

# PUSD

# PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Monthly Newsletter August 2021

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[www.pageud.org](http://www.pageud.org)



Board Corner	1
Summer of Science Sizzles	2
PHS Senior reignites Her Passion for Welding During Summer Enrichment Program	4
Sand Devils Ready for Friday Night Lights	6
PHS Art Students Take Their Art to a New Level	8
Page Youth Band Awarded Grant from Arizona Community Foundation	10
Announcements	11



## 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.



# BOARD CORNER

## Welcome Back!

We're looking forward to an amazing school year.

**F**rom your school board, we want to welcome everyone back, and for those of you who are new we are glad you've chosen to be part of PUSD.

In August of this year the U.S. Dept. of Education released the "Return to School Roadmap" which included three "Landmark" priorities that schools, districts, and communities are encouraged to focus on to ensure all students are set up for success in the 2021-2022 school year. These include: (1) prioritizing the health and safety of students, staff, and educators, (2) building school communities and supporting students' social, emotional, and mental health, and (3) accelerating academic achievement.

In my role outside of PUSD I have the privilege to come alongside many people and families through great times of success and times of great tragedy. Through every circumstance what is so important is 'perspective' and growth. It's not trivial to say that from today I learn and for tomorrow I grow wiser. That pathway is so important for each of us.

We are all walking through the pandemic, we've come through a year where heroic efforts led to getting things done like never before, and have the opportunity to bring perspective and growth to our new year.

There's a famous story about Thomas Edison: Charles, his son, when faced with the catastrophe of a fire that wiped out their factory, was in awe of the fire but mentions that his father calmly walked up to him, and in a child-like voice he told his 24-year-old son, "Go get your mother and all her friends. They will never see a fire like this again."

Through tragedy Edison faced it head on and rebuilt. This takes brutal honesty with ourselves and the resource/ability to separate from the circumstance, calm ourselves emotionally from anger, disappointment, and frustration. Keep from jumping to conclusions and focusing on what's in front of you. Life is not fair. Don't lose hope!



**Bob Candelaria**  
Board President

At PUSD we are focused on the safety and health of our staff and students. There are a lot of 'voices' out there but in our community we meet with our Community Wellness Collaboration and have great resources here to help provide guidance. Please help support the directions provided and we will try to be clear in that direction.

We are focused on building community. Our community is 1800 square miles in length and depth. At the school level we are developing TEAM. I've always looked at teams as a great vehicle for developing mission, goals, and seeing great accomplishments. The most important aspect of team is that we get to 'work together'. Each of you is undeniably so important to the success we will see. Focus on being a "value-added".

We are focused on acceleration. I loved the summer programs and their focus. Let's carry that on. We are still working hard on alignment from pre-K through 12. The vision Superintendent Wallen and his staff has is certainly important (A District).

I want to encourage you to function as part of a team and we will celebrate all your successes. Let's have a great school year!



# Summer of Science Sizzles

After four weeks of experimenting, crafting and creating, the Summer of Science came to a glorious, foamy, melty, sticky end as students combined solar energy, and greenhouse capture to transform chocolate, graham crackers and marshmallows into s'mores. At least, that's how Nichole Reitze's class conducted their final experiment of the summer. The s'mores making was part of a unit exploring heat, solar energy and environmental sustainability, said Miss Reitze.

Right next door to Miss Reitze, Hattie Williams' class was conducting the practical portion of the States of Matter unit they had been studying for the last four weeks: making root beer floats.

During the States of Matter unit, the students explored liquid, solids and gases.

After the students observed the solid ice cream and the liquid root beer interact, part of which formed gas, they got to eat their yummy science creation.

The Summer of Science classes were taught by Lake View Elementary teachers Nichole Reitze, Hattie Williams, Nichole and Mary Kate McCleaff. The Summer of Science classes were for students grades 1-4. The classes were very popular, with more than 60 students attending the classes.

When asked what the purpose of classes, Miss Reitze said, "To let our kids have fun with science."

That they did.

The STEAM-based classes combined science theory with hands-on application. It was the hands-on experimenting and creating that the students most enjoyed.

During the four-week class, students studied Habitats, Land Forms, Dinosaurs and States of Matter. All the







lessons incorporated a lot of hands-on activities, which served to both reinforce the instruction and theory, and make the lesson more fun and memorable.

"When students learned about solar ovens, we talked about heat and solar energy," said Miss Reitze. "We did states of matter the week prior so we also talked about how states of matter changed: our chocolate changed from a solid to a liquid. We also talked about environmental sustainability and how we could be more environmentally friendly; for example: recycling, picking up trash, reusing items, using solar ovens.

"Each student made their own solar oven themselves. Through working in teams, students were able to experiment with their design to create the 'perfect' solar oven. Students all received the same materials, but they had the freedom to put it where they wanted."

When a student is learning a new concept, the hands-on experiments create new and different neural pathways, that work to reinforce the theory part of the science lesson and make the information easier to recall.

"I really think the kids loved the hands on approach to science," said Mrs. Williams. "There were songs, videos, lap books and also hands-on activities all focused on one science topic per week. Their favorite seemed to be the solar ovens for sure."

The Summer of Science teachers consider the classes as a great suc-



**Miss Reitze helps her students track the position of the sun to findw the best angle for the solar ovens to melt their s'mores.**

cess.

"Many different academic standards were worked on during the science classes, including reading, writing and math and all in an interactive format," said Mrs. Williams. "A few of our younger students who had spent the year at home also worked on social skills and fine motor. It is truly amazing how many academic skills can be combined all in the name of science.

At the end of the Summer of Science, the three teachers could see that the classes had served a dual

purpose: Not only had the students learned a lot about science and STEM, many of them had also grown a love for science and had their curiosities expanded, which, Mrs. Williams said, will continue to produce benefits for years to come.

For some of the students, it was their first time back in a classroom, after doing remote learning during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some of them had to remember some of their social skills," said Williams. "Summer school was the perfect place to remember those things."





# The Spark is Back!

PHS senior reignites her passion for welding and metalwork during Summer Enrichment Program.



**N**adine Hicks was ecstatic when she heard that the high school was offering a welding and fabrication class as part of its Summer Enrichment Program.

Hicks will be a senior this year. She's Diné. And her greatest passion is welding and metal fabrication. Her favorite part of the course was welding together the tarantulas.

We caught up with Hicks during the last week of the four-week class and asked her how it has been. "I love it!" she said. "It's been great getting back in and welding again."

Hicks has taken welding and fabrication classes all three years she's attended Page High School, and will take more classes this year.

After graduation, Hicks plans to attend Southwest Technical College in Cedar City, Utah, where she'll continue her education in welding and fabrication. After she receives the necessary certificates, she plans to pursue a welding career.



**Nadine Hicks shows a scorpion sculpture she created during summer enrichment program.**

Story Continued Next Page





Hicks likes working with her hands. She likes cutting the steel with a torch, shaping it, welding it together. She enjoys using her skills to create works of art, or to fabricate something useful. It's the doing of the thing she likes most.

"This last year was a little rough, as far as my welding classes go," she said. "It was all lessons and reading. I didn't get into welding because I like reading about welding, I got into welding because I like welding."

Sam Rangel, the Industrial Technology and Welding teacher at Page High School, was also happy to be back in the shop. "Yup, welding is all about arc time," he said. "Theory is great – I taught a lot of theory this year – but arc time is the only way a student is going to become a good welder."

Rangel had about nine students attend his welding and

fabrication during the Summer Enrichment Program.

"The intention of the class was to move beyond state standards and give the students an idea of what they'll do if they get into a fabrication shop," said Rangel. "Once we get into it, it involves a great deal of critical thinking and problem-solving. At this level, students don't always get it right the first time. They often have to go back and determine what worked and what didn't work. If it didn't work they have to figure out why, and correct it, and if it worked I want to see them improve on that. A big part of this class is about building skill and confidence, and I saw a lot of that this summer."

Rangel's students constructed intricately designed firepits, and welded together sculptures of tarantulas, scorpions and Tyrannosaurus Rexes.



# Sand Devils Ready for Friday Night Lights



**P**age High School's football team finished its week-long camp Friday with a final practice, the team's eleventh practice of the week.

Friday morning's practice capped a week filled with activities designed to improve the athletes on-field abilities, conditioning and team cohesion.

"Everyone is very excited to be back," said Sand Devils' head football coach Bubba Billie.

After a year away from the gridiron due to the Covid-19 shutdown last season, football players returned to camp with a great level of eagerness.

"It's been really great getting back on the field, under the lights this week," said Hunter Richardson. Richardson, a senior, is a receiver for the Sand Devils, as well as one of its team captains. "I can't wait for the real season to begin. I can't wait to compete for a region title again."

Richardson was happy with the results of the camp. "It was one of the best camps I've been too. I saw a lot of good intensity from the group, and a lot of good team building."

During the week-long football camp, Coach Billie focused on several key areas: football fundamentals, conditioning, individual skill development, and team building.

During the early days of camp, the team walked through the plays, and revisited the basics, such as basic footwork and movement. As the week progressed the intensity of the practices increased as well as the skill components.

In an effort to develop team unity, the players and coaches spent the entire week together. They ate all their meals



Story Continued Next Page

Part of football camp are activities -- such as playing on a slip-and-slide - that help develop team unity.





together, and they spent the night in the field house. The coaches slept in the coach's office and the players slept in the locker rooms in sleeping bags or on blow up mattresses. Other team-building activities included playing on a slip-n-slide, making s'mores over a fire pit, and games such as 7-on-7 football, and snap, punt, kick, PAT contests.

Coaches from Page Middle School also helped at the camp. "Having coaches from the middle school and the high school provide cohesion between the two programs," said Jonathon Prather, Page Middle School football coach.

The high school and middle school football programs communicate and work together regularly.

"The middle school coaches run a great program, and they do a great job preparing their players for the high school level," said coach Billie. "If I don't have to teach my freshmen footwork, stance and other fundamentals, it really speeds things up for me and the high school program."

In a certain sense, the high school had two freshmen classes at football camp this year: the true freshmen, and this year's sophomores which, due to the Covid shut-down, missed their freshman year.

The camp gave the coaching staff their first real look at their incoming team's skill sets, fitness level and gridiron knowledge, and, for the most part, Coach Billie liked what he saw. He said he witnessed a lot of growth this week on the individual and the team level.

"This week went well," said Coach Billie Friday morning prior to the team's final practice. "It was a tough week physically and mentally but our kids pushed through it."

As of July 21, football teams from the 3A North are proceeding with practices and camps with the intention that this year's football season will proceed.

The Sand Devils football team will start their official practices on August 2. They'll be able to wear helmets and pads. The Sand Devils will play a scrimmage game against Winslow on Aug. 19. The Sand Devils first regular season game is at home against Kanab on Aug. 27.





## PHS Art Students Take Their Art To a New Level.

**P**age High School art students took their art skills to a bold new level during this year's Summer Enrichment program when they painted murals throughout the Page High School campus, as well as the greater Page community.

For PHS art teacher, Sue Tucker, the Summer Enrichment Mural Programs was the perfect medium to encourage her students to apply the knowledge and skills they had developed during the school year and produce big, ambitious art installations, and be daring with their creativity.

The students loved the program. "Artists remarked how much they absolutely loved being able to express themselves artistically with such freedom," Tucker said. "They often mentioned how they were 'in the zone' painting, and the time flew by with the session ending before they realized the morning had passed. Many asked to stay behind and finish the work they began, after the mornings had ended, which I allowed."

To help engender her students' creative genius, Tucker played inspiring, energetic and sometimes quietly calming music all the time. Students were allowed to work together collaboratively on sections of the murals, or alone if wanted.

"It was magical," Tucker said. "Other students wandered in from other classes during break time and worked alongside my artists, adding their personal touches. It truly was a col-



Story Continued Next Page





laborative, community bonding, artistically expressive workshop with surprising and delightful beauty, both artistically and personally.”

Thirty students participated in the Summer Mural Project. During the month-long course they painted several murals. One of the murals was on the high school’s greenhouse storage shed. One side of the shed depicted a scene with flowers, mushrooms, bees, dragonflies and desert plants in the bright sunshine, while the other side depicted a moonscape garden with magical flowers and stars.

For one of the murals, the art class collaborated with the welding and fabrication class, which was doing its own summer enrichment program. The welding program provided the art class with four sheets of 4 by 8 foot sheets of scrap metal with cutout silhouettes.

The object of this lesson included blending and ombre techniques. The student integrated those techniques while painting scenes of the desert seasons on the metal, one season per sheet.

Ms. Tucker donated an old truck that belongs to her and let her students paint a mural all over its black body. The class also painted a mural on the city library’s book return box.

In addition to the creative side of the mural class, Tucker also taught her class the professional side of being a mural painter, which included

- Approaching and working with clients, commissioning a mural.
- How to brainstorm designing sessions with your client.
- Meeting the needs of the client and adding your personal flair to the mural.
- How to paint a variety of murals, large and small.
- Supplies needed, how to use the tools and why those specific tools are necessary.
- Artistic techniques to enlarge images using the “grid method” of drawing.
- Demonstrations of mural painting techniques which included blending, scaffolding, shading, perspective, emotions, vibrancy of colors, thematic approaches, color wheel choices, size, shape, design and composition.

Ms. Tucker says Page High School’s art program is looking for more opportunities to collaborate with the Page community to continue creating murals during the regular school year.



# Page Youth Band Awarded Grant from Arizona Community Foundation

Page, Ariz. - The Page Community Youth Band is pleased to announce that we have once again been awarded a grant by the Page/Lake Powell Community Fund, a component fund of the Arizona Community Foundation\*. This time the amount is \$3,500, and this will enable the band to expand on the brass instrument inventory of the band, particularly introducing baritones to the ensemble. The last two years the band has had an annual partnership with PUSD. But the band relies on parent involvement and resources independently owned or donated by members of the community. The grant from the Arizona Community Foundation provides additional resources to ensure there are band instruments to loan.

With encouragement from former superintendent Robert Varner, the Page Community Youth Band was created in 2020, and seeks to offer the best instructional research to the wider Page community how the brain learns.

The PCYB program is able to follow up with previous experiences students of Mr. Kimball has worked with, in programs such as choral singing, violins, Orff, dance, rhythmic movement training and even trombones. Those students are now in middle school or beyond, and through programs such as Recorder Karate, also have experience with self-directed learning.

One of the aims of the band is to acquaint students with rich traditions of music education, and practices from the world outside of growing up in a rural community. Young musicians utilize a whole brained approach and experience the beauty of music early in the process of learning. The concept and demonstrated mastery of pitch is as essential to a meaningful music education as addition and subtraction are to math. A successful band program is built on a foundation which includes building blocks of pitch, timbre, balance and blend. By applying blueprints developed by band directors such as William Revelli (1902-1994) and his proteges, students learn that musical expression is the most paramount skill. Greg Hanson, a member of Revelli's bands in the 1960's, was the college band director who taught Revelli's methods to PUSD teacher Spencer Kimball. But it doesn't occur without mastering the basics and good work habits.

Contrary to some popularly held beliefs, when learning occurs in the brain it does not occur by segmented subject areas nor in separate brain locations, but many subjects and areas of the brain are bridged all at once in the learning process. Young children have a musical brain and pitch reinforcement exercises can be a great



developmental whole brain workout for them. Research indicates that even before birth, development of this inner ear for music can be accelerated simply by have children listen to melodies and chord progressions. Especially during the formative years of inner brain development from infancy to age 8, using music as a brain enrichment practice should be a fundamental part of every family's culture.

The Page Community Youth Band is open to all youth between the ages of 9-18 and makes efforts to find a way to accommodate the membership of every student that wants to join, including home-schooled students. For more information on how to join, please contact Spencer Kimball at (928)660-3974.

*\* Established in 1978, the Arizona Community Foundation is a statewide family of charitable funds supported by thousands of Arizonans. With five regional offices serving communities across Arizona, ACF is among the top 25 community foundations in the nation with more than \$1 billion in trust and endowment assets and is certified under the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. Since inception, ACF and its affiliates have awarded more than \$1 billion in grants, scholarships and loans to nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies. More information is available at [azfoundation.org](http://azfoundation.org).*





# Announcements



## Just A Reminder

The first day of school  
for all PUSD schools  
is Tuesday, August  
10th, 2021.

## BACK TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY FAIR

Saturday, Aug. 7  
9am - 12pm  
CAB parking lot



**Covid-19 Vaccinations Available to All  
(Navajo Nation & Utah Residents Included)**

**Johnson and Johnson, and Moderna vaccine for adults 18 and over.  
Pfizer vaccine for those 12 and older.**

The Back to School Community Fair will also include sports physicals, wellness checks and childhood immunizations.

Reminder: Your child will need to show proof of immunization to attend in-person classes at PUSD schools for the 2021-22 school year.



# PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Discover A New Career With PUSD

The Page Unified School District has great careers for the 2021-22 school year.

The Page Unified School District invites you to visit our campuses on the shores of spectacular Lake Powell. We're one of Arizona's outstanding small school districts with approximately 2,400 students in a rural, active community that is supportive of education. We offer pre-school - 12th grade, a range of support services, special and innovative programs, competitive salaries and benefits, and professional growth opportunities.

Each year we hire many new employees as teachers, counselors, psychologists, secretaries, computer technicians, bus drivers and maintenance/custodian workers to name a few.

We are an equal opportunity employer that fully and actively supports equal access for all people.



**To learn more about joining our dynamic, dedicated team, please visit:**  
**[www.pageud.org/careers](http://www.pageud.org/careers)**

**We're currently hiring for:**

- Certified Teachers
- Substitute Teachers
- Para-pros
- Various Coaching Positions
- Bus Drivers
- Administrative Assistants
- Custodians
- and Other Positions

To view all positions visit:  
[www.pageud.org/careers](http://www.pageud.org/careers)



### Page Unified School District offers

- Medical, dental, vision and life insurance for full time employees.
- 401(k)







## **YOUTH FORAGE SUMMIT**

# **VIDEO CONTEST**

Native American students in grades 7-12 are invited to enter the Youth Forage Summit Video Contest! Share your traditional food story for a chance to win...

### **PRIZES:**

**IPAD**

**MAVIC MINI**

**GOPRO**

**CASH**

**SUBMISSIONS DUE  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 27TH**

Visit [flowerhill.institute/youth-forage-summit](https://flowerhill.institute/youth-forage-summit) for more information

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE ADDED TO THE SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT

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