Smith. “We took four girls and three of them medaled. And the one who didn’t medal (Logan Rivers) still got us some valuable team points. Even though Logan didn’t medal at state, she had a great season. She’s only a freshman and competed hard. She’s going to do amazing things in the future.”

## **Ilina Robbins, Senior, 152#**

Ilina Robbins finished 4th at state this year, capping off what was a superb regular season. She placed in the top three or four in all the tournaments this year.

“She’s an all-around awesome person,” said Coach Smith. “She has good things in store for her when she gets out into the world.”

Her absence from the wrestling room is going to be missed next year, said Coach Smith.

“She’s a really good teacher and a very selfless person,” said Coach Smith. “She helps out coaching and teaching the younger girls showing them techniques and other ways to improve their game. She’s going to be greatly missed

when she leaves because of how helpful she is in the wrestling room.”

Coach Smith is encouraging Robbins to consider coaching as a future.

“I think she’s future coaching material,” he said. “I’d like for her to stick with wrestling and come back here and take my job.”

### **Trina Bennett, Senior, 120#**

Trina Bennett brought home a sixth place medal from state.

“She’s an outstanding wrestler and just an amazing person,” said Coach Smith. “She’s got a great practice regimen and a deep dedication to the sport. She missed very few practices this year.”

Bennett’s level of dedication and commitment set a high standard for the rest of the team,” said Coach Smith. He

was very pleased when he saw her advance to the medal round.

“It always makes me happy when I see my dedicated wrestlers get results from their years of work and training,” said Coach Smith.

### **Mya Tsinniginnie, Junior, 138#**

Mya Tsinniginnie finished in fourth place at state. She had an excellent season. She finished in the top three in every tournament we went to this year.

Coach Smith is optimistic about the future of the She Devils program.

“We’ve got a lot to look forward to in the coming years,” he said. “We had some of our wrestlers who didn’t quite make it to state this year who will make it next year. It’s going to be fun to watch.”

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## **CHAMPS from pg. 5**

free throws. Brown was a 53 percent free throw shooter on the season. Page led 23 to 20 at the end of the third quarter. The Sand Devils LeLaura Yazzie had a great fourth quarter. She scored her first points of the night a minute into the quarter (a 3-pointer) and went on to score three more off a field goal and a free throw.

Tayla Franklin contributed five points in the quarter, including a dagger 3-pointer from the corner which gave the Sand Devils a seven point lead with less than two minutes left to play. The Scouts added one more field goal, and, appropriately enough, Alyssa Harris put the season’s final points on a board from a free throw.

The final score read Sand Devils 35, Fighting Scouts 29.

There was nothing left to do but cut down the nets, kiss the trophy and take the victory selfies!

Saturday’s championship marked a brilliant end to what has been a dazzling season for the Lady Sand Devils. They finished 23-5 overall, 11-3 in Region.

Saturday’s victory is the first championship for Coach Claw. This is Coach Claw’s third year as the Lady Sand Devils head coach. Coach Claw is a 2012 graduate from Page High School and helped lead her team to a championship her senior year. She was also named the 2024 3A North Coach of the Year.

“I’m feeling good,” said Coach Claw after the game. “It was such an adrenaline rush. What an exciting experience. I’d so excited for the team overall, how far we came and what we had to overcome to get to this spot.”

Coach Claw was happy with her team’s performance too.

“We came out strong and focused on our game plan,” she said. “The shots weren’t falling for both teams, but our defense knew it had to stop the Scouts and execute our game plan, and we did it. We did our job. Offense sells tickets and

defense wins championships.”

Coach Claw is grateful for the support she and her team receives from the community.

“Window Rock has a tremendous crowd that follows them everywhere and it was fabulous to see our community travel from so far to support us Friday and Saturday. It was fun to coach and fun to see. The girls really proved their worth last night.

“And I have to give a gig shout out to our coaching staff and the talents and attention they bring to the program.”

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren was in attendance for the semi-final and final games of the tournament and even participated in the trophy presentation. Two of the four teams in the final-four (Chinle and Window Rock) are located on the Navajo Reservation, and Page (though not located on the reservation) has a 80 percent Navajo student body.

President Nygren said he wanted to show his support for the Navajo Nation’s student athletes.

“All our athletes have been great ambassadors in sports,” Pres. Nygren told the Lake Powell Chronicle after the championship game. “I want to acknowledge them for their perseverance and the many hours of practice because it takes much more than physical competition. It is also a mental and behavioral challenge.”

This year’s varsity Lady Sand Devils are Lashundean Henry, LeLaura Yazzie, Alyssa Harris, Aubrey Martinez, Kristin Harris, Tayla Franklin, Taytum Curley, Jade Reid, Kaydence Tsinigine, Kylie Benale, Sofia Cambridge, Leikara Yazzie, Kamerosn Tsosie, and Issianna Brown.

Lady Sand Devils coaching staff is: Celeste Claw, head coach. Assistant Coaches: Sylvester Begay, Bill Tresh, Ambrose Henderson, Torrance Begay and Allie Coldwell.

# PUSD Celebrates Black History Month



The Page Unified School celebrated Black History Month with a series of assemblies that highlighted the many contributions African Americans have made to American history, arts, humanities, music and numerous other achievements.

The event was organized by Alyssa Covington, Principal at Page Middle School.

“The goal was to be inclusive of all ethnic groups and cultures to emphasize the connection between us all and the efforts led by African Americans towards the Civil Rights Movement which was for all Cultures toward equity and equal rights, treatment and pay,” said Covington. “It is important to commemorate the achievements that African Americans have contributed to society and America because

the works, blood and sweat of African Americans helped to build the country and establish America as a place of wealth and promise. Much of Washington DC was built, farmed and maintained by the hands of slaves. Many of our technological advances were inspired by or started by African Americans who obtained patents and/or worked as servants or apprentices for those who could. Three-, four- and five-part vocal harmony was introduced by African American song and experience and music.”

The celebration represented several cultures: African American, Jamaican, Filipino, Native American-Navajo, Native American-Hopi, Caucasian American, Mexican American, Indian (from India).



The celebration was an all-day affair with performances at Lake View Primary, Desert View and at the Page High School gym with both middle school and high school students in attendance.

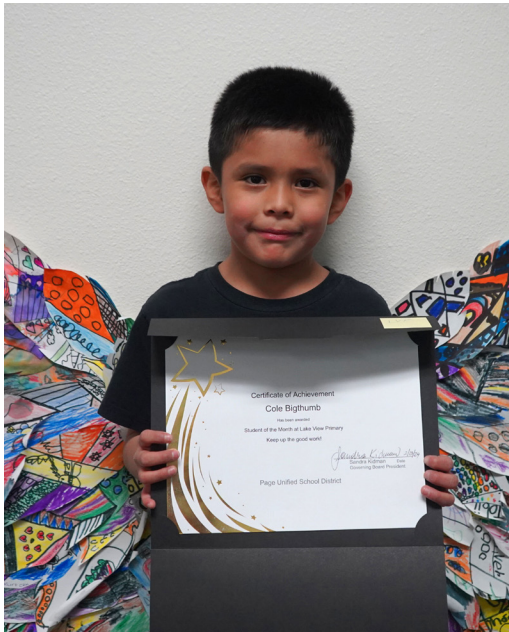
The event was at times joyful with singing and dancing, at other times solemn with more reverent musical numbers and poems written by famous African Americans.

Covington was pleased with how well the performers performed, and how well the message was received.

“There are many things to celebrate, but the real story is in the intertwining of our lives and history,” she said. “All of our lives are intertwined. An action at one point in history and with one culture or person affects another. There are

more similarities than differences. The main purpose for ensuring we tell the African American story in our schools is to make sure we are affirming students who may be of African American descent but who have been ostracized, ridiculed or thought to be cursed because of the color of their skin. They need to know they belong, they are loved and they matter. They are not invisible but they are a part of a greater story. If they are multicultural, we teach them to embrace all of who they are. We teach them to love themselves so they can learn to love others and treat others with love, respect and dignity.”

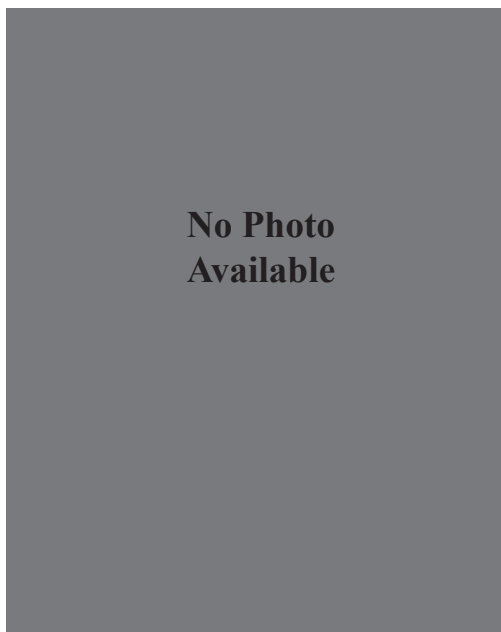
# January Students of the Month



Cole Bighthumb  
Lake View Primary



Chase Williams  
Desert View Intermediate



Alexis Haskie  
Page Middle School



Grace Barney  
Page High School



January  
**Students of the Month**



Shania Johnson  
Manson Mesa High School



Caleb Bryant  
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Deandre Combest  
Preschool

# Employees of the Month

**Certified Employee of the Month**  
**Jan. 2024**



**Ben Dalton**

**Classified Employee of the Month**  
**Jan. 2024**



**Chloe Begay**



# Announcements

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