

# FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED School District NEWSLETTER

November 2022



Photos, L-R: Jennifer Othon poses with her 5th Grade class at DeMiguel Elementary School; Kylie Haidet; and Erin Celona.

## Fiesta Bowl awards three FUSD teachers with \$2,500 each for classroom needs

November 20, 2022

The Fiesta Bowl recently awarded three Flagstaff Unified School teachers with \$2,500 each through the Palo Verde Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers Draft Party.

The recipients include Erin Celona, the teenage parenting program teacher at Summit High School; Kylie Haidet, a special education teacher at Knoles Elementary School; and Jennifer Othon, a 5th-grade teacher

at DeMiguel Elementary School.

Celona plans to purchase new cameras and computer software for her students and other general educational supplies.

"I plan to [use the cameras and software] for our first yearbook and more ergonomic furniture for our pregnant and nursing mothers, and some new novel sets," Celona said.

Haidet stated she will buy sensory equipment for her students.

"My class and I are very thankful

for the Fiesta Bowl!" said Haidet.

"We were able to get new adaptive desks and sensory items to make our classroom a more inclusive and adaptive environment for all students. We will use these items for a very long time, and it is going to allow for individual growth."

Othon will provide STEM resources for her students.

"I spent the money on science materials that can be used by the 5th graders at DeMiguel Elementary

[School]," Othon said.

The FUSD teachers are three of 400 recipients of the award by the Fiesta Bowl, which awards money annually as a tradition of honoring, supporting, and celebrating educators from across the state of Arizona. Recipients include those teaching the arts to science, both gifted and special education, languages, and life skills among a diverse group of subjects. 🌲

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## A message from our **SUPERINTENDENT**



During this Thanksgiving time, I want to express my appreciation for FUSD students, families, and staff.

It is so encouraging to see the many great student and staff accomplishments, quality learning and supports provided to students, and partnerships with our families and community that have occurred so far this school year.

I am excited about the months ahead and our continued work together.

## Override and Bond Update

FUSD is grateful for district voters supporting Propositions #447 Override and #448 Bond, and the opportunity to apply this funding to address our district's needs. Coconino County has completed canvassing and the certifying the election results. We will continue to keep you updated about our progress and projects over the next several years.

### **PROP #447 OVERRIDE**

Yes - 62.90% (22,492 votes), No - 37.10% (13,265 votes)

### **PROP #448 BOND**

Yes - 59.41% (21,169 votes), No - 40.59% (14,461 votes)

*Thank You!* **Voters**

## A-F Letter Grades

The Arizona State Board of Education has released the 2021-2022 A-F School Letter Grades for all public schools statewide. This accountability system measures year-to-year student academic growth, proficiency in English language arts, math, and science, the academic achievement of English learners, and indicators for college and career readiness. A-F Letter Grades was last awarded to Arizona school districts during the 2018-2019 school year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) is pleased to share our data and A-F Letter Grade designations with our staff, families, and communities. While we recognize the A-F Letter Grade formula relies mostly on standardized tests, which do not tell the whole story of our students' performance and growth, FUSD respects the opportunity to be accountable for results. We are proud of the daily efforts of our students and our dedicated staff, who provide meaningful learning experiences and the support needed. FUSD is encouraged by the growth made by many of our schools since 2019.

We will maintain a focus on improvement efforts, and continue to work in partnership with our families to achieve success for each of FUSD's students.

	2019 Grade	2022 Grade
Cromer Elementary School	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>
DeMiguel Elementary School	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>
Killip Elementary School	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>
Kinsey Elementary School	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>
Knoles Elementary School	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>
Leupp Elementary School	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Marshall Elementary School	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>
Puente de Hózhó Elementary School	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>
Sechrist Elementary School	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>
Thomas Elementary School	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>
Mount Elden Middle School	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>
Sinagua Middle School	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Coconino High School	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>
Flagstaff High School	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>
Summit High School	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>

### ADMINISTRATION

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LANCE HUFFMAN  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Curriculum & Instruction

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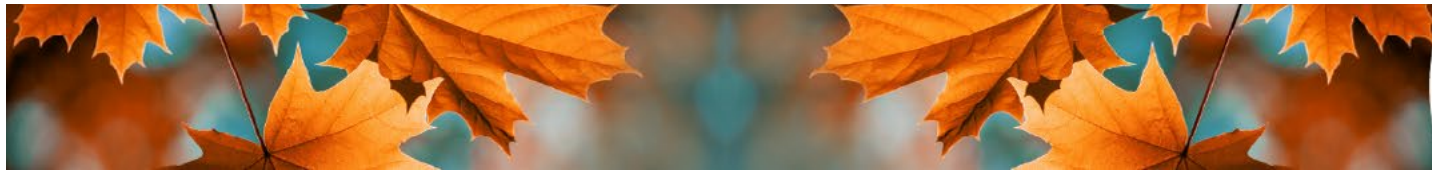
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### CONTACT

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## FUSD teachers complete 2022 DINÉ Teacher Fellows, 2022 ICSCI Teacher Fellows programs at NAU

*November 14, 2022*

Northern Arizona University recently announced several Flagstaff Unified School District teachers completed the 2022 DINÉ Teacher Fellows and the 2022 ICSCI Teacher Fellows program.

The 2022 DINÉ Teacher Fellows include Judith Arnold of Thomas Elementary and Marshal Elementary School; Emily Musta and Sylvia Garcia-Loehr of Flagstaff High School; Jordan Morales and Emily Leahy of Kinsey Elementary School; and James Jones of Mount Elden Middle School. The 2022 ICSCI Teacher Fellow includes JayLissa Mockta of Kinsey Elementary School.

Angelina E. Castagno, director of the Institute for Native-serving Educators & Diné Institute for Navajo Nation Educators, congratulated all the teachers and the Flagstaff Unified School District.

Castagno explained the 2022 DINÉ Teacher Fellows is one of many professional development programs offered through NAU's Institute for Native-serving Educators. The ICSCI Teacher Fellows is another professional development program offered at NAU.

"The Institute for Native-serving Educators [and the Indian Country School Counselors Institute (ICSCI) are] collaborative initiatives to strengthen schools across Indian County," said Castagno. "[The institutes are both] housed in NAU's Office of Native American Initiatives. We partner with Native Nations, Indigenous-serving schools, and public school districts on and bordering reservation communities to develop professional learning opportunities that meet community

needs."

"We do not have a one-size-fits-all approach to professional learning (PL)," added Castagno. "Instead, we build a unique PL experience based on the goals of the community and based on research and best practices in culturally responsive schooling."

Castagno explained the Diné Institute for Navajo Nation Educators (DINÉ) is a long-term, cohort-model professional learning opportunity for teachers in K-12 schools serving Diné and other indigenous students in schools on and bordering the Navajo Nation.

"The DINÉ began with nine teachers and 2018, and we have had approximately 85 teachers complete the program since then," said Castagno. "Each teacher in the DINÉ commits to the program for eight months and each writes a robust culturally responsive curriculum unit that we publish online so that other educators can access, adapt, and use them in their classrooms."

Castagno explained the Indian Country School Counselors Institute (ICSCI) is an eight-month professional learning institute for school counselors to grow their capacity and effectiveness in working with indigenous students.

"Members of the ICSCI cohort build their capacity to support student well-being and success in culturally responsive ways," said Castagno. "The program culminates with each cohort member writing a guidance curriculum unit on a topic of their choosing, which they can use in their schools and which will be published online as a resource for others." 🌲

## TOYS FOR TOTS



**U.S. MARINE CORPS**

### Toys for Tots bin located at the district office

The District Office at Flagstaff Unified School District is collecting toys for *Toys for Tots*. Unwrapped toys are welcomed to benefit those in need during this holiday season. 🌲





Photos, left: Jonathan Chapman, a Northern Arizona University student, performs a fancy dance on November 10, 2022, at Thomas Elementary School as part of Native American Heritage month festivities. Right: LuVelle Lomahoyouma, a 10th grader at Coconino High School, performs a Hopi dance on November 16, 2022, at Mount Elden Middle School.

## Celebrating Native American Heritage Month at FUSD

**November 18, 2022**

The month of November is designated as Native American Heritage Month, and it is a time to celebrate the diverse cultures, heritage, rich histories, contributions, and accomplishments made by past and present Native Americans — the First Nation people of this country.

Dianne Lomahaftewa-Albert, the supervisor of the Native American Education Support Program at Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD), explained the school district has a large population of Native American students, nearly one-third of the total population.

"We serve 9,183 students within the FUSD, and 2,845 of

those students identify as Native Americans," she said. "Further, 183 students are identified as Native American speakers. We also have 126 Native American employees within the school district."

Lomahaftewa-Albert also explained that FUSD supports its Native American students in many ways, including through the Puente de Hózhó (PdH) Magnet School, the PdH Language Academy at Sinagua Middle School, Spanish and Navajo courses at secondary school sites, AAPL testing at PdH and Sinagua Middle School, the seal of biliteracy testing, and through various family outreach events.

In addition, FUSD promotes success through the International

Baccalaureate Programming — Global Citizenship; collaborative relationship with Coconino Community College through CAVIAT and CTE programs; Northern Arizona Interfaith Council (NAIC) outreach programs at Sinagua Middle School, Flagstaff High School, Coconino High School, and PdH; post-secondary counseling in guidance, districtwide language committees, Native American Education Support Program, Title IV Indian Education funding, and Johnson O'Malley.

Several Native American-themed events were held throughout the month at various FUSD school sites.

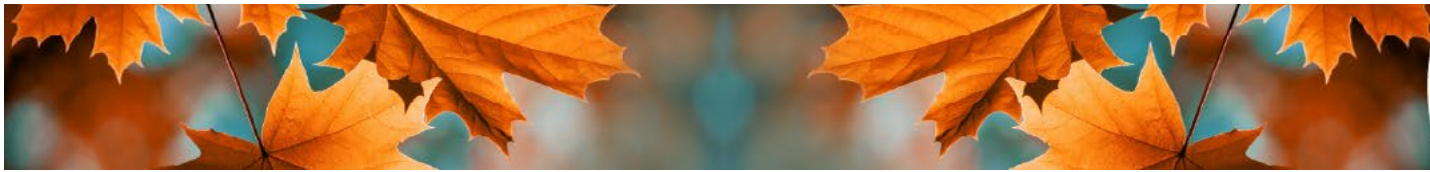
"We celebrate in many ways with events such as parades, art exhibitions, concerts, and traditional

native food fairs," said Lomahaftewa-Albert. "Many of our talented indigenous students, including school royalty [ambassadors], share their heritage and traditions."

Some events held this month included Rock your Mocs Day; indigenous dancers at Summit High School; Késhjéé Navajo Shoe Game; Navajo Coyote stories and string games; Turquoise Day; Indigenous T-shirts Day; Native Scarf, Braids, Headband or Hair Bun Day; and Traditional Regalia and Attire Day.

Learn more about Native American Heritage Month, <http://ow.ly/4MK250LqYJF> 🌲





Photos, top left: Students attended a Navajo weaving demonstration by Mae Zee on November 4, 2022, at Thomas Elementary School. Top right: A dancer performs November 16, 2022, at Mount Elden Middle School. Bottom: Members of the Flagstaff High School Girls' Basketball Team dress in their Native American traditional regalia. (Photo by Marian Bitsui)





## Flagstaff High School Girls' Cross Country wins state championship, boys garner state runner-up honors

The Flagstaff High School Cross Country teams concluded with a successful season.

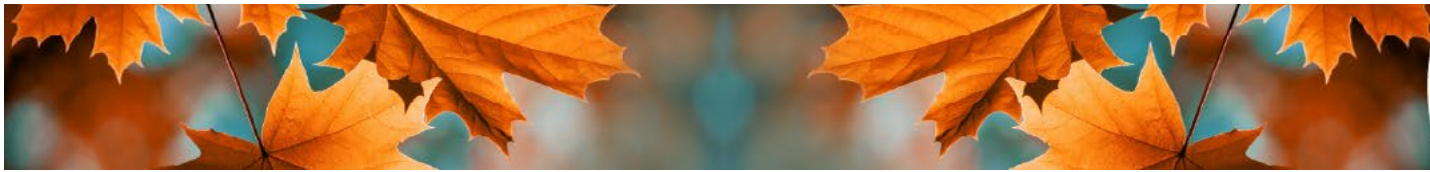
Coach Trina Painter explained that the cross-country teams had an amazing season.

"[The season was] capped off with the girls winning the state [championship] and the boys taking

state runner-up after a hard-fought battle with two other schools," Painter said. "Mia Hall won her third consecutive individual title, and Dash McQuivey came in fourth place as our top male finisher."

Congratulations to the Flagstaff High School Cross Country Team! 🌲





## Rivalry football matchup

Coconino High School and Flagstaff High School played their rivalry game on November 10, 2022, at Cromer Stadium at Coconino High School. 🌲

## Rivalry volleyball matchup

Flagstaff High School and Coconino High School played their rivalry volleyball game on October 27, 2022, at Coconino High School. 🌲



## DECEMBER 2022

- 12/1: Anti-Racism/Anti-Bias Advisory Committee Meeting
- 12/6: Bond Oversight Committee
- 12/8: Early Release for Elementary Teacher Prep Time - Grading Wellness Committee Meeting
- 12/13: Governing Board Meeting
- 12/16: End of 2nd Quarter
- 12/19-30: Winter Break - No School
- 1/2/23: FUSD Classes Resume



### Knoles Elementary School collects nearly 2,500 pairs of socks for annual Socktober

*November 14, 2022*

In October, Knoles Elementary School participated in its 7th Annual Socktober collection drive.

Mandy Newgard, a second-grade teacher at Knoles who coordinated the drive with the Knoles Beacon classes, explained the new sock collection drive was made possible

through generous donations from staff and students, as well as Christ's Church of Flagstaff, and Arizona Helping Hands.

"The school collected 2,473 pairs of socks!" said Newgard. "These socks will be donated to Hope Cottage and Sunshine Rescue Missions, helping our local homeless population this winter." ❄️





# What's eating you? Destressing meal times

By Barbara Ann Heerkens MPH, RDN  
FUSD Food Service Assistant Director

November 18, 2022

It is so hard to get children to eat! It is even more difficult to get them to eat the right things. When fighting them at every bite becomes the norm, it makes what should be a fun experience for adults and children, into a stressful one.

We all want our children and the children in our community to be healthy, but we know the struggle of forcing kids to do anything, especially eating! So, what do you do at mealtime?

If you are a parent, teacher, or an adult that works with children and their eating — this page is for you! Healthy eating starts with eating competence. Eating competence is being positive, comfortable, and flexible with eating as well as matter-of-fact and reliable about getting enough to eat of enjoyable and nourishing food. When children have eating competence, they are able to eat when they are hungry and stop when they are full.

A tool to encourage eating competence in your home, school, and community is the "Satter Model." The model spits up what responsibilities the adult has, and which ones the child has. It might take a few weeks for children to get used to using the model, but once consistency is used turns stressful mealtimes into reliable, fun, and a moment for learning.

## The adult controls:

1. Where the child eats.
2. When the child eats
3. What the child eats.

Through controlling these things, the adult can minimize distractions,

set regular meal times, and create balanced meals for the child. This helps the child learn that at mealtime, "we focus on our food and how it makes us feel, what we like and not like and why." It also shows the child that they cannot demand certain foods and expect the adult to bend to their will.

Because the adult picks what is being eaten, the adult can use their knowledge of what the child likes, and what the child needs to be exposed to. Serving new foods with foods the child recognize is essential to encourage them to feel safe when trying new foods.

## The child controls: Whether or not they eat and how much they eat.

Okay. I know what you are thinking, "can you imagine the tantrum that my child will throw if they don't eat and they are hungry later?" Yes, there will be a rough transition until your child learns that they cannot demand food if they refuse to eat what is on their plate. However, it is essential that children learn the natural cues of their bodies. If they do not want to eat, allow them to investigate their hunger and how it affects their emotions. Health starts with healthy behaviors and healthy behaviors start with being mindful of how our behaviors affect them.

In addition, only your child knows how much they are hungry for. Hunger depends on their activity, moods, and intake which fluctuates every day. Encourage them to listen to their bodies and eat ONLY when they are hungry. When we force children to eat what is on their plate, we may be encouraging them to eat too much or even not enough. 🌿



Top: Elementary school students during their lunch break on the first day of school on August 10, 2022. Bottom: Middle School students try new smoothies on October 20, 2022, at Mount Elden Middle School.



## Flagstaff High School Mountain Biking Team win state championship



November 10, 2022

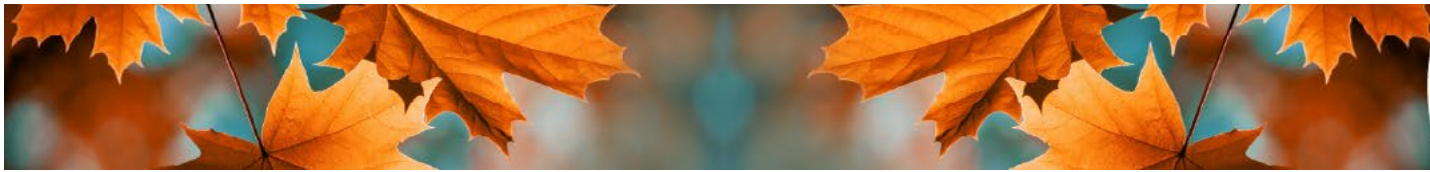
The Flagstaff High School Mountain Biking Team won the Division 1 State Championship. The team also had three individual champions: Keegan Field, 10th Grade, in varsity boys; McKenna Maloney, 10th Grade, varsity girls; and Lily Sabol, 9th Grade, freshman girls.

Andrea Horner, team director of the biking team, explained the team is undefeated for the last two seasons.

Congratulations to the FHS Mountain Biking Team! 🌲







## Sechrist Elementary collects turkeys

*November 17, 2022*

Sechrist Elementary School held its 15th Annual Turkey Drive and fundraiser the week before Thanksgiving.

John Albert, principal at Sechrist, explained that the drive was

successful, and they collected nearly 200 turkeys.

"We are proud to partner with Sunshine Rescue Mission and [the] Hope Cottage in providing meals for our community," said Albert. "This project was initiated by Chad Davis

and his 5th Grade class 15 years ago, and [it] continues to provide meals at a much-needed time."

Albert explained that students learn the importance of community service and volunteering.

"In conjunction, the students compile math data during the Turkey Drive and analyze the data in their classroom," he said. "The collaboration between the

community stakeholders is what makes this event special. The number of cars on Highway 180 that smile and wave to the students consists of generations of Sechrist alumni that give back to the community." 🌲





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