

Joan McCoy receives National Board Certification

February 19, 2022

Joan McCoy, an instructional specialist at Cromer Elementary School, was recently recognized for achieving the National Board Certification.

She received the certification in English as a New Language for Early and Middle Childhood.

"I started this journey when I was the SEI, the Structured English Immersion teacher...when we had those classrooms in our [school] district. Before then, I switched over to being the instructional specialist," explained McCoy. "I [had] started [this process] while I was still in the classroom, but teaching students that were English language learners. So, that's how I picked the path I was taking for my board certification."

Many may not know the significance of "National Board Certification" and McCoy explained.

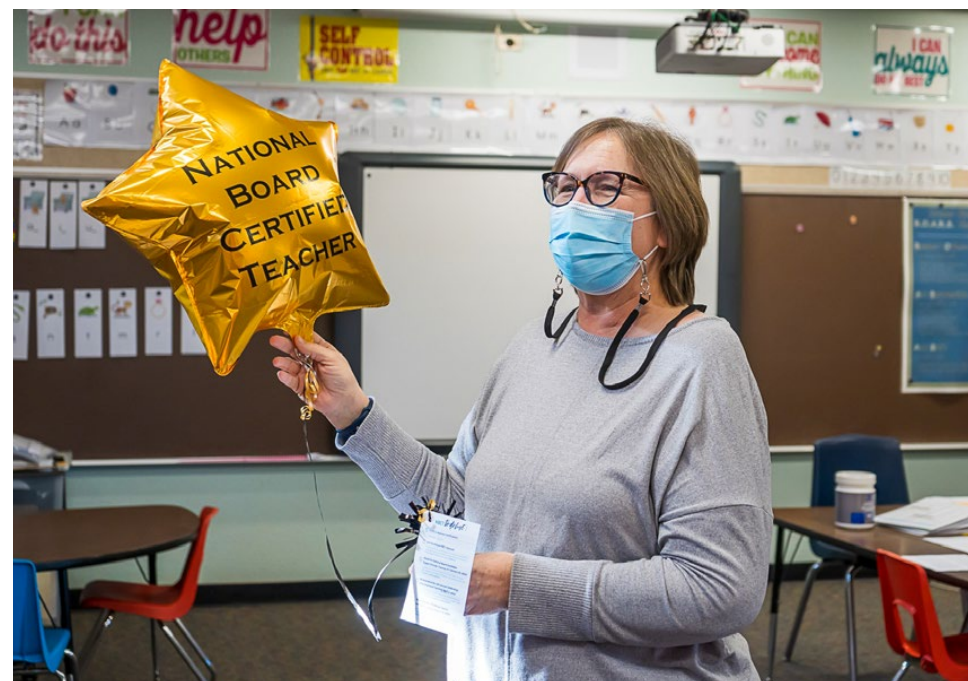
"The National Board Certification put together a set of standards. They're based on the five core propositions of teaching and the

architecture of accomplished teaching," she said. "I had a set of standards for my particular certification. Every set of certification has standards that are based on those things. They're looking at... Do you know your students?... Do you know instruction?... Do you know how to communicate with parents?... Do you know how to use assessments?"

The certification process is very in-depth for each category and it is a process.

"You have four components to your certification. You have a test that's a multiple choice and short answer test. Then you have three components that are writing based... one has videos in it," explained McCoy. "The other two are writing... one has to do with how you differentiate instruction and the other one has a lot to do with assessment plus communication with parents."

McCoy also explained the process is "quite a reflection on your practice, on what you do, the



Joan McCoy

decisions you make, why you make [such] decisions, and the reason for decisions."

"To me, it's almost like getting a masters or PhD," she said. "It meant more to me because it was really making me look at myself as an educator. Do I have the skills? Am I doing the best I can for the kids I work with? That means so much to

me."

McCoy said the kids are her motivation for teaching and doing what she does.

"Helping them, that's the biggest

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Joan McCoy*

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A Message from our Superintendent

February 2022

Last week's winter storm brought much needed snow and precipitation to our communities and an eagerly anticipated Snow Day to FUSD students. Thank you to our maintenance and custodial staff for their efforts to clear our parking areas and sidewalks, our bus drivers for safely transporting students, and our communication staff for alerting our school community of the changes to our schedule.

As we approach the end of the 3rd quarter of 2021-2022 school year, I am proud and grateful for the commitment FUSD staff have to the growth and support of our students. Without their efforts, our students would not be thriving and engaging in so many quality learning experiences as highlighted in this newsletter. I hope the upcoming parent-teacher conferences, scheduled on the early release days of March 9-11, will provide an opportunity to strengthen our partnerships with families to maximize the success of each of our FUSD students as we move into the final quarter of the school year.

Michael Penca
Superintendent



In January, kindergarten students celebrated the 100th Day of the 2021-2022 school year and "Zero the Hero," Superintendent Michael Penca, made an appearance at Knoles Elementary School to count by tens to 100, and congratulate the students on their growth and accomplishments.



**... Joan McCoy/
From Page 1**

motivation... to be able to help these kids on their educational journey," she said.

McCoy worked extremely hard to achieve National Board Certification and she said it was the "most worthwhile thing" she has done in her entire career.

"I worked really hard for this, because it meant so much for me. Knowing that I did it, makes me feel like I'm where I'm supposed to be and I'm on the right track, and I'm

helping kids and I'm helping them grow," she said. "I was overjoyed to finally get it, because this has been a long journey for me. I didn't get it right away, I had to redo several pieces in order to score well enough to get my certification."

McCoy said besides her, she knows of at least two other FUSD teachers that have the distinction of having National Board Certification. McCoy has been teaching for 35 years and 13 of those years for Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD). 🌲

Space mural receiving a touchup thanks to Allison Boyer

February 21, 2022

Allison Boyer is a student at Northern Arizona University majoring in Parks and Recreation and is a volunteer at DeMiguel Elementary School working to touchup an old mural outside of the school.

Boyer said she really wanted to do something that could help give back to the community, to help kids learn, and to have a “really cool thing at their school that they could look at and maybe be inspired to learn about – like space or animals.”

Boyer’s boyfriend, Brendan Downum, attended DeMiguel Elementary as a kid and he was showing her around the school campus one day when they came upon the space mural.

“He said it was his favorite painting there,” Boyer said.

They found the mural falling part, cracking, and fading.

“So, I offered to retouch it up and bring it back to life,” Boyer added.

The mural has a big solar system representation.

“The first segment of the wall has a satellite... it has [a] rocket ship... International Space Station... the first landing on the moon with Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong and the little shuttle that gets them there,” said Boyer. “And then around the corner, it’s a bunch of different planets... and then on the last segment of the wall... it’s constellations.”

Boyer is keeping all the original artwork intact and has just added one more astronaut.

“I’m just going to keep the original design and try to bring it back to life,” she said.

She is using acrylics for the touchups.

“I was looking online... it was saying for outdoor murals, acrylics were the best to use,” said Boyer. “I’ve been a painter for about 12 years. This is my first outdoor project and it’s been really fun.”

She is not sure how old the mural is, but she did say Principal Ninon Wilson indicated it has been there for many years and it has been there longer than she’s been principal there.

Being able to touchup this mural is gratifying for Boyer.

“I think it’s so important for kids to have art as inspiration or things around their school as fixtures for inspiration for learning. I certainly did that as well with a book that was in my school library called Koko’s Kitten,” said Boyer. “That launched an entire passion for helping save primates for me. Koko’s Kitten is a book about a gorilla that knows sign language. She was super smart and amazing, and that really got me into helping apes and then helping the environment and running a nonprofit for a few years.”

“I think things like that can really launch kids’ passions for learning and doing things in the world,” she added. “I think science would be a great thing to help inspire kids to get into, especially young girls getting into STEM careers is something that I want to help inspire them to do.”

The first big segment of the wall is completed, and Boyer is adding more details. Next is the mural around the corner facing east that includes a mural of planets. Boyer estimates about 25% of the mural is completed as of January 19, 2022. The project is expected to be completed by March 2022.

Boyer is enjoying the project.



“It’s a really cool opportunity and I hope I can inspire some kids to look into more stuff about space,” she said. 🌟



Photos, top: Allison Boyer poses in front of the mural she is working on at DeMiguel Elementary School. Bottom left: Boyer submitted a comparison photo of the work, the top photo is after some touchups.

Brayden Chee, RopeSmart Reserve World Champion roper

February 5, 2022

Leupp Elementary School has a champion roper attending their school. Brayden Chee, 8, is the RopeSmart Reserve World Champion after his challenging competition at the RopeSmart Rope of the World Championships held December 9 at the Plaza Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Brayden, a third grader in Mrs. Goodwin's class, won several prizes. Serena Warren, Brayden's mother, said her son won a championship buckle as part of his prize, along with gift cards, a RopeSmart roping dummy, gift certificates to various Western stores, and "a big old goody bag." The competition was specifically for the 7- to 9-year-old category.

"The years before, he won the World Championship Dummy Roping," said Warren. "So there, he won a saddle, a saddle pad, a buckle, gift cards, ropes, and a rope bag."

Warren said the prizes vary from competition to competition.

Dummy roping is like team roping according to Warren.

"You have your rope and you have to rope a dummy... like a steer dummy. There's three legal head catches... there's a half head, a full head, and slick horns only," she explained. "They have you start right behind the dummy and then they [gradually] move you back and back. There's a line, so you cannot touch the line. It's a competition of who can rope the farthest behind the dummy."

Warren explained the skill or roping takes patience and precision.

Brayden competed with ropers in his age group from all over the world,

his mom estimates about 30 to 40 kids competed.

Brayden also competed in the National Indian Finals Rodeo (INFR) held in October, just a few weeks before this competition, and he came in third place there.

Brayden said he feels good about his accomplishment.

"I was happy," Brayden said.

He said he practices every day with his rope and he wants to continuously improve his roping skills.

"I practice with my dad," he said. "I put the line behind my dummy and I move it back every time I rope it."

Aside from roping, Brayden said he enjoys his math class at school and it is his favorite subject. His math teacher is Ms. Goodwin.

Warren also explained Brayden has been roping since he was 1-years-old.

"When Brayden was born, we didn't have TV...we didn't have cable... we didn't have tablets... we didn't have video games... a lot of things that a lot of kids are on nowadays," Warren said. "We wanted him to grow up to be an outside boy. We didn't want him sitting inside in front of the TV."

Warren said when Brayden was 1-year-old, they gave him a shoestring to play with.

"He would watch 8 Seconds," said Warren. "He knew where he wanted to go."

Warren said Brayden was also influenced by his uncles and dad, Brandon Chee, who also ropes.

**Continued on page 5 /
Brayden Chee**



Photo, left: Brayden Chee, a third grader at Leupp Elementary School, poses for a photo in Leupp, Arizona. Photo, right: Brayden poses with Derrick Begay, World Champion Team Roper. (Submitted photos)





Green Schoolyard Grant initiated at Killip Elementary

February 21, 2022

Killip Elementary School is initiating a new project that will help create green areas for school spaces, thanks to the Green Schoolyard Grant.

Sheryl Wells, STEM coordinator at Killip Elementary School, explained the Green School Yards Grant comes through the Children and Nature Network and it is a multiple year grant providing support, along with funding.

"We selected Killip [Elementary] as our pilot project, but looking towards going to other elementary schools and middle schools... who knows... maybe even a high school in FUSD next?" said Wells. "Killip was chosen as the pilot site because it was an opportune time with the new school building going [up] and us needing to put in our garden, our pond, and other outdoor areas that had been taken down [by the] demolition for

the new building."

Wells said next week, they are having several events.

"We have the person that we work with, Mikaela from the Children and Nature Network, coming to Flagstaff along with a gentleman from the League of Cities," Wells said. "They're coming in to do a site visit. We are meeting as a team with them."

The governing board members of Flagstaff Unified School District are also planning a meeting with the group as well.

"The [City of Flagstaff] is involved in our [project as well]," said Wells. "Our playground becomes a city park at the end of the day. It's how it was before, so the city is involved in that way, but also with the flood mitigation that's going on." A follow-up article will be provided once the program is fully initiated at Killip Elementary. 🌲

... Brayden Chee/ From Page 4

"We wanted him to grow up to be able to show him this is what you can do for the rest of your life, it's just something that [does not] stop when you finish high school," Warren said.

As Brayden got older, Warren said the shoe string changed into a kid's rope and then a chicken rope.

"We just made his ropes bigger and bigger and bigger," she said. "And he just learned with his dad's help. His dad taught him a whole bunch about roping... how to swing his loop... how to fix his rope."

Brayden's rope has become his security blanket, so to speak.

"You know how kids have a blanket or a stuffed animal to use as part of their security? [For Brayden], it's his rope," said Warren. "Everywhere we go, it's a rope. He always carries around a rope... it doesn't matter if it's small... something he can swing in the car. He has a rope with him all the time."

Warren said Brayden won his first saddle when he was just 5-years-old and he also won his first world championship when he was 6-years

old. After competing in the 6-year-old competitions, he moved onto the 7- to 9-year-old division.

"His first year in the 7- to 9-year-old division, he won the world championship in Fort Worth, Texas," said Warren. "He's won about two or three saddles and over 20 buckles [so far]."

Warren explained they spend a lot of time and resources taking Brayden to various competitions.

"We fundraise. Brayden loves to eat banana splits and so that's one thing that we do to fundraise during the summer," said Warren. "Going into December, we fundraise and then on top of that, it's money out of our own pockets that we use to take him to different places to compete."

Warren said as parents, they are extremely proud of Brayden.

"The first time, I cried [when he won]. It was so much emotions... so many emotions going through and I'm very proud of him and I feel that he has a future ahead of him," she said. "Everywhere we go, I'm always happy whether he's first or whether he didn't place for anything. [We are] always supportive and I'm always happy for how good he ropes." 🌲

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH



JROTC program busy with competitions

February 22, 2022

Col. Donald W. Morris, senior Army Instructor for the Coconino High School JROTC program, said the program has been super busy and involved in several competitions recently but they have been rewarding.

Despite enduring final exams and the winter break, they competed in physical fitness, cyber security, and rifle marksmanship competitions with impressive results.

"Two 4-person fitness teams, one male and one female, competed on December 8 against 57 other JROTC programs from across the country," he said. "Our ladies placed 3rd overall. Way to go Brigid Enlow, Harlee Peterson, McKenzie Cook, and Taylor Wilkes."

"Meanwhile, our men placed a respectable 15th [place]," he added.

Col. Morris said on December 10, the Rifle Team shot in the Arizona State Match and finished in 3rd place overall in the state competition. In addition, Eric Poulter and Caleb Morris placed 1st and 2nd place

respectively as individuals in the standing position.

"Arguably the hardest position," he said referring to the standing position.

Col. Morris also said the Panther Battalion marched in the Holiday Parade of Lights with 114 cadets showing up to make for a very loud group in downtown Flagstaff.

"They all had a good time," he said.

On December 11, the Cyber Security Team competed in its Arizona state competition and brought home the 2nd place title for its second consecutive year.

"You'd think our JROTC cadets had earned their [winter] break after all that, but on the first day of the holiday [break] on December 18, our Color Guard opened the Wreaths Across America wreath-laying efforts at the Camp Navajo Veterans Cemetery in front of a crowd of over 100 veteran supporters from all over Arizona," he said.

Indeed, the JROTC program have been super busy.

"Now they can rest... maybe," said Col. Morris jokingly. 🌲



Top photo: JROTC members compete in the Virtual Fitness Event held December 21, 2021. Pictured from left to right is Brigid Enlow, Harlee Peterson, McKenzie Cook, and Taylor Wilkes. Middle photo: JROTC members pose with their 3rd Place win at the Arizona State Rifle Match held December 21, 2021. Pictured left to right is Caleb Morris, Jamie Shroufe, Ezra Richards, and Eric Poulter. Bottom photo: JROTC members participate in the Launch CyberPatriot State competition on December 21, 2021. Pictured left to right is Levi Haynie, Caleb Morris, Noah Burdick, and Adeline Chlupsa. (Submitted photos)



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**Allison Jencka, Nurse Outreach
Education Coordinator**

February 20, 2022

Allison "Ali" Jencka is the Nurse Outreach Education Coordinator at Flagstaff Unified School District and started November 2021 after working 20 years at Flagstaff Medical Center.

She is thrilled to be with Team FUSD. She explained her position is new and her primary role is to be a support to the nursing staff and students of the school district. She helps to coordinate vaccine events, ensures, and maximizes the health of the student body, staff, and surrounding communities.

"Promoting the health and well-being of our student body is critical as a nursing outreach educator," she said.

"I'm the proudest mother of two amazing school-aged girls who keep me busy with skiing, mountain biking and weekend getaways," she added. "Yoga is my newfound happy place when I have some alone time."

"Family, friends, and the sense of community is what makes me absolutely love my hometown of Flagstaff," said Jencka. "I'm elated to be here, serving FUSD, and our [school] district." 🌲



**Courtney Nesvold, Assistant Director
of Food Service**

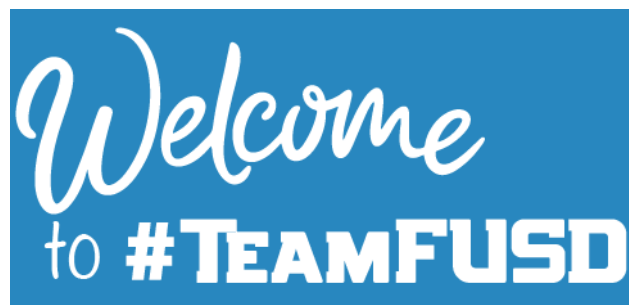
February 20, 2022

Courtney Nesvold is new to Flagstaff Unified School District and serves as the Assistant Director of Food Service.

"I am so excited to be working in the Flagstaff Unified School District," she said.

Prior to joining the school district, she worked at Forest Highlands Golf Club as their catering and special events manager. She has been in Flagstaff for almost 13 years and worked in food and beverage for almost 15 years.

On weekends, you can find her cooking and baking, hiking with her husband and two dogs, and then on the couch for a movie night. 🌲



1st Semester Graduates

Johnny B.	Andrew P.
Alyssa M.	Gabriel G.
Naveah F.	Angela C.
Devin D.	Skylene M.
John O.	Anthony C.
Corin D.	Antonio L.
Annalisa L.	Fatima R.
Matisha N.	Korey P.
Jeanette P.	Anthony H.

Congratulations!

Summit High School had 22 graduates so far this school year. I am proud of our students' commitment, grit, and determination. With the skills and perseverance that our graduates have developed and utilized this year, I know they can overcome any obstacles in their way. I am always proud of our Summit graduates, but I am especially proud of the Class of 2022. All our graduates for the Class of 2022 will be recognized at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2022.

Christopher Koenker
Principal



Congratulations

Katrina Collins-Hernandez

2022
Athena Award
Nominee

Young Professional



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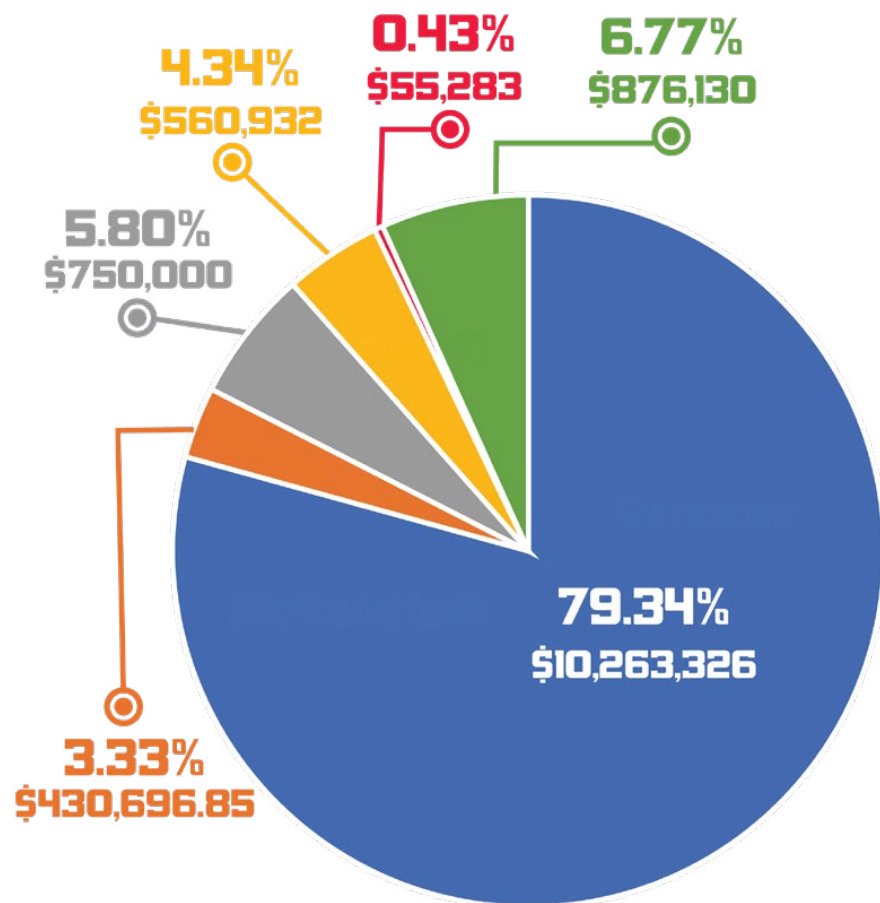
CONTACT

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3285 East Sparrow Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

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CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

MEMS RENOVATION EXPENSES BY FUND



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$12,936,368.85





The Mount Elden Middle School project consisted of construction of a new two-story section with four science classrooms on the lower level and media center/library on the upper level which opened to students in October 2021. Renovations in the existing sections of the school were made to enhance the learning spaces for STEM, performing arts, special education programs, and outdoor learning. Throughout the campus, improvements were made to address ADA accessibility, energy-efficiency, and technology needs as well as new carpet, paint, and furniture.

We are grateful to the District voters who approved the Flagstaff Unified School District's 2018 Bond program which primarily funded this project. Additional funding sources included Capital, Adjacent Ways, Civic Center, Sale of Assets, and School Facilities Oversight Board (SFOB).

Our primary partners on the project were SPS+ Architects and McCarthy Construction. 🌲



THANK YOU

We are thankful to the many local and statewide contractors who contributed to the project.

- Arizona Communication Experts
- Arizona Furnishings
- Associated Signs Company
- B&Z Painting
- Bleekers Boxes
- Blinds & Beyond
- Block-Lite
- Buffalo Fence & Barn Co.
- C&I
- CCS Presentation Systems, Inc.
- City of Flagstaff - Permits
- Firemen Movers
- Goodman Financial Consulting, LLC
- Home Depot
- Hye Tech Network and Security Solutions, LLC
- Ignace Brothers Drywall
- Major League Painting, Inc.
- McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
- National Restaurant Supply
- Norcon Industries
- Southwest Protective Services
- Spray Systems Environmental
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