

## Monthly Newsletter Nov. 2021

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**November is Native American Heritage Month!**

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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.



## Notes from Special Board Meeting Nov. 1, 2021

Nov. 2, 2021

Page Unified School Board Members convened for a special meeting on Monday, Nov. 1 for several items of business, including obtaining legal advice from counsel regarding Board Procedures and Discussion of Possible Settlement with Superintendent Larry Wallen.

The board members also agreed in Executive Session to have legal counsel reach out to interim Superintendent candidates. An interim Superintendent will be hired until a permanent Superintendent is selected. That process is to begin effective immediately.

During the same board meeting, board members voted to begin the process of hiring a new Superintendent. The board voted to use the services of the Arizona School Board Association to assist with, and streamline that process.

In the absence of a superintendent, board members voted to give permission to Lynne Hoffman, PUSD's Director of Talent Management, to act as signatory for the District until an interim Superintendent is hired and in place.

The above actions were made necessary after board members voted to place Supt. Larry Wallen on administrative leave, effective Oct. 26, 2021.



# A CHAT WITH ACTOR JORDAN ROBERTSON



**Jordan Robertson plays Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*.**

*Beauty and the Beast* will be performed Nov. 3-6 at the Cultural Arts Building. We caught up with one of the play's actors, Jordan Robertson, just prior to the final dress rehearsal.

Robertson is a junior attending Page High School. He's the son of Tony and Dawnell Robertson, who often accompanies musicals, and other concerts on the piano.

As a member of the Kidman/Robertson/Nolan family, it didn't take too long before Robertson was cast in his first play at the age of only seven or eight-years-old. He played a sailor in *Aladdin*. This is the fifth play/musical Robertson has acted in. He'll be playing the role of Gaston.

Robertson says he caught the acting bug pretty early

in life. "I think I was born with the bug, to be honest," he laughs. "Ever since being in *Aladdin*, I have loved acting, and my love for it has only increased. Throughout the years I've always wanted to be an actor. I remember seeing my brother [Spencer Robertson] acting on stage, and I thought, 'Oh my gosh! I want to do that.'"

Coming from a large extended family of actors, singers, musicians and choreographers, Robertson says an evening of Netflix-and-Chill, often turns into an evening of play-acting with his cousins.

"I'm one of those people who over-enjoys watching movies," he said. "One night we were watching *The Greatest Showman*, and my cousin James and I started acting it out. I played the main character, he played the side character. We ended up acting out the whole thing. We just love it."

Robertson and the rest of the *Beauty and the Beast* actors have been practicing their lines and rehearsing since late August. He said getting ready for this musical has been more challenging than the other musicals he's been in, because they've had a month less preparation time. The reason for the two-month, rather than three-month, rehearsal time is because director Lynda Nolan is expecting a baby in the coming weeks.

Robertson says he's been practicing his lines with his brother, Samuel, who is playing Lefou.

"Gaston's and Lefou's lines go together on certain scenes, so it's working out pretty great."

As passionate as Robertson is about acting, he says his deep passion is playing the piano, and plans to pursue Musical Arts in college. "My mom went into the musical arts for piano, she majored in it, and I really want to do that with my piano skills. There's something about piano that's always given me more of a spark, even more so than acting."

Robertson says sitting down at a piano and playing a piece he's perfected gives him great joy. In recent years, he has expanded his piano skills to include composing music for the piano.

"There's a huge joy in creating your own music," he said. "Once you have written the last note, and then you finally play it, it's kind of mind-blowing. I think, 'Oh my gosh! I created this piece. It's new to the world.'"

Robertson says ultimately he's trying to use his life and talents to spread love in the world. "I just love everyone around me, and I really like to see other people smile. I want to do what I can to help others to smile and feel joy."



# High School, Middle School Perform Rousing Trio of Concerts



**P**age High School and Page Middle School performed a trio of music concerts in October. The concerts were held in the Cultural Arts Building. Because of last year's Covid-19 restrictions, the concerts were the first live music performances the schools have given in nearly two years.

The concerts occurred just before Halloween, so many of the songs had a ghostly, scary or spooky theme.

Page High School Band Director David Johnson was thrilled to be back, and very impressed with his students' performance.

"I felt a real sense of euphoria coming back doing live performances," he said. "Being able to stand in front of that audience and perform, and the level that they performed at was far beyond what my expectations were concerning the learning gaps I was afraid these kids were going to have."

Johnson acknowledges that some of his students showed some significant learning gaps at the beginning of

the year, but in the three months they've been back, they have shown great improvement.

"They overcame them so quickly, and came together as a group and performed far beyond my greatest expectations," Johnson said. "They absolutely blew me away. I could not be prouder of them and the work that they've done."

One of the highlights of the Choir Concert was a performance from students in the Navajo 3 and 4 Language classes, who sang two traditional songs in Navajo. It was the first time the Navajo Language class has performed as part of the Choir Concert.

Carlos Begay, who teaches the Navajo Language 3 and 4 classes said it took a little work to convince his students to join the concert. "I reminded them that we come from society that sings," said Begay. "When we're planting, when we're horseback riding, we're singing. Then I told them it would do them good to break out of their shell and sing."





One of the concepts Begay emphasizes in his Navajo Language and Navajo Government classes is the importance of leadership. "This would put us squarely in the spotlight and that leans them toward leadership," Begay said.

After convincing his students to take part in the concert, Begay and his class then chose the songs they would sing, and planned out where they would stand on the stage. They then practiced the songs.

"The students enjoyed it," Begay said. "A lot of extended relatives were there. I heard from the parents and relatives that they were proud of how well the students sang."

The students from Navajo Language 3 and 4 sang three songs: The Mountain Song, the Journey Song, and the Horse Song.

The Mountain Song is one of the most fundamental songs in the Navajo culture, said Begay. It signifies the Navajo's home land inside the four sacred mountains. Singing the song is a form of grounding them to the land.

The Journey Song is sung prior to embarking on a journey, said Begay. "We use it for traveling purposes," Begay said. "We sing it when we want to travel to our destination in safety, with enjoyment, and that the business of the journey will be successful."

The Horse Song contains a lot of symbolism, Begay said. Horses, and a Navajo's relationship and connection with them, is very important, even spiritual, Begay said. "We treat a horse with great respect," Begay said. "The horse and the spirit are the same. We keep it clean, we maintain it, we keep it healthy. Our bodies are like a horse in that respect. Our education is like a horse in that respect."

For Navajos sitting in the audience that night, hearing the Mountain Song, the Journey Song and the Horse Song



was a significant experience.

"The Navajo Community is happy to see it being brought back," Begay said. "After ethnic cleansing and boarding schools, a lot of that part of our culture had been lost. I think it gives the students a lot of pride to be a part of bringing it back."

The middle school and high school performing arts will be giving more concerts in December, prior to the Christmas break. PUSD will post the dates when they are solidified.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM CROWNED NAIC CHAMPS



The Page Middle School Panthers 8th grade football team brought home the NAIC Championship trophy in October when they defeated the Kayenta Middle School Colts 12-0 in the championship game.

The Panthers finished with an impressive nine wins, zero losses this season. What's more, the Panther's defense was only scored on one time this season, which came two weeks ago during the semi-final against Hopi.

Panthers Assistant Coach, Bill Tresh, says the key to winning the championship was a season-long team effort, and team mindset.

"Our team goal this year was to win the championship," said Coach Tresh. "At every practice we reminded them of that goal, and reminded them that they can't be champions if we don't practice hard."

Coach Tresh said he and Head Coach, Dakota Richardson, emphasized team effort over individual effort. "They relied on each other," said Coach Tresh. "If a player needed a break, needed a minute to get a drink and catch their breath, they knew the person taking their spot was going to do a good job."

Coach Tresh said his hard-working team is proud of its championship and its very successful season. "They were playing for the community," said Coach Tresh. "They're proud to bring winning back to the middle school and back to the community."



# Middle School Cross-Country team brings home title



**J.P. Keisling, Araillio Whiterock, Preston Ross, Symond Martin, Maximus Reid, Noah Nelson, Justin Rivers and Landon Henry make up the Panthers championship cross-country team.**

The Page Middle School boys cross-country team, the Runnin' Panthers, brought home the NAIC championship in October. The girls team finished third.

The Panthers' runners are Symond Martin, Maximus Reid, Preston Ross, J.P. Keisling, Araillio Whiterock, Landon Henry, Noah Nelson and Justin Rivers.

The middle school cross country teams are coached by Tim Martin and Celeste Claw.

Symond Martin, the Panther's number one runner, was undefeated individually all season.

"There was some pretty good competition, too," said cross-country coach Tim Martin. "He had some pretty good races. He was definitely the best in the best runner in the north."

The Runnin' Panthers competed in five meets this season.

Head coach Tim Martin noticed the level of competition was lower this year than previous years, and he believes that was due to many runners having less training due to last years' cancelled season. In addition, this year saw fewer individuals joining their cross-country teams.

"Most of the teams across our conference were only half the size, or a third the size they usually are," said Martin.

In addition, the speed of individual runners was slower

this year than normal, but Page runners were the exception to that.

"Symond had faster running times this year than anyone two years ago," said Martin. "Maximus was running as fast this year as the fastest kids two years ago, and Preston had the biggest improvement over the two year period. Our boys teams was pretty dang good."

The girls cross-country team had four all-conference runners: Isabelle Manning, finished third at conference. Kayomi June finished fourth at conference. Taylor Benally finished 13th, and Mackenzie Bedoni finished in 14th.

Coach Martin attributes the success of the middle school runners to their work ethic and dedication to the sport.

"Our kids work really hard. They show up," said Martin. "They're dedicated. Our kids who ran varsity this year made big jumps of improvements the last two years. Symond went from being good two years ago to being the best runner I've seen at the middle school level in years. Same with Maximus: He's improved a lot compared to where he was two years ago. Isabelle Manning, she didn't even make varsity her sixth grade year and now she's third best."

"The progression of kids who are serious about this sport are keeping the Page running tradition going."



# Lake View Students Get Search & Rescue Training



LVP teacher, Sara Watson, with her mother, Ann Watson, a Hug a Tree volunteer

A Flagstaff-based Coconino County Search and Rescue unit visited Lake View Primary's campus Friday where they taught students what to do if they become lost.

The program is called the Hug a Tree and Survive program. The program was developed several years ago after a nine-year-old boy became lost in the California woods and died.

This was the seventh year that Flagstaff's Search and Rescue team has visited Lake View and taught its students techniques and procedures to follow should they ever become lost. The event was organized by second grade teacher, Sara Watson.

"I knew that Flagstaff's Search and Rescue team did a lot of these programs with different schools and groups in Flagstaff, and we thought it would be great to do it here," said Watson.

Watson had an in with the group; her mother, Ann Watson, works as a volunteer for Flagstaff Search and Rescue.

The Search and Rescue Team divided their instruction into four stations. In two of the stations, stu-



The Hug a Tree classes were held outside.



A Hug a Tree volunteer shows Lake View students how Jet, a search and rescue dog, can be used to track and find lost people.

dents learned the basics of what to do if they were part of the search team looking for someone who was lost. The S&R team explained to the students how a search grid works, and what clues they look for when they're looking for someone who's lost. One of the most popular attractions of the day was when students got to watch Jet, a dog trained to look for lost people, demonstrate with his

handler how he can use his nose to track down someone who is lost.

In the other two stations, students learned what to do if they're the person who gets lost, and steps they could take that would help rescuers find them quicker.

The main concepts the S&R team taught the students was to stay in



# Meet Makayla Forbes

## *PUSD's new music teacher*

**D**uring the recent concerts, the Page Community also got to meet PUSD's new music teacher, Makayla Forbes.

Forbes teaches Choir and ACHIEVE classes at the middle school, and Honors Choir and Chorale at the high school.

Forbes grew up in Sandy, Utah and is a graduate of Southern Utah University, where she majored in choir and minored in Special Education.

"I always wanted to be a teacher, and I've always loved music, so being a choir teacher made sense," she said.

Forbes is enjoying her time in the district and working with the students is everything she hoped it would be. "I love it here," said Forbes. "The students are very hard-working and great to be around, and I love the community; I love that it's so supportive of the arts."

In her spare time, Forbes enjoys crocheting, quilting and "keeping my nails looking good."

PUSD's Band Director, David Johnson, was thrilled to welcome Forbes to PUSD's fine arts community.

"She's incredible to work with," said Johnson. "She brings a lot of energy to the programs and the schools. She's bright, she's excited to be here, and I can already tell that the kids relate to her. She's a joy to work with. Her and I get along very well."

Johnson and Forbes are not strangers. Forbes was a sophomore in high school when Johnson did his student teaching at her school. Forbes was a student in the band



Makayla Forbes

Johnson conducted.

"I think that relationship we had then allows us to get along really well now," Johnson said.

Johnson says that he and Forbes have similar ideas regarding where they want to take the music programs in the future.

"We talk it out together, we make decision together," said Johnson. "It's not me being the department lead telling her what we need to do, it's her and I sitting down together and asking 'What do we need to do next.' We work really, really well together."

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## S&R from pg. 7

one place if they discover they're lost, which might include hugging a tree or another large stationary object, attract attention to themselves by shouting, blowing a whistle if they have one, and waving a colorful object, such as a coat, in the air.

Five years ago a Lake View Kindergarten student used the lessons he'd learned from attending the Hug a Tree program after he became lost. "About two weeks after the Hug a Tree program, he got lost when he was walking to school," said Watson. "He sat down where he was, which was next to the Windy Mesa, and waited for help. Someone driving by noticed him and asked if he was okay. He told them that the people had told him to sit down and wait if he ever got lost."

The adults in the car called the authorities and they were able to get him safely to school.

"I think it's a great program," said Watson. "A lot of our students come from active families that go hiking and camping. I feel a lot better knowing that they'll know what to do if they ever get lost."







Lake View Primary's Fall Festival was a big hit with students, parents and families.

"It was a huge success," said LVP Principal, Nancy Warner. "It was great to have so many families and students participate."

Mr. Warner wishes to thank Brian Henderson, Maddy Crane, Elizabeth Richardi and Lacy Harris, who headed the Fall Festival Committee.

"The committee members and teachers put in long hours organizing it and setting it up ahead of time," said Warner. "We also had family of our students who generously donated cakes, cookies and prizes. it wouldn't have been such a great success without their support."



# P HOTOS FROM SPIRIT WEEK 2021





# Sand Devils End Season with Homecoming Loss



The Sand Devils finished the season 5-5 after losing to Monument Valley 43-0 during last Friday night's homecoming game. The 8-2 Mustangs, with its victory, became the 3A North champions and advanced to the first round of the playoffs.

Friday night's game promised to be the showdown of the season. The Sand Devils came into the game 4-0 in section play and riding a four-game win streak. The Mustangs came into the game 5-0 in section play, and riding a four-game win streak. The Mustangs players were physically bigger across the board, but not by an insurmountable amount. For the Sand Devils, having home-field advantage could prove enough of an edge to cancel out any Mustang

advantage.

In the end, it wasn't physical deficits that ended the Sand Devils season, but mental mistakes, such as momentum-killing penalties and dropping balls that passed through their hands.

The Sand Devils, riding their four-game win streak, came into the game fired-up and confident.

The Sand Devils received the kick-off and began their first offensive drive from their own 37-yard line. The drive ended three plays later on an interception that the Mustangs returned to Page's 45-yard line.

The Mustangs put together a strong first drive, garnering three first-downs as they pushed deep into the Sand



Devils end of the field, but Page's defense found its footing and slowed the Mustangs advance. Monument Valley's possession ended when Connor Shirley tackled the Mustangs quarterback for a big loss on fourth down.

After an eleven-yard pass to Aidan Nix, followed by back-to-back encroachment penalties on the Mustangs, the momentum had shifted to the Sand Devils; but the drive fizzled out after three missed passes. Both teams punted on their second possessions.

The Sand Devils started its third drive in great position, on the Monument Valley 46-yard line, but again couldn't get their passing game on target. Punting on 4th down, Collin Joe let the long snap pass through his hands and sail behind him. Joe covered the ball on the Sand Devil 32, where the Mustangs took possession.

Following a false start and an illegal block in the back, the Mustangs found themselves facing fourth and 21. They completed a 22-yard pass, which took them to the Sand Devils five-yard line. There the Sand Devils defense made a brilliant stand, and prevented the Mustangs from scoring.

Page began its fourth possession from its own 2-yard line and went three and out, and the punt only went to the Sand Devils 39-yard line. This time the Mustangs capitalized on its excellent field position when their quarterback threw a 38-yard touchdown reception. After a successful PAT, the Mustangs led 7-0.

The Sand Devils offense strung together a series of first downs on their next few possessions but they ultimately ended with the Sand Devils punting. The defense did a great job holding back Monument Valley's attack, forcing them to punt on the next two possessions.

Late in the second quarter, the Sand Devils offense found themselves backed up deep in their own territory. Passing under pressure from our 5-yard line, our quarterback threw an errant pass that was intercepted by the Mustangs and returned to our 21-yard line. Two plays later, the Mustangs added six more points to the board.

On the ensuing possession, the Mustangs defense again stopped the Sand Devils cold, forcing them to punt once again.

With only 3.2 seconds left in the half, the Mustangs scored again.

Pure dagger. Whatever bubble of confidence the Sand Devils brought with them into the game deflated quickly after that.

The Mustangs had an even more productive second half, scoring three more touchdowns and a field goal. Their first touchdown of the second half came on their first play of the half, a 68-yard pass across the middle.

The Sand Devils produced several brilliant plays of their own in the second half, but failed to string enough of them together to reach the endzone.

The final score read Mustangs 43, Sand Devils 0.

"We just didn't show up," said head coach Bubba Billie. "There was a lot going on last week and I think my players' minds went to that instead of the football game."

Though Coach Billie could have been happier about the season's final game, he was pleased with the season over-



all.

"There was one point in the game Friday night when I had a chance to look around, and I saw both stands were packed. It's been a while since I've seen that, and it was a great thing to see," he said.

After the game, families from both teams came onto the field and took photos with their players, and many of the players from both teams joined to take family photos.

"A lot of Monument Valley players are relatives to our players, and the importance of family is something I stress in our program from day one," said Coach Billie. "That's what 3A North football is all about."

Being the head coach, Coach Billie can't help but look down the field to next year's season, and he likes what he sees in the football program's future. This year's team included a lot of junior and underclassmen. The Sand Devils' quarterback, runningback, receivers and all of their line, with the exception of one player, are expected to return next year.

"We've got a ton of juniors this year who will be coming back next year," he said. "We'll take a week off and get back to the weight room."



# Page High School Receives Don F. Stone Award



The Don F. Stone banners are awarded annually by the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) Executive Board to recognize overall excellence in interscholastic competition. Excellence is determined by a point system approved by the AIA Legislative Council.

Some of the things the AIA considers when making the decision is how well the event is organized and how smoothly it runs, the level of sportsmanship the coaches, players and fans exhibit and how clean and/or presentable the facilities are.

"It's really a tribute to our coaches and players for doing things the right way and being successful," said Ernie River, PUSD's Director of Athletics and Events.



Join us on Facebook:

# PUSD Native American Heritage Month





PUSD Native American Heritage Month  
Committee #PUSD\_NAHM



## November 2021

Post your  
pictures

**Thank You to our Sponsors, PUSD, Indian Education Council, & Johnson O'Malley**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Rock Your Mocs 	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> Cultural Dress 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Balloon Regatta 
<b>8</b> Rock Your Mocs 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Cultural Dress 	<b>11</b> NO SCHOOL Veteran's Day Parade 	<b>12</b> Coloring & Photo- Contest Deadline 	<b>13</b>	
<b>15</b> Rock Your Mocs 	<b>16</b> Blue Bird/ Clan Tshirt 	<b>17</b> Cultural Dress MS AVID Parent Night 	<b>18</b> Headband/ Hair Bun 	<b>19</b> Rock Your Turquoise/ Jewelry 	<b>20</b>  	
<b>22</b> Rock Your Mocs 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Cultural Dress 	<b>Thanksgiving Break—NO SCHOOL</b>		<b>26</b>  	<b>27</b>
<b>29</b> Rock Your Mocs 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

Navajo Word of the  
Day

- Nov 1—Ya'a'te'eh Abini
- Nov 2—Nizhoni'ye
- Nov 3—Ski'Kis
- Nov 4—Yee'go
- Nov 5—Jini
- Nov 8—Hoola
- Nov 9—Ahe'hee
- Nov 10—Hagone
- Nov 12—Ta'shoodi
- Nov 15—Woosh'dei
- Nov 16—Ha go
- Nov 17—Yadilah
- Nov 18—Yee Yah
- Nov 19—Aoo
- Nov 29—Doo Dah
- Nov 30—Shi Yazhi

Coloring & Photo Contest (all grades) Entries Due 11/12 Email: [nboshane@pageud.org](mailto:nboshane@pageud.org) Mrs. Boshane DVI  
\*\*\*Please submit photos of students during multi-cultural dress days to [nboshane@pageud.org](mailto:nboshane@pageud.org)



# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

**Certified Employee of the Month**  
**September 2021**



**Fran Tucker**

**Classified Employee of the Month**  
**September 2021**



**Patricia Benally**



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**Ryan Gold**  
Lake View Primary



**Harper Keisling**  
Desert View Intermediate



**Nyall Prather**  
Page Middle School



**Miles Beam**  
Page High School



**Jared Tsinijinie**  
Manson Mesa High School



**Mattison Lane**  
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy





**Save The Date**

# Let's 'bout CCC!

**Page Center Open House Nov. 9 | 4-7pm**


**Join us for food, fun and information!**

- National Park Service STEAM Trailer - CCC Parking Lot
- Academic and Career Advising
- Career Technical Education, CTE-Career Virtual Reality Goggles
- Community Education-CPR/First Aid
- Delicious Food from our PHS Culinary Club
- Financial Aid
- High School Programs
- TRIO and EOC Student Support Services to help with admission
- Spring 2022 Registration
- Student Success and Access-Services available to Page Students

**Presentations:**

- Financial Aid & Scholarships
- High School Programs

Coconino Community College Page Center  
475. S Lake Powell Blvd. | (928) 645-3987




## PUSD NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS

**Starting at \$16.47  
up to \$18.24/hour  
depending on experience.**



**Drivers will receive a hiring stipend  
of \$1,250.00**  
Payable after 90 days employment.

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

**STEVEN LAW  
PR COORDINATOR**

**slaw@pageud.org**



Drivers eligible for ASRS retirement,  
and medical, dental and vision  
benefits.

PUSD will happily  
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certified.

For more information, please contact Lynne Hoffman  
lhoffman@pageud.org  
or call 928-608-4101



PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

