

Chloe Pozar receives grant to help students at DeMiguel Elementary School

December 28, 2021

DeMiguel Elementary School paraprofessional, Chloe Pozar, was one of 400 teachers from across the state of Arizona who received grants provided by the Desert Financial Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers Program.

Pozar received the \$2,500 grant in November and she was one of three Flagstaff teachers to receive the grant, the other teachers included Susan Brown of Northland Preparatory Academy and Amy Green of BASIS. The Fiesta Bowl explained the 400 teachers represent 300 schools in 63 cities across the state, teaching more than 200,000 students in 84 districts.

Pozar’s entry won because she indicated she would use the funds to provide new seating options for students to promote a better learning environment. Although Pozar does not have a classroom or a class list of students, she works directly with many students in the school.

“I work with a lot of the kids in the

school that may need assistance with some sensory issues... that may need some redirecting or calming down,” she explained. “I do have a designated room that we use, we have a sensory room.”

The grant funds will help add necessities to this room.

“A lot of times, we have kiddos that need to decompress, so we use things like a swing or weighted blanket and headphones when an environment is too loud for them or they are over-stimulated,” she said. “Currently, I have two sets of noise-canceling ear phones for the entire school. So [the grant funds] will help provide us with [more equipment].”

Pozar was super excited to receive the grant.

“This is the second year I’ve applied

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Pozar receives grant*

Photo: Chloe Pozar takes a quick photo with the Fiesta Bowl mascot Spirit on December 28, 2021, at the Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona.



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First Grader wins Marshall Elementary Spelling Bee and moves on to county competition

December 10, 2021

Marshall Elementary School held their spelling bee on December 10, 2021, with First Grader Murphy Wright taking home the trophy.

The second-place winner was Fourth Grader Derian Whiterock, followed by Fourth Grader Dorothy Lingley coming in third place.

Wright will continue onto the county level to represent Marshall Elementary School.

Janelle Reasor, principal at Marshall, explained each class held their own competition. Winners of each classroom then competed in the school-wide competition, which was live-streamed on Zoom for the entire school to watch from their classrooms.

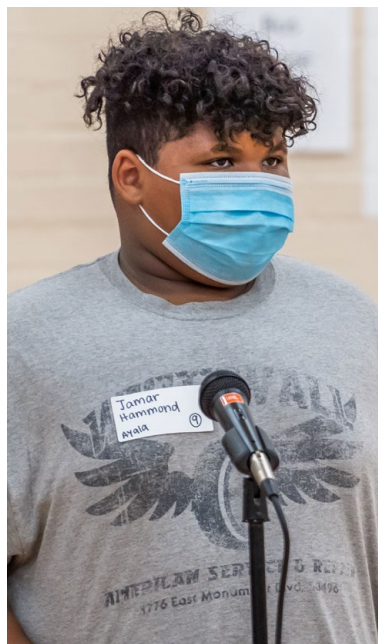
The other participants included: Rowan Grimm-Wooley - 3rd grade; Addison Long - 3rd grade; Lilian Yestewa - 3rd grade; Devin Manske - 4th grade; Jaiden Nockideneh - 5th

grade; and Jamar Hammond - 5th grade. Alianah Mijares, a First-Grade teacher, coordinated the event.

"I am so proud of all of the Marshall Mustangs who challenged themselves to compete in a spelling bee with their classmates," said Reasor. "Classroom winners studied hard and persevered through six rounds before the showdown between Murphy and Derian, which lasted several more rounds."

"It is incredibly nerve wracking and character building for our students. I am grateful for the amazing Marshall teachers, like Ms. Alianah Mijares, who made this opportunity possible for our learners!" added Reasor. "We can't wait to see Murphy Wright, an incredible First Grader, represent our school at the county level!" ❄️

Photos, Right: Murphy Wright. Bottom, L-R: Jamar Hammond; Dorothy Lingley, Derian Whiterock, Lilian Yestewa, and Jaiden Nockideneh



Bonfig recognized as Economic Education Teacher of the Year

By Jack Darbourne
(FUSD Communications Department Intern)

December 9, 2021

Flagstaff High School teacher, Danielle Bonfig, was recently recognized as the economic educator of the year by the Arizona Council on Economic Education. Bonfig has been teaching since 2015 and now teaches AP Economics, Economics, and World History at Flagstaff High School.

She never planned on having a career teaching economics, but found a passion for the subject after changing her major seven times in college. She finds excitement in teaching the students of the future.

"My favorite part about teaching is seeing things click for the students and having the students leave with a conversation," she said.

When asked how she felt about receiving the honor, she said she

felt "overwhelmed" and thought "oh really, me?"

Bonfig said winning the award was a great validation for the economics subject because it is not always seen as the most interesting subject amongst students. She was honored to get this award and knows it will

not be the last for Flagstaff High School.

Bonfig encourages members of the community who want to participate on a panel or want to share tips regarding economics to contact the high school.

"Giving insight on this topic will help educate the students and help them to succeed in the future," she said. "One piece of advice that past

and future students should hold onto is, 'You better have an emergency fund set up.' ❄️

My favorite part about teaching is seeing things click for the students and having the students leave with a conversation.

— Danielle Bonfig

Photo: Danielle Bonfig



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for it. Our librarian received it two years in a row the past two seasons and so I thought I would keep trying and this year I was so excited to win!" she said. "I'm just really excited to be able to use that money for all of our special needs children."

Pozar and the rest of the winners were also offered free tickets from Fiesta Bowl Charities to attend the 2021 Guaranteed Rate Bowl between Minnesota and West Virginia on December 28, 2021, in Phoenix.

"We are going to get recognized at half time," said Pozar.

The Fiesta Bowl indicated they provided \$1 million to teachers this year and the grant is an annual tradition to honor, support, and celebrate Arizona's teachers. They have granted \$4.7 million total to more than 1,200 Arizona teachers over the course of six years of the program and they have positively impacted more than 500,000 children.

"They may not wear capes, but teachers are real-life superheroes. They give tirelessly to their students and Wishes for Teachers is our

opportunity to reward them for their efforts," said Jeff Meshey, president and CEO at Desert Financial. "Desert Financial was founded by teachers—we continue their legacy by returning as the title partner for this year's Wishes for Teachers, in partnership with Fiesta Bowl Charities. Teachers often pay for school supplies out of their own pockets, so there's no greater way to express our gratitude than by granting their classroom wishes."

"Teachers are our unsung heroes, who give so much to our students in helping them become tomorrow's leaders. Giving them a spotlight

for their selfless work and support them with extra resources is an important part of the Fiesta Bowl's commitment to our community," said Mike Nealy, Fiesta Bowl Executive Director. "Thanks to our partners Desert Financial and SRP, Wishes for Teachers help rewards Arizona's teachers and give them a step forward in ways they may have only wished." ❄️

Braydyn Calamity crowned 2021-2022 Miss Dook'o'oosłííd

November 19, 2021

Flagstaff High School Sophomore Braydyn Calamity, 14, was crowned the 2021-2022 Miss Dook'o'oosłííd during the annual pageant held November 18, 2021, at Kinlani Dormitory, also known as the Flagstaff Bordertown Dormitory, in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Braydyn is a Navajo tribal member from Shonto, Arizona. Her clans are Táchii'nii (Red Running into the Water People clan) and is born to the Kink'chii'nii (The Red House People clan).

Calamity said she represents the Kinlani Dormitory, Flagstaff High School, and the community. As part of her platform during her tenure, she wants to help the community, schools, and to be a positive role model to everyone – her peers and younger students.

She also wants to raise more awareness on the impacts of COVID-19, to encourage others to learn about various Native American cultures, and to contribute to organizations, community, and schools in any way she can.

In regards to COVID-19, Calamity wants to help her Navajo communities who were hit hard by the pandemic. She wants to visit local schools and chapter houses to deliver items that she plans to gather either through do-

nations or out-of-pocket, items such as school supplies for students, hand sanitizers, and masks.

As for encouraging others to learn more about Native American cultures, she sees a need for more education and she wants to gradually start with small presentations.

"I could go into classrooms and give them little presentations about our culture," she said, "I can also go to communities and give presentations about what our culture means to us and what we do to represent it."

She also wants to be a role model for others, and she plans to do this by showing what she can do for others.

"I want to show others how to be kind and help others in need," she said. ❄️



Photos, Right: Flagstaff High School students attend Miss Dook'o'oosłííd pageant on November 18, 2021. Photo, Left: Braydyn Calamity.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November 2021

The month of November is designated Native American Heritage Month. Flagstaff Unified School District recognizes and honors all Native American cultures and contributions. Schools across the school district conducted various events and presentations throughout the month.

Top photo: Flagstaff High School students celebrate Native American Heritage Month by dressing in traditional clothing. Photos, L-R: A student displays her traditional Hopi hairdo that is normally worn by unmarried girls in Hopi culture; two students display their traditional Navajo hair bun adorned with yarn and beads; and three students pose for a photo in their traditional Navajo attire.



CocoNuts Robotics Team is back in action, busy with various competitions

December 20, 2021

Coconino High School's CocoNuts FIRST Robotics Team is back in action and back to in-person competition after two seasons of remote competition due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In September, they sponsored and ran the Ultimate Reunion Tour for Arizona FIRST Tech Challenge. This tournament allowed teams to play the 2020 Ultimate Goal game in-person and on alliances. CocoNuts also ran a robotics event for the Flagstaff Festival of Science where kids made robots out of LEGOs and raced them with the help of the CocoNuts.

In October, CocoNuts competed with their 2020 robot, Sweeper, at an event at Arizona State University. The competition was designed to have robots throw dodgeball-sized balls into a goal 8-feet off the ground and then pick itself up. Sweeper received an award in 2021 for its autonomous vision tracking system. In one match with Westwood Robotics and Plasma Robotics as their alliance partners, CocoNuts put up the high score of the day with over 170 points.

In November, CocoNuts hosted the outdoor STEM Fair "Tambien Lo Puedo Hacer" at Coconino High School. They have also been busy running FIRST events across the state; they recently hosted the Flagstaff FIRST LEGO League Qualifier at Coconino High School for 16 teams from across northern Arizona. This was the first in-person event in Flagstaff since February 2020. This event involved the "Cargo Connect" game which focused on transportation of materials and cargo in different ways.

The following teams earned awards: CocoNuts of Coconino High School – Volunteer Award; Sheryl Wells with LEGO Side of Killip Elementary School in Flagstaff, Arizona – Coach/Mentor Award; RoboPups of Bonnie Brennan Elementary in Winslow, Arizona – Core Values Award; BrainStormers of Bonnie

Brennan Elementary – Innovation Project Award; Montessorians of Montessori Switzer Mesa in Flagstaff, Arizona – Rising All-Star Award; Gear Guards of Montessori Switzer Mesa – Motivate Award; BrainStormers of Bonnie Brennan Elementary – Robot Performance Award; and Creative Conduits of Flagstaff, Arizona – Champion's Award.

The teams that will advance to the Arizona Championships slated for January at Arizona State University include: Atomic Circuits of Flagstaff, Arizona; Llamabots of Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy of Flagstaff, Arizona; Montessorians of Montessori Switzer Mesa; BrainStormers of Bonnie Brennan Elementary; and Creative Conduits of Flagstaff, Arizona.

The CocoNuts continue their season January 8 when a new game will be revealed at a worldwide kickoff broadcast. They also plan to compete in three regional events scheduled in March and April in Flagstaff, Denver, Colorado, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

The team is thankful for the support they receive. They thank the parents, mentors, event volunteers, Coconino High School, Flagstaff Unified School District teachers and administration, sponsors, and the community for the continued support of FIRST and STEM education.

View more photos at <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmXewb22> or scan the QR code below. ❄️



Photos: The Coconino High School CocoNuts hosted the annual Flagstaff FIRST LEGO League Tournament on December 5, 2021. Pictured are members of LEGO side of Killip Elementary School.



DeMiguel Elementary School receives two donated telescopes

December 9, 2021

DeMiguel Elementary School was recently gifted two telescopes by two separate community members, one donated by Joanne Beda and the other by an unnamed source.

Beda is a retired teacher and school counselor who has since moved from Flagstaff. She indicated she wanted to donate her telescope to DeMiguel because her grandchildren attend school there and they told her about the Astronomy Club, and she thought it was a perfect place for it. She also knows the importance of student education first hand.

Years ago, Beda moved to Flagstaff from Illinois and started a new chapter in Flagstaff. Her husband had an interest in science and one of his hobbies included studying planets and stars. She had one of his telescopes and she wanted it to be used and enjoyed just as much as he did.

"I always wanted the telescope to be used, and even better, used by kids," she said. "I hope the children develop an interest in science."

Mary Lara, a retired teacher at FUSD, coordinates the telescope program at DeMiguel and she helps to run the after-school Astronomy Club. She explained the two new

telescopes had a great impact on the club and allows students the opportunity to continue development of their interest in astronomy.

Lara explained it has been difficult in the last year to get students active in the club because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She hopes to get an after-school astronomy program running when things get back to normal and when it is safer to do so.


DeMiguel Elementary has been overwhelmed with the generosity from the community. The donations allow students to continue their passion for space science. With the use of the telescopes and having Walker Observatory in their backyard, students have an early opportunity to learn about astronomy starting in elementary school. ❄️

(Jack Darbourne, FUSD Communications Department Intern, contributed to this story)

Photos, Top: One of the donated telescopes sits inside the Walker Observatory on the campus of DeMiguel Elementary School ready and set-up to use by students. Bottom: The Walker Observatory sits on the campus of DeMiguel Elementary School, it was built by Kenneth Walker and named in his honor.

"I always wanted the telescope to be used, and even better, used by kids."
— Joanne Beda



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Killip Elementary School construction update

December 9, 2021

Construction of the new Killip Elementary School is coming along.

Bob Kuhn, assistant superintendent for Operations at Flagstaff Unified School District, reported CORE Construction continues to work on the new school with the roof being completed in October.

"Most of the interior area has been framed with interior utilities being installed. The B wing is almost completely sheet rocked," he reported to the FUSD governing board on December 14, 2021. "The exterior main parking lot was completed in mid-November. The dry and warm weather has helped CORE and their subcontractors work on the new school with very few delays."

Joe Gutierrez, principal of Killip Elementary, said the goal is to have the new Killip Elementary School open by August 1, 2022, and David Binderim, CORE Construction project manager,

expects construction to be completed by July 31, 2022 in time for the next school year.

Gutierrez explained the new school will have four pods of six classrooms. The new layout will also include creation stations for students to increase collaboration. Some other exciting features include a café, media center, presentation space, and a gym.

In addition, Binderim said the school also has some interesting features including a community garden and an outdoor learning space with a pond.

Binderim also explained although construction has been going smoothly, one challenge they experienced was redesigning the school to avoid flood damage.

Binderim and his team is excited to complete the school knowing its history. He explained some of the construction team members attended Killip and they feel honored to help in the process of rebuilding it.



As completion of construction nears, Gutierrez encourages families to consider enrolling their children at Killip. Aside from the new school construction, Killip offers many great programs including their STEM Program.

"[We are] excited and cannot wait

to be in our permanent new school. Go Cougars!" he said. ❄️

(Jack Darbourne, FUSD Communications Department Intern, contributed to this story)



Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School receives grant for tennis program

December 2, 2021

Congratulations to Kinsey Inquiry and Discovery School and Pam Lowie, Kinsey PE Teacher, for receiving the USTA Grow the Game grant for a tennis program!

Kinsey is the only school in Flagstaff to have both an in-school and after-school tennis program. We're excited to see Kinsey students learn and love a new sport. ❄️



Sechrist Elementary School hosts turkey drive

November 18, 2021

Sechrist Elementary School hosted its 14th annual turkey drive on November 18, 2021. The collected turkeys were delivered to Sunshine Rescue Mission, which were then provided to families in need in the community.

Chad Davis, a fifth-grade teacher at Sechrist, started this turkey drive 15 years ago.

A story was published in the Arizona Daily Sun on November 25, 2021. Scan the QR code to the right to read the article. ❄️

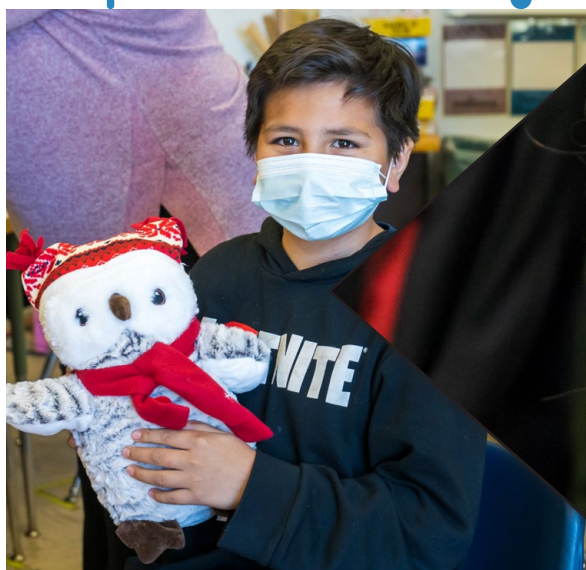
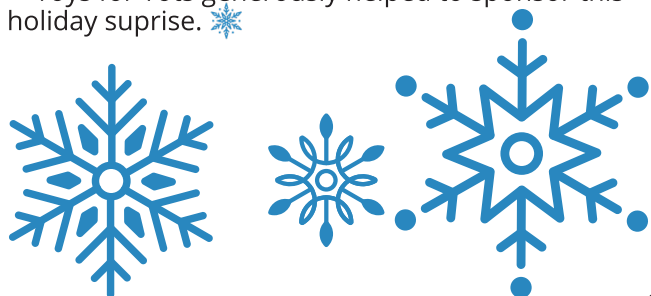




Holiday surprise at Killip Elementary School

Santa, Mrs. Clause, and the Grinch made a surprise visit to Killip Elementary School on December 17, 2021. They delivered gifts to every Killip student - stuffed animals, science kits, and a book to read.

Toys for Tots generously helped to sponsor this holiday surprise. ❄️





FUSD Foundation launches new Micro Grant program for FUSD teachers and staff

From the FUSD Foundation

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT! Our new micro grants program for FUSD teachers and staff is here and the application period is open.

Check out our website for more details on how it works. We can't wait to see the impact on FUSD students from all the incredible projects and programs these micro grants help bring to fruition. <https://fUSDfoundation.org/micro-grants/> ❄️



Weather Related School Closure and Delayed Start Information

As we prepare for the upcoming winter months, we want to inform you of possible weather-related schedule changes for students so you can plan ahead.

These alternative schedules were developed by FUSD staff to respond to winter weather conditions and plan for the safety of students and staff traveling to and from school. Additional factors considered in making the decision to delay or cancel school include weather forecasts, road conditions and closures, impact on instruction and scheduled activities, timelines for mobilizing communication, and changing bus routes.

FUSD will post notifications of a Delayed Start or School Cancellation on www.fUSD1.org and all of our social media platforms when a decision is made. Phone calls, e-mails, and text messages to FUSD parents and team members will be sent at 6:00 a.m. in the event of a schedule change.

DELAYED START - School starts two hours later than the regular start time at each building. Morning buses run two hours later than normal on delayed start days. Winter bus stop locations and times are subject to change in the Munds Park, Mountainaire, and Kachina Village areas. To view bus arrival information, sign up for Here Comes the Bus at <https://>

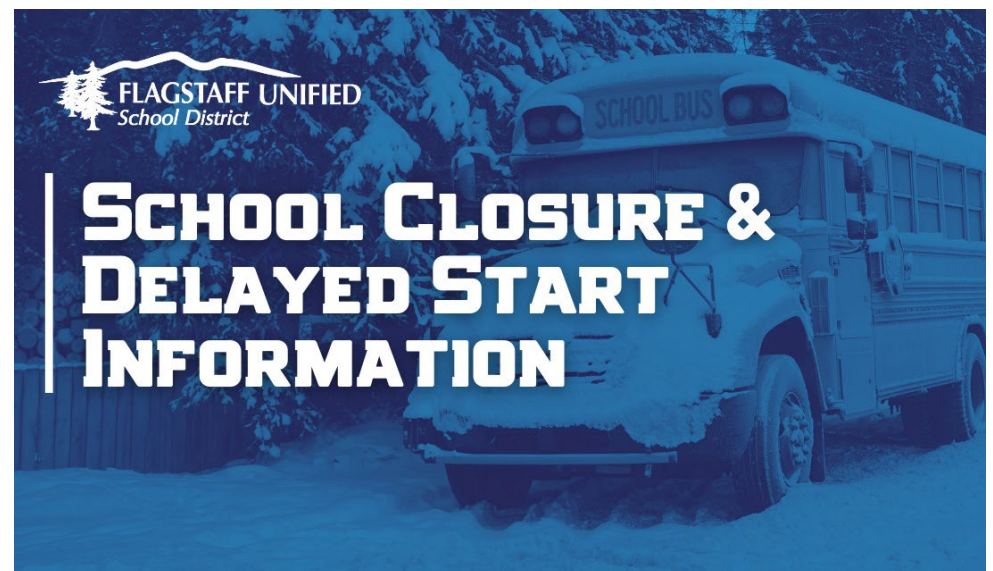
[herecomesthebus.com/parents/get-started/](https://www.herecomesthebus.com/parents/get-started/). In order to register your student, you will need the District Code, 83662, and the 16-digit code from the back of your student's bus pass.

Afternoon dismissal time and school bus runs will be the same as a regular day. If a Delayed Start occurs on a scheduled Early Release Day, the early release is canceled.

Morning FUSD Preschool classes, if held at your school, will be canceled when a two-hour delay is in effect. We ask for your cooperation to not bring your students to school early on Delayed Start Days unless they are already scheduled to attend FACTS.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION - All classes and school activities are canceled for students. In the event school is canceled, snow make-up days have been designated on the 2021-2022 school calendar. Days will be made up in the following order: 4/25, 5/6

BREAKFAST: On delayed start days, breakfast will still be available for students two hours later than normal. If breakfast is typically served in the cafeteria at your student's school, breakfast will be available in the cafeteria as normal. If your student's school does not serve breakfast in the cafeteria, i.e. breakfast is served



in the classroom, we ask that students go to the cafeteria to receive breakfast. Meals are not delivered to classrooms on two-hour delay days.

FACTS PROGRAM: The District's FACTS before and after school program will operate at each elementary school for FUSD students (ages 5-12) already scheduled for FACTS when we have a delayed start. On the Delayed Start Days, the FACTS Program will open at 7:30 a.m. and stay open until the start of school. FACTS will be closed on all Snow Cancellation Days.

For more information on FACTS, please visit their website www.fUSD1.org/facts or call (928) 527-6180.

We understand changes to the school schedule require parents and community partners to make alternative arrangements. Please plan ahead now for childcare in the likely event school is delayed or canceled during this winter season.

If you have any questions, please contact your school office. ❄️



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