

# PUSD

# PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter Nov. 2023

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



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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.

# CONGRATULATIONS SYMOND MARTIN!



Symond Martin, a sophomore at Page High School, had an outstanding 2023 cross-country season.

This season he was awarded the 2023-24 3A North Runner of the Year.

Martin was runner-up at this year's state championship, coming in just three seconds behind the winner.

He led the Runnin' Devils boys team to this year's state championship title.

Martin also took first place at 3A Sectional Meet, at the Peaks Invitational, the Chinle Invitational and the Casteel Invitational.

Way to go, Symond!

# PUSD is In Need of Your Input

The Page Unified School District is interested in your thoughts and input regarding a four-day school week. Gathering input from our parents, students, teachers, staff and community is vitally important to the decision-making process.

We have provided on the following pages information related to a four-day school week in the form of Frequently Asked Questions and a District calendar for a four-day school week.

PUSD is examining the movement to a 4-day school week beginning SY 2024-2025. Teacher recruitment and retention are two main drivers.

“Teachers matter more to student achievement than any other aspect of schooling. Many factors contribute to a student’s academic performance, including individual characteristics and family and neighborhood experiences. But research suggests that, among school-related factors, teachers matter most. When it comes to student performance on reading and math tests, teachers are estimated to have two to three times the effect of any other school factor, including services, facilities, and even leadership.

## Proposed Calendar

**Dates:** August 5, 2024 to May 22, 2025

**147 Day Calendar**

**Class Time:** 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Monday - Thursday**

July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	
Su: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	Su: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	Su: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30	Su: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	1st & Last day of School
				New Teachers
				Returning Teachers
				Staff Professional Development
				Parent/Teacher Conf Week
				No School
				# Holiday (no school)
				Graduation
				Summer School
November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	
Su: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30	Su: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	Su: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	Su: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28	
March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	
Su: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	Su: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30	Su: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	Su: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30	Summer School

# 4-Day School Week FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Students

#### Why do the school hours increase with a 4-day school week?

- The school day will extend 30 minutes. There are minimum hours and minimum number of days required for instruction set by Arizona Department of Education. By lengthening the day, the district is able to recoup some of the hours they will lose by moving to a 4 days week.

#### What impact will this have on academic learning?

- The research is mixed on the impact of four-day weeks on student achievement.

#### How will we ensure that quality instruction will be provided with fewer instructional minutes?

- Professional development addressing appropriate pacing of instruction will be provided so that all key principles and lessons are covered; setting our students and teachers up for success.

#### Will this impact my ability to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities?

- Athletic programs and other extracurricular activities will continue to be offered. However, transportation will not be provided by the school district when school is not in session.

#### Will this affect after school programming?

- Tutoring will continue to be available after each school day.

#### Will I still be able to have release time? (PHS only)

- Yes, Release time would still be available.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Teachers & Staff

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#### Will certified staff see a decrease in contracted salary due to teaching less days?

- There would be no decrease to certified contracts.

#### What will work hours look like for professional staff?

- The work day will be adjusted in order to mirror the extended day. Contracted work hours will be 7:15 am- 4:15 pm.

#### What will this do to staff meetings and PLC meetings?

- Certified employees will have a scheduled work day one Friday most months. These days will be reserved for Professional development, PLC meetings, and staff meetings.

#### What would PD Days look like for teachers?

- Professional development days could be once a month or every other month.

#### How will this impact the classified staff?

- Full time, classified staff will remain benefits eligible with hours ranging from 32-40 hours per week.

#### How will the 4-day schedule impact my leave?

- Leave accrual will be calculated by our employee information software according to District policy.

# 4-Day School Week FAQs

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### Parent & Community

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#### **Will this impact my student's ability to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities?**

- Athletic programs and other extracurricular activities will continue to be offered. However, transportation will not be provided by the school district when school is not in session.

#### **Will meals be provided for students on Fridays?**

- PUSD will not be able to provide meals for students on days when school is not in session.

#### **Will there be anything for my child to do or activities available for the child on Fridays?**

- PUSD will not provide activities or childcare when school is not in session.

#### **Will there be any changes made to the transportation of students to and from school?**

- Bus routes will still run before and after school Monday through Thursday. Activity buses will also continue to run Monday through Thursday.

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## General Information

#### **Dates:**

August 5th, 2024- May 22nd, 2025 (Monday- Thursday) Time: 8:00 am -3:30 pm

#### **Other:**

147 Day calendar

#### **What are the benefits of a 4-day week?**

- Teacher retention and recruitment.
- Student and staff morale.
- Increased opportunities for travel to occur for appointments and/or leisure activities; additional time for families.

After reading the information, please take our survey at [pageud.org/4dayschool](http://pageud.org/4dayschool)

# PUSD Turns Balloon Science into Fun



**T**he Page Unified School District partnered with the City of Page, which organized several opportunities for PUSD students and teachers to engage with hot air balloons and balloon pilots during this year's Balloon Regatta.

It began Thursday morning when balloon pilots visited Lake View Primary, Desert View Intermediate and Page Middle School. The students got to watch as the balloon pilots and their crews laid out the balloons on the lawn and inflated them. Back inside the classrooms, student learned the science behind how a balloon lifts off, floats in the air, and is moved by air currents.

In Jody Talbot's fifth grade science class, students got to move from flight theory to hands-on application when they built their own balloons out of tissue paper, glue, tape and pipe cleaners. As part of Thursday's Balloon Regatta Education Day, the kids carried their delicate balloons to the Desert View playground where City of Page employees helped them test-fly their creations. The Page employees brought with them a chimney that fit over a standard propane burner. The paper balloons are held over the chimney and filled with hot air until they're ready to float away, at which point the person manning the chimney lets the balloon go. Some fly forty or fifty feet in the air and drift across the

See **BALLOONS** pg. 13

# PUSD Students Give Rousing Performance of “The Scarlet Pimpernel”



An ensemble of talented students from Page High School and Page Middle School gave a rousing performance of “The Scarlet Pimpernel” in October.

This colorful adventure was the eighth musical directed by Lynda Nolan, who also teaches middle school and high school choir for the school district. Nolan was also the show’s choreographer and she directed and rehearsed the play outside of her regular teaching requirements, choir concerts and tryouts.

“It was like having two full-time jobs,” she said.

Auditions for “Pimpernel” were held the second week of school, and rehearsals began Aug. 9th. During the two and a half months of rehearsal, the actors learned four big dance and singing sequences, and several smaller ones.

“I was so proud of the kids,” Nolan said. “This show turned out to be one of my favorites. The actors really

nailed it. I love the music in it and the kids worked hard and some of the scenes flowed so smoothly; they were just seamless. I just love it when the show and the kids reach that level.”

“Pimpernel” saw many veteran actors return to the stage. Zoe Tate, James Nolan, Reed Nolan and Samuel Robertson played the leads this year. James and Zoe have played lead roles in years past when they were The Beast and Belle in “Beauty and the Beast.”

Madison Case, Alexandra Terry, Aaron Rankin, Sienna Wertz, Kylie Robertson, Marcus Szabo, Steven Terry, Timothy Kidman, Alexia Johnson, Maggie Anderson and Emmalyn Wischmann were “The League of the Scarlet Pimpernel,” with several more kids playing ensemble roles.

Dawnell Robertson returned as the production’s Music Director and Assistant Choreographer.





# Photos From Lake View's Fall Festival



# Page High School Runnin' Devils Boys are State Champions!



Page High School boy's cross-country team brought home the state championship trophy Saturday afternoon, capping what has been an outstanding running season. The boys cross-country team also took the championship last year and in 2019. The team was state championship runner up in 2020 and 2021.

Symond Martin, a Page High School sophomore, was the runner-up at this year's state championships. He was edged out by the winner by just three seconds. Martin was also awarded Division III North Runner of the Year for his accomplishments over a very impressive season that also included first place finishes at the Peaks Invitational, the Chinle Invitational and the Casteel Invitational.

Prior to the championship race, Symond and cross-country head coach Tim Martin (who is also Symond's father) discussed different race scenarios, which included getting in front of a certain segment of the runners before the end of the race so he wouldn't be caught in the scrum at the end

of the race when they all made the final push to the end.

The runner who ended up coming in first, Zach Albanese, made a big move about halfway through the 5K course that placed a ten meter gap between him and the runners behind him.

"Symond was running him down, but ran out of field before he could do it," said Coach Martin.

Maximus Reid placed 15th, Nyall Prather placed 25th, Elijah Reed placed 41st, Jaiden Jordan placed 50th, Alek Scott placed 80th and Bryce Williams placed 224th. Prather was the top freshman finisher at state.

The boys cross-country team is poised to remain a powerhouse in the years to come. This year's varsity team will lose just two runners: Bryce Williams and Elijah Reed, who are both seniors. The rest of the boys varsity team are sophomores and freshmen this year.

Page High School's girls team placed 19th overall. Jade Reid took tenth place in the girl's race.

# Dust Devils Football Team is NAIC Champions!



**T**he Page Middle School Dust Devils football team are the 2023 NAIC champions after its 12-8 victory over the Chinle Bobcats.

The Dust Devils received the opening kickoff Wednesday night. Dust Devil Kaden Adakai fielded the kickoff on the left side of the field and carried the ball to his right, into the center of the field which drew the Chinle defenders in that direction in their pursuit. After running about 15 feet, Adakai lateraled the ball to Braylon Rupp who sprinted to the left side of the field. With the bulk of the Chinle defenders moving right in pursuit of Adakai, Rupp found a large, open seam down the near sideline and he carried the ball all the way to the endzone. The Dust Devils were unsuccessful on their PAT, nevertheless they carried a six-point lead with just 19 seconds off the clock.

Chinle's offense also scored on its first possession. Starting on their own 40-yard line, the bobcats steadily and methodically advanced the ball down the field. They completed their drive with a 25-yard jet sweep into the endzone. The Bobcats went for two points on their PAT attempt and they were successful. They led 8-6 with 3:50 remaining in the first quarter.

The Dust Devils scored again on their fourth possession, in the final 40 seconds of the first half after a bit of impromptu trickery. Quarterback Jacoby Daniels passed to Brylon Rupp who pulled in the pass around the 27 yard line and began running. He was corralled by two Chinle defenders and stopped, but not tackled. Before he could be tackled, Rupp lateraled to Andrew Hawker who then car-





ried the ball the remaining 20 yards into the endzone.

Page again came up short on their PAT attempt, but went into the half leading 12 to 8, which would be the game's final score.

The Bobcats finished the season with an impressive 7-2 overall record.

During the course of the season, Braylon Rupp scored 28 touchdowns which is a new record for most touchdowns scored in a season for Page Middle School. He tied the old record of 24 touchdowns during the semi-finals game, and added four more, including one during the championship game.

This was Kyle Ybanez's first year as Page Middle School's football head coach. Coach Ybanez was proud of the way his team played Wednesday night and throughout the season.

"We played tough tonight and that's all I can ask of them," said Coach Ybanez. "It was a battle the whole season. I was very impressed with the kids and how much they wanted to learn about the game and how much they wanted to work every day. I'm very proud of what they accomplished."

Congratulations Dust Devils!

# Sand Devils Football is 3A North Champs!



The Sand Devils are the 3A North Champions after its defense mounted a strong goal-line stand against the Chinle Wildcats in the waning seconds of the game.

On the final drive of the game, the Wildcats offense progressed down the field until it was inside the Sand Devils five-yard line. They trailed 26-33 with less than a minute remaining in the game. They tried a run play up the middle and the Sand Devils D-line stopped it cold. They tried a pass on the next play, and Tyree Stingley sacked the quarterback. On the next play, the Chinle quarterback passed again, looking for a receiver in the endzone. The ball was intercepted by Page middle linebacker Tristan Begay, who took a knee in the endzone.

The Page offense moved to the 20-yard line where the Page quarterback took a snap, took a knee and ran out the clock.

The 33-26 victory capped a remarkable season for the Sand Devils, which finished 7-3 overall, and 5-0 in their section. This is the first time Page football has been the 3A North Champions since 2018.

Chinle won the toss and elected to receive to start the game. The Wildcats offense ran three unsuccessful plays and punted.

The Sand Devils scored on their first play from scrim-

mage. Starting from their own 47 yard line, Page quarterback Joseph Benally connected with his favorite wide receiver Tyree Stingley who pulled in the pass, shook off his defenders and sprinted to the endzone for the game's first score. After a successful PAT from kicker Conner Shirley, the Sand Devils led 7-0 with 9:15 remaining in the first quarter.

Chinle's offense then found its mojo and scored 20 unanswered points. The Wildcats tied the game 7 to 7 with 4 minutes remaining in the first quarter. They scored again in the first quarter off a 40 yard touchdown pass, and once more in the early minutes of the second quarter off a 20 yard pass. They led 20-7 with nine minutes remaining in the second quarter.

Page's offense came alive half way through the second quarter on another pass from Benally to Stingley. Stingley caught the ball near the 50 yard line, broke through a scrum of Wildcat tacklers and ran to the endzone making the score 13-20.

Two possession later, the Chinle offense once again found its rhythm and marched down the field on four and five yard runs from its runningback, Iverson Davis, until they stood on the Sand Devils 15-yard line. But then, in one of the season's most exciting plays, Page cornerback Denali



Sagg intercepted a Chinle pass with one foot in the endzone and ran it all the way back to the opposite end of the field. The Sand Devils went for two on the PAT and got it. After the 100 yard interception return and two-point PAT, Page regained the lead, 21-20 with 1:34 remaining in the half.

The Sand Devils increased their lead 27-20 after yet another touchdown pass to Stingley.

But Chinle's offense wasn't ready to give up yet. On its next possession, the Wildcats put together a patient, steady 70 yard touchdown drive that ate four minutes off the clock. Their PAT was unsuccessful.

The Sand Devils defense came up strong several times in the fourth quarter, making two key stops. The first one came a few minutes into the fourth quarter. Trailing 26-27 nearly half way through the fourth quarter, Chinle faced a fourth down and 1 and decided to go for it rather than punt. Page's defense held and we regained possession.

Page scored once more with 3:24 left in the game, on another touchdown pass from Benally to Stingley, this one for 50 yards, which gave the Sand Devils a seven point, 33-26 lead.

As mentioned above, Chinle mounted a successful drive in the game's waning minutes and were mere yards away from scoring, when Tristan Begay intercepted a pass in the

endzone, effectively ending the game.

Page High School head football coach LeLand "Bubba" Billie was very happy with his team's performance under the Friday night lights.

"They never quit fighting," he said. "We got down early and had to come back and they just never gave up."

Despite the Sand Devils very impressive 7-3 season, and despite being 5-0 in their section, Page will not proceed to postseason play. In previous years, the winner of the 3A North automatically advanced to the first round of the playoffs, but starting this year, only the top 16-ranked teams are invited to the playoffs. Page finished number 20.

"We're pretty disappointed about that," said Coach Billie. "This was our best season since 2018."

Coach Billie is very optimistic about his program's future seasons.

"There was a lot of growth this year, as a team and individually," he said. "We are a young team and we are looking forward to what the future brings."

A great number of Page's top playmakers will return next year, including Tyree Stingley, Joey Benally, Connor Peterson, Landon Mansker, Caleb Nix, Cash Lester, Hunter Billah, Manni Green and Deegan Sparks.

# Sand Devil Golfer, Preston Ross, Places 7th at State



Photos courtesy Lyonel Tso

Preston Ross, a sophomore at Page High School, placed 7th at the DII State Golf Championship on October 27th. Ross shot a -3. Ross was the only golfer from the northern part of the state to qualify for state.

**Congratulations Preston! Thanks for representing Sand Devil Nation!**

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## BALLOONS from pg. 5

playground. Some, due to air leaks, go only a short height and short distance. Some catch fire and burn up.

Desert View fifth grader Summer Tan said it was one of her favorite parts of the school year. She especially liked the creation part of the project.

Creating and flying tissue paper balloons is something Desert View has participated in for years.

“The kids love it,” says Mrs. Talbott. “And some of them create some really good balloons. In the past, we’ve had some fly as far as Wal-Mart.”

It’s something Desert View Principal Mary Stahl looks forward to every year.

“It’s the best weekend in Page,” she said. “I love walking out of the school and seeing them floating in the sky. It’s such a surreal thing. It gives our fifth graders something to look forward to too.”

employees – Clarissa Hanks, Selene Henderson and Erinn Benally – to crew for one of the balloon pilots flying that day. After helping their pilot, Gary Godfrey, and his crew lay out and air up the balloon, Henderson and Benally got to fly in the balloon.

It was the first time flying in a hot air balloon for Benally. She loved it!

“It was absolutely terrifying and amazing, all at once,” she said. “It knocked my socks right off.”

Benally said her flight in the balloon was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. “I was scared all last night and all during the lift off, but I’m so glad I did it. It was great experience. I checked something off my bucket. My favorite part was floating so slow across the city. The slow speed of it was great. It was so nice and calm.”



# Employees of the Month

**Certified Employee of the Month  
Sept. 2022**



Tatyanna Begay

**Classified Employee of the Month  
Sept. 2022**



Bobby Nez

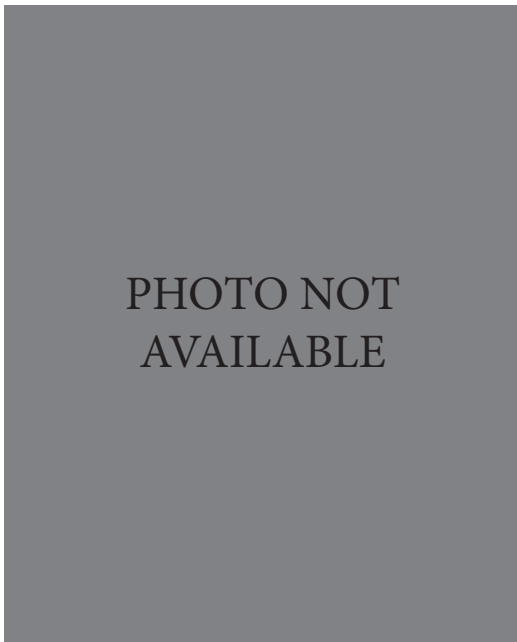
# August Students of the Month



Anyla Douglas  
Lake View Primary



Jocelyn Dalton  
Desert View Intermediate

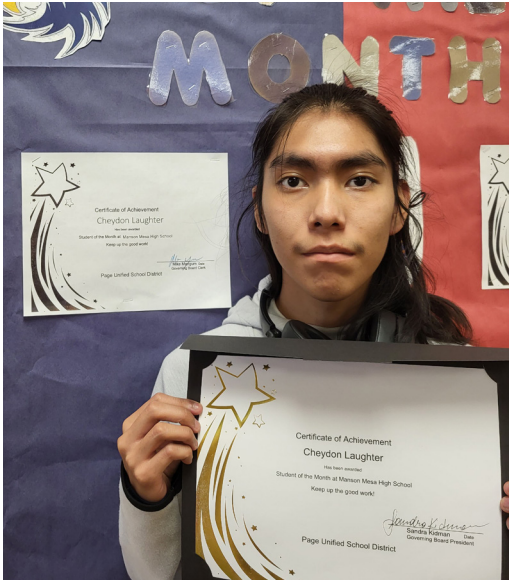


Keimarra June  
Page Middle School



Julian Hatathlie  
Page High School

# August Students of the Month



Cheydon Laughter  
Manson Mesa High School



Nathan Shortman  
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Ares Week  
Preschool