

PUSD

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter Nov. 2023

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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.

Meet Lucy Byrom

Artist, cheerleader, trumpet player, stage tech.



Lucy Byrom is a smart, curious, gifted, outgoing student who's very involved in school activities. You can find her playing the trumpet in marching band, spinning a flag, saber or rifle in Winterguard, working with sound and lighting at the CAB as part of the Tech Club or on the sidelines of a basketball game cheering with the cheer team.

Byrom is a veteran of the Marching Band, Winterguard and Tech Club, but this year is her first time ever being a cheerleader, and even she's a bit surprised to find herself there.

"I never expected to be a cheerleader," she said, "but I'm loving it."

Her favorite part about being on the cheer team is the new friends she's making.

Though Byrom is enthusiastic about band, cheer and Tech Club, her true passion is illustration.

"Working as an illustrator at Pixar would be my dream job," she said.

She has been drawing since she could hold a pencil.

"I don't have memories of a time before I was drawing," she said. "It's my passion. It's my calling."

She works with charcoal and colored pencils in sketchbooks, but lately she's been spending more time sketching on a digital sketchpad using a stylus, or even just her finger. The digital sketchpad allows her to be more inventive and experimental, and take more chances. If something doesn't work out, she can easily undo the latest addition to the

sketch without having to discard the entire work.

"The undo button is amazing!" she said.

Sue Tucker, Byrom's art teacher, is always impressed by the quality of the work Byrom produces.

"She's extremely dedicated to developing her artistic talent," Tucker said. "She comes in the art room during lunch, and before and after school to work on her art, and her art is outstanding."

"She challenges herself to high rigor and takes the assignments to a high level, far above what's required for the assignment."

Coming in a close second behind illustration is Byrom's love for the tech side of the theater world. As a member of the Tech Club, she helps run any shows and performances happening in the CAB. She helps with lighting, sound and stage management. A recent trip to The Hale Theater in Salt Lake City got her thinking about a career in stage management. As a back up in case the Pixar thing doesn't work out. Byrom's aunt works for the Hale Theater and, knowing her nieces love for the theater (especially the behind the scenes parts) the aunt arranged for Byrom to take an exclusive tour.

"My aunt was able to get me in the booth during a performance," Byrom said. "It was amazing to see how they run things. I just loved the energy of it all. It got me thinking that it could be a possible career."

Whatever Byrom decides to do, we're sure her passion, talent, curiosity and intellect will take her far.

Brooklyn Swinton is Arizona Soccer Shoutout Champion!



Brooklyn Swinton, a second grader at Lake View Primary, is state champion of the Elks Super Soccer Shootout.

The Elks Super Soccer Shootout is for youths ages seven to 15. It's separated into contests for boys and girls in five different age groups; 7 and under, 8-9 years, 10-11 years, 12-13 years and 14-15 years. Page's Elks Lodge held its soccer shootout last September to coincide with soccer season.

In the Super Soccer Shootout, soccer players try to kick five soccer balls into five different goals that vary in size from 17 to 48 inches, from a distance of 15 to 20 feet.

Brooklyn Swinton won the Page area soccer shootout with the highest score in Arizona's Western District, which qualified her to compete at the state level in Phoenix where she competed against four other regional winners.

Brooklyn scored the highest of the five contestants scoring 33 out of 45 points to become the Arizona State Super Soccer Shootout champion.

Page Elks Lodge paid \$150 toward travel expenses for the Swinton family to travel to Phoenix for the event.

Brooklyn is the daughter of Wyatt and Roxanne Swinton.

Congratulations Brooklyn!

Photos from Marching Band Performance



PUSD Hosts Multi-Cultural Celebration Day



Page Unified School District held its annual Multicultural Celebration Day the last week of November. The event incorporated several different indigenous nations, including Diné, Hopi, Apache, and Filipino. Each group performed a number of their traditional songs and dances.

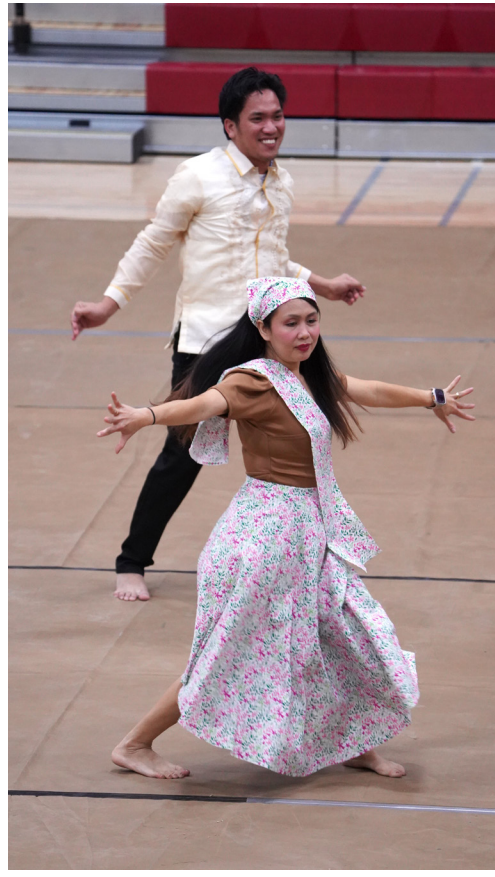
The purpose of the Multicultural Celebration Day was to provide an opportunity to commemorate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, heritages and histories of American Indians and acknowledge the important contributions they bring to society.

The celebration was an all-day affair. It took place in the Page High School gym. Throughout the day the groups performed for students from Lake View, Desert View, Page Middle School, Manson Mesa High School and Page High School. The groups gave an additional performance in the

evening that was open to the public.

The event was organized by Carlos Begay, PUSD's Indian Education Office Coordinator, with help from his assistant Lorraine Allen. Planning, organizing and executing the event took months of phone calls and emails to organize the logistics of arrival, departure, lodging and travel. Begay says the long hours and effort was well worth it. It's a chance to bring back many things that were lost or hidden during the decades when Native Americans were killed, removed from their ancestral lands and forced to assimilate into white culture.

"American Indians have been severed from our language and culture for so long, for many generations and now our young people have a real hunger to learn their language, their traditions, heritage and culture," said Begay. "We have



young people who are seeking out their traditions, heritage and culture. They're yearning for that knowledge. And that knowledge, that heritage, those traditions are vital and important. Our children need that."

The Multicultural Celebration Day was just one of several events Begay, Allen and the Indian Education Office organized in November, which is National American Indian Heritage Month.

The Indian Education Office also held its annual UNITY Pageant, held an evening of traditional storytelling in the high school Hogan, and played the Shoe Game, a traditional Navajo game.

If the indigenous youth see that such things are still important to the older generations, it reinforces to them that these things still matter, that they're still important,

said Begay.

All the events for National American Indian Heritage Month were also open to non-natives. It was a great chance for non-natives to witness and take part in the rich heritage of their indigenous neighbors.

Because the new generation of Diné students have a deep curiosity for their history and heritage, engaging with them on those topics is a great way to empower and motivate them, Begay said.

Page High School and Page Middle School offer Navajo government and Navajo language classes and they are some of the best-liked and well-attended classes among PUSD's Diné students. They are also increasingly popular with many of PUSD's non-native students.

Mr. Naat'áanii Hastiin, Miss Naat'áanii 'Aadzáni Crowned at UNITY Pageant



Archie Hunt was crowned Mr. PHS Naat'áanii Hastiin, and Tyra American-Horse was crowned Miss Naat'áanii 'Aadzáni at this year's UNITY Pageant, which was held in mid-November in Page High School's Cultural Arts Building.

American-Horse says being chosen as Miss PHS Naat'áanii 'Aadzáni is a big honor, and something she plans to take very seriously. For her traditional talent, she performed the Jingle Dress Dance. For her modern talent she stood on stage and told jokes.

American-Horse, a senior at Page High School, has been part of the UNITY Club since her sophomore year.

"This is a big honor for me," she said. "It's a huge opportunity to be more involved in leadership, and I think this role will bring out the part of me that represents the Navajo Nation."

Hunt says any opportunity to represent the UNITY Club, the school district and the Navajo community is always an honor.

During the UNITY Pageant, he performed a Northern Traditional Dance for his traditional talent, and played the Tuba as his modern talent.

In their new roles, Hunt and American-Horse will serve as indigenous representatives for the students, teachers

and staff of PUSD and the broader community.

The UNITY Pageant is one of several programs organized by PUSD's Indian Education

Indian Education Office Coordinator, Carlos Begay says being on stage while performing and answering tough questions in front of family and peers a great way to build confidence, character and motivation, and develop traits that leaders possess.

This year's pageant included seven contestants. During the competition, contestants had to perform a traditional talent, a non-traditional talent and answer questions from the judges.

Between performances from the contestants, the pageant also featured fashion modeling featuring designs from Bitahni Boutique and Breezy Designs. The fashion houses are owned and operated by Diné entrepreneurs, Jessie Manygoats and Marian Mike respectively.

The pageant was Emceed by Carlos Begay. The judges for this year's UNITY Pageant were Revington Babu, Acacia Williams, Dee McKerry and Paul Begay.

Tyra American Horse also gave the Welcome Remarks at the beginning of the pageant and Amy Begay, Miss Navajo Nation, was the event's motivational speaker. Her remarks came near the end of the program.



October Students of the Month



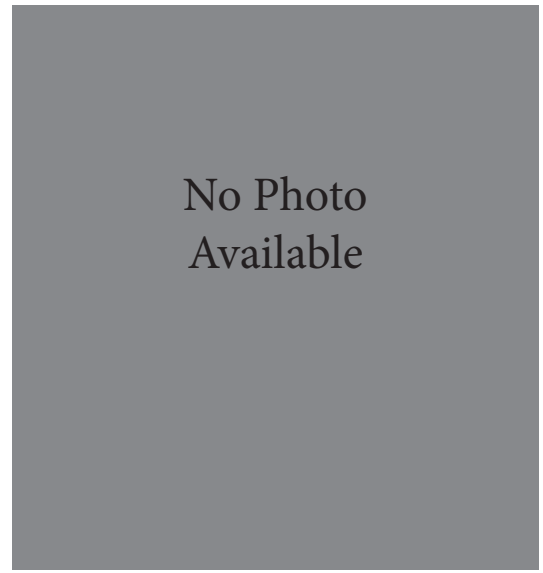
Gwendolyn John
Lake View Primary



Raylena Thompson
Desert View Intermediate



Carmel Hermosilla
Page Middle School



Chase Williams
Page High School

October Students of the Month



Tommy Nelson
Manson Mesa High School



Gracie Clay
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Everett Rothlisberger
Preschool

Employees of the Month

Certified Employee of the Month
Oct. 2022



Gloria Prall

Classified Employee of the Month
Oct. 2022



Catherine Patterson