

March 2018

FUSD Newsletter

A Message from the FUSD Governing Board and Superintendent

Dear FUSD Families and Staff,

We are heartbroken by the tragic loss of promising young lives in Parkland, Florida. As parents and educators, we grieve together while remaining focused on ensuring our own schools are safe.

Our Superintendent and Governing Board take the safety of all our students, staff, and teachers very seriously and we are continually implementing measures to tighten our security procedures.

We have a strong relationship with law enforcement officials, including the Flagstaff Police Department and Coconino County Sheriff's Office, who assist us in refining our procedures to prevent, prepare for, and respond to all types of threats and hazards.

All community members play a critical role in the lives of our children. We ask for your active support and help in keeping students safe. We take very seriously the trust parents place in our staff each day when sending students to school. We regret our district and community have experienced firsthand the feelings of fear and disruption caused by threats to our schools and we are actively investigating and addressing these previous threats, while acting to prevent future occurrences.

The Flagstaff Unified School District supports our students' Constitutional rights to peaceful assembly and free expression and are aware of student-led events planned for March 14, March 24 and April 20. Our approach and response to these planned protests will be to:

- Keep focus on teaching and learning while providing guidance that supports student and staff safety.
 - Encourage student organizers to meet with their school administrators to collaborate on the planning of orderly demonstrations on campus. We suggest student organizers consider invitation and participation efforts that are open and inclusive of ALL students, and respectful of those who choose not to participate.
 - Provide additional staff and law enforcement officials for protection and supervision, not to suppress student expression.
 - Establish that conduct that disrupts school operations is not acceptable and will be handled compassionately but firmly in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.
- Finally, we want to see an end to school violence. We oppose suggestions to bring more guns into our schools by administrators and teachers, rather we advocate for:
- Funding to support schools' security efforts and training.
 - Reasonable restrictions on access to weapons.
 - Increases in mental health services and the availability of school counselors.

We recognize these occurrences are difficult for children to process. For anyone seeking emotional support, we encourage you to speak with a school counselor or site administrator. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

Kara Kelty, Carol Haden, Christine Fredericks, Carole Gilmore,
Kathryn Kozak, and Michael Penca
FUSD Governing Board and Superintendent



March

3/5 Flagstaff Community STEM
Celebration

3/14 - 3/16 Elementary
Conferences (except Killip and
Leupp)

3/19 - 3/23 Spring Break

April

4/4, 4/11, 4/18 No Secondary
Early Release

4/23 - 4/24 Snow Make Up
Days (If no snow-days are used
Schools will be closed)

AZ Merit Testing - Please check
with your school for dates



Due to the snow day used
on February 28th school
will be held on April 25.

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

 peachjar

Disc Golf Becomes Popular with Students

Eddie Diaz, Mr. Eddie to his program participants, staff and volunteers, started Discing 4 Kids in 2015 in Flagstaff, AZ.

After retirement, Mr. Eddie saw a need to help the students in Flagstaff with a safe, fun activity that would build their confidence and instill core values. This need led to the design of a curriculum that encourages students to stay in school through a healthy lifestyle that includes better life choices, active involvement, mentoring (for and by the students), low-impact sports and dispute resolution. The core values of this program include leadership, accountability, integrity, healthy life choices, problem solving, concentration, environmental impact and most importantly no bullying. From 20 original students, the program has grown to include all elementary schools in Flagstaff including approximately 2,000 students through the Discing 4 Fun program and partnership with the FUSD FACTS program, Camp IWANNA-GO, and the Kinlani Dorms.

During the 3 years Discing 4 Kids has been in existence, its programs have brought community awareness and involvement. FUSD, the City of Flagstaff Parks and

Recreation Department and the Boys and Girls Club have worked together, along with D4K's volunteers and local business sponsors, to promote a continuation of the program including the popular Summer of Fun and Friday Night Fun Night.

Summer of Fun was held at Bushmaster Park for 6 weeks last summer where a 9-hole disc golf course was set up for the participants, mostly Flagstaff Elementary School students. Friday Night Fun Night is a free program for 5 weeks during the spring semester each year. This year the program will be held at Sinagua Middle School.

The goal of Discing 4 Kids is to make Flagstaff the perfect model for expansion to other locations. The next step for Mr. Eddie is the creation of an after-school program for Flagstaff's middle schools, similar to what FACTS has done in the elementary schools and then to an after-school program for Flagstaff's high schools to keep these young adults in school. This is a great example of the positive effect on our community when the public and private sectors work together with non-profit organizations to continue and improve programs

such as implemented by D4K. Thank you Mr. Eddie for your dedication to the education and health of our students.

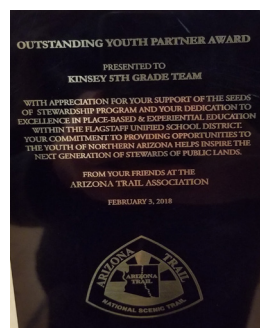


Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School Honored by Arizona Trails

On Friday, February 23, the Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School 5th Grade Team was presented an Outstanding Youth Partner Award by the Arizona Trail Association. It was the first time this award has ever been presented to a school or class.

Sabrina Carlson with the AZ Trail Association presented the award to the 5th graders stating, "The Kinsey 5th grade team has an outstanding dedication to engaging, effective, child-centered, place-based education that makes learning fun for their students and helps create the next generation of our public land stewards". Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School has continued this partnership with the AZ Trail Association for 3 years. Joe Caslin, a 5th grade teacher at Kinsey who has worked to make this partnership flourish said, "As a teacher

at a place-based school, this partnership is important and it is nice to have this type of support from community partnerships. I have so much gratitude towards the Arizona Trail Association". The students are looking forward to several learning excursions on the AZ Trail this spring to continue their stewardship practice.



CHS Interior Design Students Joins Chairs for Change

According to CHS teacher Laura Locke “Every designer must be able to generate ideas and know why a particular idea is better than another. Designers must use effective communication skills to communicate their ideas to clients, other designers, and contractors. Designers must be able to know what needs to be done for the proper execution of their ideas.”

She strives to give the students real world applications to the curriculum she passionately teaches. To achieve this, the students participate in the annual “Chairs for Change” fund-raiser, by taking old chairs and re-purposing them using the skills they have learned.

On her website classroom page Mrs. Locke states “The Architectural Interior Design program is designed to prepare students for employment or advanced post-secondary coursework in applied sciences for architectural and custom interior design, design production, commercial or home furnishings design and sales, furniture manufacturing, and as buyers for retail establishments. A student completing this program will possess the technical knowledge and skills associated with interior design drafting and rendering, production and selection, wholesale purchasing, sales, and promotion.”

Congratulations to the fortunate students in Mrs. Locke's classes for the amazing chairs that they created.



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



FHS Teacher Goes Beyond the Lesson

Rachel Perugini has taught English at Flagstaff High School for six years. Her passion is working with students and getting them excited about reading. She enjoys building relationships within the classroom. She feels supported at FHS and loves working in the “environment of dialogue” that she has found at Flagstaff High School.

Ms. Perugini noticed that her students sometimes would get fidgety in class so when she found a contest on line that if won would provide stand up desks for her classroom giving students a chance to stand up while doing their work. She saw this as an opportunity to engage the students in a process and created a project involving all of her students. The students were fully involved in talking about the benefits of the stand-up desks and soliciting support for the contest through outreach to family and friends using conversation skills and social media. They encouraged everyone they know to vote online. According to Ms. Perugini the students have learned “the power of technology and support from community, family and friends.” “The students learned communication skills and community building.”

Though they earned second place in the contest, the students felt as if they won and so did Ms. Perugini. She will receive a new teacher desk and asked to exchange the large white board offered as the second place prize for two stand up desks so her students could experience the benefits that started this project. Ms. Perugini is very glad that she and all of her students went through the process stating, “This contest gave my students and I a chance to engage with each other and the community towards a common goal. We were disappointed to come in second, but it was an amazing opportunity.”



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@Flagstaff Unified School District



CHS Engineering Program Changes Minds

Coconino High School has two rigorous engineering programs that allow students to earn college credits.

One program taught by Mr. Craig Howdeshell is the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering program which is a Career and Technical Education program. There are three classes in this program. In the Introduction to Engineering class the student's dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects.

Students will work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems using 3D modeling software, and use an engineering notebook to document their work. Successful completion of a full year of this course will prepare students for the Principles of Engineering (POE) course.

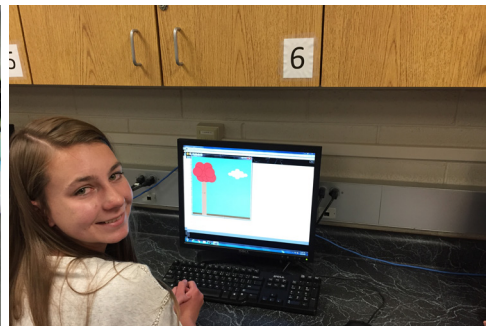
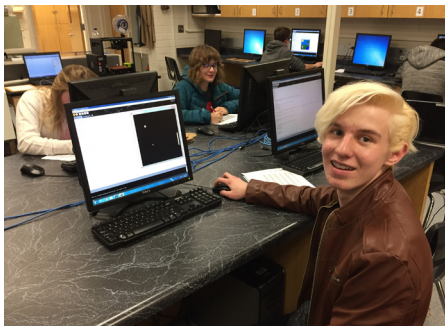
This is a Dual Enrollment Class: Successful completion of a full year of this course, POE and the Aerospace Engineering (AE) courses will count toward college credits of drafting from Coconino Community College.

The second year course is the POE course, exposing students to some of the major concepts that they will encounter in a post-secondary engineering course of study. Students have an opportunity to investigate engineering and high tech careers. POE gives students the opportunity to develop skills and understanding of course concepts through Activity, Project, and Problem-Based (APPB) learning. Used in combination with a teaming approach, APPB learning challenges students to continually hone their interpersonal skills, creative abilities, and problem-solving skills based upon engineering concepts. It also allows students to develop strategies to enable and direct their own learning, which is the ultimate goal of education.

The third year course is AE and is the study of the engineering discipline, which develops new technologies for use in aviation, defense systems, and space exploration.

Another engineering program is within the Coconino Institute of Technology (CIT) and includes three courses. The CIT engineering classes are project-based classes where students are given a problem (with criteria and constraints) and students use their science, math and engineering design process to create a solution. Testing, redesigning, and communicating results will not only bring the student's ideas to life, but also help them see how science theory matches reality. Over the past few weeks the CIT Engineering II class students have been learning software engineering. The teacher Mr. David Tessmer's goals for the students is to teach them problem-solving skills. The students started with circuit work, diagrams, processing and programing. Their current project is to use buttons, movement, interfacing and using loops, if then programming and variables to create games, scenes, or simulations. After creating their projects all students use and evaluate each other's work.

According to student Tristan Steagall, who created a Galactic Pong Game, "In the class I learned how to program using an array." "This class helps me in the long run as I take the course to achieve my dream of becoming a mechanical engineer. Through the CIT program, I have learned not only the ways to program my pong game, but also do things like create ethanol powered rockets and the physics of a paper roller-coaster we created. Being one of my favorite classes, I want every day to come and learn the sciences and applications of the things we have learned that will help me rise to my full potential and help propel me to my dreams." His classmate Bailey Gobble originally wanted to be a teacher but is now very interested in engineering. When she started this latest project, she was very irritated but stated "Mr. Tessmer takes his time with the students to make sure that the students understand the concepts needed." "As soon as you understand the programming, it is easy and exciting. It is really exciting to see something you created actually work and function."





FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED
School District

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We are on the Web at
www.fusd1.org

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latest good news and events



FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Mission Statement:

Creating opportunities for you to discover your path to excellence.

Vision Statement:

The premier educational choice for the greater Flagstaff community.

Values:

We Value:

- Innovation, by leading the way into the uncertain realm of opportunity.
- High Standards with high expectations, supported by shared accountability.
- The diversity of our people, our programs and the accessibility to them.
- Our community and being intentional stewards of the relationships within.
- Inclusivity of all, by ensuring a safe and nurturing environment.

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 Students Celebrate the Grand Canyon

Congratulations to the wonderful choir students and their teachers Joe Rauschenbach and Faun Nichols at Knoles and Sechrist Elementary Schools who were invited to the Grand Canyon National Park to perform during the celebration of the park's 99th birthday celebration. You can see a beautiful performance video on the FUSD Facebook page.

