

PUSD

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter December 2022

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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.



November 9, 2022

Notes from Regular Board Meeting: November 8, 2022

Page Unified School Board members convened for its Regular Board Meeting Nov. 8, 2022. Board President, Desiree Fowler, and Board Members Sandra Kidman, Charles Weiss and Mike Mangum were present. Superintendent Dr. Bryce Anderson was also present.

During the meeting, Board Member, Charles Weiss, recognized PUSD's Employees of the Month. The Certified Employee of the Month was Pamela Guenther. The Classified Employee of the Month was Mariah DeJolie.

The October Students of the Month were:

Preschool: Cedric Fisk

Lake View Primary: Giovanna Begay

Desert View Intermediate: Rocky Hawker

Page Middle School: Mason Hansen

Page High School: Emma Baughman

Manson Mesa High School: Rhianna Reed

Sage & Sand Virtual Academy: Seyana Masawiestewa

Board Members Mike Mangum, Chuck Weiss, Sandra Kidman and Des Fowler all presented Board Reports. Superintendent Bryce Anderson presented a Superintendent's Report.

The Board approved all items on the Consent Agenda.

The Board approved the Calendar of Events, with one amendment. It moved Supt. Anderson's Superintendent Evaluation back 45 minutes to avoid a time conflict with Manson Mesa High School's graduation.

The Board approved Additional Agenda Items, which included: adoption of Policy Advisory Volume 34, no. 3, the Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Information.

Discussion and approval of job description for Academic Services Assistant.

Discussion and approval of job description for Safety and Security Coordinator.

HVAC replacement for Lake View Room 49.

Maintenance and upkeep for Lake View retaining walls.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD

Desiree Fowler
President

Sandra Kidman
Clerk

Charles Weiss
Member

Mike Mangum
Member

Superintendent
Dr. Bryce C. Anderson

Page Unified School District
500 South Navajo Dr. Page, AZ 86040



SPOTLIGHT ON Jenise Bartholomew

27 YEARS WITH PUSD



It's early December and Jenise Bartholomew's classroom is taking on the feeling of Christmas. A Christmas tree is already standing and a few other Christmas decorations are starting to appear on the walls.

On another wall, each student is spotlighted as a "star student" with a flower that is displayed with their picture. The other students have written something nice about that student on the flower petals.

Outside Ms. Bartholomew's classroom, the walls of the first grade hallway have been decorated to look like train cars of the Polar Express. The faces of each student appear in each train car window. Ms. Bartholomew and the other first grade teachers stayed after school on December 1 to create the Christmas art installation.

Ms. Bartholomew likes her classroom to be colorful and organized, the latter not always an easy task with a room full of first graders. And right now, her classroom has that extra buzz of energy that every classroom in America has right now, during the spirited period between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

All in all, the room has a nurturing, caring atmosphere.

This is Ms. Bartholomew's 28th year teaching. She has taught at Lake View Primary her entire teaching career.

During her career she was a Reading Specialist for two years, teaching students grades first through fifth grade. The other 26 years she had taught first and second grade. She currently teaches first grade.

Ms. Bartholomew realized she wanted to be a school teacher when she was in sixth grade.

"As I finished my school years, I was inspired to be a teacher because of several teachers that taught me," she said. "Those teachers had a love for learning and for teaching. Education is important to me because I love to learn and I want to help my students learn and cultivate a love for learning."

When asked what keeps her motivated, she says with a laugh, "Summer break!"

She's kidding a little, but as any teacher will tell you, the break is important. Besides allowing her some time to recharge and reflect, it adds a sense of closure and completion to the year just finished, and allows her to move into the mindset of preparing for a new set of students.

Starting a new school year is a part of the job Ms. Bartholomew enjoys most.

See BARTHOLOMEW pg. 15

Boys Cross-Country Takes State Title



The Page High School boys cross-country team brought home the 3A championship Saturday. Salpointe Catholic finished in second place, Holbrook finished third, Snowflake finished fourth, Lee Williams finished fifth and Shadow Mountain finished sixth.

Freshman runner Symond Martin had the best finish for the Page runner, coming in eighth place with a time of 16:47.2. Martin is the top-ranked freshman cross-country runner in Arizona.

Quentin Davis finished 10th with a time of 16:56.1; Tanner Dugi placed 22nd with a time of 17:17.0; Elijah Reed placed 33rd with a time of 17:37.2; Gavyn Begay finished 49th with a time of 17:51.0; Max Reid placed 141st with a time of 19:25.2.

The boys cross country team placed second in the 3A championship meet last year.

The girls cross country team placed sixth in the 3A championship meet Saturday, led by Jade Reid who finished in sixth place with a time of 20:01.1. Reid, a junior, placed ninth in the championship meet last year.

Alyssa Harris finished 24th with a time of 21:21.5; Isabella Manning placed 59th with a time of 22:30.7; Sofia Cam-

bridge placed 66th with a time of 22:40.7; Kristin Harris placed 77th with a time of 22:54.9, Leiann Maize finished 96th with a time of 23:12.9.

The boys team took second place in the cross-country finals last year.

The boys cross-country team took its first championship in 1989, and it has won a total of 18 championship titles since then.

The boys team had an outstanding year this year. In addition to winning the 3A championship and the 3A North Region meet, they also won Canyon de Chelly, Prescott and Winslow Invitationals, and finished third at the Ojo Rojo Invitational, which is one of the largest meets in the western U.S. with a lot of big school team attending, and third at Castillo Invitational.

Three of this year's scoring varsity boys will graduate this spring. Quentin Davis, Tanner Dugi and Gavyn Begay. The three have run together since they were sixth graders.

"Winning a championship was a nice way to cap off their careers at Page schools," said cross-country head coach Tim

Photos from “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”





The Page High School Musical Theatre Department delivered a wonderful musical production of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat last week.

The production featured fantastic acting, singing, choreography and well-polished talent.

THANK YOU cast and crew for sharing your amazing talents with our community. We are lucky and blessed to have you!

Marching Band Finishes Strong



After a successful season, the Page High School marching band gave a final performance last night at the high school football field.

The marching band recently returned from the state competition where it finished 14th in our division of the AZMBA 1A with a score of 61.093, which is 6.6 points better than they scored last year. The marching band placed 25th out of 42 marching bands, and the Colorguard placed seventh out of 42.

This year's marching band was nearly twice as big as it has been in recent years with 34 students, with a large crop of incoming freshmen joining their ranks.

"We really had an influx of students who wanted to be a part of it this year," said Marching Band Director, David Johnson.

The marching band begins preparing in July with a week-long camp and its members devote large amounts

of practice time after school, after school is in session. One of the main objectives of the summer camp is to allow the members to bond with each other.

"We really encouraged this year for them to know everyone in the band, not the people in their section," said Johnson. "This helps us play better, I think, and allows us to support each other better. We really pushed that supportive culture this year.

"I am incredibly proud of these kids and I could not ask more from them. They put every ounce of heart and soul into this, and put on an incredible show this year."

As the program moves forward, Johnson encourages the community to lend its support of the marching band and colorguard students who put so much into what they do.

Desert View Honors Page Veterans

In honor of Veterans Day, Desert View Intermediate School held its second annual Veterans Day Salute. The event was organized by Desert View's music teacher, Joshua Brink. This is the second year Brink organized an event honoring America's veterans. This year's ceremony was held in the Page High School gym.

The hour-long ceremony began with a flag ceremony performed by Boy Scout Troop 7911, and included short speeches from several Desert View students, and patriotic musical performances from the Page High School band, and choir. Page Middle School music teacher, Alex Moore performed taps on his trumpet.

Part of the ceremony included a "singing flag" where Desert View students and teachers dressed in red, white and blue shirts. They gathered in the high school bleachers, divided in groups dressed in red, white and blue, and performed songs between speeches.

Long-time Page resident and veteran Amanda Hammond spoke to the students about the honor of serving her country in the armed forces. Hammond is a Major in the Army National Guard. She has served from 2002 to present. During her long military career, Hammond has served in Afghanistan from 2006 to 2007. She was also stationed in Guantanamo Bay from 2014-15. Hammond was also the Grand Marshall in Page's Veteran's Day Parade this year.

"It makes me happier to have someone wish me Happy Veteran's Day, than happy birthday," she told the crowd.

Hammond is proud of her service and the sacrifices she has made to make America a better place. One of the big highlights of Hammond's military career has been the other people she has met and helped during that journey.



"I've got to help some of them accomplish their own goals, and in return they have help me accomplish mine," she said.

Working to preserve American democracy and freedom are the principles behind Hammond's desire to serve in the military.

"It's the idea of serving our country, no matter what are beliefs are about politics or the economy," she said. "I've dedicated my life to fight for everyone else's opinions and protect our freedom to continue to be a democracy.

It's not about my beliefs, but ensuring the right that everyone else can express their beliefs."

Hammond says it's also important to remember the sacrifices made by the veteran's families.

"When we recognize veterans, we also need to recognize the families behind them. It's not easy for them to give up a family member for months or years at a time, so they can do what

Balloon Regatta 2022



Several PUSD teachers and staff got to participate in this year's Balloon Regatta. We experienced fantastic weather Saturday and Sunday and had a great time! We were paired with a balloon pilot from Tuscon.

Choir Receives “Excellent with Distinction” at Choir Festival



The Page High School Concert Choir earned a rating of “Excellent with Distinction” when they attended the Fall High School Choral Festival in Flagstaff. The rating qualifies them to perform at the state festival in March. This is the first time the choir has qualified to go to state since 2019.

The choir is directed by Mikayla Forbes, who says her students deserve the honor.

“For a lot of these kids, this was their first time ever going to an adjudicated festival. I think it’s really cool that this is their first festival experience and they got a score that’s good enough to take them to state.”

The students sing for two judges, who then give them a score on their performance. The choir students also do a sight reading. During the sight reading, students are given music they’ve never seen before and . . .

Doing a cold sight reading is a challenge for any choir, says Forbes.

“They don’t know what key it’s in, they don’t know what the rhythm’s going to be. They don’t know anything about this piece of music.”

After receiving the music, the students are allowed a five-minute study period to look at the music, and practice the rhythm but they’re not allowed to sing it. After the first

study period, the students then perform the piece together. Following this, the students are given a second study period where they can review, and sing and go over the measures they may have gotten wrong. They are then allowed to sing it a final time for the judges, who give them a score for the overall sight reading.

The Page High School Concert Choir received a rating of “Excellent”, which is the second highest score, for its prepared performance, and the “with Distinction” was added for their performance of the sight-reading.

“What that means for us, is that we qualify to go to the state festival in March,” said Forbes.

The Fall Choral Festival also includes a workshop with one of the judges

“The judge walks up to the stage and works directly with the students,” said Forbes. “It’s kind of a mini-master class.”

Forbes has 18 students in her concert choir class this year, a big increase over the ten students she had last year. In recent years the number of students participating in band, choir, orchestra and marching band have been much lower due to concerns about Covid exposure.

You can watch the Choir Concert perform their Christmas Concert on Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Building.

PHS On-Campus Photo Contest

Page High School graphic design and multi-media class announced the winners of its photography contest held last month. The contest included students from Kyran Keisling's and Misty's Smith's multi-media classes, which includes photography.

Reese Cooper came away with first place, Tairick Tadytin took second and Donovan Sands placed third. Ethan Woods, Jamen McNutt and Sierra Golba received Honorable Mentions.

The contest had only one requirement: the photo must be taken on campus. The photos the students turned-in ranged widely in subject matter and compositional elements. Part of the project Keisling hoped to instill in his students is to slow down, look around and look for the beauty in the every day.

"If you slow down and look around you can find it almost anywhere," said Keisling.

"Not only do they learn photo composition techniques, but they also learn that beauty can be found even in the most mundane of places," said their teacher Kyran Keisling.

The photos were judged by the Page High School student body. The judging criteria was simple: Choose your favorite photo.

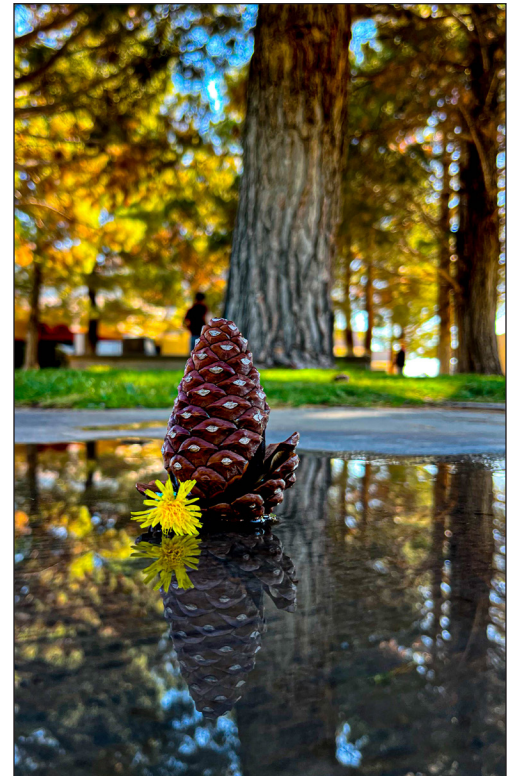
Of the photos submitted, 116 got at least one vote for Best Photo.

"It just goes to show you how different people see beauty," said Keisling.

What one person finds interesting in a photo may not appeal to other people, Keisling said, and that's a lesson that's just as important for photographers and artists to learn as compositional elements and tech-



Reese Cooper | 1st Place



Tairick Tadytin | 2nd Place



Donovan Sands | 3rd Place

nique. It's rare that a single piece of work will appeal to a mass audience, said Keisling, but some people and some groups of people will. It's important for the students learn not to get discouraged if their work doesn't

generate wide appeal.

Keisling said the students enjoyed doing the assignment. "They really bought into it and brought back some great work."

2022 American Indian Heritage Month Multi-Cultural Celebration

In commemoration of National Native American Heritage Month, Page High School's Navajo Language and UNITY Club held a series of events to recognize the many contributions that our area's Native Americans bring to the community.

The events ran through the month of November beginning with Singing Mountain Song on Nov. 2, followed by Winter Story night on Nov. 9, a Drum Session on Nov. 16 and Shoe Game on Nov. 30.

The events culminated with a Multi-Cultural Celebration on Nov. 29th which included Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Apache and Filipino performers.

The groups performed two shows in the Page High School gym. One performance was for elementary-aged students and the other was for middle school and high school-aged students.

In the past, the Multi-Cultural Celebration has visited each school, but due to the large amount of instruments and regalia, as well as audio equipment the events were consolidated in one location this year.

The main event was held later that evening at Red Heritage. The Red Heritage dancers performed hoop dances, northern man and northern woman traditional dances, the Shawl Dance and the Jingle Dance.

During the evening performance, the Navajo Language and UNITY Club also recognized several area sponsors and volunteers who have helped them with funding and other resources during the last year. The Navajo Language and UNITY Club also honored PUSD Superintendent Bryce Anderson and former Board Member Dee McKerry for the support they have given to the club to help it achieve its objectives.



October Students of the Month



Giovanna Begay
Lake View Primary



Rocky Hawker
Desert View Intermediate



Mason Hansen
Page Middle School



Emma Baughman
Page High School

October Students of the Month



Rhianna Reed
Manson Mesa High School



Seyana Masawiestewa
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Cedric Fisk
Page Preschool

Employees of the Month

Certified Employee of the Month
October 2022

Classified Employee of the Month
October 2022



Pamela Guenther



Mariah DeJolie

BARTHOLOMEW from pg. 2

“I look forward to a new bunch of students each year.”

One of her favorite, most gratifying parts of her job is teaching her first graders reading, math, and writing.

“I like seeing the growth each student makes from the beginning of the year to the end,” she said. “Each day is a challenge and I never get bored. There are always things I can work on to be a better teacher.”

Those words were never truer than during the pandemic.

“I had to learn new technology to teach online, and I had to rethink how to best teach reading, writing, and math in an online setting,” said Ms. Bartholomew.

“Teaching during the Covid pandemic was a challenge for teachers and for the students,” said Ms. Bartholomew. “It was difficult to keep the students engaged and online the whole time. It was hard to do writing assignments and small reading and math groups. Students of this age need to be with other students to learn social skills. It was also difficult for students to use a tablet for many hours daily.”

To make an already-challenging situation even more challenging, more tiring, Ms. Bartholomew was undergoing chemotherapy treatments for cancer at the same time.

“I was not feeling my best some days.”

Every teacher has their favorite times of the year, their favorite classroom or schoolwide activities they look forward to. Ms. Bartholomew has events every month she

looks forward to doing with her students.

“Each month I look forward to doing fun things with the students,” she said. “The students like to do art projects and look forward to fun activities.”

In August, Ms. Bartholomew looks forward to the beginning of school and getting to know her new students. In September, she enjoys doing a unit on patriotic symbols and a unit on apples where her kids taste different apples and pick their favorite. In October she loves doing the Halloween parade and party. In November she likes creating Thanksgiving placemats with food, and the Balloon Regatta. In December, it's Christmas stockings, Christmas Around the World, Polar Express, Beehive Home caroling to elderly residents, and the school play. In January her class makes Snowflake snowmen. In February, she looks forward to the Valentine's Day party and making face silhouettes. In March her classroom hatches chicks in an incubator. In April they hatch butterflies and do Read Across America, and in May are the fun field trips to Dinosaur Museum and hiking at Toadstools.

“Jenise is an excellent teacher in every aspect,” said Lake View Primary Principal, Brian Henderson. “She is kind, caring, and has high expectations for all her kids. The systems and operations she carries out on a daily basis are flawless, from her whole group instruction to the activities kids do during their small group work time. She is a true leader in this building.”

CROSS-COUNTRY from pg. 3

Martin.

Looking forward, Coach Martin has his eyes on Symond Martin and Maximus Reid, both of whom are freshmen, as well as Elijah Reed, a junior. Coach Martin expects Symond and Maximus to be in the top-ten runners next year.

“Those three will be our big, impactful runners next year,” said Coach Martin, “but we'll have to bring on some additional runners next year to be competitive as a team.”

The girls team had some big accomplishments this year too, including finishing third at the Ojo Rojo Invitational, and second place at the 3A North Region meet. The girls team was led by Jade Reid.

“Jade put in the work, that's why she ran so well this year,” said Coach Martin. “She came to summer practice all summer. I knew at that point she was going to run pretty well this year.”

Reid PRd this year with a time of 19:07, and won sectional. “That was a huge win for her because she beat an opponent from Chinle that she's never beat before, and ran a minute faster on that course than she did last year. That just shows the improvement she's made this year.” Reid is a junior this year. Coach Martin expects big things from her next year.

they need to do.”

While having his students prepare for the Singing Flag portion of the ceremony, Brink used the Teachable Moment opportunity to give his students additional instruction about Veterans Day and the reason the U.S. sets aside a day every year to honor its veterans.

“I want the students to understand why they get a day off of school,” Brink said. “It’s important for them to appreciate our veterans and the sacrifices they have made for all of us.”

Brink had his students bring in photos of the veterans

in their families. He ended up receiving 54 photos of family veterans, and he turned them into a slideshow that he shared with his students and their families.

“It became pretty clear that our families are very proud of their veterans and it was great to give them a platform to share that,” he said.

Brink got the inspiration to do a Singing Flag honoring veterans from Nina Frank, a music teacher he worked with in a Florida school district, prior to coming to Page.

