



## FUSD Newsletter

### Superintendent's Message

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it"

- William Arthur Ward

Before we could dive into turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie at my family's Thanksgiving gatherings, my mother required each of us to reflect about the past year and share something we were grateful for with all those seated around the table. While I used to dread this annual activity as a child, I have grown to appreciate my mother's wisdom and have continued the tradition. This year I will express my gratitude for the welcome and support I have received during my family's transition to the Flagstaff community and the incredible opportunity

I have to serve as a public educator with the Flagstaff Unified School District. I would like to highlight a few ways you can express gratitude towards teachers and schools this month. The FUSD Governing Board, at its meeting on October 24, recognized five Legendary Teachers for their efforts to build relationships, create high expectations and engage students in learning. This month consider reaching out by sending a card or email to thank a teacher who went above and beyond to make a difference in your life. The School Superintendents Association, AASA, has launched the I Love Public Education campaign to celebrate the successes of our nation's public schools in preparing the next generation

of leaders, innovators and citizens and to focus attention on the need to equip schools with the resources needed to prepare today's students with the skills and knowledge needed for their future. Consider sharing a memory or success at school with your social media contacts and include #LovePublicEducation to raise awareness about the contribution public education plays in the success of our local, national and global communities.



### Weather Schedule Changes

As we get ready for winter, FUSD would like to remind our families of winter schedules. By 5 a.m., FUSD will make daily schedule decisions according to current and forecasted weather. At that time any schedule changes will be posted on the FUSD website, Facebook page and Twitter (@FlagstaffUSD). All families will be notified by recorded phone call at approximately 6 am. You can sign up on the FUSD website for text messages through the "Register" tab at the top of the page and you will receive notification as soon as it is posted that the snow page has been changed. FUSD also informs the local media of any schedule changes.

The process of calling a snow day

or delayed start is one FUSD takes very seriously. We check satellite weather forecasts, storm time frames, and pay close attention to road closures set by the Arizona Department of Transportation, as well as the plowing schedules for the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. The team checking road conditions compare notes from all over the district. Part of that equation involves the sheer size of FUSD which covers 4,500 square miles, stretching from Cameron and Leupp in the north and east to Munds Park to the south and past Cheshire in the northwest. Because of the geographic differences over our county, the weather and accumulated snowfall is often inconsistent in each neighbor-

hood. Nearly half of FUSD students rely on a school bus to get to school and we take into account the ability of the buses to safely navigate all of our neighborhoods. In the case of a Snow Day School Cancellation, all schools, programs (including FACTS), and activities will be canceled for the entire day, including evening activities.

If FUSD makes the decision to have a Delayed Start all schools will begin 2 hours after the usual start time. If a Delayed Start occurs on a scheduled Early Release Day, the early release is canceled. The FACTS program does operate during Delayed Start days and opens at 7:30.

While we know that canceling

#### November

11/10 Veterans Day - No School  
11/18 Puente de Hozho Craft Show  
11/18 Kinsey Holiday Craft Bazaar  
11/22 - 24 Thanksgiving Break - No School

#### December

12 /2 - Knoles Annual Craft Fair  
12 /18 - 1/1 - Winter Break

Please remember to look for school specific fliers through the Peachjar button on your school's homepage.



school's homepage.

school is difficult for families to accommodate, our decision is based on our best estimation that students can safely get to and from school.





# Two High Schools - One Goal



For the fifth consecutive year Coconino and Flagstaff High School's Student Council and Cheerleaders created a t-shirt promoting Breast Cancer Awareness and were engaged in friendly competition to see which school sold the most shirts for the program. The total shirts sold by both high schools was 815. With all proceeds going to the North Country Well Woman Program which provides diagnostic screenings and cancer treatment to 1,300 under- and uninsured women in the northern and central regions of Arizona.

North Country Well Woman Program Coordinator Elizabeth Markona stated that "The Treatment Link Program at North Country serves as a vital safety net for those diagnosed with breast cancer. Our primary funding source for the program has been Komen Arizona, supplemented by community donations. In July 2017, Komen Arizona closed and, going forward, we will depend more than ever on community support to keep the program in place. We are so grateful to have the support of FUSD's

Student Council, Cheer and Volleyball teams and all of the funds they have helped raise over the years."

Students and staff at both high schools take this project very seriously as demonstrated in the following quotes. "There have been people in my life who have dealt with breast cancer. I want to raise awareness because it is important for people to know it could happen to them or a family member and to empower people to take action" ~ Anna Peterson, CHS Junior class Links Leaders & student council member

"Being a breast cancer survivor myself, I am trying to spread the word about early detection. I want our young girls to know their bodies and to be their own best advocate. I am proof that there is life after a breast cancer diagnosis. It doesn't have to define you. If found early enough it can be treated. It is nice to find an avenue for the two schools to work together for a common goal outside their rivalry." ~ Lori Wright, CHS teacher & cheer coach

"When most schools do fundraisers, it is

usually for some nation-wide cause like, for example, gathering items together for Hurricane Harvey victims, which is a great cause but this is a chance to give back to our town and community. All the money we raise goes to men and women dealing with breast cancer in Flagstaff so it's personal for a lot of the students at Coconino and Flagstaff High Schools." Tori Noenick – FHS Student Council Community Service Chair  
"It was an amazing opportunity to be able to work alongside Coconino High School to be able to support these women who were affected by breast cancer." Angela Ranier – FHS Varsity Cheerleader

Congratulations to all of the students and staff at CHS and FHS who worked so hard on this very successful project.



## FHS AP Environmental Science Learning Outside the Classroom

In October the AP Environmental Science students have had amazing field opportunities. Earlier in October a group of 15 students from Flagstaff High School went on a trip to Olympic National Park in Washington State to study the largest ecosystem restoration project in the history of the National Park Service on the Elwha River. In 2012, the largest dam removal in history occurred where the 205 foot Glines Canyon Dam and 105 foot Elwha Dam were removed to free up 65 miles of pristine river ecosystem the five species of pacific salmon who had been cut off from their traditional migration routes for over 100 years.

Students went to the old dam sites and examined the recovery of the vegetation in the old reservoir sites, took water quality samples, and examined the macroinvertebrate biota.

Students also had the opportunity to learn about and explore a variety of ecosystems on the Olympic Peninsula including the

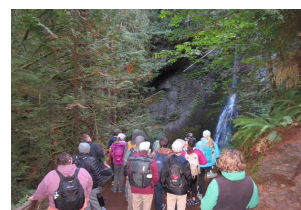
high alpine meadows, old-growth temperate rainforests, and the longest stretch of wilderness coastline in the contiguous United States.

All of these were made possible through the non-profit environmental education organization NatureBridge, who provided the lodging and food at their campus on the shores of Lake Crescent, expert educators, plus transportation to the field sites. According to Jeff Taylor AP Environmental Science and AP Chemistry Instructor;

"This trip was the most meaningful trip I have ever been on with students. It was a transformative experience for the students. Not only did they immerse themselves in a spectacular ecological environment, but it also allowed them to "unplug". We called it "green time instead of screen time" and from breakfast until dinner, students were not allowed to use their cell phones except to take pictures. They all said that it was a powerful experience to really focus on being present in this place

at this time with these people instead of focusing on their social media world. It is an experience they will carry with them for the rest of their lives."

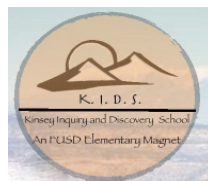
Also in October, AP Environmental Science classes conducted forest inventory and fuels assessments in the backcountry of Walnut Canyon National Monument. This data is being used to develop their forest management plan and help them plan thinning and prescribed burns.



## Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School - Place Based Education

At Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School (K.I.D.S.), classes have been taking advantage of the beautiful fall weather while on excursions in Flagstaff and the surrounding area. Second graders at K.I.D.S. took an excursion to Oak Creek Canyon, incorporating science in the apple orchard and the history of settlers in Northern Arizona. What could be better than learning from someone who grew up on the land that is now Slide Rock State Park? Walnut Canyon was the site for an excursion focused on where people and animals have historically lived in the Flagstaff area.

Fifth grade's annual camping trip at Centennial Forest took place in September and was an excursion that incorporated outdoor science education with other content areas. This experience made lasting bonds between staff and students while singing songs by the campfire, hiking, exploring and writing. This partnership with NAU's Forestry Department at Centennial Forest starts in Kindergarten and continues building until this 5th grade camping culmination. These are some examples of what makes Kinsey such a close-knit learning community. See more pictures on page 4.



### Important Contact Information for Flagstaff Unified School District

**Administrative Center Main Number - 527-6000**

**Curriculum and Instruction Office - 527-6021**

**Human Resources - 527-6070**

**Exceptional Student Services - 527-6160**

**Food Service - 527-6090**

**Bilingual Education - 527-6107**

**Transportation - 527-2300**



## Puente de Hózhó Academy at SMS

Puente de Hózhó Language Academy (PdH) (grades 6 – 8) is now in full swing at Sinagua Middle School. In response to feedback there were a few reasons for the change from Mount Elden Middle School to Sinagua Middle School. Many students were having to choose between the PdH Language Academy and the Middle School Institute of Technology and Engineering (MIT-e). Student's schedules have been created so they can be in both the PdH Language Academy and MIT-e if they desire and in most cases still have the opportunity to take electives. In addition, this change allows for a flow of this language program from kindergarten through senior year of high school since Sinagua Middle School is the boundary school for Puente de Hózhó and the feeder school for Coconino High School, which has the Puente Language Institute.

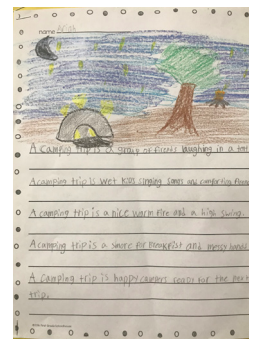
Several classes were added or modified for the new PdH Academy students as they entered Sinagua Middle School. In 6th grade, Technology, Social Studies and Science classes are taught in Spanish. With Navajo language classes being taught at all grade levels. Students who are in both the MIT-e program and PdH can then have the language classes, electives and the MIT-e course of Engineering. Spanish 6 and Navajo 6 were created for the 6th graders who did not go through the Puente de Hózhó Elementary School program, but would like to enter the academy. In this first year, thirty-two 6th grade students are taking the Navajo (6) course and thirty-one are enrolled in the Spanish (6) course. This will eventually double the membership for PdH next school year. Seventh graders in the Academy have their science class taught in Spanish and take a Spanish Language Culture course, as well as Technology in Spanish. Again, Navajo students receive a rigorous coursework in their Navajo Language. In 8th grade students in the Academy, take immersion courses in either Spanish or Navajo for high school credit and to prepare them for their Navajo or Spanish (level 2 or 3) in high school.

Goals for the Academy include ensuring, that students who are interested, will be equipped to take the language proficiency test starting in 10th grade through which they will receive the Biliterate Seal Of Literacy from the State of Arizona on their High School Diploma. All three levels of the Puente de Hózhó program are in the process of applying to be an International Bachelorette program, as the language component is key to an IB curriculum. This process will take several years to complete and we are excited to report on the progress as it moves forward.



# FUSD In Pictures

## Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School - Place Based Education



## Summit Mural - A True Work of Art and Teamwork

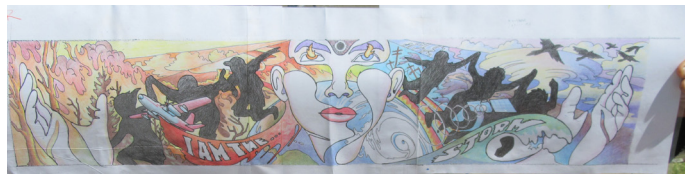
Summit High School (SHS) has a new mural in front of the school. This was a collaborative effort with the students of SHS, lead by their art teacher Chandra Hemminger, and Mural Mice and was made possible by a grant from the City of Flagstaff.

"I am the Storm" was designed by Summit High School students and Mural Mice Universal. Storms raging in the background are symbolic of natural and man made disasters, political struggles and inner turmoil. The silhouetted figures are joining together and jumping from the storm wearing the hopes of future generations for a world that is more harmonious and egalitarian. "I am the Storm" is the youth finding their power to become a force for positive change in the world.

"The students we worked with brought so much creative force to the project. I hope the success of the mural demonstrates that overcoming fear and doubt is a process of boldly facing difficult challenges and chipping away at them until they are solved." - Artist and Director, Margaret Dewar-Mural Mice Universal.

"The Summit High School mural was an incredible experience for the Mural Mice. In the midst of daily news reports about hurricanes in the South East, wildfires in the West, and the global threat of nuclear war, the students were inspired to create an image that captured the moment for future generations to see." Executive Director/ Artist, R.E. Wall- Mural Mice Universal.

"I was excited to see students who were normally kind of reserved excited to work on the mural. It was great seeing students take pride in the part that they designed and painted. I appreciate how the Mural Mice included students in the whole process, from designing to painting." Chris Koenker, Principal Summit High School.





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[www.fUSD1.org](http://www.fUSD1.org)

**Discover YOUR Path with FUSD**

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good news and events



## FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Statement of Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs, Motto and Goals

#### Vision Statement:

The premiere educational choice for the greater Flagstaff community.



#### Mission Statement:

Creating opportunities for you to discover your path to excellence.

#### Core Beliefs:

We believe in the power of expectation; in the impact of high standards; in the value of diversity; and in the six pillars of character.

#### Motto:

Education at the Top of Arizona

#### Goals:

- Maintain and Improve Comprehensive Student Opportunities and Services
- Recruit and Retain Highly Qualified, Motivated, and Excelling Staff
- Improve Student Preparedness and Mastery
- Research and Create Desirable and Relevant Educational Opportunities and Services
- Increase Public Engagement and Support for FUSD
- Develop Diversified Partnerships and Revenue Opportunities

## FUSD Governing Board Meet Kara Kelty

I joined the Governing Board to share my skills and experience as an education advocate, parent, former Flagstaff city council member and former school principal. I know that a good education opens doors of opportunity and I believe we owe it to our students to create a strong educational foundation to foster student success.

I have had three priorities for my first year on the school board. First, to promote a better understanding of data to improve outcomes for all students regardless of school of attendance. As a means toward this goal, the board and administrative staff had a robust discussion with all the school principals following the release of the AzMerit scores. Secondly, I presented to my colleagues on the board a proposal to add a student representative to the board. While the board did not

ultimately agree to do so, they did agree to the addition of a student advisory committee. Finally, because we have a lot of new faces-- including a new superintendent, three new board members and new directors of special education and human resources I recognized the importance of team building and establishing how to work well together to benefit the district, students, teachers, and community.



## FUSD Governing Board Honors Teachers

On October 24th five teachers were honored as "Legendary Teachers" at the FUSD Governing Board meeting. Congratulations to: Randy Hopson, Suzy Jacobsen, Mary Lara, George Moate and Jodie Nicolson! Though these teachers were honored formally, they represent the hundreds of amazing, wonderful and legendary teachers in FUSD.

