Phoenix Union welcomed over 27,000 students to its 123rd school year. The schools came alive, August 7, and as usual, first day registrations were brisk. Registration offices were busy, parent drop-off lanes were packed, staff helped students navigate new schedules, while rules, regulations and expectations dominated class time.

It was the first day ever for two schools-- Phoenix Union-Wilson College Prep, and the Gifted and Talented Academy at Maryvale. Pre-enrollment was almost equal to last year, but by high point, 27,761 students, the most in 39 years, were on campuses in 2016. This year’s high point enrollment projection is for 27,954. There will be hundreds of adds and drops by then (20 days in.)

Carl Hayden and Central High Schools will hit their 60-year anniversaries in September, when both schools opened. Desiderata began 40 years ago, in 1977, Ten years will also be marked for the campus openings of Franklin Police and Fire (Oct. 1) and Bioscience (October 15) this fall.

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The 2017-18 Opening of Schools Convocation drew another full house at the Celebrity Theatre August 1. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson gave the keynote address around the theme of “Everybody Matters.”

There were three student performances. The show band, the Betty Fairfax Marching Band looked and sounded in mid-season form. The Trevor Browne Choir, the largest in the state, filled the theatre with 140 student voices, and the North High Ballet Folklorico was a lively, colorful addition to the program. Central High’s JROTC Color Guard presented the colors.

The 2017 Employees of the Year were announced. Trevor Browne’s Jane Geary was Classroom Teacher of the Year: Margarita Valdez of Linda Abril Educational Academy was the Support Staff Employee of the Year, and Metro Tech Principal Bryan Reynoso, was Administrator of the Year.

Students of the Year were Jaziel Olmeda of Metro Tech; A’Lira Underwood of South Mountain, and Vincent De La Cruz of Betty Fairfax.

School of the Year Awards went to Bioscience- Small School Student Achievement; Central-Large School Student Achievement; North-Arts; Betty Fairfax-Athletics; Franklin- Customer Experience. Six Values in Action Awards were presented. The winners were Maryvale-Compassionate; Desiderata-Committed; Alhambra-Collaborative; South Mountain-Courageous; Camelback-Creative; and Food Service-Conscious.

And finally, the coveted Spirit Stick was awarded to Alhambra, and its forest of glow sticks. And not to leave anyone out, a smaller Spirit Stick was offered for small school spirit. The Bostrom Bulldogs were the winners of that Spirit Stick.
The Phoenix Union Black Student Union has typically organized an annual tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, but the group of students this year were given a tremendous boost. The Burton Family Foundation, a supporting organization of the Arizona Community Foundation and its Black Philanthropy Initiative is sponsoring not only the fall tour of six colleges, but also an ACT Test prep boot camp that was held in July at Linda Abril Educational Academy. About 30 students and chaperones from Betty Fairfax, Cesar Chavez, Maryvale, Linda Abril and Trevor Browne took part in the boot camp, and this October they will explore post-secondary opportunities at Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M, Grambling State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Jackson State University, and Southern University.

The benefactor was Christy Burton, the Founder and Chair of the Burton Family Foundation, who contributed most of the $40,000 to fund this project, on behalf of the Black Philanthropy Initiative of the Arizona Community Foundation.

Burton visited the boot camp this summer and met the students. She also supported the ACT Test Prep Crash Course at Bioscience last year, and her foundation may also be remembered for her “Flash Funding” for Support My Club, in which $100,000 in purchased items went to clubs across the District.

The high school football season starts earlier and earlier, it seems. What is known as “zero week,” has eight of the ten Phoenix Union teams opening their seasons, Friday, August 18. Intra-district games include Alhambra at North; Betty Fairfax at Camelback; and South Mountain at Maryvale. Trevor Browne hosts Yuma Kofa, and Cesar Chavez travels to Queen Creek. Central and Carl Hayden start August 25. For the second year, six teams will play in the 6A Metro Region, and four PUHSD teams will join two Glendale teams in the 5A Union Region.

August 23
Twenty-five Chinese students will be attending Phoenix Union schools this fall as participants in the American Education Development Organization. This exchange started four years ago, with students from Lanzhou, but this year, there are also students from Beijing, Shanghai and other cities. There are 10 students at North, eight at Trevor Browne, three at Cesar Chavez and two each at Betty Fairfax and Carl Hayden.

Many of the host families are Phoenix Union employees, including Abigail Broderick, Center for Educational Excellence (District Office); Dani Portillo Verduzco, principal of Carl Hayden and Richard Verduzco, Franklin teacher. From North: Asst. Principal Raymond Pino and teacher Nick Valente. From Chavez: teachers Alison Brightwell-Balot, and Lisa Marie Boch. From Fairfax, teacher Ryan Ussery. From Trevor Browne: teachers Suzanne Tate, Jayada Patel, Jeremy Zimmerman, Yolanda Gallegos

The organization is led by former PUHSD administrator T.J. Jenkins, and former Bostrom teacher Crystal Gu.

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Former Phoenix Union employee **Dr. Gabriel Trujillo** was named superintendent of the Tucson Unified School District, August 22. Trujillo was the principal of Trevor Browne for seven years, and had a short stint as a Human Resources Director before going to Tucson last fall as an assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. He became interim superintendent in March. Trujillo was one of four candidates who were named as finalists earlier this month. Trujillo was the second former Phoenix Union administrator to become a superintendent in the past year. **Nora Gutierrez,** a one-time assistant superintendent at PUHSD, became the Tolleson Union High School District superintendent.

**August 30**

Participatory Budgeting is back this year, and expanded to 10 schools in Phoenix Union. Large schools receive $7,000 and small schools, $4,000 and students determine how that money is to be spent. The process begins with idea collection, proposal development, a campaign and school election, and finally, implementation.

Central hosted the PUHSD Participatory Budgeting Kickoff, August 26. Seventy Students, teachers and principals from six other schools: Bioscience, Coding Academy, Carl Hayden, Linda Abril, Metro Tech and Trevor Brown gathered in the library to simulate the year-long process and plan implementation at their own campus. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson and board member Stanford Prescott addressed the teams.

The Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) is a democratic process that gives students the power to decide how to spend school district funds to improve their schools. Through PBP, students brainstorm ideas for projects, develop these ideas into projects, and vote on which projects will be funded.

Last year, voter turnout at the schools was 84%, better than a general election.

**September 6**

All around the Phoenix Union High School District, schools paused to join together for a Moment of Peace and Unity, September 1. It was the first such activity for Phoenix Union, organized through staff and student leadership in response to the current unrest and divisiveness in our state and country. Some filled football fields, while others formed human chains in the hallways, while music, speeches, poetry, recorded audio clips and signs colored the day.

At Bioscience, students signed a banner that says “We stand together,” and they hung it in their Town Hall multipurpose room. At Bostrom, students were given a yellow ribbon and wrote a positive note on it. The ribbons were attached to the fence, forming the word, “Peace.” Central ended their first spirit assembly early and formed a human chain around the perimeter of the school, filling up two stories with students. At Chavez, students wrapped around the track to hear inspirational messages. At Trevor Browne, 3000 students used most of the fence line of the school to show their support. Metro Tech took to the baseball field, while the 200 students and staff at
Coding Academy showed their support with a building-long banner saying “Coders Unite.” South Mountain created three heart-shaped groups of students and staff on the football field. Seniors were on the 50-yard line, sophomores were on one side, juniors on the other, while freshmen, holding hands, wrapped around the three hearts. Alhambra lined the hallways indoors, to beat the heat, but Maryvale’s 2900 students, took to the football field, taking a lane on the running track for each class. Students read poems and gave inspirational speeches, while student government closed with letter placards spelling out “Maryvale Unites.” Every school participated in its own way, and many teachers followed up with discussions prompted by guiding questions. Despite the 100-degree temperatures, a Moment of Peace and Unity was a peaceful, unifying success.

**September 13**

More than 5,400 Phoenix Union freshmen will receive equipment and connectivity as part of the Sprint Foundation’s 1Million Project this year. The students who qualify, based on income and not currently having internet at home, will receive either a smartphone or hot spot, and 3GB of high-speed data per month for up to four years while they are in high school.

Sprint and the District kicked off the project, September 13 at Central High School with selected students from 17 schools, joined by Sprint executives, Superintendent Chad Gestson and Mayor Greg Stanton. The students received their devices and had them activated during the event. Each campus has, or will facilitate its own large-scale distribution and activation plan for its freshmen.

Phoenix Union is one of only three school districts in Arizona to take part in this project, which will impact more than 180,000 students in 1,300 schools across 30 states. The project will continue for five years, so that each year, freshmen will be equipped devices and free connectivity, until one million students are served.

According to research, five-million U.S. families with school aged children do not have internet access at home, but 70 percent of teachers assign homework that requires web access, creating a “homework gap.”

“This partnership will help us close not only the digital divide, but also the digital homework gap,” Gestson said. “It is an honor to be selected among the first school districts in the nation to participate in a program that will benefit students at no cost to the District. We look forward to building this program, one incoming grade at a time, connecting all students who choose to attend a PUHSD school.”

Sprint, the Sprint Foundation and Phoenix Union High School District are demonstrating how business and education can work together to help close the digital divide,” Greg Post, Sprint Mountain Southwest Regional President said.

The free devices with service to 5,400 PUHSD students is a donation valued at $3.7 million in the first year alone.

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Almost 9,000 Phoenix Union students will take the U.S. Citizenship Civics Test, September 14-15. Most of the test takers will be juniors in their U.S. History classes, and some sophomores taking U.S. History. Seniors who have not taken or passed the test will also have the opportunity.
This is the third year that this exam is being administered, and its passage is required for high school graduation in Arizona. Most of the exams will be completed and graded online for the first time. Students need to score 60% or better on the exam. No senior failed to graduate as a result of failing this exam last year. Students can study for the test online. The students had a few questions that stumped them, including: Who was the U.S. President during WW I? The answer: Woodrow Wilson.

Civics Week will culminate with a Naturalization Ceremony, Monday, September 18 at Betty Fairfax High School, presented by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

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You have probably seen the Energy Star logo on appliances, but buildings can also earn Energy Star certification. Energy Star is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency voluntary program that helps businesses and individuals save money and protect our climate through superior energy efficiency.

Certified buildings save energy, save money, and help protect the environment by generating fewer greenhouse gas emission than typical buildings. Through the District’s energy management practices, Phoenix Union has earned Energy Star Certification at 15 schools.

To be eligible for Energy Star certification, a building must earn an Energy Star score of 75 or higher, indicating that it performs better than at least 75 percent of similar buildings nationwide.

For the second year in a row, all eligible Phoenix Union campuses have attained the designation as an Energy Star certified building.

At the September 7 governing board meeting, Cenergistic, a company that specializes in organizational behavior-based energy conservation that has partnered with Phoenix Union, presented a plaque to the District and recognized each school’s principal and campus facility supervisor with the Energy Star certification.

Of the 15 schools (new schools Linda Abril and Coding were not yet rated) 10 scored 92 or above, meaning more efficient than 92% of similar education institutions. South Mountain and Betty Fairfax topped the list at 97, Alhambra, Metro Tech, Trevor Browne and Desiderata had 96, Camelback and Carl Hayden, 95, Bostrom, 94 and Maryvale, 92.

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The Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame Benefit Golf tournament is October 7 at the Grand Canyon University Golf Course. Sponsorships, foursomes and individual players are invited to play with the Hall of Famers for the 7:30 shotgun scramble. This year a new event for non-golfers is a nine-hole putt-putt tournament on a course constructed by the South Mountain construction students. Foursome and player registration deadline is September 29. For more information, call (480) 289-5761.

The third annual Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony will be held at the Talking Stick Resort Arena, December 19.
**September 20**

Phoenix Union’s enrollment inched upward for the fifth consecutive year, to 27,813, the highest enrollment in 39 years. The “high point” figure (calculated at the 20th day, September 1) was 52 students higher than 2016-17. The largest school is Trevor Browne, at 3,123, and the school that grew the most was South Mountain, with 124 more students than last year. For the first time in 10 years, South’s attendance topped the 2,000-student mark. Contributing to the growth was Phoenix Union Wilson College Prep, which opened with a freshman class, and Phoenix Coding Academy added another freshman class, giving the school 9th and 10th graders. Bioscience hit its highest enrollment in its history, with 346 students.

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The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education is holding a Mix ‘n Mingle reception, Tuesday, September 26 at the Linda Abril Educational Academy from 6-8 p.m. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson and the Foundation are looking to grow the Foundation membership, expand its donor and volunteer base and find individuals to serve on its committees.

The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education is a 501 c 3 non-profit that provides post-secondary scholarships to Phoenix Union students, and supports the District through its Innovation Grants. Last year, it gave $110,000 in scholarships, and grew its scholarship endowment fund to $500,000.

The Foundation members invite you to learn more about the great work that they do for students and schools by attending the Mix n Mingle event. Linda Abril Educational Academy is at 3000 N. 19th Ave., Phoenix, 85015.

For more information, contact Connie Ingallina at conni@sosolutions.org

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September is the month for the Take Your Legislature to School initiative. It is an opportunity for state legislators to experience Arizona education up close, visiting campuses and classrooms and meeting teachers and administrators. Among the visits, State Senator Catherine Miranda went to Franklin Police & Fire High School, September 12, where Professional Development Specialist Heidi Bonfante was the host teacher, and Representative Kelly Butler is going to Phoenix Coding Academy, September 22, hosted by World Language teacher Debbie Kunes.

“My goal is to highlight the exciting, innovative, small specialty school, offering pathways in engineering, coding and programming, and networking. We believe that there is no other urban public small school operating through the lens of technology like us,” Kunes said. “We would be honored to show the positive power of public schools for the people and by the people.”

The Arizona Educational Foundation, the Arizona Education Association, the Arizona K12 Center and the Rodel Foundation support this statewide initiative focusing on improving education.

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**September 27**

Phoenix Union schools participated in the National Voter Registration Day, September 26 with lunchtime tables set up for students and staff to register. The District utilized community partners Arizona Coalition for Change, AZ Center for Empowerment, Center for Neighborhood Leadership, Neighborhood Ministries, Mi Familia Vota, Promise Arizona and Central Arizonans for a Sustainable Economy to man the registration tables at 14 campuses.

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The fifth annual Phoenix Union Experience High School Expo will be held Saturday, November 4 at Phoenix College. It is an opportunity for middle school/junior high students to explore the many schools and programs available at Phoenix Union High School District and meet students and staff. It is also the first official day to register for one of the schools. There is student entertainment, giveaways, food and fun, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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The first Academic Decathlon event of the year is the Phoenix Union Decathlon, which will be held November 17-18 at Camelback High School. It is not just limited to PUHSD schools. This year, 20 teams are expected. The decathlon organizers are looking for volunteers for this event. No experience is necessary. It starts with essay scoring, November 15. Friday, November 17 is when speeches and interviews take place, with training beginning at 4 p.m. Dinner is provided for
volunteers. Saturday, November 18, there is a need for test proctors in the morning, and the Super Quiz in the afternoon.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact Sharon Bernero at bernero@phoenixunion.org.

October 4

Thirty-eight Phoenix Union students will spend Fall Break on an annual tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, thanks to financial support from the Burton Family Foundation, a supporting organization of the Arizona Community Foundation, and its Black Philanthropy Initiative. The group from Betty Fairfax, Cesar Chavez, Maryvale, Linda Abril and Trevor Browne will explore post-secondary opportunities at Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M, Grambling State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Jackson State University, and Southern University, October 9-13. Fairfax teacher Sandra Jenkins is a driving force behind these annual trips. She is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, and her hometown newspaper in Mound Bayou has reported that the Phoenix group is on their way to the Magnolia State.

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The Ninth Annual Phoenix Union M.E.Ch.A. Youth Conference for 2017-18 will be hosted by Metro Tech and Linda Abril Educational Academy, October 27. The theme for this year’s conference is Nuestra voz cuenta – in fronteras (No border can silence our voices).

“In the current social and political climate that puts immigration, the border, racism and education issues in media across our nation, M.E.Ch.A. responds with a message of unity, love and self-empowerment,” M.E.Ch.A advisor at Linda Abril Christopher Bates said.
The workshops planned feature immigration attorneys, social and cultural awareness activities with regard an emphasis on the Indigenous origins of many of the peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

October 25

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The Ninth Annual Phoenix Union M.E.Ch.A. Youth Conference for 2017-18 will be hosted by Metro Tech and Linda Abril Educational Academy, tomorrow (October 27) from 1 to 6:30 p.m. The theme for this year’s conference is Nuestra voz cuenta – in fronteras (No border can silence our voices).

“In the current social and political climate that puts immigration, the border, racism and education issues in media across our nation, M.E.Ch.A. responds with a message of unity, love and self-empowerment,” Linda Abril M.E.Ch.A advisor Christopher Bates said.

The workshops will feature immigration attorneys, social and cultural awareness activities with an emphasis on the Indigenous origins of many of the peoples of the Western Hemisphere. Among the speakers are Keynote speaker ASU professor Dr. David Garcia, Arizona Education Association Vice President Marisol Garcia, Documentarian Valeria Fernández, Chef Silvana Salcido Esparza, Playwright James Garcia, Attorney Nicomedes Suriel and Anabel Maldonado with the ACLU. There will also be a Unity Walk from one campus to the other.

November 1

The fifth annual Phoenix Union Experience High School Expo is Saturday, November 4 at Phoenix College. It is an opportunity for middle school/junior high students to explore the many schools and programs available at Phoenix Union High School District and meet students and staff. It is

Linda Abril • Alhambra • Bioscience • Bostrom • Trevor Browne • Camelback • Cesar Chavez • Central
Desiderata • Betty Fairfax • Franklin • Carl Hayden • Maryvale • Metro Tech • North • Coding • South Mountain • Wilson
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Phoenix Union will have a Fall Teacher Career Fair, Saturday, November 18 from 8 a.m. to noon at the District Offices at 4502 N. Central Ave. Positions would begin for the second semester, January 9. Prospective teachers should bring resume, transcripts, teacher certification, letters of recommendation and a copy of a fingerprint clearance card. It is recommended that applicants who have not completed a Phoenix Union online application complete one prior to the job fair. A general certified employee application is available at www.phoenixunion.org/jobs. For more information or to schedule a screening interview prior to the fair, contact Alvina Turman at (602)764-1519 or turman@phoenixunion.org

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Phoenix Union High School District will have two questions on the November 7 Election ballot-continuation of a 15 percent Maintenance and Operations Budget Override, and a $269 million bond. The override asks voters for authorization to continue the current override for fiscal year 2018-19 and six subsequent years. It is a continuation of the existing override approved by voters in 2013 and no additional taxes would be levied. Approval of the bond would fund capital improvements over and above those funded by the state. The District’s annual capital budget has been cut from $21 million to less than $2 million since the recession. These would include maintenance and renovation of school buildings, new construction, technology and infrastructure, furniture and equipment and transportation. The bond tax impact would be $37.83 per year for a residence with an assessed value of $100,000.

District voters have approved Phoenix Union override elections since 1971, and five consecutive bonds since 1985. Voters last approved a $230 million bond in 2011.

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The Greater Phoenix Choir Festival took place Friday and Saturday at Trevor Browne. Selected choir students from PUHSD and from partner middle schools came together for the first time Friday afternoon, and rehearsed Friday and Saturday, before taking the stage for an afternoon concert. Over 150 students from 14 partner school participated in the Middle School Honor Choir director by Choir Director Chris Hughes from Betty Fairfax. For the high school honors choir, students auditioned in September for participation in these ensembles and every District school was represented in both ensembles. The Women’s Honor Choir was comprised of 42 women and the Mixed Honor choir was made up of 48 students.

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November 8

Voters approved both a bond and maintenance and operations override in the November 7 election. The $269 million passed 64% to 36%, while the 15% override was approved, 59%-41% based on the day-after count. The override vote was a continuation of the override, which last passed in 2013, and will not result in an increase in property taxes. The bond is the sixth consecutive bond approved for Phoenix Union since 1985. Voters approved a $230 million bond in 2011.

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Phoenix Union will have a Fall Teacher Career Fair, Saturday, November 18 from 8 a.m. to noon at the District Offices at 4502 N. Central Ave. Positions would begin for the second semester, January 9. Prospective teachers should bring resume, transcripts, teacher certification, letters of recommendation and a copy of a fingerprint clearance card. It is recommended that applicants who have not completed a Phoenix Union online application complete one prior to the job fair. A general certified employee application is available at www.phoenixunion.org/jobs. For more information or to schedule a screening interview prior to the fair, contact Alvina Turman at (602)764-1519 or turman@phoenixunion.org

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For three years Grand Canyon University has awarded full-tuition scholarships called “Students Inspiring Students” to local high school seniors who have taken advantage of the GCU Learning Lounge, and pledge to work at least 100 hours per year there as college students.

This year, GCU selected the first of 100 students who will receive the four-year scholarships, November 7, with a big surprise. Twenty-five students and their parents were called to the campus for a financial aid session, but when the projector had “technical difficulties,” they were moved to another room, where a surprise scholarship party awaited. The students and parents entered to cheers and balloons, and then found out why they were really there.

Of the 25 students, 13 were Phoenix Union students from Alhambra, Metro Tech, Carl Hayden and Betty Fairfax. According to Joe Veres, the university’s assistant vice president of Student Development and Outreach, the first 25 are “academically gifted students,” who demonstrate financial need, and received 100 or more hours of tutoring at the Learning Lounge, a free after-school tutoring program. The students had an average GPA of 4.1.

Those students are, from Alhambra: Catherine Ojeda Trujillo; Daniel Angulo Jimenez; David Herrera, Jessica Varea, Joe Lopez and Karina Recamier. From Metro Tech: Angel Robles, Estephanie Torres; Manuel Espinoza, Paulina Butamonate Martinez and Tania Daniel Garcia. From Carl Hayden: Osbaldo Zaragoza Barajas; Betty Fairfax: Sofia Larrea-Betz.
“Our Students Inspiring Students (SIS) scholars from 2015 and 2016 who continue to serve in the Learning Lounge, have made a real difference for the high school students they mentor. Many of those 200 scholarship recipients are the first in their families to attend college, which changes the trajectory of that family for generations to come,” GCU President Brian Mueller said.

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North High School hosted the 1st Annual Art Extravaganza, October 28. Over 40 visual art students from four high schools (Carl Hayden, Central, Maryvale and North) were able to experience different media uses and techniques from real artists. Professional guest artists Pat O'Brien and Laura Cohen-Hogen worked with students who are interested in furthering their development of visual art skills either for AP/IB purposes or for their own enjoyment. The students were encouraged to get to know students from other schools throughout the day.

The students divided into two groups- drawing and painting, to work with the individual artists on a project. O'Brien worked with the students using a technique of drawing figures with tissue paper to create a different surface quality in their work. Cohen-Hogen worked with the students using oil paint. All of the students left with a piece of original artwork in hand!

"It was quite lovely! I would give it 10 out of 10 and attend again!" said one student.

November 15

Phoenix Union will have a Fall Teacher Career Fair, Saturday, November 18 from 8 a.m. to noon at the District Offices at 4502 N. Central Ave. Positions would begin for the second semester, January 9. Prospective teachers should bring resume, transcripts, teacher certification, letters of recommendation and a copy of a fingerprint clearance card. It is recommended that applicants who have not completed a Phoenix Union online application complete one prior to the job fair. A general certified employee application is available at www.phoenixunion.org/jobs. For more information or to schedule a screening interview prior to the fair, contact Alvina Turman at (602)764-1519 or turman@phoenixunion.org

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November 29

All eleven Phoenix Union JROTC programs attended the 29th annual Armed Forces Career Officer Day luncheon at McCormick Ranch, Scottsdale Arizona on November 21. The PUHSD cadets joined Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps JROTC programs from throughout the state. Recruiters from the United States Military Academies (West Point, Annapolis, Air Force and US Coast Guard), ASU, Arizona, NAU, New Mexico Military Institute, Norwich and Emory Riddle Aeronautical University attended.

This program designed to expose high school Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) Cadets to the challenges of a career in the military and the rewards of service to the country. The event focuses on all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and exposes cadets to the opportunities in attending college on the path to becoming a commissioned officer in the US Armed Forces.

Over 340 JROTC students, educators, sponsors, military members, recruiters, veterans and family members attended.

December 6

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) National Conference will be held in Phoenix, December 9-12, hosted by Phoenix Union and presiding State President Dr. Zack Munoz, the District’s athletic director. The conference, which draws over 2000 athletic directors and administrators, is infused with PUHSD flavor. Maryvale’s Mariachi group will perform at the opening ceremony, the South Mountain Step team and Betty Fairfax Jazz Band will entertain, and the Carl Hayden Robotics team will give a demonstration. Even the PUHSD school mascots will participate in an event. Central will host the NIAAA Endowment 5K run, December 12. Alhambra athletic director Dr. Wendy Truvillion will conduct a workshop on Strategies for Successfully Dealing with Difficult Personalities.

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The third annual Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Dinner is set for Tuesday, December 19 at the Talking Stick Resort Arena on the main basketball court. The event has grown each year, along with those former athletes and coaches inducted. This year 70 individuals will be inducted, most from the 1971-79 era, although there will be others from the historical era, as well. Championship teams from that decade will also be recognized.

Some of the inductees include ASU and Dallas Cowboy linebacker Bob Breunig, Alhambra, 1971; College and NBA basketball player Steve Malovic, Alhambra, ’74; Mississippi State baseball coach Ron Polk, Carl Hayden; NFL assistant and Univ. of Massachusetts football coach Mark Whipple, Camelback, ’75; His high school coach Jesse Parker; NY Mets hitting coach Pat Roessler, Camelback, ’75; PGA golfer Howard Twitty; Central, ’67; MLB players Gary and
Dave Rajsich, Central; Olympic Track Bronze medalist Dwayne Evans, South Mountain; Minnesota Viking Steve Jordon, South Mountain and his father, Carver Basketball coach Leon Edward Jordan. Women inductees include Nancy Funari, a West High graduate who coached softball for 25 years at Carl Hayden; Badminton and tennis state champion coach Janet (Shaler) Westcott, Camelback; Tennis coach Dr. Catherine Wilkinson; four-time state championships at North; Joelyn Boone, Central, four sports in HS, played volleyball for ASU, coach and teacher in Gilbert.

December 13

Phoenix Union is making gains in its college-going rates. According to the National Student Clearing House, 50 percent of last year’s graduates enrolled in college the fall immediately after high school. That is the highest percentage ever, a jump from 46 percent in 2016, and closing in on Arizona’s 53 percent. Bioscience had 91%; Franklin, 61%; Metro Tech and North, 60%; Betty Fairfax, 58% led the way.

Five schools recorded their highest percentages ever-Bioscience (tied), Camelback (50%), Carl Metro Tech and North and Carl Hayden, which jumped from 36% to 48% in one year.

The number of college-going graduates increases a couple of years out of high school. A statistic from last year indicated that 60 percent of PUHSD students were in college two years after their cohort graduated high school.

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A pilot program Phoenix Union’s Exceptional Student Services (ESS) has developed with CityScape and United Healthcare, is getting a holiday boost. The Upward and Onward CityScape Adult Learning Center will benefit from “Skate It Forward,” when skaters take to the CitySkate ice rink downtown, Wednesday, December 20 from 3-11 p.m. Five dollars from each ticket sale will benefit the project, and the Jennings Strouss Foundation will match that donation. Phoenix Union employees will staff the event.

Upward and Onward CityScape Adult Learning Center will be the first of its kind across the country at a multi-business establishment in an urban setting. Upward and Onward will provide career exploration and training for young people in preparing for competitive, integrated employment as well as will foster a culture of diversity and inclusion within the downtown Phoenix community.

“Upward and Onward is designed as a one year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations at businesses within CityScape. Students with disabilities enrolled in PUHSD between the ages of 18-21 will have the opportunity to receive educational and internship experience at United Health Care, RED Development, and additional participating CityScape businesses,” ESS Director Wendy Collison said.
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The Phoenix Union Boys Basketball Holiday Classic is set for December 21-23. Fourteen teams will participate- all 11 District schools as well las Willow Canyon from Surprise, North Canyon and the Army Navy Academy from Carlsbad, California. Most of the teams will play two games on December 21 at either South Mountain or Betty Fairfax High Schools. The final two days will be at South Mountain. The games begin each day at 2 p.m. The championship game is at 7 p.m. Saturday at South Mountain. Cesar Chavez won the Holiday Classic, last year, beating Central at the buzzer in the championship game.

December 20

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NFL players Bob Breunig (Alhambra) and Steve Jordan (South Mountain), Olympic medalist Dwayne Evans (South Mountain), college baseball coaching legend Ron Polk (Carl Hayden), PGA golfer Howard
Twitty (Central), MLB executive Fred Nelson (West) and many others were honored at the Phoenix Union High School District’s third annual Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner, December 19, at Talking Stick Resort Arena.

This year’s event inducted coaches, athletes and teams from 1970-79, as well as individuals from the historical era. The third class had 70 individuals honored. Ninety-five individuals were inducted in the first two years, going back over 100 years of high school sports history.

Basketball coaches Leon Edward Jordan of Carver and Pete Tuccio of Carl Hayden, Camelback football coach Jesse Parker, and North tennis coach Catherine Wilkinson are among the coaches inducted. Twenty-eight state championship teams between 1970-79 are also being recognized.

Breunig was an ASU All-American and played linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys for 10 years. Steve Jordan, the son of Leon Jordan, played for the Minnesota Vikings for 13 years, including six Pro-Bowl selections. Evans made the USA Olympic team as a 17-year old, and won a bronze in 200 meters at the 1976 Olympics. Polk coached Mississippi State Baseball for 29-years, winning 1,139 games and six College World Series appearances. Twitty was a two-time All-American at ASU, and won four tournaments as a PGA professional and was the Comeback Player of the Year in 1993. Nelson was a baseball All-American and National Champion at ASU, and has enjoyed a 36-year career as a baseball executive with the White Sox, Astros and currently Colorado.

Other notables included Univ. of Massachusetts football coach Mark Whipple (Camelback); former NFL receiver Brad Anderson (Alhambra) MLB players David and Gary Rajsich (Central); current Mets hitting coach Pat Roessler (Camelback) and legendary ASU track & field coach Baldy Castillo (Phoenix Union)

As a commitment to the legacy of athletic excellence in Phoenix Union, Male and Female Athlete of the Year scholarships were established by the PUHSD Sports Hall of Fame. 2017 scholarship recipients were Brianna Boehm of Betty Fairfax and David Avitia of Alhambra.

Over 600 attended the sold-out event, which has grown every year. Longtime Valley sportscaster and local high school sports historian Kevin McCabe, a West High alum, emceed the ceremony.

The Greater Phoenix Music Festival for band and orchestra is January 19-20 at Camelback High School. Students from middle school and high school audition for this event, practice provided music on their own, and come together for rehearsals Friday and Saturday with guest conductors before a public performance, Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. There will be a high school percussion group, middle school and high school orchestras, and middle school and high school concert bands. The top musicians from ten Phoenix Union High Schools, and students from 17 middle/elementary schools within the Phoenix Union boundaries were selected, totaling 230 students. Admission to the performance is $2 or adults, with children 12 and under, free.

January 10, 2018

The Greater Phoenix Music Festival for band and orchestra is January 19-20 at Camelback High School. Students from middle school and high school audition for this event were provided music, practice on their own, and come together for rehearsals Friday and Saturday with guest conductors before a public performance, Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. There will be a high school
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Helping more students enroll in college and receive financial aid is a major goal of Phoenix Union, and its counselors play a huge role in that effort. Some of our counselors are getting some professional development in that area, by earning the Arizona College Access Network Professional Certificate. The Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) recently announced that Phoenix Union had three individuals who earned certification. These leaders are now better prepared to help all students plan for their future beyond high school and make informed decisions about postsecondary education. The certificate involves 60 hours of coursework, discussion and action planning in three areas: creating a college-going culture; college and career planning; and financial aid and college applications. This year, the three represent different roles within their school communities. Carl Hayden, counselor Anna Villareal, Betty Fairfax economics teacher, Adrian Lamos and Betty Fairfax senior office assistant Danielle Yanez.

This is the first time in three years that Phoenix Union had College Access Professional certification earned by employees other than counselors. But it is testimony that the information is valuable for any educator who works with students and their post-secondary planning. Phoenix Union has had 18 educators earn the certification in the three years of the program, including ten counselors last year.

The Arizona training is based on a national model, tailored to fit Arizona’s educational needs. It is intended to work as part of a community-wide effort where school counselors work hand in hand with community-based organizations.

AzCAN, a program of College Success Arizona, is a network of college access professionals, and programs dedicated to post high school success for all Arizonans, especially low-income, first-generation students.

January 17, 2018

Nine Phoenix Union teachers earned National Board Certification this year, the second-most in Arizona and one short of the most ever in one year for PUHSD. One other District employee renewed certification. Considered the teaching profession’s highest honor, National Board Certification is presented by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to teachers who demonstrate, through a performance assessment, that they meet the high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. Only two percent of K-12 teachers in the U.S. are Nationally Board Certified.

Only K-12 districts Scottsdale and Chandler, at 10 new NBCTs had more this year. Phoenix Union is 5th in the state for the number of teachers Board Certified. There are now 59 NBCTs employed with the District. Unified districts Scottsdale, Tucson, Gilbert and Paradise Valley have more.
Phoenix Union also has the second-most current candidates in the state at 48, just behind Maricopa Unified (52).

North:
Scott Black, Art
Joanne Martin, English Language Arts

Franklin:
Steven Clendenen, World Languages
Elena Lira, Art
Trevor Browne:
Kendall Detlaff, English Language Arts
Miriam Goldie, English Language Arts

Wilson:
Shannon Harsh, Science
Carl Hayden:
Erica Scrivner, Music

A ninth NBC teacher did not want to be identified. Alaina Adams, now Assistant Principal for Instruction at Alhambra, had her certification in English Language Arts renewed.

North now has the most current PUHSD NBCTs at nine, Alhambra and Maryvale have eight. Wilson has its first, while Franklin tripled its number to three. Trevor Browne has six, Camelback has six and Carl Hayden has six. Others are Metro Tech 3, Central, 4, CEE 2; Betty Fairfax, Desi/Bostrom, Bioscience, South Mountain, 1.

There were 167 new NBCTs in 2017 bringing the total number certified to 1,376. Arizona was 9th in the nation in new NBCTs, and are 18th in the nation for the total number of NBCTs.

The National Board Certification has changed to a five-year term, not ten, as in previous years. Phoenix Union compensates NBC employees with a $3,000 annual stipend.

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The City of Phoenix Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast took place January 12, and Phoenix Union was a big part of the festivities. Governing Board member and city councilwoman Laura Pastor was the co-chair of the event, and with the help of Angela Foreman, Phoenix Union arts content specialist, the District was well represented.
Franklin Police and Fire 100-mile club students were up at 5 a.m. to run the Flame of Hope torch to the convention center. There were performances by the Betty Fairfax Acapella Choir; Cesar Chavez Drumline; North theater students; Carl Hayden’s Jazz Band and Chamber Brass; Cesar Chavez cheer squad and the South Mountain Step Team.

January 24

Citizenship Counts is a curriculum used by schools across 36 states, including Phoenix Union, which adopted the program after Arizona passed a law three years ago requiring all high school students to pass a civics test, answering the same questions that immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship must answer correctly. The nonprofit celebrated its 10th anniversary, “Citizen of the World” Benefit, January 18 in Phoenix with its founder, and Holocaust survivor and author Gerda Weissmann Klein as the special guest.

The South Mountain jazz combo played during a reception and the South Mountain choir performed, as well. Social studies content specialist Katie Hansen spoke to the benefits of the curriculum, Metro Tech Professional Development Specialist Monique Mogro and former administrator Syd Golston were among the Phoenix Union attendees. Golston and other Phoenix Union social studies helped create the curriculum.

Citizenship Counts is an effective way to take lessons beyond rote memorization. Phoenix Union schools have a Civics Week each fall as a prelude to the civics exam, and for the past three years, different schools have hosted naturalization ceremonies.

“The lessons really hone in on the responsibilities and the values that come with being a citizen. The activities are super engaging. They ask you to put yourself in the shoes of a variety of different immigrants who have come here,” Hansen said.

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Phoenix Union High School District, in partnership with the City of Phoenix, Phoenix Parks and Recreation and The Mollen Foundation, is participating in the Food and Fitness Challenge to bring awareness of healthy habits to students. Sustainability Officers on each campus are spearheading the challenge, posting challenge videos each week and encouraging students to respond and post their activities to the Food and Fitness Challenge Campaign Facebook group (@foodandfitnesschallenge2018).

The campaign kicked off the week of January 22 with a focus on Physical Activity, and runs for five weeks with a different focus each week including Hydration, Local Food Production, Snack and Healthy Reasons. Students will use specific hashtags in their post to be entered into drawings, and the school with the most participation each week will get to participate in an on-campus challenge on Friday. The Friday challenge winners will advance to the final district-wide competition on Saturday, February 24. The final challenge has prizes for the school of the top three winners: $2,500, $1,500 and $1,000 that students can help decide how to spend to continue to bring awareness to food and fitness on their campus.

The weekly schedule of themes and challenges:

Week 1: Physical Activity, Hula Hoop Trophy Challenge
Week 2: Hydration, Flavored Water Trophy Challenge
Week 3: Local Food Production, *Vegetable Feud Trophy Challenge*
Week 4: Snack, *Speed Snacks Trophy Challenge*
Week 5: Healthy Reasons, *Relay Preview Trophy Challenge*

The campaign is being funded through a $25,000 Childhood Obesity Prevention grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and the American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America (ABFHA).

**January 31**

Phoenix Union and ASU’s Teachers College are teaming up again for the International Teachers in Education Program (ILEP). Sixteen teachers from seven countries are at ASU this semester for professional development, which includes pairing up with a Phoenix Union teacher. The ILEP Fellow teachers met their partner teachers, January 19, for the first time, and they will team-teach every Thursday at three campuses-Metro Tech, North, and Central. Two teachers each come from Brazil, Senegal, India, Indonesia, Kenya and three from Egypt and Philippines, where they teach English, math, science or business. The Fellow teachers range from five years to 17 years in experience, and qualified among over 1000 applicants. Three other cohorts of 16 international teachers are at Kent State, James Madison and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

This is the sixth year Phoenix Union has participated in this program, and many of the partner teachers have done this before. The partner teachers are:  
**Central:** Dawn Maxwell, Xavier Flores, Aric Bilas, Math; Kelly Bragg, Kevin Berlat, English and Michelle Trush, Biology.  
**Metro Tech:** Jennifer Moore, Michael Kelly Blakely, Stephanie Knorowski, Aurora Arrellano and Rebecca Halonen, English.  
**North:** Kalia Athena, Joann Martin; Nicholas Valente, Erin Henderson, English; and Renata Geurtz, CTE.

Teachers from Kenya, Philippines, India, and Indonesia will be at Central; Brazil, Kenya, Philippines, Egypt and Senegal at Metro Tech; and Brazil, Egypt, Senegal, and India at North.

The ILEP fellows are required to teach a content lesson and a cultural lesson.

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The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education’s 10th Annual Scholarship Dinner is Friday, February 23 at the Phoenix Art Museum. This year’s theme is the *Art of Education-Learning Never Goes Out of Style*, highlighted by a student-run fashion show. Students have designed the fashions, will model them on the runway and provide the commentary and music for the show. There will be other student entertainment, a silent auction and the Foundation will honor the Alumnus of the Year, Counselor of the Year and Friend of Phoenix Union. For ticket information, go to www.Foundation4Education.org.

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Dance programs from Alhambra, Trevor Browne, Camelback, Cesar Chavez, Betty Fairfax and South Mountain came together for the first annual Phoenix Union Dance Festival, January 25 at the
Camelback High School. The students worked with two guest instructors who taught master classes in the areas of Advanced Modern and Advanced Contemporary Jazz.

“The students from all of the performance companies were blended to promote community within the Arts; our students were given a chance to get-to-know each other through taking classes together and then performed for each other at the end of the day,” Camelback dance instructor Heidi Wilkes said.

Each of the six schools brought three pieces to share with the other schools in the showcase at the end of the day. Performances included movement from all of the major dance genres; ballet, modern, contemporary, jazz, and hip-hop.

February 7

Cesar Chavez will lead a contingent of five Phoenix Union schools to the Arizona Academic Decathlon, March 9-10. Chavez won the 27-school Region II Decathlon for the third consecutive year, February 2-3 at Camelback High School. Maryvale (4th), Alhambra (5th), South Mountain (6th) and Betty Fairfax (7th) also qualified for the 40-team state decathlon.

The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education’s 10th Annual Scholarship Dinner is Friday, February 23 at the Phoenix Art Museum. This year’s theme is the Art of Education-Learning Neve Goes Out of Style, highlighted by a student-run fashion show. Students have designed the fashions, will model them on the runway and provide the commentary and music for the show. There will be other student entertainment, a silent auction The Foundation will honor the Alumnus of the Year- Chris Wooley (Maryvale 1981) an award-winning video producer, director and writer; Counselor of the Year-Terry Haggerty of Bioscience and Friends of Phoenix Union- Christine and Daryl Burton of the Burton Family Foundation. For ticket information, go to www.Foundation4Education.org.

Thirteen students from five Phoenix Union schools were accepted into this year’s All-Regional Music Festival, in band, orchestra and choir. These students competed against musicians from all over the state at a live audition, January 27, and won a spot in their All-Region performing ensembles. They will spend two days rehearsing, and then give a public performance on Saturday, February 17 at their respective region. These musicians will now qualify to audition for All-State. If they make All-State, they will attend the All-State Festival performance later in the spring.

February 14

The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education’s 10th Annual Scholarship Dinner Friday, February 23 at the Phoenix Art Museum, is another sell-out. This year’s theme is the Art of Education-Learning Neve Goes Out of Style, highlighted by a student-run fashion show. Students have
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Artwork from three student were selected to be donated to the PUHSD Scholarship Foundation Scholarship Dinner honorees. Each student will receive a check for $100 from the Foundation. **Dayanara Vargas**, 11th grade. Digital Photograph, Carl Hayden High School – Teacher **Monica Rameriz**; **Yamilex Marquez**, 10th grade. Digital Photograph, Central High School – Teacher **Cole Laswick**; **Brianna Smith**, 12th grade. Acrylic on Wrinkled Canvas, Maryvale High School - Teacher **Lori Thomas**.

The Phoenix Union Spring Educator Career Fair will be Saturday, March 3 from 8-2 p.m. at the Phoenix Coding Academy, 4445 N. Central Avenue. The District is looking for secondary teachers in all subject areas, with an emphasis on applicants certified in the following areas: mathematics, special education, science ELL English. ELL must be certified in secondary English and hold an English as a Second Language or Bilingual endorsement. Applicants must complete an online application prior to interviewing at the career fair at [www.phoenixunion.org/jobs](http://www.phoenixunion.org/jobs). Applicants will have the opportunity that day to complete an initial screening interview and then interview with campus principals for positions for the 2018-19 school year. Phoenix Union employs over 1600 teachers and has among the highest salaries in Arizona. First year teachers earn a base of $40,702 (2017-18 salary) and the District honors up to eight years of previous teaching experience which can start at $55,102 with a Masters, or Bachelors and 36 hours. For more information, contact **Alvina Turman** at turman@phoenixunion.org

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students finished strong at regional competitions, February 3. Over 100 PUHSD students from eight schools traveled to the ASU PolyTech campus to compete – Camelback, Central, Cesar Chavez, Betty Fairfax, Maryvale, Metro Tech, North, and Trevor Browne. Forty-Nine Students placed first (16), second (23) or third (10) in a variety of events, such as accounting, business calculations, e-business, graphic design, job interview, advertising, cyber security, personal finance and business ethics.

Over 500 students and their guests attended the Phoenix Union JROTC Military Ball at the Crescent Hotel, February 3. The Military Ball King was **Roger Granillo** from Trevor Browne and the Queen was **Jeannette Melendez** from Maryvale. The annual PUHSD JROTC Military Ball is a culmination of classroom instruction and practical exercise in Military Customs and Courtesies, Cadet Etiquette and Staff Planning. Central High School JROTC Cadets planned and hosted the event. Air Force Academy Cadet **Kimberly Soltero**, a 2014 Trevor Browne graduate and Air
Force Academy cadet, was the guest speaker. In May, she will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and has been selected to attend pilot training.

February 21

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February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. Phoenix Union has a robust CTE program, with 6,658 students enrolled in CTE courses. The District currently offer 38 different programs. Phoenix Union CTE students graduate high school at a 98% rate, and have a 84.75% placement rate, according to Arizona Performance Measures.
Some of the most talented young jazz musicians in the world from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at UCLA conducted a performance assembly and clinic for North High School students February 20. The group performed music from all eras of jazz and discuss the evolution of the music. Following the assembly, there was informal instruction and the opportunity for touring musicians to play alongside their like-instrument high school musicians. Grammy award-winning drummer and Phoenician Lewis Nash will accompany the Institute musicians. The 1976 East High graduate, and namesake of The Nash Jazz Club downtown, has played on over 400 records.

The Institute Fellows are hand-selected by Herbie Hancock and other jazz greats to study tuition-free at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music in a prestigious master’s level program.

The “informance” and clinic is part of an educational outreach tour that also includes stops at PUHSD schools Carl Hayden (Feb. 22) and Trevor Browne (Feb. 23) The tour is underwritten by the Arizona Community Foundation/Black Philanthropy Initiative and free to the schools and students.

February 28

It is Election Season for 10 Phoenix Union schools over the next two weeks as students decide how to improve their schools through the Participatory Budgeting Process. Each day, a student body will have the opportunity to vote for the project or projects that it wants. With the assistance of the Maricopa County Recorder’s office equipment and volunteers, students will register, receive a ballot, vote in a real voting booth, and drop their ballots in a tabulating machine, with results available by the end of the day. Six large schools have a $7,000 budget and four small schools can spend up to $4,000. The students researched the projects, and campaigns commenced.

Metro Tech began the voting Monday, electing the “Knight Visions” project, which will provide for the installation of large-scale decorative wall graphics, photographs, and inspirational quotes in three high traffic areas on campus.

Tuesday, Phoenix Coding Academy decided on animation supplies, band/percussion additions and a virtual reality system.

Here are a sampling of ballot items:

Franklin students will consider Art Attack-decorating walls on campus, or an Honor Plaque with school oath, to accompany their Honor Bell

Carl Hayden will select among a soaring Falcon sculpture at the school entrance, a library upgrade or a sports concession mobile kiosk.

Cesar Chavez will vote on five options, including cell phone charging stations, more seating around campus, and a “Make it Drizzle because we Sizzle” misting system.
Trevor Browne wants “Park your Rear Here” seating, a library makeover and “Hot Eats, Cool Treats” cafeteria reach-in refrigerators.

South Mountain is voting on more vending machines and “Jags Soundz,” an improved audio system in the gym.

Linda Abril will decide on a “Phoenix Nest” hangout area, and “No Pain, No Game” sports equipment.

Central has custom t-shirts, “Central Park” custom benches, window graphics and a “Chill Lounge” on the ballot.

Bioscience has seven ballot items, including USB outlets, cubbies (for student storage) and art supplies.

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Girls from Central, Carl Hayden, Metro Tech, North and Phoenix Coding Academy attended the Hermanas event at Phoenix College, February 23. Sponsored by Intel, Hermanas provided several students hands-on STEM activities designed to increase interest and awareness in STEM-related courses of study and careers among Latina women, who are an historically underrepresented group in these fields. Among the hands-on projects were girls exploring electricity, using oranges and Makey-Makey (a creative tool that signals your computer) to control Tetris, making solar ovens from a pizza box and programming a robot for a lunar mission with their phones.

Forty-six Phoenix Union high school students have joined STEP’s (Student Expedition Program) Class of 2020. STEP received 307 applications from prospective sophomores to join its College Prep Program this year – the largest and most competitive applicant pool to date. Of the 103 students accepted, almost half are from the Phoenix Union High School District. Last year, 37 PUHSD students entered the program. Below is a breakdown of the students accepted per high school:

Alhambra (6); Betty Fairfax (2); Bioscience (7); Camelback (5); Carl Hayden (3); Central (3); Maryvale (3); Metro Tech (5); North (4); Phoenix Coding Academy (1); South Mountain (1); Trevor Browne (6)
The STEP Program educates and empowers low-income Arizona high school students to enroll in and graduate from college. Students selected participate through high school graduation, attending workshops with individual advising, guidance with application process, including financial aid instruction for both students and parents. Summer programs at college campuses outside Arizona, and a three-week Leadership Expedition in the wilderness of Alaska allows students to experience life away from home in a challenging and supportive environment.

STEP students attend schools such as Stanford, Harvey Mudd, Bowdoin College, Smith College, Amherst and Pomona, among other prestigious universities.

PUHSD has been, and continues to be, one of our strongest partners in closing the achievement gap and breaking the chains of generational poverty among underrepresented students in the valley, STEP President Dr. Tracy Baynes said. “We also want to extend a huge thank you to the counselors and teachers who helped these students apply and gain admittance. We are confident that this group will represent STEP and the Phoenix Union High School District well in the years to come.

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For the first time in 2017, graduating seniors could earn the Seal of Biliteracy on their diplomas, recognizing that they are proficient in English and another language. The seal, which is also reflected on transcripts, is based upon performance on a state board-approved assessment. Of the 316 seals issued, 109 went to Phoenix Union seniors. Only six districts and a charter school had students who earned the seal in four languages. Phoenix Union students had 99 for Spanish, three for Spanish Literature and seven for French. German and Mandarin were the other languages.

March 7

Cesar Chavez will lead a contingent of five Phoenix Union schools to the Arizona Academic Decathlon, March 9-10 at ASU West. Chavez won the 27-school Region II Decathlon for the third consecutive year, February 2-3. Maryvale placed 4th, Alhambra -5th, South Mountain 6th and Betty Fairfax 7th also qualified for the 40-team state decathlon. Chavez, ranked third behind Hamilton and Canyon del Oro, has finished fourth in State the past two years. Earlier this year, the Champions beat defending champion Canyon del Oro, so they will be among the elite at State.

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Phoenix Union High School District DECA students did very well at the State Career Development March 2-4 in Phoenix. Thirty-eight students from four schools qualified for the International Career Development Conference to be held in Atlanta, GA from April 20-25. Camelback—19 students; Trevor Browne—11 students; Fairfax—5 students; MetroTech—3 students.
March 21

Five Phoenix Union schools competed in the Arizona Academic Decathlon, March 9-10 at ASU West, with Cesar Chavez finishing the highest, in 5th place. Alhambra was 13th, Maryvale, 14th, South Mountain, 24th and Betty Fairfax, 26th in the 40-team field. The Champions also won the Super Quiz team event. Canyon del Oro won the Decathlon and will represent Arizona at the Nationals in Texas. Hamilton was second, Mesa Mountain View, 3rd and Westwood, 4th.

The top scorer among PUHSD decathletes was Maryvale’s Luis Camacho, who finished 11th in the Honors division with 8,139 points. Chavez had several top scorers, including Sam Porter, 4th overall in Scholastic division, and Sabrina Gallardo, 4th overall in Varsity division. Barbara Martinez was 8th in Scholastic and Clara Martinez was 8th in Varsity.

Gold medal winners included Gallardo in Art, Alhambra’s Enrique Mighty in Interview, and Alhambra’s Jose Baldovino in Math, Chavez’s Tina Chen in Scholastic Social Studies, and brother Kevin Chen in Varsity Social Studies.

Top scorers by team were Bianca Quintero for South Mountain, Noah Jinojosa, Betty Fairfax; Jose Orozco Meza, Alhambra, Camacho for Maryvale and Porter for Cesar Chavez.

Other PUHSD Medalists were Chavez’s Sam Porter, silver Art and bronze-Math; Alhambra’s Angie Quinonez, silver-Interview; Chavez’s Sabrina Gallardo, silver-Music; Chavez’s Tina Chen, silver-Music and bronze-Science; Alhambra’s Enrique Mighty, silver- Science; Betty Fairfax’s Boston Lawrence, bronze- Economics; Maryvale’s Luis Camacho, bronze-Social Studies.

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Ten Phoenix Union schools took part in the Participatory Budgeting Project over a two-week period, February 26-March 9. The schools submitted student-driven ballot initiatives, which were proposed projects, that were approved by a District team. Large schools could spend up to $7,000 and small schools, $4,000. The District partnered with the Maricopa county Recorder’s office to create a real-life polling experience with poll booths, actual ballots and vote tabulation machines. The students campaigned for their favorite projects, and everyone who voted received a customized “I voted” sticker.

A total of 10,158 students voted, which was a 71 percent voter turnout at the ten schools. Phoenix Coding Academy had a 92% turnout, Central, 89% and Metro Tech, 88%. Students also had the opportunity to register to vote in real elections, and 800 students completed voter registration forms.

“Not only did our students have an early introduction to civic engagement by voting on projects that will benefit their school community and impact their overall school experience, but they understand the important right and responsibility to vote and are now prepared to do so in our next local, state and federal elections,” organizer and District student support services manager Cyndi Tercero said.
The success of Phoenix Union’s Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) drew the attention of the International Conference for Innovation and Participatory Democracy, which held its annual conference in Phoenix, March 8-10, and was able to see Central High’s PBP live, March 8. A panel of Phoenix Union teachers and students described to the audience how PBP worked in their schools. Phoenix Union was the only school district to implement a large-scale PBP last year, and doubled the number of schools this year. In recognition, Tercero and PUHSD received a Pioneer in Youth Voice through Participatory Budgeting award at the Innovations in Participatory Democracy conference.

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Four Phoenix Union musicians have reached the pinnacle of success in our state. Arizona All-State auditions were held for choir, band, and orchestra students, March 10, at Gilbert High School. North’s Kenia Ramirez, flute, made the All-State Band. The All-State Choir will have three PUHSD singers: Alhambra’s Jesus Galaviz Arreguin, bass; Betty Fairfax’s Andrez Alcazar, tenor, and Trevor Browne’s Moises Ramirez, tenor.

These students will travel to the University of Arizona in Tucson on April 19-21 to rehearse with nationally-renowned clinicians. They will present a public performance on Saturday, April 21, at 5 P.M., at Centennial Hall on the U of A campus.

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What is the Phoenix Union brand? In this era of open enrollment, charter and private schools and other educational choices, the 123-year old high school district is embarking on a branding campaign to learn how it can better serve the educational needs of the community and measure the public’s awareness and perception of the District.

The first part of this process was holding several focus groups with various groups, from students, parents, staff and community members. Now, Phoenix Union is surveying its many stakeholders, from students, parents and staff to alumni, educational partners, business and community members.

The survey is available in English and Spanish at http://www.surveys.stamats.com/se/208F24D65C0301ED

The survey link is also posted on the Phoenix Union website home page and school home pages at www.phoenixunion.org, as well as Facebook, www.facebook.com/phoenixunion; Twitter, @phoenixunionhs or LinkedIn, www.phoenixunion.org/linkedin.

March 28

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April 4

It’s crunch time for hiring teachers and there are always some last-minute resignations and retirements, so Phoenix Union is holding its latest Career Fair ever, Saturday, May 5. The fair will be at the Phoenix Coding Academy, 4445 N. Central Ave., from 8 a.m. to noon. There will also be non-teaching support staff positions such as bus drivers, bus aides and custodians. The District hopes to have all teaching positions filled for the first day of the 2018-19 school year, August 6. High need subject areas are Math, Science, ELL English and Exceptional Student Services (Special Education.) Applicants can complete the initial screening interview that day, and interview with school principals for 2018-19 positions.

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The Phoenix Union Student Art Show runs from May 6 through May 25 at the Wolfswinkel Education Center at the Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Avenue. A reception and the awards presentation will be April 25 at 5:30 p.m. The Wofswinkel Center is open 8-5 Monday through Friday.

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Free Summer School will be offered again at Phoenix Union schools for both continuing students, and incoming 9th graders. Most summer school schedules run May 29-June 28, Monday through Thursday, at 11 campuses, and June 4-June 28, Monday through Friday for two schools. Each day will have an A.M. session and a P.M. session. Because of building maintenance projects, Carl Hayden students will attend summer school at Alhambra; North students will go to Linda Abril Education Academy and South Mountain will hold classes at South Mountain Community College. Freshman Academy students will earn a one-half credit towards graduation. To enroll and for more information, go to www.phoenixunion.org/summerschool.

April 11

At this year’s Foundation Scholarship Dinner, Christine and Daryl Burton of the Burton Family Foundation were recognized for their generous contributions to Phoenix Union. Among those were Flash-funding for club requests through Support My Club, ACT Prep Boot Camps and a college exploration trip for 30 students to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Ms. Burton is at it again. The Foundation is funding two free ACT Test Prep Boot Camps for rising juniors and those seniors wishing to improve on their ACT test scores for very select schools. The three-day camps will be at Metro Tech and Trevor Browne this summer. The donation will cover instructional stipends, materials and food for 270 students.

The camps will also utilize up to 18 Phoenix Union students who have scored well on ACT (28 or above) to serve as Peer Tutors, and in return, the Burton Foundation, through the Arizona Community Foundation, will provide up to $36,000 to cover “gap scholarships” for those tutors. A “gap” scholarship is funding for personal expenses such as travel, equipment like a laptop, and other indirect costs not covered by the university.

Finally, the Burton Family Foundation has donated $64,144 to cover the cost of 45 students and three chaperones on a six-day Historically Black Colleges and Universities tour over fall break. The students will visit Bowie State In Maryland, Howard University in Washington, D.C., Hampton University and Norfolk State in Virginia, North Carolina Central and North Carolina A&T, and Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse and Spelman Colleges in Atlanta. Selected students must also attend an ACT Boot Camp and an additional college prep event. The Phoenix Union Black Alliance is organizing the tour.

With the gap scholarship assistance for Peer Tutors, that contribution could climb over $126,000.

And for good measure, Bioscience is hosting its first annual Dollars for Scholars Celebration, April 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for its seniors, and the Burtons have agreed to match any donation made.
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The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education will hold its annual Scholarship Open Golf Tournament, Friday, May 4 at the Grand Canyon University Golf Course. The tournament, the second largest fundraiser of the year, raises funds for post-secondary scholarships for Phoenix Union students. This event has sold out the last five years. To register as a player, team or sponsor, or to donate an item for a raffle, contact the Phoenix Union Foundation for Education at (480) 289-5761. Tee time is 7:15 for the scramble format.

April 18

It is crunch time for hiring teachers, and there are always some last-minute resignations and retirements, so Phoenix Union is holding its latest Career Fair ever, Saturday, May 5. The fair will be at the Phoenix Coding Academy, 4445 N. Central Ave., from 8 a.m. to noon. There will also be non-teaching support staff positions such as bus drivers, bus aides and custodians. The District hopes to have all teaching positions filled for the first day of the 2018-19 school year, August 6. High need subject areas are Math, Science, ESL English and Exceptional Student Services (Special Education,) as well as Career and Technical Education (CTE) positions in Architectural Drafting, Business, Nursing/Health Careers, Biotechnology, Marketing and Computer Science. Applicants can complete the initial screening interview that day, and interview with school principals for 2018-19 positions. An application is available at www.phoenixunion.org/jobs.

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scholarships for Phoenix Union students. To donate an item for a raffle, contact the Phoenix Union Foundation for Education at (480) 289-5761.

April 25

Phoenix Union Schools closed April 26 and 27 for the public education walkout, with the possibility of re-opening Monday. Three schools- Alhambra, Central and Cesar Chavez offered PUHSD students free breakfast and lunch both days. Parents were notified via phone messages and a website link, www.phoenixunion.org/walkout was set up for up-to-date information.

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The second annual All-Phoenix Union Sports Awards Ceremony will take place Wednesday, May 16 at Central High School, celebrating athletes, coaches, athletic directors and athletic programs. The event will feature all 11 schools that offer interscholastic athletics in PUHSD. Student recognitions will include Male and Female Players of the Year for each team and individual sport, All-Academic Male and Female Athletes of the Year from each school and First Team All-Phoenix Union selections for each team sport. Special honors will recognize our Most Inspirational Student-Athlete and the Joseph Grant Community Outreach Student-Athlete of the Year.
addition to featuring over 120 student-athletes, we will also recognize our top Coaches and Athletic Director of the Year.

The Awards presentations ceremony begins at 6 p.m. in Central High’s auditorium with the evening concluding with awarding of the Most Outstanding Sports Program for the 2017-2018 school year. Students, Staff, Parents and Community Members are invited to attend this free event.

May 3

Following six days of the Educators Walkout, Phoenix Union High School District schools will re-open, Friday, May 4.

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The Phoenix Union STEP (Student Expedition Program) Class of 2018 has been announced. Sixteen students, from eight different schools received acceptances.

The STEP (Student Expedition Program) educates and empowers Arizona high-school students to enroll in and graduate from college. The program works with students from low-income households who are internally motivated to take rigorous courses and do the hard work to excel. A majority of the students are the first generation in their family to seek a college degree. Students enter STEP's College-Prep Program in their sophomore year and participate through high school graduation. Twenty-seven highly-focused workshops (and individual advising) provide students with step-by-step guidance in the college preparation and application process, including financial aid instruction for both students and parents. Summer programs at college campuses nationwide and STEP's signature three-week Leadership Expedition in the wilderness of Alaska allow students to experience life away from home in a challenging and supportive environment.

These seniors will be attending the following schools in the fall:

**Angela Reyes Cervantes** (Maryvale) - Swarthmore College
**Cesar Parra** (Bioscience) - University of Notre Dame
**Dulce Gariepy** (Bioscience) - Wellesley College
**Eloisa Sanchez Urrea** (Metro Tech) - St. Mary's University Honors College
**Estrella Gonzalez Saldana** (Metro Tech) - Scripps College
**Gisselle Beltran Valdez** (Metro Tech) - ASU
**Ignacio Ventura Maqueda** (Maryvale) - USC
**Ismael Rios** (Metro Tech) - ASU Barrett Honors College
**Jennifer Beltran** Gastelum (Camelback) - Smith College
**Lizette Mier** (North) - Wellesley College
**Monica Lam** (Central) - ASU Barrett Honors College
**Nancy Twishime** (Bioscience) - ASU Barrett Honors College
**Qing Zhang** (Bioscience) - Tufts University
**Samuel Sesena** (Carl Hayden) - MIT
**Sandra Casas** (Maryvale) - ASU
**Tabitha Hacker** (Bioscience) - Bowdoin College
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The Phoenix Union Student Art Show closed, April 25 at the Phoenix Art Museum, and the winners were announced at a reception. The winners were Alhambra’s Jasmin Rocha, drawing; Alhambra’s Elizabeth Green, painting; Trevor Browne’s Mireya Gerard, digital photo; Alhambra’s Destiny Lopez, traditional photo; North’s Emmanuel Serran, 2-D mixed media. First place winners were given a $50 gift card, and second place winners received a $25 gift card.

The second annual All-Phoenix Union Sports Awards Ceremony will take place Wednesday, May 16 at Central High School, celebrating athletes, coaches, athletic directors and athletic programs. The event will feature all 11 schools that offer interscholastic athletics in PUHSD. Student recognitions will include Male and Female Players of the Year for each team and individual sport, All-Academic Male and Female Athletes of the Year from each school and First Team All-Phoenix Union selections for each team sport. Special honors will recognize our Most Inspirational Student-Athlete and the Joseph Grant Community Outreach Student-Athlete of the Year. In addition to featuring over 120 student-athletes, we will also recognize our top Coaches and Athletic Director of the Year.

The Awards presentations ceremony begins at 6 p.m. in Central High’s auditorium with the evening concluding with awarding of the Most Outstanding Sports Program for the 2017-2018 school year. Students, Staff, Parents and Community Members are invited to attend this free event.

May 9

The U.S. News and World Report released its 2018 Best High Schools rankings today, and Phoenix Union had four schools listed as Bronze schools-Metro Tech, North, Franklin and Bioscience. Franklin joined the list this year, while Camelback, a Bronze last year, did not make the list. The rankings were based on a 2016 cohort, and included school proficiency in state reading and math exams, factoring in the percentage of lower income students, graduation rate, and college readiness.
as determined by AP and IB exam participation and passing rates. The publication looked at over 20,000 high schools, and ranked 2% of the schools as the Top 500. 11% were Silver and 16% were Bronze. In Arizona, of the 463 high schools reviewed, 12 were Gold, 38 Bronze and 70 Bronze. The schools were also ranked by state. Metro Tech was 52nd with a 96% graduation rate, and a 19.9 college readiness index; North, was 57th, with a 90% grad rate and a 16.9 CRI; Franklin, 60th with a 97% grad rate and 15.6 CRI and Bioscience, was 66th with a 100% grad rate and 11.1 CRI.

For more on the Best High Schools rankings, go to: https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/hs/districts/hs/hs-1061

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May 16

Graduation ceremonies for 16 Phoenix Union schools and over 5,000 graduates, will take place May 23 and 24 in two locations. Eleven large schools will hold commencement exercises in the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum over two days, while five small schools will have graduations at Phoenix College’s Bulpitt Auditorium, May 23. The large school lineup is: Wednesday, May 23- Carl Hayden, 10:30 a.m.; Cesar Chavez, 1 p.m.; Maryvale, 3:30 p.m.; Trevor Browne, 6 p.m.; Alhambra, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 24- Metro Tech, 8 a.m.; Central, 10:30 a.m.; Camelback, 1 p.m.; North, 3:30 p.m.; South Mountain, 6 p.m. and Betty Fairfax, 8:30 p.m. The small school lineup, May 23 at Phoenix College is Desiderata, 11:30 a.m.; Franklin Police and Fire, 1:30 p.m.; Linda Abril Education Academy, 3:30 p.m.; Bioscience, 5:30 p.m. and Bostrom, 7:30 p.m.

Phoenix Union High School District is hosting a Job Fair for all PUHSD Seniors on Monday, May 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Metro Tech High School at 1900 West Thomas Road. Seniors should register to attend at www.PhoenixUnion.org/SeniorJobFair, dress professionally and bring copies of resumes. Parking and a shuttle bus is available at Phoenix College.
Among the companies represented are Sundt Construction, Marriott International, City of Phoenix Courts, Wells Fargo, State Farm, Rummel Construction and Foothills fire Protection. The Senior Job Fair is sponsored by the City of Phoenix, Department of Economic Security, Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona, Phoenix Union and the Valley of the Sun United Way.

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The second annual All-Phoenix Union Sports Awards Ceremony was held May 16, at Central High School, celebrating over 100 athletes, coaches, and athletic programs. The event featured all 11 schools that offer interscholastic athletics in PUHSD. Student recognitions included Male and Female Players of the Year for each team and individual sport, All-Academic Male and Female Athletes of the Year from each school and First Team All-Phoenix Union selections for each team sport.

The Male and Female Athletes of the Year were announced. South Mountain’s Raelynn Fair, a track athlete and Carl Hayden’s Fidel De Los Rios, track and cross country, receive scholarships from the Phoenix Union Foundation for Education. Coach of the Year was North Swim coach David Smithers, who started the Mustang program 22 years ago. Sportsmanship of the Year went to Alhambra, Athletic Director of the Year was Betty Fairfax’s Kevin Belcher. The Athletic Program of the Year, for the second year in a row, is Betty Fairfax.

There were standing ovations for the Inspirational Student-Athletes- Wrestler Luis Higuera of Cesar Chavez, and volleyball and softball player Bailey Duncan of Linda Abril and Central and the Joseph Grant Community Outreach award winner. The Joseph Grant Community Outreach Award is named for a Camelback athlete who passed away last year, but donated his Make-A-Wish gift to the school in the form of a shaded seating area, called “Joseph’s Hangout.” His mother, Dawn Grant presented the award to Santiago Mancilla Perez, a swimmer from Central High School.
Alhambra High School

3839 W. Camelback Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85019
602-764-6022
www.phoenixunion.org/alhambra

Founded: 1962
Colors: Red/Green
Mascot: Lions

Alhambra High School 2017-2018
August 16
Alhambra Athletic Director Dr. Wendy Truvillion participated in an International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) conference, August 2, in London. She was a panelist for the “Athletics Connect” event that brought together stakeholders from over 200 global athletics federations, as well as coaches, athletes, partners and industry experts from the sport, technology and marketing industries. Truvillion’s topics were Development and Coaching, and Event Presentation and Technology.

Truvillion has been active in USA Track and Field (USATF), as both a coach, manager and Women’s Junior Commissioner for several international competitions. Last year she won the Terry Crawford Award for Excellence in Coaches Education at the USATF Annual Convention. A six-time track All-American sprinter at LSU, she competed both indoors and outdoors for the Tigers. Truvillion was also a track coach at Georgia Tech and Penn State before turning to public education.

Social Studies teacher Jeffrey Davis was nominated and selected as a D-backs Most Valuable Teacher. The program is designed to recognize teachers that go above and beyond through an online nomination process. Each month during the season the Diamondbacks recognize ten teachers. Davis will be introduced on the field prior to the game, August 25, and receive up to ten tickets for friends, family, or students. He will also receive $1000 for use on classroom supplies.

August 30
Fall means football, volleyball and more, but did you know that chess is also an AIA sport? Alhambra has a very active chess team, and has already seen action, playing three matches at Thunderbird High School, August 25, and winning two. Five team members play in each match. Team members are Adan Lucena, Tuan Nguyen, Raquel Orosco, Jimmy Do, Obeth Martinez, Mya Dominguez, Mia Pena, Javier Placido. A state team tournament and individual tournament are played in November.

October 25
Support My Club did a delivery of 57 items for various Alhambra Athletic teams, October 18. Finemark Bank chose to cover $2500 worth of items for them and representatives joined in the delivery.

Alhambra alumnus Steven Green has signed a professional contract with the Northern Arizona Suns, a minor league team for the Phoenix Suns. Green played his college basketball at Phoenix College and Oklahoma Baptist where he graduated with a degree in business.
November 1

Alhambra qualified both the girls and boys cross country teams for the State Championships for the first time since 2008. The Lions teams placed in the top 50 percent of teams in the Division I Section III meet, October 27. The Alhambra boys placed 6th, and the girls were 7th. Top performers were Cynthia Ecker, finishing 11th, and Christopher Artega, finishing 18th in the boys race. The State Championships will be November 4 at Cave Creek Golf Course in Phoenix.

November 8

Twenty years ago, some Phoenix Union employees and some athletes wondered why there was no interscholastic soccer for girls, while the boys had been playing high school soccer since the 80’s. The AIA had girls soccer at other schools, but it took some convincing, and citing of Title IX to provide soccer equity at Phoenix Union. In 1996, the District decided to drop archery, a girls sport, opening the door for soccer. One of the coaches who pushed for the sport was Mark Itter at Alhambra. The CTE teacher no longer coaches, but he is inviting the Alhambra Girls Soccer alumni from the past 20 years to come out and celebrate with the current team, Friday, November 17. He has heard from about 20 girls, from age 20 to 32. They will meet the current team, and participate in a skills clinic, and no doubt reminisce about the not-so-old days.

Phoenix Union fielded eight junior varsity teams in 1997, and played each other in a short season until the AIA certified the programs. Itter remembers athletic director Harold Scott wondering if the girls would play. That first week, 100 girls came out for tryouts, and only 20 made the team.

November 15

Alhambra JROTC hosted representatives from Chase Bank Human Resources/Talent for an employment/hiring information seminar, November 7. The representatives provided information on resume building, interview techniques/demonstration, suitable attire for an interview and interviewing protocols. A key portion of this seminar for the JROTC students was articulating their teamwork and leadership roles while in JROTC, an important selling point for students with no prior work history.

“This was very informative for our JROTC students and we hope to continue this type of real world interaction in the future” said Lieutenant Colonel Jackson MacDonald, the Senior Army Instructor at Alhambra JROTC.

November 22

Alhambra’s Enrique Mighty won a gold in Varsity language and literature, and teammate Jose Baldovino had a gold in Scholastic math as the Lions finished fourth in the 19-school Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon. They were the second-best Phoenix Union team, after Cesar Chavez won the event.
Alhambra Medical Magnet has had a monthly series of healthcare professionals speak to future medical professionals. Guest speakers included an oncology nurse, EMT, occupational therapist, physical therapist, anesthesiologist, neurologist, physician’s assistant, and certified strength coach. All the professionals provided information and spoke about their educational pathway and gave the students advice for finding their way in the healthcare field. They offered hope, knowledge, and possible future networking opportunities to allow the students to observe in the professional setting.

Alhambra Medical Magnet attended the Grand Canyon University Health Sciences, Engineering, and Technology Day, November 15. It was an educational and fun-filled event that allowed students to participate in hands-on activities, lectures, and networking with fellow peers.

December 13

Alhambra Sports Medicine hosted its 2nd Annual Sports Medicine Quiz Bowl, December 7 at Grand Canyon University. The quiz bowl consisted of eight teams and four valley schools, Sierra Linda, Copper Canyon, Alhambra, and American Leadership Academy. The teams were tested about by their personal knowledge of anatomy, athletic injury care, and emergency care. After the scores were calculated, the Alhambra Lions beat the competition by only three points. Team consisted of Rumor Ortiz, Charles Lugo, Ray Ray Forest, and Alexia De La Vara Adame. Alhambra’s Sports Medicine Quiz Bowl's Individual Winner was Alhambra's David Herrera Olivares. Second place went to Copper Canyon and Alhambra's 2nd team and third was American Leadership Academy. “It was a great day for sports medicine,” medical arts magnet manager Whitney Lee said.

December 20

The Alhambra High School Cheerleading Squad hosted a first-ever Middle School Cheer-In with all the cheerleaders from Alhambra Elementary Schools, December 14. This event brought together the Alhambra Cheer teams with over 150 elementary school cheerleaders in a halftime routine. It also made for a huge cheering section for the boys varsity basketball team, too, as the Lions hosted Carl Hayden.

January 10, 2018

Alhambra alumnus (Class of 2012) Jonathan Yamasaki has graduated from Northern Arizona with a business administration degree and is currently working with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to help first generation students of color attend and graduate from college. He wants to make it easier for students from schools in low income areas to apply for scholarships. He can certainly be a role model. His high school counselor “forced” him to sign up for a Hispanic College Fund summer program at ASU, where he realized “college is a way out.” He earned a scholarship from College Success Arizona for $6,000 a year, and came with
mentorship provided by success advisers. Yamasaki says his goal is to be the U.S. Secretary of Education, or at least help provide Latinos help in making college “accessible, affordable and achievable for all students.”

January 17, 2018

Assistant Principal for Student Opportunities Dr. Wendy Truvillion earned Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) status through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Certification process, which involves successfully completing athletic administration required coursework through the NIAAA organization and passing the CAA examination. Truvillion is the third current PUHSD athletic director to earn NIAAA Certification.

January 24

An Alhambra graduate is one of four women being honored at the Arizona Women’s Education & Employment (AWEE) Faces of Success Gala, February 9. Dianne Halloway started designing male footwear after graduating from ASU 12 years ago. She started her business, Halloway Collections, thanks to the help of AWEE’s Education & Entrepreneur Center, succeeding in what had been a male-dominated business. You can see her upscale streetwear and sneakers at www.diannehalloway.com

February 7

Alhambra’s Academic Decathlon team finished 5th in the 27-school Region II Decathlon, February 2-3, and qualified for the State Decathlon, March 9-10 at ASU West. Christian Howard in the Varsity division won silver in language and literature, mathematics, and economics and a bronze in art. Enrique Mighty took gold in Varsity language and literature and silver in Varsity science. Carlos Ruiz won a silver in Scholastic economics. Destiny Lopez took bronze in Honors interview and Jose Baldovino won bronze in Scholastic math.

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Alhambra will have a new varsity football coach next year. He is Chris Crockett, who coached the freshmen last year. To a 7-2 record. Crockett was a head coach at Trevor Browne and has coached at Cesar Chavez as an assistant. He previously served as a peace officer in the State of Arizona for over 27 years (25 with the Phoenix Police Department and 2 years of service with the City of Yuma Police Department and served in the Marines. He is currently an adjunct instructor of Criminal Justice at Glendale Community College.

February 14

Freshman Erick Padilla is all about project-based learning, and is the perfect example of why Alhambra is developing a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) program.
Padilla decided three months ago to try and build a classic video game emulator console using a credit card sized computer called a raspberry pi Erick had little or no prior experience in these areas before undertaking this project.

“This is not an easy task at all and has required months of persistent research and learning,” teacher Clayton Jones said. “After months of persistence he has gotten his emulator up and running and it is creating quite the buzz amongst our students. It plays a variety of classic arcade games and has a unique design.”

Padilla utilized all his resources, including some great teachers. He consulted with Ryan Adney (photography teacher and maker-extraordinaire) on hardware, button, wiring, and joystick issues. He figured out how to configure elements of the emulator software in collaboration with Trevor Butler (English teacher and electronics enthusiast.) Padilla created his own console design to house all of the electronics and actually printed up the 3D printed body with the help of Tim Brink (librarian and technology) and he worked with Florin Postelnicu (math and coding) to learn the fundamental principles of software and game design.

“It was great to watch Erick each day show up and rush into the room to get his hands on tools and try new ideas. He would get stuck and then design his way out of / around his obstacles. Erick wants to build even more ideas and shows no signs of slowing down.”

March 7

Daniela Trujillo Arcineaga had a big surprise, March 1, when the Phoenix Suns Charities and Northern Arizona University came to campus with a big check. NAU representatives had come to campus earlier, interviewing Alhambra students, and offering a small amount of funding. But in reality, they were looking for that one special student—someone with a 3.2 grade point average or higher, a history of involvement in both their school and community, and who had a strong interest in NAU. Suns Charities and NAU representatives, including mascots, visited Arcineaga’s class, and presented her with a $40,000 four-year tuition scholarship. She wants to be a pediatrician, and she really wanted to pursue that at NAU. Her dream came true.

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It doesn’t sound so fun—an educational staff ride. That is JROTC language. But for 24 Alhambra JROTC cadets, it was a trip to Hawaii, February 17-24. The Staff Ride provides students with an opportunity to learn much more than the history of a battle taught in the JROTC Military History Unit. It provided cadets a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit great military historic sites and equipment found only in Hawaii. Cadets came to understand what the attack on Pearl Harbor meant to the United States. They learned how World War II naval combat in the Pacific was waged, and how the war finally ended with the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri. Cadets were able to personally experience the topics discussed in the classroom. In addition, Cadets will also experienced Polynesian culture, Hawaiian environment and agriculture. Highlights of the trip included visiting Pearl Harbor, Diamond Head, a Luau, Waikiki beach and the Dole Pineapple plantation.

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The KLYN club had the opportunity to tour the ABC 15 news studio with Dan Spindle, February 27.

“Dan was very gracious and took the time out of his day to give the students a very in-depth tour. The students got to see several live broadcasts and also got a tour of all that goes on behind the scenes,” Math teacher Jana McClellan said.

**March 21**

Alhambra is hosting and event called “S.T.E.A.M.: A Passion With Purpose.” S.T.E.A.M. stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. The event will take place on Friday, March 23 from 10:00 am – 4:30 pm in the South Gym at Alhambra High School. There will be representation from the following clubs and academic areas: Culinary Pride; Organic Gardening Club; Science; eMath; English; Gifted; Computer Science; AMPED (Algebra in Manufacturing Processes, Entrepreneurship and Design); Medical Magnet Program and JROTC.

In addition, throughout the day there will be special performances from the Guitar Club, Royal Nation Dance Club, as well as Spoken Word Poetry.

During lunches there will be a Genius Hour with a special Q&A session presented by the students in Computer Science and AMPED.

There will be special guests from Pinnacle Transplant Technologies, LLC, AzSciTech, and The University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix.

**March 28**

There is no better display of school athletics history than at Alhambra High School. The school has displayed its sports history in the north gym for many years, and now, thanks to Charles Rivera’s Sports Entertainment and Marketing classes, students have created a video of the display, with interviews with many of the former athletes and coaches. Six student projects were submitted, and the video created by Jesus Galindo, Christopher Ruiz and Rigoberto Ramirez Correa was selected, and is now posted on the Alhambra website under “Athletics.”

Former teacher and Coach Ron Scott was instrumental in the project. He worked at Phoenix Union for 32 years, and was the Alhambra baseball coach for 19 years. He remembers many of the great moments, student-athletes and coaches of Alhambra.

“A big thanks to Mr. Rivera. The kids were great to work with and were responsible for creating the music, transitions and graphics. Also, thank you to Alhambra alum Boyd Epley for giving us the idea to put the display on the web for all to see,” Scott said.

Epley, a Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame member, was a multi-sport athlete at Alhambra, and was the first-ever strength and conditioning coach in collegiate athletics, when Nebraska brought him on in 1969.
April 11

The Alhambra High School Athletics Program has won the 2017-2018 6A Conference Glen Treadaway Sportsmanship Award for the school’s coaches and administration for setting the state and district standard for great sportsmanship and character building with their student-athletes.

“It was brought to my attention that an AIA 6A representative witnessed stellar sportsmanship by our boys basketball team and Coach (Ernie Cobb) during a game against Westview this season, and that event caused this AIA rep to measure all school’s demonstration of sportsmanship based on Alhambra’s,” Athletic Director Dr. Wendy Truvillion said. “Also contributing to this award is the fact that Alhambra was one of about 75 (out of 450) Arizona schools that had zero (0) ejections in athletic events this year. These bouts of excellence are a testament to Alhambra’s hard work, commitment, and character.”

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Culinary Arts teacher Annette Fields has taught environmental science and culinary arts for many years and most recently she and 22 students built an organic garden on the campus of Alhambra High School. It is the first and only certified organic garden in the District.

The students were involved in every aspect of building the garden from putting the boxes together, moving several tons of soil to fill the boxes, and filling in the surroundings with gravel to create an attractive environment.

In the fall they grew sweet corn, pumpkins, butternut squash, spaghetti squash, peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers. Currently they have planted sunflowers which are beginning to sprout, watermelon, onions, snap peas, potatoes, and zucchini. All items grown in the garden are organic and used in the Culinary Classroom and Culinary Club.

“I have a passion for the environment, and I also want my students to learn about sustainability. With the Alhambra Organic Garden there are many opportunities to teach them about our environment, biology, botany, and emerging markets but best of all we get to make yummy and healthy snacks when we are done,” Fields said. “Our goal is to beautify the community in which we work and live and make Phoenix a more sustainable city. My students also learn the difference between healthy food choices and the “Food Desert” that surrounds us.”

To become certified Fields had to do some research regarding prior land use. She contacted Maricopa County GIS Mapping and viewed the aerial photography of the school’s location dating back to 1930. Fortunately, prior to the school’s construction the land was open agricultural land eliminating any concern of potential toxins in the soil. Next, she contacted the Arizona Department of Health Services for a site visit to obtain approval for the proposed location and then to the Arizona Department of Health Services web site to find out what else might be needed. They had to submit a Food Safety Plan and obtain Food handlers certification for all the students.

“It took a great deal of hard work and almost a year to acquire certification with the Arizona Department of Health Services, but with a group of amazing Culinary & Organic Garden Club members we did it.”

Alhambra High School
April 18

Alhambra High School held a street party, April 13, to celebrate a new mural painted on the side of a local business. The artwork was the result of a Phoenix Revitalization Corporation’s Neighborhood Beautification grant to the Canyon Corridor Neighborhood Association. Alhambra students helped with the project which depicts the Lion mascot. A contest was held by the school’s student government. The mural, which is on the east side of 37th Avenue, facing the school, is a combination of the three winning designs by Nicole Martinez, Roberto Sotelo and Matthew Flora. Twenty students submitted drawings for the contest. As part of the contest, each student who submitted a drawing was allowed to help the artist with the mural.

“This mural removes unsightly ads and promotes Alhambra High School pride,” Principal Karen Cardenas said.

April 25

The Alhambra Choir was featured all week, April 16-20 for the KOOL FM 94.5 Noon Salute, singing the National Anthem every day at 12 noon. The radio station played a recording of the anthem.

May 3

Athletic Director Dr. Wendy Truvillion was named the head manager for the inaugural Athletic World Cup International Track Meet in London, July 14-15. This is the first Eight Nations meet of its kind where the USA’s top athletes will be competing in head-to-head competition with the world’s top track and field athletes from Great Britain, Northern Ireland, China, South Africa, France, Germany, Jamaica and Poland. As the head manager, she will be extending technical, logical, managerial, and supervisory supports to the USA coaching staff and the athletes. Truvillion has served as manager for several U.S. Track and Field teams in international competitions.
Betty Fairfax High School

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602-764-9020
www.phoenixunion.org/bettyfairfax

Founded: 2007
Colors: Midnight Blue/Columbia Blue
Mascot: Stampede
Betty Fairfax High School 2017-2018
August 23, 2017

It is only two weeks into the school year, but already Betty Fairfax has August Students of the Month. They are freshmen Alma Valencia, JROTC; Adrian Munoz, Reading; Benna Davis-Hamilton, Reading; 11th graders Caleb Ryan, World Languages; Melina Pineira, principal’s office; Vincent Montez, Industrial Tech; Spencer Denman, Performing arts; and 12th graders Bernie Mieras, Counseling; Vanessa Jimenez, Art; and Yonas Berhe, World Languages. They will be honored at a Student of the Month Breakfast, September 1.

August 23

Major Kirk Loving, senior Army instructor at Betty Fairfax JROTC, successfully defended his PhD dissertation “The Effect of High School JROTC on Civic Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes of Hispanic Cadets” and will formally receive his Doctorate in Education from Grand Canyon University in October. His research was conducted in conjunction with the PUHSD JROTC programs and will add to the knowledge of how JROTC impacts the civic development of Hispanic Cadets enrolled in the program. Major Loving’s previous education includes BA, Russian Studies, George Washington University; MA, Educational Psychology, University of Oklahoma; and an MA, Russian and East European Studies, Florida State University.

Did you know that currently 59% of the PUHSD JROTC teachers have an advanced degree? Lieutenant Colonel Pete Sandberg, the District’s JROTC coordinator, has three Masters.

September 6

Betty Fairfax will host a Naturalization Ceremony on Monday, September 18 to welcome 100 new United States citizens, who will take the Oath of Allegiance to America, administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. It is the third consecutive year that a Phoenix Union school is the site of this ceremony, which will conclude the PUHSD “Civics Week” and targeted instruction to help support students’ success on the state-mandated Civics Exam. PUHSD will have administered the exam to over 7000 students the week before. It also coincides with the start of National Citizenship Week.

September 13

Betty Fairfax will host a Naturalization Ceremony on Monday, September 18 to welcome 100 new United States citizens, who will take the Oath of Allegiance to America, administered by the U.S.
Citizenship and Immigration Services. It is the third consecutive year that a Phoenix Union school is the site of this ceremony, which will conclude the PUHSD “Civics Week” and targeted instruction to help support students’ success on the state-mandated U.S. Citizenship Exam. PUHSD will have administered the exam to some 9,000 students the week before. It also coincides with the start of National Citizenship Week. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson will be the keynote speaker.

September 20

Students from Betty H. Fairfax High School traveled to Boulder Creek High School, September 16, to audition for the Arizona All-State Jazz and Show Choirs. Hundreds of students from across the state of Arizona compete for a spot in one of these prestigious ensembles. Andrez Alcazar was chosen to be a member of the All-State Jazz Choir. Alcazar will participate in a three-day festival and culminating performance at Desert Vista High School November 16-18 under the direction of Dr. Mark Denton from Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

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Betty Fairfax High School hosted the Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Naturalization Ceremony, September 18 in a jam-packed auditorium. Ninety-eight new citizens from 34 countries took the Oath of Allegiance to America, administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Field Office Director in front of friends and relatives, and social studies students and staff from Fairfax. Principal Phillip Wooley gave opening remarks, the Fairfax Vocal Ensemble and JROTC color guard handled the National Anthem, and student body president Deahvia Donston led the Pledge Allegiance. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson gave the keynote address, celebrating the diversity of Phoenix Union, and our country. Videos of faces and icons of America, a message from the president and ‘America the Beautiful’ were reminders of the significance of this event. Countries such as Argentina, Ghana, Iraq, Nigeria, The Philippines, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and Mexico were represented, but on this day, they all waved American flags, pledged allegiance, and celebrated their new citizenship with great emotion.

September is also the month all juniors take the U.S. Citizenship test, made up of the same questions that citizen candidates answer. One young man from Fairfax, Joshua Carrillo took that test personally. He was interviewed by a television station yesterday following the ceremony. His grandmothers and aunts became citizens earlier in his life, and this year, Carrillo paid tribute to them by getting a perfect score on the 100-question exam.

The ceremony was organized by Social Studies Content Specialist Katie Hansen, who has brought this event to Phoenix Union schools and students the past three years.

September 27

The Betty H. Fairfax Vocal Ensemble was invited to perform in a concert hosted by Helios, a local professional modern Renaissance vocal ensemble, September 23 at the Central United Methodist
Church. The students performed two secular madrigals that fit the theme "A Book of Beasts". This is the first time that Helios, now in its third season, has invited a high school choir to perform in one of their concerts. During the Medieval and Renaissance eras, the animal kingdom was a source of amazement and entertainment in literature, art and music from cats and dogs to dragons and griffins.

Fairfax Students of the Month for September are Omar Bustamante, Health/PE; Mariah Armenta, Counseling; Iilyan Fierro, Science; Abigail Guerrero, World Language; James Mulbah, English; Jorge Dominguez, Math; Malissa Pinkney, Business; Jeremiah Schexnayder, JROTC; Hayley Toro, Business, Kiley Truong, Business; Joseph Tullius, Performing arts.

October 25

For the second year in a row, Iman Abraham was the lone PUHSD representative at the Division II Girls State Golf Championship. Out of a field of 99 players, Abraham finished 26th at the Tucson National course October 23-24.

November 1

Betty Fairfax won its second consecutive 5A Union Region Football title, with a 5-0 record, after beating South Mountain in the final regular season game. The Stampede must take on #1 seed Vail Cienega in the opening round for the second straight year.

November 8

The Fairfax Band, Equus, placed 17th overall in Division III at the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association State Marching Festival, November 4 at Dobson High School. The Stampede received a Good Rating.

November 22

Four Stampede football players made the All-Phoenix Union team—Deontrae Cameron, offensive line; Anthodious Ashley, running back; Kesontaye Lewis, defensive line and Antwan Craig, punter.

December 6

The Stampede Girls basketball team is off to a good start, going 7-1 in its first few weeks of the season, including a stretch of even games in three days. They overcame a slow start against Notre
Dame Prep, overcoming a 13-1 deficit to win, 57-42 November 30. Fairfax then won the Sedona Red Rock Tournament, December 1-2, with wins against Mingus, Mesa Westwood and top-seeded Sedona, 47-41 in the championship game.

January 17, 2018

The Betty Fairfax STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Club is hosting its first Family Science Night, Tuesday, January 23 from 6-8 p.m.

February 7

Two choir students will represent Betty Fairfax in the North Central Region All-Regional Music Festival, February 17 at Camelback High School. Tenors Carlos Grijalva and Andrez Alcazar auditioned against musicians from all over the state, January 27, and won spots in their regional choir. They will rehearse for two days and perform as a group, at the festival performance.

The Lady Stampede Basketball team clinched the 5A Union Region for the second year in a row, February 1, with a win over Independence, and concluded a perfect 10-0 region record with a 56-27 win over Glendale in the regular season finale, February 6. The Stampede, 23-5 on the season opened post-season play, February 8 vs. Verrado.

Betty Fairfax qualified for the State Academic Decathlon next month, by placing 7th in the 27-team Region II Decathlon, February 2-3. Boston Lawrence won a gold medal in Varsity economics and a bronze in Varsity social science. Christian Aniceto took silver in Scholastic interview and Brendan Tith won a silver medal in Honors mathematics.

February 14

Both the boys and girls basketball teams advanced to the first round of the 5A State Tournament with wins in play-in games. The Lady Stampede beat Verrado, 47-44 February 8. The Stampede, seeded #14 in the tournament, lost to Sahuaro, February 14. The boys beat Agua Fria, 59-51 in a play-in game, February 9, and beat #3 Buena, February 13, 83-63 to advance to the quarterfinals of the 16-team tournament, where the Stampede will face Centennial in the second round, February 16.

Betty Fairfax Choirs attended the NAU Jazz/Madrigal Festival, February 10 in Flagstaff and took home the highest rating that can be earned—“Superior,” in both the Jazz and Madrigal divisions.
February 21

Dozens of history students from Phoenix Union are going to see the play, *Hamilton*, Friday, February 23, as part of the Hamilton Education Program, and it is only going to cost them $10 per ticket. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, thanks to a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, made this opportunity available for Title I (low income) students in cities where *Hamilton* is playing. Schools applied in June, and teachers guided the students through a class project introducing them to the people, events and documents of the Hamilton era, including how *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda incorporated primary sources into the songs.

There will be an educational component in the morning, and the performance will be in the afternoon at ASU’s Gammage Auditorium. Betty Fairfax social studies teacher Ryan Ussery has gone all out with the project and is bringing 88 students.

“Many of them already knew the entire soundtrack. We spent a week studying Hamilton with lessons including an escape room based on his life story, primary source analysis, lyric analysis, and finally the students did some light research to transform primary source documents into original lyrics. One of my students in IB History of the Americas, Brooks Kong-Sivert, knocked it out of the park with his rap on Benjamin Franklin.”

Kong-Sivert was selected to perform his rap, “Straight Outa Boston,” to the rest of the students, at the event, prior to the play.

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Senior Eden Jenkins has already received over one million dollars in scholarship/award offers from colleges and universities around the United States. She has received acceptance letters from more than 30 colleges and universities, but anticipates many more letters to arrive by mid-April, which is when she will make her final decision.

In addition, Jenkins has applied for close to 100 Merit-based scholarships via the Arizona Community Foundation, Scholarship Universe, 100 Club of Arizona, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Laveen Community Council, Tom Joyner Full Ride Scholarship, Phoenix Union Foundation, National Honor Society, ACT College & Career Readiness Champions, and the Adair Foundation NAACP Scholarship, to name a few.

She will earn 55 college credits through the South Mountain Community College ACE Program by May 2018, where she has maintained a 4.0 GPA while playing volleyball and tennis, Black Student Union Club President, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Club Treasurer, National Honor Society member, ASCEND Educational Enrichment Program, and the Arizona Ivy League Project. Jenkins would like to become a doctor of Pharmacy.

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Betty Fairfax High School
The boys basketball team advanced to the quarterfinals of the 16-team 5A state tournament thanks to post season wins over Agua Fria, and #3 Buena. The Stampede ended its season with a 69-66 loss to Centennial, February 16.

**February 28**

Betty Fairfax High School has been formally recognized as an AVID School-wide Site of Distinction.

An AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction represents the highest level of AVID implementation fidelity demonstrating excellence in instructional practice and the promotion of college readiness school-wide.

“This honor is not only a testament to our AVID team, but to our entire school community that works diligently to transform the lives of our students,” Principal Phillip Wooley said.

**March 7**

Betty Fairfax’ DECA Marketing and Entrepreneurship Club sent 17 students to the State Career Development DECA Conference, March 2-4, and five students placed and qualified to attend the International Career and Development Conference in Atlanta, GA at the end of April: Alyssa Sandoval--First Place, Professional Selling; Kimberly Ledezma Bugarin--Fourth Place, Financial Consulting; Cesar Partida--Fourth Place; Innovation Plan Presentation Team; Nicholas McClure--Fourth Place, Innovation Plan Presentation Team; Katie Gutiérrez--Fourth Place, Innovation Plan Presentation Team.

This is the most Fairfax has taken to International competition. The team will now hope to raise funds for the trip. For information on you can help, including donating through the Arizona Education Tax Credit program, contact marketing teacher and DECA Advisor Lorelei Andersen at (602) 764-9124 or landersen@phoenixunion.org.

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The best two basketball players in the District, according to coaches, were both from Betty Fairfax. Donovan Reagan was the All Phoenix Union Boys Player of the Year and Ma’Kayla Dickerson was Girls Player of the Year. Dickerson was also 5A All Region Player of the Year, and her coach John Trujillo was the Coach of the Year. Reagan shared Player of the Year in the 5A Union Region with Isaiah Rhymes of Carl Hayden.
March 21

Betty Fairfax High School's Japanese Club made its debut at the Phoenix Matsuri, a statewide cultural celebration of Japan, February 24-25. Paired with their sister school in Dysart, Valley Vista High School, the Fairfax Japanese Dance completed several live performances to full crowds at the festival and received raucous applause and donations for the clubs. The Japanese Club also hosted a booth on Japanese music, from traditional to modern and helped inform the festival attendees about how to find more Japanese music. The club received positive reviews from the festival attendees, which each year draws over 1500 people.

March 28

The Betty Fairfax Students of the Month of March were announced and will be recognized at a breakfast, April 6 with their nominating teacher. Students of the Month are Nguyen Son and Elsa Jarmillo, ESL; Anthony Pace and Almanza Bustamante, Reading; Julianna Butler, Science; Jessica Walters, Art; Hernan Vega, Journalism/Film; Julie Kuboca and Cole Logg, Career and Technical Education.

April 4

The 7th Annual Fairfax Senior Capstone Presentations will take place on April 10, 11 and 12 from 6-8 p.m. in the gymnasium. Students will be presenting careers on the following categories: Natural Resources; Business Management; Industrial and Engineering Systems; Art and Communication; Human Resources; Health Services. Students, staff, parents and the community are invited.

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A new interscholastic sport is coming to Betty Fairfax next year-girls and boys swimming and diving. Fairfax will be the fifth Phoenix school to offer swimming, joining North, Central, Camelback and Alhambra. Swimming and diving competes in the fall sports season. The school is seeking a head coach, and working on arranging a pool for practice and meets. For more information, contact Fairfax Athletic Director Kevin Belcher at 602 764-9070.

April 11

The 7th Annual Fairfax Senior Capstone Presentations will take place on April 10, 11 and 12 from 6-8 p.m. in the gymnasium. Students will be presenting careers on the following categories: Natural Resources; Business Management; Industrial and Engineering Systems; Art and Communication; Human Resources; Health Services. Students, staff, parents and the community are invited.
April 18

Seven years ago a group of football players at Fairfax High School, with Head Coach Kevin Belcher, initiated a reading and book donation program for local elementary schools. These Fairfax student-athletes chose to serve the community by visiting the Laveen/Phoenix elementary schools to read and give each second grader a book to bring home. The enthusiasm of everyone involved forged an annual event called Tackling Literacy.

To expand the effort, sponsorship was secured from The Ohio State University’s Second and Seven Foundation. Coaches Luke Fickle and Mike Vrabel established the Foundation to publish original storybooks that engage and encourage young readers. The Foundation has been a generous sponsor, donating enough books for Fairfax student-athletes to give books to each of the second graders in the local elementary schools.

In 2015 the event changed. As an Assistant Principal (Athletic Administrator) at Fairfax High School, Belcher now engages volunteers from all extracurricular athletic programs as well as leaders from the Captains Council. For 2018, these Fairfax student leaders dedicated two days in to read and distribute books to 28 second grade classes. As in prior years, the high school and elementary students are excited and truly enjoy the event.

The student-athletes visited Cheatham Elementary; Vista del Sur; Trailside Point and Desert Meadows in the Laveen District, and will bring books and read to students at Laveen Elementary; Rogers Ranch; M.C. Cash and Paseo Point, April 27.

“We are proud of the Fairfax students who represent our community with the spirit of the Stampede,” Belcher said.

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Sophomore Victor Miranda has been accepted to the Junior Statesman Academy summer school at Stanford University. JSA Summer School is a milestone achievement for student leaders who are interested in politics and government. This summer, Miranda will take International Relations, an intense college-level course taught by a university professor, and spend the summer immersed in political discussions with a diverse group of bright students. Miranda is already a junior statesman of sorts. He was recently elected the Fairfax Student Body Vice-President for next school year.

May 3

Betty Fairfax had a perfect regular season, going 18-0. But in the play-in round of the 5A playoffs, they lost to #23 seed Liberty, 10-6, to end a memorable season.
Two of their top players, Natalia Vallarta and Kanyae Engram signed letters of Intent, May 2, to play softball at Gateway Community College. Vallarta played centerfield and Engram was the left fielder for the Stampede. Both played varsity softball all four years at Fairfax.

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Three years ago Betty Fairfax started an AIA Boys Volleyball program. In the final week of the regular season, the Stampede beat Verrado High School to claim the region title. They host Kellis High, Thursday in a first round playoff game at 6:30 p.m.

May 9

Betty Fairfax’s Ma’kayla Dickerson set a state record in the 300 meter hurdles, won the high jump and had second place finishes in the 200 meters and the 100 meter hurdles at the Division II Track and Field Championships, March 5. Dickerson had personal bests in every event and scored 36 of Fairfax’s 39 points, as the Stampede Girls finished 6th in the team scoring. Dickerson, a junior, turned in a 41.72 time in the 300 hurdles to set a record that had stood for six years. Her time is also the third-best in the nation this year. Anaya Mathews finished 6th in the shotput for the other Fairfax points. In the Boys division, Carmayne White, tied for second in the high jump and was 5th in the long jump.

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Senior Eden Jenkins is a million dollar scholar. She has received over one million dollars in merit-based scholarship/award offers from colleges and universities. To maximize her options for higher education, Jenkins applied to 53 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) via the Common Black College Application, three additional HBCUs, three Arizona universities, and three Ivy League universities. To date, Eden has received acceptance letters from 48 schools, but has chosen Xavier University of Louisiana. She received the President’s Scholarship, valued at $88,000 over four years, and will begin her pursuit of a doctoral degree in Pharmacy (PharmD). She has also been accepted to the school’s College of Pharmacy Contingent Admit Program for high school seniors who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement. Jenkins has received an “invitation only” opportunity to participate in Xavier University’s Pharmacy Prep Program this summer, as well as their Honors Exponential Program starting this fall.

Eden currently has a high school GPA of 4.6, while simultaneously earning 48-plus college credits through the South Mountain Community College ACE Program with a 4.0 GPA. She is a student-athlete in dual sports (tennis and volleyball), HBCU Club President, Black Students Union Club Treasurer, National Honor Society member, Fairfax Gifted Program member, ASCEND Educational Enrichment Program participant, and Arizona Ivy League Project participant.

Eden’s mother, Sandra Jenkins is an ESS teacher at Fairfax, and her father is a captain with the City of Phoenix Fire Department.

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Boys Tennis Coach Jerry Fiedler was named the Arizona Interscholastic Association Division II Section VI Coach of the Year and is a finalist for the Division II Coach of Year.

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The Gila River Indian Community held its Annual Chief Azul Scholar and Citizenship Awards on Friday, May 4, 2018 at the Vee Quiva Casino Entertainment Center. GRIC K-12 Student advisor Lorraine Dosela and other staff nominated four Betty Fairfax students for their achievements which include academics, attendance, and participation in extracurricular activities as well as other qualities. Rachael Whempner was the winner of the Gila River Chief Azul Award for the 10th grade category. Freshman Sophia Moreno, sophomore Tafv Dillon, and senior Alyssa Sandoval won honorable mention for their grade group. Sandoval was also selected for the Chief Azul Citizenship Ward. She will be one of 15 students travelling to Washington, D.C., with the Gila River Tribal Education Department this summer. Dosela’ daughter Lehua Lani, who attends Cesar Chavez, won overall for the senior grade group, and was also selected for the Citizenship Award and will join the trip to D.C.

May 16

Betty Fairfax is the Phoenix Union Athletic Program of the Year, announced at the All-Phoenix Union Sports Awards Ceremony May 16 at Central High School. The event celebrates athletes, coaches, athletic directors and athletic programs. It was the second year in a row the Laveen school was the top athletic program in the district.

Fairfax won five team region titles, and qualified for the state playoffs in football, boys and girls basketball, boys volleyball, softball and boys tennis. In individual sports, golfer Iman Abraham qualified for state. Boys tennis players took 1st and 2nd place in singles, first in doubles, and the girls took first in singles and first and second in doubles at the Phoenix Union Tennis tournament. Fairfax was the only team to qualify for the tennis state playoffs. In track and field, the girls team led by Ma’kayla Dickerson who won state titles in 300 hurdles and high jump, and two 2nd place finishes, finished sixth in the state, and the boys team’s Carmayne White tied for second in the high jump and finished fifth in the longjump. PUHSD Coaches of the Year were Mike Lopez, Volleyball; Rachel Gonzalez, Softball and Jerry Fiedler, Boys Tennis. Girls Basketball coach John Trujillo was named 5A Union Region Coach of the Year. Kevin Belcher was named Athletic Director of the Year.

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Ma'Kayla Dickerson, a two-time track and field state champion the week before, tried a seven-event heptathlon at Valley Christian in Chandler, May 10-11. She won the 100 hurdles, high jump, 200-meters, long jump and 800 meters, and scored 4573 points, the fourth best high school score in the nation, according to her Fairfax coaches John Sholongo and Lydia Edwards. Six Fairfax girls competed in the AIA-sanctioned event.
Bioscience High School

512 E. Pierce Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-764-1526
www.phoenixunion.org/bioscience

Founded: 2006
Colors: Green/Purple
Mascot: Double Helix Dragon
Bioscience High School 2017-2018
Around Our Schools
Bioscience
2017-18

August 16

Bioscience hosted an Arizona College Application Campaign for over 90 students last week. Bioscience students were joined by over 30 other students coming from PUHSD sisters schools (Trevor Browne, Camelback, Maryvale, Carl Hayden, Metro Tech, Central) as well as students from Verrado, Washington, Glendale and University high schools. Over 500 college applications were submitted during the course of the five-day boot camp. It was the 4th-annual Bioscience College Admissions Boot Camp. The last three days, there were college presentations followed by application workshops, assisted by volunteers from public and private in-state and out-of-state universities and community colleges, College Depot, the AZ Commission on Post-Secondary Education, the Be A Leader Matriculation Team, and District counseling leaders Dolores Ramirez and Amanda Nolasco.

Bioscience also held a Boot Camp at ASU Downtown with ACCESS ASU, August 2, and prior to completing applications, the students heard presentations from ASU, the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, Benedictine University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Grand Canyon University, St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, and Miami University in Ohio. Bioscience will hold a second round during the week of August 14.

August 23

It was Eclipse Day everywhere, and no one celebrated more than science teachers. Milton Johnson at Bioscience had his telescope set up with two lens, and a filter on his camera, and a long line of students waiting to view. His club, STARS (Science, Technology, Astronomy, Research Society) sold eclipse glasses earlier this year, but there were plenty more being passed around. Some students came out during class time to try out their pinhole projectors, but clouds obscured some of the eclipse. Even the shade trees got in the act, casting hundreds of eclipse shadows through the leaves and on the ground. Johnson, an astronomer who has involved his students in projects through Caltech and NASA, planned to go to Idaho to experience the eclipse, but was glad he decided to stay home to be with the Bioscience students.

September 13

Bioscience High School will be one of the beneficiaries of the eighth annual Pie Social, co-sponsored by Roosevelt Row and Phoenix New Times, held at Margaret T. Hance Park at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 19. There will be celebrity chefs, and community bakers. Tasting tickets will be $15 for five tastes.
September 20
Bioscience surpassed the state in all AzMERIT exams, and scored 91 in 9th Grade Algebra, and 85 in Geometry and 11th grade Algebra. The school improved in four of the six exams, including a whopping 26 percentage points in 11th grade Algebra.

October 25
Two Phoenix Union teams combined to win the Steve Sanghi Foundation Arizona State FIRST (for Inspiration and recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Championship October 21 at ASU’s Wells Fargo Arena. The Dragon Robotics from Bioscience joined forces with the Falcon Robotics from Carl Hayden and a community team from Microchip to form the winning alliance. Bioscience was the last-ranked team invited to the 30-team field, barely passed inspection, but went 7-1 in qualification matches, placing third overall to become the third-seeded alliance captain.

The Dragons selected Carl Hayden and Team Caution to enter the four-alliance playoffs. They beat the second-seeded alliance in the semifinals, and the fourth-seeded alliance in the finals, winning both matches, two games to none. Overall Bioscience went 11-1 and had the highest Offensive Power Rating at the competition. Hayden, a state champion last year as well, posted a 10-2 record.

The event featured the same game as last year’s FIRST season, and serves as a warm-up to this year’s season which kicks off in January. It’s also a way for rookie team members to see and experience a robotics competition before the actual season starts. Sanghi, Microchip’s CEO, has been a great supporter of FIRST Robotics, since being introduced to it by the Carl Hayden Robotics team.

The Dragon Robotics 2375 drive team was powered by seniors Edmund Dong, Edwin Lozano, César Parra and junior Laura Lozano as well as drive coach Jonah Lerner, a Dragon Robotics and Bioscience High School alumnus now at ASU Poly studying engineering.

The Falcons 20-student team was led by driver Uriel Rodriguez and co-pilot Bryan Gracia. Former team member Eduardo Fernandez and Steve Forbs, a mentor for the team, saved the day by diagnosing and repairing their malfunctioning robot just in time during the semifinals.

November 8
Phoenix Union Bioscience High School has been designated as a 21st Century Learning Exemplar for 2017-2018 by P21, a catalyst organization uniting business, government and education to advance evidence-based education policy and practice. Bioscience High School earned this award for its outstanding practices in equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in college, career, and life.
In order to become part of the P21 Exemplar Program, schools and districts must demonstrate not just an adequate implementation of the Framework for 21st Century Learning, but also expertise in the elements of: Student Agency, Distributed Leadership, a Climate of Achievement, Engaged Community, and use of Evidence and Research.

Bioscience principal, Dr. Holly Batsell, said, “We are honored to be among the hard working schools recognized by the Partnership for 21st Century Learning. Our core values, mission, and vision are at the heart of preparing students to thrive in college and the work place as skilled, adaptable, and compassionate citizens.”

In addition to receiving an education built upon integration, problem-based learning, and technology, students are required to complete a 200-hour internship with a local organization or nonprofit. These internships often turn into work-study positions during college and lead to connections that last even beyond college. In addition, during each of their four years at Bioscience, students complete year-long capstone projects. Students identify and analyze a local problem, interview stakeholders, design and implement interventions, evaluate their results, and present their findings to a panel of stakeholders.

“Being recognized as a P21 Exemplar School will help up deepen our network of community partners and expand our professional networks with other educators,” said Batsell.

David Ross, CEO at P21 stated, “P21’s Exemplar Program works to identify innovative education paradigms across the country. When policymakers say ‘show me what you mean,’ we turn to our P21 Exemplars for hard evidence.”

As part of uplifting the best practices from Phoenix Union Bioscience High School, P21 will develop a case study and release it to the public for free download at p21.org/exemplars in the Spring of 2018.

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Science teacher Melanie Engstrom and the science department was selected as a 2017 Phoenix Suns/APS STEM Mini-Grant recipient for $2,500. She is going to use it for lab equipment for PCR (polymerase chain reaction) work.

“PCR is just one method we use to replicate DNA so we can see it better with the naked eye. A student, Niki (Wilson, who helped write the grant) and I have decided to use the funds on algae growing, condensing, and analyzing equipment which will include professional pipettes, a microcentrifuge, a rotary condenser, and various media chemicals,” Engstrom said.

Engstrom will be recognized at the November 24 Suns game.

“The review committee was impressed by the level of passion you showed in your application and your work to further develop your students’ interest in STEM. We hope you are proud not just of this recognition, but also the outstanding impact you make on your students. APS and Arizona are
so fortunate to have teachers like you who are educating our future leaders in the STEM field. The difference you make is a shining example of our community,” the APS STEM Mini-Grant Selection Committee said.

February 14, 2018

Bioscience High School was one of seventeen schools, districts, and “beyond school” entities nationwide officially recognized this year as a P21 (The Partnership for 21st Century Learning) Exemplar Program. P21 seeks to identify, document, promote and celebrate examples of 21st century learning initiatives that successfully prepare students for college, career and life.

These entities that earn the P21 Exemplar designation enter an elite professional learning community focused on 21st century learning, and their stories provide educators, policymakers, and communities a variety of models from which to draw from and by which to be inspired.

This year’s exemplars along with other educational stakeholders were invited to a luncheon at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. February 7. Bioscience principal Dr. Holly Batsell and National Board Certified Spanish teacher W. Andrew White attended. In the evening, they were also invited to a gathering with their respective Congress representatives at the U.S. Capitol.

Bioscience is looking forward to presenting at P21’s Patterns of Innovation conference, March 27-28 at New Tech High School in Napa, California.

March 21

The Bioscience Engineering program has developed a relationship with the ACCEL school (for kids with challenges and special needs) this year. In addition to other tasks, Bioscience students were challenged to create fun carnival-type games that could be accessed by kids with severe physical limitations. In completing these tasks, the students utilized Career and Technical Education (CTE) equipment at different campuses, their own resources, and many engineering planning tools.) They created bowling, dunk tank, beanbag toss and much more, and tried out the games with the ACCEL students, March 9 and 10.

April 11

Bioscience High School is on a mission to ensure that every college-bound senior is awarded a scholarship. That is typically 100 percent of the senior class. The school is holding its First Annual Dollars for Scholars Community Event & Fundraiser, Thursday, April 19, from 6-8:30 pm. There will be food trucks, music, desserts, gift baskets, penny scholarship jars, and each senior will do Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) presentations about their college and career plans.

“We would love you to attend and to consider making a donation to our cause. The Burton Family Foundation will be matching our donations, so every dollar counts. If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation – no amount is too small,” Principal Dr. Holly Batsell said.

Credit card donations may be made on the following Arizona Community Foundation page: https://burtonfamilyfoundation.kimbia.com/burtff
April 18

Bioscience High School is on a mission to ensure that every college-bound senior is awarded a scholarship. That is typically 100 percent of the senior class. The school is holding its First Annual Dollars for Scholars Community Event & Fundraiser, Thursday, April 19, from 6-8:30 pm. There will be food trucks, music, desserts, gift baskets, penny scholarship jars, and each senior will do Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) presentations about their college and career plans.

“We would love you to attend and to consider making a donation to our cause. The Burton Family Foundation will be matching our donations, so every dollar counts. If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation – no amount is too small,” Principal Dr. Holly Batsell said.

Credit card donations may be made on the following Arizona Community Foundation page: https://burtonfamilyfoundation.kimbia.com/burtff

Checks may be made out to the Burton Family Foundation (please put Bioscience on the subject line) and mailed to:
Arizona Community Foundation 2201 E. Camelback Rd., Ste. 405B, Phoenix, AZ 85016

April 25

Two Phoenix Union Bioscience High School seniors were among the 22 Arizona high school students chosen as 2018 Flinn Scholars. Nancy Twishime and Elizabeth Lee Chiffelle were selected for the prestigious scholarship, valued at over $120,000, from a record-high 881 applications.

The scholarship, which is for in-state universities only, covers the cost of tuition, room and board, and provides funding for study-abroad experiences, an off-campus internship and other benefits. Chiffelle and Twishime will attend ASU next fall.

Bioscience was one of three schools that had two representatives, along with Arizona College Prep and BASIS Chandler. It is the first time since 1994 (North) that two students were from one Phoenix Union High School. Bioscience has had four Flinn Scholars since 2013.

Nancy Twishime has a brilliant future, but she is already a success story. She arrived in the U.S. at age 11, her family a victim of genocide in their homeland of Rwanda. Her parents went from successful careers to a life of refugee camps, poverty and fear. Twishime bounced through six more countries, ending in South Africa for six years, where she could not attend school because of the fees. She has flourished at Bioscience, despite taking care of three siblings while her parents...
take college classes. She has participated in a three-year internship at Barrow Neurological Institute, researching ALS and dementia. She works with the College Depot staff through the Phoenix Library system, designing and leading college success classes for adult refugees. Twishime will major in medical studies and hopes to become an Obstetrics and Gynecology doctor.

Her counselor Terry Haggerty says, “she could be a future surgeon general, UN ambassador, or head of the International Refugee Committee, her potential is so vast.”

Lizabeth “Lee” Chiffelle has been shooting for the stars, literally, since coming to Bioscience. She is in the STARS club, and was a member of a team of students working with CalTech and NASA’s Teacher Archive Research Project in which educators and students conduct authentic astronomical research. Their project, searching for young stars using x-ray, optical and infrared data, took her to the 2017 American Astronomical Society conference, where she met with professional astronomers. She wants to study planetary sciences and become an astrophysicist. She has already interned in two research internships, including working to make ASU’s Marston Planetarium more accessible to people of all ages. Her next adventure is becoming a member of ASU’s Quantum Energy and Sustainable Solar Technologies outreach program. Among her other activities, she is working with a state senator to introduce legislation to overturn Arizona’s abstinence-only sex education laws, and volunteers for the Arizona Bone Marrow Registry and Aunt Rita’s HIV Clinic/Shelter.

“Lee has become one of the most self-directed learners I have worked with in my 35-plus years as an educator,” Haggerty said.

The typical Flinn Scholar achieves at least a 3.5 grade-point average, a top-5 percent class rank, and a score of 1360 on the SAT or 29 on the ACT, and demonstrates exceptional leadership in extracurricular activities.

The Flinn Scholars Program, now in its 33rd year, is supported by the Flinn Foundation, a Phoenix-based private, nonprofit, grantmaking organization. The Foundation, founded in 1965 by the late Dr. Robert and Irene Flinn, also supports the advancement of Arizona’s bioscience sector, arts and culture, and the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership.

May 16

It is another big year for Bioscience seniors securing top scholarships. Here is the list of students and selected schools so far.
Flinn Scholars: Elizabeth “Lee” Chiffelle & Nancy Twishime (ASU)
QuestBridge Scholars: Kevin Hernandez (Stanford), Edwin Lozano (Brown University), & Cesar Parra Castro, (Univ. of Notre Dame)
Gates Scholar: Cesar Parra Castro
Anthony Aragon Orozco – Hope College, a Colleges That Change Lives school
Francesca “Frankie” Ark – American University
Mikaela Bassil – University of Denver
Dulce Garipey – Wellesley College
Tabitha Hacker – Bowdoin College
Isabella Horning – University of Portland
Jasmin Lopez Gomez – Colgate University (Student Body President)
Genesis Mendoza – Lewis & Clark College
Alejandra Ocampo – Ohio Wesleyan University
Emma Offenberg – Stanford University
Lis San Emeterio – Either Lewis & Clark College or Mount Holyoke College
Alisa Sass – University of Missouri
Qing Zhang – Either Tufts University or the University of Virginia
Around Our Schools

Trevor G. Browne High School

7402 W. Catalina Drive Phoenix, Arizona 85033
602-764-8500
www.phoenixunion.org/trevorbrowne

Founded: 1972
Colors: Brown/Orange
Mascot: Bruins
Trevor Browne High School 2017-2018
Around Our Schools
Trevor Browne
2017-18

August 16

Jane Geary, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Trevor Browne was presented with Phoenix Union High School District 2017 Classroom Teacher of the Year award at the District’s Opening of Schools Convocation, August 1.

Usually one campus nominates a Classroom Teacher of the Year, but in this case, several campuses, employees and students got involved. In Geary’s regular job as an ELL instructional leader, she teaches students learning English reading, writing and speaking skills. But when the bell rings, this teacher becomes a “change-maker,” preparing students for success in college. She has helped students around the District prepare for, pass and improve their ACT scores. It started at her campus, holding tutoring sessions almost every afternoon for 2 ½ hours, and often later to help with scholarship application essay editing, and writing letters of recommendation. Geary’s colleagues say she has single-handedly raised her school’s ACT test scores. During Curriculum Saturdays, she showed teachers how to analyze and use test data so they can offer testing strategies to better prepare students. Other schools asked for her services. She has taken her talents to Bioscience and Carl Hayden, and recently held a summer ACT boot camp for students interested in earning scholarships for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This year she will also work with Betty Fairfax students. One student took her ACT English scores from a 23 to a 29 and eventually to a 30 composite score, on her way to Stanford. Geary challenged another student to get a 30 on ACT by promising to dye her hair pink. The student got a 33. Of 53 Bioscience students who participated in an ACT Crash Course, 21 earned scores of 26 or above, including six scoring in the 30’s.

Said one student: “Never have I seen a teacher do so much solely out of kindness.” Another said: “She is like my second mom. She cares for me and stays late in order for me to understand the ACT concepts. Without her, I don’t know where I would be. She is the most selfless person I have met.”

August 23

Jane Geary, an ELL teacher at Browne was the District’s Classroom Teacher of the Year, in large part because of the successful ACT Prep Boot Camps she conducted around the District. She didn’t do it alone, however. She had student tutors who helped. They came highly qualified, having already taken the ACT. This summer, 10 tutors worked with students who were preparing for the ACT, and a trip to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities in October: From Trevor Browne--Sebastian Arredondo Haros; Ulises Burciaga Corral; Luis Campos; Denise Lopez Figueroa; Brayan Olmos Mendoza; Xochitl Roman; Jesus Zazueta; and Ramon Zozaya, and from Bioscience--Francesca Ark and Emma Offenberg
The average ACT composite score of these tutors was a 30, which is at the 94th percentile nationally.

When the Trevor Browne Bruins opened their football season, August 18, Scott Brown was in a familiar place. The former equipment manager, who retired in May, returned to the Trevor Browne sidelines for a personal milestone—his 400th consecutive Bruin football game. Former players Forrest Valora (Oklahoma, NFL), Darin Tupper (ASU Rose Bowl Champion) and others were there to honor the man who knows so much about Trevor Browne sports, they call him “The Encyclopedia.” The streak started his junior year as a student at TGB in 1980. He was the manager for the 1981 state championship team. Soon after graduating, he returned to Trevor Browne as the equipment manager and served in that capacity for over 30 years until his retirement.

Brown was presented with a plaque, a football and jersey in a pre-game ceremony, but for the first time in many years, he watched the game from a seat.

August 30

The World Language Department took 35 young women to the Hispanic Women’s Corporation Youth Leadership Institute, August 24, where they learned about going to college, listen to motivational speakers and making connections with community.

The Hispanic Women’s Corporation (HWC) focuses on the continued Professional Development and Leadership Institute and the personal and career development of Latinas. It encompasses the spectrum of education and professional needs of Latina women, one of the fastest growing segments of our community. The Youth Leadership Institute is tailored to meet the academic and personal empowerment needs and interests of both junior high and high school students through its comprehensive one-day Youth Leadership Institute.

September 6

Tiara Mitchell was recently selected as to The National Society of High School Scholars. The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated leadership, scholarship and community commitment. This lifetime membership helps high-achieving millennials build on academic success by connecting them with unique learning experiences and resources to help prepare them for college and meaningful careers.

September 13

The Trevor Browne JROTC Marksmanship Team took first place in the Old Pueblo Rifle Match in Tucson, September 10, in the first rifle marksmanship competition of the 2017-2018 school year. Six other JROTC programs from around the state competed. Led by Ramon Zozaya, who took top honors at the match, the team is made up of Ashley Gutierrez, Jasmine Sompit, and Jacqueline Urquidez. The Bruin cadets are coached by First Sergeant Michael Jurczak.
September 27

Trevor Browne’s JROTC Rifle team finished second in the 15-team Carver Mountain Rifle Tournament, hosted by Cesar Chavez High School, September 22-23. Tombstone Marine JROTC won the tournament by ten points, 1030-1020. Chavez fielded two teams, with the Purple team finishing 5th. Alhambra was 7th among PUHSD Schools. The Bruin shooters are Jackie Urquidez, Raymond Zazaya, Ashley Gutierez and Rafael Gomez.

October 4

Trevor Browne, a perennial power in the Adventure Team competition, took a commanding lead after the first phase of the Arizona JROTC Adventure team competition in Flagstaff, September 30, hosted by the Camelback JROTC. Browne took first place in four of the five Wilderness events- Land Navigation, Endurance Run, Rope Bridge and Recovery Operations. Maryvale won the fifth event, the leadership reaction course, with TGB in second. In the overall standings, Maryvale and Flowing Wells are tied for second, with Cesar Chavez in fourth. Thirteen JROTC teams competed. Maryvale JROTC will host the Phase II Physical Fitness competition, October 21, to decide the Arizona JROTC Adventure Team Sweepstakes and state title. The Trevor Browne Rattlers team has won this event eight of the last ten years, and one of those years, team totals were not kept due to weather cancelling the wilderness events.

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Trevor Browne graduate Kimberly Soltero (Class of 2014) and a former JROTC Battalion Commander at TGB is currently in Mexico serving a semester abroad from the U.S. Air Force Academy. Her goal was to become a pilot, and last year, she took her first flight in an F-16. Now, she just received the news that her job in the Air Force when she graduates, will be attending flight school. Soltero was accepted by West Point and the Coast Guard Academy, as a high school senior, but she decided on the Air Force Academy.

October 25

Trevor Browne won the State Army Junior ROTC Adventure Team competition, October 21 for the ninth time in 11 years…and one of those years they were leading when the two-stage event was cut short due to bad weather in Flagstaff during the Wilderness events.

Trevor Browne took a commanding lead after the first phase of the Arizona JROTC Adventure team competition in Flagstaff, September 30. The team, which calls itself the Rattlers, took first place in four of the five Wilderness events-- Land Navigation, Endurance Run, One-Rope Bridge and Recovery Operations. Maryvale won the fifth event, the Leadership Reaction Course, with Browne in second.

The Rattlers team won three of five events in Phase II of the Physical Fitness Challenge at Maryvale High School, October 21, placing first in push-ups, relay and canal run. They also
finished 2nd in pull-ups and sit-ups. Browne took the sweepstakes trophy, beating Flowing Wells, while Maryvale was third overall.

Thirteen teams took part, including non-district schools Flowing Wells, Rio Rico and Marcos de Niza. Each team is allowed 14 Cadets on a team, but only 10, at least two females and no more than eight males can compete in each event.

Through adventure team competition, JROTC Students learn to push themselves beyond what they think possible, and work in teams to accomplish the mission. Congratulations to Trevor Browne’s JROTC and all the JROTC programs that competed.

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The PUHSD Boys' Golf Championship Tournament was held October 5th at Scottsdale Silverado Golf Club. Trevor G. Browne was crowned Phoenix Union High School District Boys Golf Champion at the October 5 tournament at Scottsdale Silverado Golf Club. Betty H. Fairfax finishing a close second. This is the third year in a row that Trevor G. Browne's boys have won the tournament. TGB’s Alan Quezada was the individual champion. Alex Smith of Fairfax was the runner up.

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Social Studies teacher William Reimers was elected as the President of the Arizona Council for the Social Studies, October 21 at the annual conference, hosted by Camelback High School. There are other Phoenix Union leaders in the organization. Suzanne Vogt of Maryvale was elected Vice-President, and Delaynie Potts of Franklin, is an executive board member. Many Phoenix Union teachers are members and attended the conference.

Arizona Council for the Social Studies is dedicated to promoting quality instruction for students and support for social studies educators.

November 1

Trevor Browne’s girls cross country team qualified for the State Championship race, finishing third in the Sectional race, October 27. Yazin Torres placed third in the individual standings, while Vanessa Ramirez was 13th. The championship race is November 4 at Cave Creek Golf Course in Phoenix.

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The Greater Phoenix Choir Festival took place, October 26-27 at Trevor Browne. Selected choir students from PUHSD and from partner middle schools came together for the first time Friday afternoon, and rehearsed Friday and Saturday, before taking the stage for an afternoon concert. Over 150 students from 14 partner school participated in the Middle School Honor Choir directed by Betty Fairfax Choir Director Chris Hughes. For the high school honors choir, students
auditioned in September for participation in these ensembles and every District school was represented in both ensembles. The Women’s Honor Choir was comprised of 42 women and the Mixed Honor choir was made up of 48 students. TGB’s Nick Halonen served as the site host, and Troy Meeker was the festival chairperson coordinating the event.

**November 8**

The Trevor Browne Marching Band will compete in the Arizona Marching Band Association Championships, November 11 at Campo Verde High School in Gilbert. The Bruins will take the field at 3:45 p.m.

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Trevor Browne was one of three Phoenix Union teams that qualified for the AIA State Team Chess Tournament, November 3-4 at Glendale High School. In the 24-team State Tournament, the Bruins finished 9th, Maryvale 18th, and Alhambra, 20th. The teams qualified at a regional tournament, October 28. Trevor Browne placed 2nd, Alhambra, 5th and Maryvale, 6th.

Trevor Browne has four students who qualified for the State Individual Tournament, November 17-18 in Tucson. They are listed according to their finish at the Individual Regionals. 5th-Ramon Zozaya, TGB; 7th- Jermaine Loera, TGB; 10th- Edmundo Villanueva, TGB; 15th-Joaquin Uribe, TGB.

**November 15**

Trevor Browne has four students who qualified for the State Individual Chess Tournament, November 17-18 in Tucson. They are listed according to their finish at the Individual Regionals. 5th-Ramon Zozaya; 7th- Jermaine Loera; 10th- Edmundo Villanueva; 15th-Joaquin Uribe.

**November 22**

Members of the Trevor G. Browne Choir program provided backup vocals for Lou Gramm’s performance of “I Want to Know What Love Is” at a corporate event for 900 department project managers for a national accounting firm, at Corona Ranch, November 15. Gramm was the lead singer from the internationally known band, Foreigner. The TGB Choir was also joined onstage by Nancy Wilson from the band Heart during their performance.

The choir is under the direction of Nick Halonen and Troy Meeker, both of whom are active throughout the state as clinicians and presenters. Recently, each director represented PUHSD as guest clinicians for auditioned honor choirs. Meeker was the guest clinician and conductor for the Deer Valley District’s Middle School Honor Choir. Halonen was the guest clinician and conductor for the Arizona 7th-9th Grade Men’s Honor Choir at the 2017 Cantaremus Choir Festival.

Trevor Browne High School
The next performance for the TGB Choir will be their annual Holiday Concert on Friday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. All PUHSD employees are welcome to attend free.

December 13

The JROTC rifle team won the Arizona State Civilian Marksmanship State Match at the Ben Avery shooting facility, December 9. Trevor Browne beat Flowing Wells from Tucson by only three points. JROTC and American Legion Youth programs from around the state competed, including Alhambra, South Mountain and Cesar Chavez from PUHSD. Marksmen for Browne were Ramon Zozaya, Nicole Martinez, Jasmine Sompit and Jackie Urquidez, coached by First Sergeant Michael Jurczak. The victory qualified the team to move on to the regional match held in Sandy, Utah in April. The team has already qualified for the JROTC regional competition in Phoenix in February. Browne has been nationally-ranked for the past several years.

December 20

The first-ever TGB Hair Drive took place during lunches, December 5, and 26 people donated their hair, to the Crowns of Courage, an organization that provides wigs to children experiencing chemotherapy-related hair loss. There were 18 students, two little girls, ages 6 and 10, a mother, a couple of men, and the organizer, Spanish teacher Guadalupe Meza who shared their locks for a cause.

January 17, 2018

Manuel Orona, who played four years of football at Trevor Browne (2012-15) but attended Franklin Police and Fire High, has signed a letter of intent to attend Memphis State. The offensive lineman played two years at Glendale Community College after high school.

January 24

Trevor Browne JROTC took first place at the Arizona State Rifle Championships, Saturday, January 20 at Ben Avery Range. The TB JROTC team is Jasmine Sompit, Ramon Zozaya, Jackie Urquidez, and Fernanda Martinez and coached by First Sergeant Michael Jurczak. Sompit is also ranked the number one shooter in the state. Twenty-one teams from Arizona participated along with two California teams. Flowing Wells (Tucson) was 2nd, Sahuarita placed 3rd. Other PUHSD JROTC teams participating were Cesar Chavez (two teams), South Mountain (two teams), North and Alhambra.
January 31

The Trevor Browne Boys Soccer team won a play-in game, January 25, beating Pinnacle, 2-1, to advance to the 6A State Tournament. The #12 seeded Bruins travel to #5 Pinnacle for a first round game, January 31.

February 7

Trevor Browne has the most Phoenix Union students selected for All-Region Band and Choir. Three choir students and two band members made North Central Region auditioned January 27. They will rehearse for two days then give a public performance at Camelback High School, February 17. Browne Choir members selected are Bridget Felix, alto; Moises Ramirez, tenor, and Omar Lechuga, bass. Band members selected are Yuareli Bailon, bass clarinet and Efrain Parra, alto sax.

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The Trevor Browne Boys Soccer team won a play-in game, January 25, beating Perry, 2-1, to advance to the 6A State Tournament. The #12 seeded Bruins fell to #5 Pinnacle in a first-round game, January 31.

February 14

Trevor Browne had two wrestlers qualify for the Division I state wrestling tournament, February 8-9. Esteban Valencia, 152 pounds and Johnny Shadel, 160-lbs. Esteban Valencia had the best showing, advancing to the semi-finals of the consolation bracket, but he lost in the fifth place match.

February 28

Trevor Browne’s PEOPEL (Physical Education Opportunities Program for Exceptional Learners) is promoting the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign. This is an ongoing campaign by Special Olympics, Best Buddies, and other supporters to inspire respect and acceptance through raising the consciousness of society about the R-word (retard) and how hurtful words and disrespect can be toward people with intellectual disabilities.

TGB will have a variety of events on campus this week to spread the message and raise money for Special Olympic programs at the school.

Wednesday, they had DJ’s from Power 98 during both lunch hours, and students could sign a pledge banner, promising they will stop using the R-word. Thursday at lunch was “Pie a Teacher” with a whipped cream pie for a dollar a toss and on Friday an assembly and lunchtime dance were held.
Next Wednesday, March 7, on the National Awareness Day, there will be an assembly in the gym during advisory. This assembly is sponsored by Special Olympics and will be filmed by ESPN for national viewing.

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Trevor Browne won the 9th Annual Laveen Baseball Classic, February 21-24, and Ivan Cervantes of the Bruins was the tournament Most Valuable Player. TGB went 4-0 with a tie in the 12-team Open Division. Twenty teams competed in two divisions, with three out of town teams, and two from El Paso, Texas. The games were played at Cesar Chavez and Betty Fairfax High Schools. Sierra Linda won the Invite Division.

March 7

The Trevor G. Browne Jazz Band received a "Superior" rating (the highest rating) at the Arizona Band & Orchestra Directors Association Area Jazz Festival 2018 on March 1.

Outstanding "Soloist" awards were given to Ruben Payan on drums set, Bryan Coello on String Bass, and Moises Ramirez on Trumpet.

The TGB Jazz Band has now qualified and will compete in "Arizona State" Jazz competition in April.

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Trevor Browne’s Participatory Budgeting Project had its election, March 5 and Hot Eats, Cool Treats received 606 votes, edging Park Your Rear Here campus seating by only seven votes. The winning project will provide additional reach-in refrigerators in the cafeteria for students to have grab and go lunch options. This will allow students more time to eat and engage with other students rather than waiting in line.

Students also had an opportunity to register to vote (for real elections) and 165 students registered.

“Not only did students have an early introduction to civic engagement by voting on projects that will benefit their school community and impact their overall school experience, but they understand the important right and responsibility to vote and are now prepared to do so in our next local, state and federal elections,” District Student Services Manager Cyndi Tercero said.

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Ervey Diaz not only made the 6A Metro All-Region team, but he was the Offensive Player of the Year, and was an Honorable Mention as a nominee for the azcentral’s Boys Soccer Player of the Year, one of only two Phoenix Union student-athletes nominated.
March 21

Julio Martinez, former Trevor Browne state track champion (800 meters - 2010) finished his career this month running indoor track for Bethel College in Kansas. He finished 10th in the country for the 1000 meters - NAIA indoor season. He missed out as All-American by two places. He set numerous school records in cross country and track. Previously he finished second in the country in the 800 at Hutchinson Junior College where he was a six-time All-American.

April 25

The Trevor G. Browne Jazz Band received a "Superior" rating at the Arizona State Jazz Festival April 25. Ruben Payan was unanimously selected as an outstanding soloist on drum set.

May 3

Jane Geary, a teacher at Trevor Browne High School who has become a district-wide ACT Prep tutor, was named Arizona’s ACT College and Career Readiness Champion for the K-12 professional category.

ACT College and Career Readiness Champions are high school seniors, K-12 professionals, post-secondary professionals and workforce professionals who are making a positive impact on their communities through their efforts to advance college and career readiness for all.

Geary, an ESL teacher, began conducting ACT tutoring at Trevor Browne two years ago and has expanded to several schools, holding ACT Test Prep Boot camps. Last year she held a summer camp for 30 students who would later take a tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This summer, she is holding two free ACT Test Prep Boot Camps for rising juniors and those seniors wishing to improve on their ACT test scores for very select schools. The three-day camps will be at Metro Tech and Trevor Browne for 270 students. The camps will also utilize up to 18 Phoenix Union students who have scored well on ACT (28 or above) to serve as peer tutors.

Trevor Browne Librarian Sylvia Cox, who nominated her for the ACT award, said “she single-handedly has raised ACT scores at our school,” and District Post-secondary Articulation Specialist Dolores Ramirez said, “Jane Geary is a game changer for ACT test prep in Phoenix Union High School District.” Last year, of 53 Bioscience students who participated in an ACT Crash Course, 21 earned scores of 26 or above, including six scoring in the 30’s. “Because of her efforts we have seen unprecedented score achievement…scoring above their predicted range on the ACT,” Bioscience counselor Terry Haggerty said.

Geary was also the 2017 District Classroom Teacher of the Year.

The ACT State Council comprised of education and workforce professionals serve as the selection committee, and select one champion per category for each state.
Around Our Schools

Camelback High School

4612 N. 28th Street Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-764-7000
www.phoenixunion.org/camelback

Founded: 1954
Colors: Blue/Orange
Mascot: Spartans
Camelback High School 2017-2018
Camelback will recognize former coach **Jesse Parker** and some of the players from the 1974 championship team at the Spartans’ first home football game, Friday, August 18. Parker passed away, July 21, at age 77. Parker’s illustrious 40-year coaching career started at Camelback where he won his first of five state championships. He left Camelback and started the Mesa Mountain View program, winning four state titles. After a short stint in Texas, he coached 10 more years at Gilbert. He won 309 games. Parker went to the state championship game two years in a row, losing to Tucson Palo Verde in 1973, 22-20 and beating St. Mary’s by the same score in 1974, when his Spartans went 12-0-1. He left for Mountain View the next year.

"In the spring of my sophomore year at Camelback, Coach Parker announced that he was leaving to start a program at Mountain View. The whole school was devastated. In the early 70s, Camelback was the “it” school, the Hamilton or Chandler of today. Coach Parker was the reason. He was bigger than life to us,” remembered Cottonwood Mingus coach **Bob Young**.

Camelback’s **Aritzel Baez** was among a small group of students selected to participate in Audubon Arizona’s River Pathways Summer Internship. The internship ran from June through August 18 and was 12-20 hours a week. The interns assisted Audubon biologists conducting surveys for the Western yellow-billed Cuckoo on the BLM’s Agua Fria National Monument. Interns also assisted with data management, other conservation efforts and educational programs at the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center.
September 13

The Camelback Dance program is holding its first annual Spartan Scramble Golf tournament, to benefit the students of the dance department. Proceeds will allow the varsity dance team, Camelback Elite, to attend multiple local competitions this school year, and provide funding for costumes and other necessities for the 150-student program. The tournament will be Saturday, October 28 at the Mountain Shadows Golf Course in Paradise Valley at 8 a.m. For player and sponsorship information, contact Camelback’s Director of Dance, Heidi Wilkes, at hwilkes@phoenixunion.org or (480) 438-9120.

September 20

It is not an AIA sport, but some Phoenix Union schools have handball clubs. The Carl Hayden Club traveled to Camelback to compete against the Spartan Handball Club, September 13. Twenty-seven players—11 from Hayden, 13 from Camelback, and three ASU students (former Spartan grads), played singles and doubles handball in what organizers called a Handball Friendly.

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**November 1**

Camelback was the 5A Union Region Volleyball champion at 9-1, and 16-3 overall, edging South Mountain’s 8-2 mark. The Spartans fell to Ironwood Ridge, October 26 in a play-in game.

**November 8**

The Camelback High School Spartan Paws Club that provides a service learning opportunity for students by working with Service Dogs in Training will present two service dogs to individuals who have served and sacrificed, through a program called Dogs For Our Brave, November 9, at a school assembly.

Camelback is hosting veterans Sebastiana Lopez, USAF, and Odin Ayala, US Army, November 6-14, as they prepare to be partnered with their new service dogs, “Carter” and “Zulu,” who were trained by the high school students. Both veterans are amputees, and the black labs will help improve overall life-functioning for their new partners. The assembly, honoring the veterans and serving as a graduation ceremony for the service dogs in training, will be November 9, 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium.

Founded by Maddie Souder, Camelback's Montessori College Prep Class of 2015, and sponsored by Valerie Newman, an Exceptional Student Specialist (ESS) and English teacher, Spartan Paws has helped train multiple dogs in collaboration with Lifeline Assistance Dogs. Club members enhance the lives of people with disabilities by helping to socialize and train basic public access skills for service dogs in training. Club members learn practical job skills related to the care of dogs as well as participate facilitating animal-assisted therapy in Exceptional Student classrooms. Spartan Paws is an inclusion-based club and the only service dog training program that incorporates students with disabilities during the training process.

Spartan Paws holds weekly club meetings, and students have an opportunity to work with a variety of dogs that are in training. This year, up to five dogs may be on campus daily. During the assembly, the Camelback Paws students will present “Carter” and “Zulu” to the veterans. Three other service dogs in training will also graduate the Spartan Paws program that day, and will move on to advance training in preparation for their placements. “Dobby,” “Zonko” and “Kilo” will be placed with their partners in the next few months.
The school will also be presenting a Spartan Shield Award to Leigh Mitchell, the Community-Based Training aide who has puppy-raised two dogs, taking them home each night.

Camelback is holding an Entrepreneurship Fair and Invention Convention, November 16. The students are hard at work putting the final touches on their prototypes and pitches, and the advanced students have scheduled middle school visits providing entrepreneurship lessons, coaching and support. There are 26 teams and 90 contestants representing Camelback’s entrepreneurship and engineering programs, Madison #1 Middle School and L.C. Kennedy School. Other students and staff are helping to organize the event, as well as judges, sponsors and the support received from community partners. There will be a Shark Tank Pitch competition, as well as awards for middle school and high school projects.

November 15

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Camelback JROTC recently took first place honors at the South Mountain/Laveen Village Festival of Thanksgiving parade held on November 4. Seven Phoenix Union JROTC units were among the participants. Maryvale ROTC took second place and South Mountain JROTC took third place.

November 22

The Camelback Volleyball team had a terrific season, going 16-3 and winning the 5A Union Region. Hence, the Spartans had the All-Reigon Player of the Year, Raquel Bain, an outside hitter, and the Coach of the Year, Todd Goertzen. They also had two players on the first team, Jesika Apodaca and Jasmine Duran, and Chermiqua Tsosie made the All-Region 2nd team.
December 6

Camelback held the District's first Invention Convention, November 16. A total of 29 teams from Camelback's Entrepreneurship and Engineering classes, as well as teams from partner middle schools Madison #1 and L.C. Kennedy; over 90 students competed for the Best Invention of 2017. Judges were local entrepreneurs, engineers, industry representatives and educators from ASU. The inventions were ranked into three categories: Best App, Best New Product and Best Modified Product—there was also a People's Choice award. The Best Overall Invention was also the Best New Product, called Wild 3’s, created by Alana Soto, Alexa Castillo and Nicole Ruiz. The Best App went to a team from Madison #1 for Student Assistance. The Best Modified Product was won by Jowun Ben and Sandra Skeerus. The ASU EPIC Innovation Award was Trial & Error, won by Madison #1. The People’s Choice Award was won by Juan Michelen, Paula Luca and Josette Saldana, and a team from L.C. Kennedy Elementary School.

For the past four months students from Camelback’s Entrepreneurship class have been working towards opening an Innovation lab on campus—a place where students can see their visions become a reality. Working with ASU’s EPIC program and ASU’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, these entrepreneurship students have been studying design thinking and needed a place where they could prototype their ideas.

Teacher Maria Abrams has also been working with the Career Exploration teacher Debora Fox to have students not only explore careers but actually build projects that require 21st century skills. Eric Ose, a volunteer from Heatsync, a makerspace in Mesa, has been working with the teachers and students designing working desktop pinball machines made from cardboard. These students will learn skills incorporating design, 3D printing, construction, soldering, electronics & circuits, and coding.

Abrams has written several grants to support this Innovation Lab and to date has received funding from the Verizon Foundation, SRP, The United Way and Fiesta Bowl Charities.

Former Camelback soccer coach Jaime Moreno took his team to Prescott every year for the Alliance Tournament, hosted by Prescott High School. He was there again, but not as a coach, but Prescott’s soccer coach Phillip Reid remembered him, none-the-less. He wrote to Moreno, thanking him and Camelback for helping to make the tournament one of the best in northern Arizona.

“We have a special honor for you and Camelback High School. We will be giving an award to the player from the participating schools that scores the most goals in the tournament. This award will be named the “Jaime Moreno, Golden Boot Award” We are truly grateful for your part in making this tournament what it is today as well as your contribution to high school soccer in the state.”
Moreno was there to present the award to a young man from Bradshaw Mountain who scored nine goals in the tournament.

“It is a real honor to have an award named after you,” Moreno said. “I coached at Camelback for 10 years, but won’t be coaching anymore because of health reasons. I already miss coaching soccer. It was my passion.”

Moreno now works in the lock and key department at the District Support Facility.

Camelback was there again, November 30-December 2, and the Spartans won their first three games by a combined 10-1 scoring over host Prescott, Kellis and Bradshaw Mountain, before falling 1-0 to Gila Ridge in the championship game.

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Former Camelback student Frank Smith was awarded a 2018 Marshall Scholarship to study in the United Kingdom, the British Embassy announced December 3. Forty-three U.S. students were awarded the scholarships, which are funded mainly by the U.K. government. The scholarships enable intellectually distinguished Americans to study in the U.K. for up to three years. Smith, the lone Arizona recipient, will attend the University of Oxford. He graduated from ASU with degrees in public service/public policy and political science. The youngest ASU Student Body President ever, he served in that role for two years. He was a 2015 Outstanding Undergraduate Student Leader of the Year in 2015, and was a 2015 Harry S. Truman Scholar. He served as a U.S. Education Policy Analyst intern in Washington, D.C., and works for Javelina, a Phoenix political consultant firm.

The Marshall Scholarship, named after General George Marshall, was created as a gesture of gratitude from the U.K. for the Marshall Plan that aided Europe’s economic recovery after World War II. Marshall Scholarship alumni include Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Neil Gorsuch.

December 13

Camelback football player Abukar Abdi was nominated for the Ed Doherty Award, Arizona’s most prestigious high school football player award. Abdi is a four-year, two-sport athlete (football and track). He set a single game record for Camelback this year with 315 rushing yards, 32 carries and 4 touchdowns, and was on track to beat the single season rushing record before breaking his leg in the fifth game of the season. Abdi, who came to the U.S. from Kenya when he was 3, is on track with his rehabilitation to still participate in this year’s track season.

“In all my years at Camelback, I have never encountered a more positive student-athlete,” athletic director Steve Kuipers said. “While lying on the field after breaking his femur, with everyone else freaking out, Abukar was cracking jokes and encouraging his teammates. He had surgery the following day, and was back at school on Tuesday.”
Abukar Abdi was the only Phoenix Union student-athlete nominated for this year’s award. Chandler Perry’s Brock Purdy won the award.

The Ed Doherty Award annually recognize athletic achievements as well as academic performance and overall character of its honorees. Ed Doherty was a high school, college and professional football coach. Here in Arizona, he coached Salpointe High School in Tucson and St. Mary’s in Phoenix, as well as an assistant coach for both ASU and Arizona.

Past winners of this award are Todd Heap, Bobby Wade, Mike Nixon, Zach Miller and Mario Bates, all of whom played in the NFL.

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Camelback Entrepreneurship held its Toastmasters Brunch, December 8 at the Bluewater Grill. This annual event is organized by volunteers Jeff Stephens and Doug Ulrich of Toastmasters, who work with the DECA and Entrepreneurship students every week to fine-tune their speaking skills. Seven finalists gave five-minute speeches, which were judged according to Toastmaster rules. Jowun Ben took first place, Nichole Segay placed second and Alec Karsten was third. The brunch drew over 60 students, staff, some parents and community members. The Toastmasters training also prepares Camelback students for state and national DECA competitions.

December 20

Camelback Entrepreneurship teacher Maria Abrams was notified by Fiesta Bowl Charities that the school will receive a Wishes for Teachers $5,000 grant used for a new laser cutter and supplies for Camelback’s Innovation Lab. She will be recognized at the Cactus Bowl at Chase Field, December 26, at halftime with fellow Wishes for Teachers recipients. More than 4,200 teachers from over 100 cities across Arizona applied for the program.

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January 10, 2018
Camelback will host the Region II Academic Decathlon, February 2-3. One of four regional events in Arizona, this competition will determine which 40 schools qualify for the State Decathlon in March. It takes an army of volunteers, judges and test proctors to put on this event. No experience is necessary. To volunteer, contact Region II coordinator Sharon Bernero at bernero@phoenixunion.org.

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January 31
Camelback’s Student Government earned the highest honor of “Outstanding Council of Distinction at the annual Arizona Association of Student Councils State convention, held at Independence High School, January 27. Camelback’s “Stugo” advisor is math teacher Kenya McKinney, who is also on the AASC Executive Board. Cesar Chavez and Maryvale were recognized as “Councils of Distinction.” Four other PUHSD schools earned Honorable Mention.

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February 7
Camelback Elite Dance Company competed for the first time in school history in the Varsity Dance Division, February 3, at the 2018 Cheer for Charity Competition in Peoria. Elite Co. placed 1st in Varsity Hip-Hop and 3rd in Varsity Jazz. Elite Co. practices weekly from 5:30-7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday mornings. The group is made up of six students, grades 10-12 and led by four-year dance senior, Kayla Thornton, and Camelback Dance Director Heidi Wright.

February 14
Camelback’s Daunte Cartwright is a state champion. He won the Division II 106-pound weight class at the AIA State Wrestling tournament, February 10 in Prescott Valley. Cartwright won four matches to run his season record to 45-5. Teammate Davan Gillespie, 132-pounds, lost his second match and won four straight to capture third place. Camelback tied for 13th in the team standings among 43 teams. The Spartans are coached by Camelback science teacher Roy Mitros.

March 7
The Camelback Concert Band performed at the ABODA (Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association) Area Concert Festival, March 1, and received a rating of “Excellent,” qualifying the Spartans for the ABODA State Concert Festival. As a result, the CBHS Spartan Concert Band will travel to Chandler High School on April 25 to perform in the ABODA State Concert Festival.

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This past weekend 51 students from Camelback DECA competed at State competition; of those students, 33 were semi-finalists and 22 qualified for the International Competition in Atlanta Georgia next month. All of these students wrote 11 or 30-page research papers and demonstrated leadership and entrepreneurship as they competed against 1,600 students from around the state. First place winners were Entrepreneurship Promotion- Tasneem Al Sabbry, Vanessa Corrrea and Alexa Castillo; Creative Marketing Project- Nydia Salazar, Josh Lopez and Ezequias Fuentes; Student-Based Enterprise- Marisela Flores, Jocelyn Higuera and Litzy Barrera; and Pitch/Role Play- Hailey Espinoza and Leslie Cruz, for the Dogs for Our Brave Community Service Project; and FreeSpace App- Oscar Garcia, Brian Jimenez and Jared Figueroa.

April 18
Last month 55 Camelback DECA students attended the State Competition/Career Development Conference and 22 of these students qualified for Nationals, which are in Atlanta, GA April 21-24. The following students with their event finishes in state, are at Nationals:
Rubi Velazquez, Abby Loar & Paula Lucio: 2nd Place Business Services Operations
Tasneem Al Sabbry, Vanessa Correa & Alexa Castillo: 1st Place Entrepreneurship Promotion Project
Hiskiel Alsen, Joseph Thorton & David Rodart: 2nd Place Entrepreneurship Promotion Project
Nydia Salazar, Josh Lopez & Ezequias Fuentes: 1st Place Creative Marketing Project
Nichole Segay: 2nd Place Start-Up Business Plan
Jacob Duran: 3rd Place Start-Up Business Plan
Raul Hernandez, Oscar Reuchon & Alejandro Payan: 4th Place Start-Up Business Plan
Justin Dubell, Elizabeth Rivera 2nd Place- Entrepreneurship Innovation Plan
Jocelyn Higuera, Marisela Flores & Litzy Barrera: Gold- Student Base Operations

Camelback’s Culinary 3-4 students had their first annual "Food Truck Wars," April 6. Each team had to come up with a theme, create a menu, make a flyer, cook food from their menu to present, and design their table to present to the judges. Here are the delicious choices.
Cycle of Day- Philly Cheese-steak Sandwiches served with home fries and fresh lemonade
JAAB'S Alita's- Two styles of Buffalo Wings with water
Stir-Fride- Cream Cheese Won Tons, Egg Rolls, Beef Stir Fry on Rice, and Orange Chicken
Loko's Takos- Carne Asada Tacos (build your own style) served with fresh horchata.

And the winner was Cycle of Day with culinary students Charlyz Chavez, Fabian Bautista Vazquez, Nayeli Renteria, and Ubaldo Barron.
Around Our Schools

Carl Hayden High School

3333 W. Roosevelt Phoenix, Arizona 85009
602-764-3035
www.phoenixunion.org/carlhayden

Founded: 1957
Colors: Blue/Gold
Mascot: Falcons
Carl Hayden High School 2017-2018
Around Our Schools
Carl Hayden
2017-18

September 6, 2017
Carl Hayden hosted the Arizona Association of Student Councils (AASC) 2017 Central AZ Metro Fall Leadership/Spirit Conference, August 31, one of four state conferences that week. There were 37 schools represented, and 1019 attendees at Hayden, including 13 Phoenix Union schools. The host school brought out its cheerleaders, band and step team to entertain the packed gym, and the school administrators performed a skit, with Principal Dr. Dani Portillo posing as Dora the Explorer. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson gave welcoming remarks. The event kicks off the student government year and also affords students and Advisors in attendance the opportunity to share ideas and network with other student leaders and Advisors from across the state.

The Arizona Association of Student Councils (AASC) is a state-wide association made up of approximately 190 public, private, and charter high school student councils. Several PUHSD Student Government Advisors sit on the AASC Executive Board: Salvador Lopez -Cesar Chavez; Adam Lopez - North and Kenya McKinney – Camelback.

Metro Tech assistant principal Dan Dodge, who was one of the emcees, is the Executive Director of the association, having served in that role since 2003 in consecutive four-year terms.

September 13
Carl Hayden will hold an Open House, Friday, September 22 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Freshmen students will also be receiving their free smart phones or hot spots as part of the Sprint 1Million Project that night. The evening culminates with a football game as the Falcons host Maryvale at 7 p.m.

October 25
The Carl Hayden Boys won the Phoenix Union Cross Country Championship, October 18 at Trevor Browne High School. Fidel De Los Rios and Benjamin Morfin led the field of boys placing 1st and 2nd, respectively. Individually, Kayla Eldred from Central High School took home first place, followed by Yazmin Torres from Trevor Browne.

November 1
Carl Hayden’s Fidel De Los Rios placed third, and Benjamin Morfin, ninth in the Boys Cross Country Sectional Race, October 27, and the Falcons finished third, to qualify for the State Championships, November 4 at Phoenix’ Cave Creek Golf Course.
November 8

**Fidel De Los Rios** finished 9th and **Benjamin Morfin**, 25th to pace the Carl Hayden Boys Cross Country team to an 11th place team finish in the Division II State Championships, November 4 at Cave Creek Golf Course. There were 221 runners in the field.

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The Carl Hayden Marching Band will compete in the Arizona Marching Band Association Championships, November 11 at Campo Verde High School in Gilbert.

November 15

The Falcon Marching Band had an excellent final performance, November 11 at the Arizona Marching Band State Festival at Campo Verde High School. Seeded in 8th going into the event, Hayden ended up in 4th place in its division and came home with 1st place Percussion.

“Freshman make up over a quarter of the band this year and their growth has been significant. This is a testament to the efforts of our amazing staff, student leadership, and the band class of 2018. We can’t wait to see where we will go from here,” band director **Erica Scriven** said.

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The 7th Annual Carl Hayden Car Show is Saturday, November 18. There will be cars, food and music. This year’s show is expecting 120 entries in 30 categories, with first, second and third place trophies awarded. Entry fee is $20 per entry, with free admission to attendees. All proceeds benefit the Carl Hayden MEChA club. The car show was created by security assistant **Martin Gracia**.

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The Carl Hayden Handball Club traveled to Tucson to compete in the Memorial Handball Tournament, November 11. This was an international event, with 305 handball players from around the world. **Frank Huarte** and **Rodrigo Silva** held their own against the strong field. Huarte reached the semi-finals of the 19 and under age group, before being defeated by a player from Juarez, Mexico. Silva made it to the Finals of the 17 and under age group.

“I believe we were the only high school as a group represented, and I met a few individuals excited to see Phoenix represented,” Coach **Chris Hogan** said.

The handball team will be competing in a tournament, November 18, at the school’s annual car show.

November 22

English Teacher **Steven Arenas** received an Early Career Educator of Color Leadership Award at the National Council of Teachers of English conference in St. Louis this past weekend. Arenas is
in his first year teaching at Carl Hayden, after a year at Alhambra. He began his career at Tolleson Westview. He is also former assistant superintendent Jose Arenas’ oldest son.

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Carl Hayden hosted its Annual Car Show, November 18, and the school also held a handball tournament which had some 30 participants from Hayden, Camelback, ASU, and players from Tucson and Phoenix. Hayden’s Frank Huarte finished 2nd in the Advanced Division.

December 6

The Carl Hayden Robotics team has been planting seeds for the next generation of high school robotics students for many years, hosting the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League Regionals. The elementary and middle school program began in Arizona several years ago, with Hayden hosting the first state championship. Falcon Robotics held a regional, December 2, for 30 teams and some 300 students. Now, there are 15 regional events in Arizona as teams qualify for the state championships at ASU.

December 13

A community group known as Green Knights will be delivering presents that they purchased to Carl Hayden for the annual Hayden Christmas Angel Tree, Saturday, December 16. The Green Knights Motorcycle Club is affiliated with Luke Air Force Base and promotes community involvement and motorcycle safety. Each year, the club adopts children from local schools at the holidays to bring some holiday joy. This year, eight students were selected from the Hayden tree located in the counseling office and members of the club purchased items on the Angel's wish list. Principal Dr. Dani Portillo and Anna Villarreal, the organizing counselor, are planning to be present on the day of the gift delivery.

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Carl Hayden and the Robotics team will host another Falcon Robotics SciTech Festival They already have 24 exhibitors, and will take a few more. The event is February 10. The SciTech Festival is part of the statewide celebration of science, technology, engineering art and math held annually in February and March. A sampling of the exhibitors are: UA Med School, solar cooking, Intel, Arizona Electric Auto Association, Superstition Space Modeling Society, Carl Hayden Computer Science Dept.; Arizona Drone Photography; Garmin Flight Simulator; Hayden Science Fair and of course, Falcon Robotics. For more information, visit https://coachfredi.wixsite.com/frscitech

January 10, 2018

The boys basketball team finished 3rd in the Phoenix Union Holiday Classic tournament, led by Isaiah Rhymes, a 6-4 senior guard. He averaged 25 points, 11 rebounds, three assists, two steals and 2.5 blocks in three games.
January 24

Morie Chet won two awards at the Shemer Art Center New Horizons High School Student Exhibition, January 20. Chet was the only winner of the Colored Pencil Merit Award and received $100. She also won the Linton-Barnhill Award worth $50. Her artwork was titled "X" as seen in the attached picture. Chet could not attend the award ceremony at the Shemer Art Center so Principal Dr. Dani Portillo-Verduzco and art teacher Sabrina Sauer held a mini-celebration for her at school, January 22, when she found out that she won these awards.

“Morie is an exceptional artist with an eye for detail who continues to challenge herself in her work every day through expanding her knowledge of media techniques and use of visual imagery,” Sauer said.

Morie is a senior currently taking AP Drawing and plans to attend NAU in the fall.

Basketball coach Argie Rhymes has learned he is one of eight finalists for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Coach of the Year award. The award will be announced at a banquet in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in June.

January 31

The Carl Hayden Boys soccer team won a play-in post-season game over Apollo, 4-2 January 25 to advance to the 16-team 5A State Tournament, which begins January 31. The Falcons, seeded #13, travel to #5 Scottsdale Chaparral in a first round game.

February 7

Carl Hayden and the Robotics team will host another Falcon Robotics SciTech Festival, February 10, from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. They already have 31 exhibitors, and counting. The SciTech Festival is part of the statewide celebration of science, technology, engineering art and math held annually in February and March. A sampling of the exhibitors are: UA Med School, solar cooking, Intel, Arizona Electric Auto Association, Superstition Space Modeling Society, Carl Hayden Computer Science Dept.; Arizona Drone Photography; Garmin Flight Simulator; Hayden Science Fair and of course, Falcon Robotics. It’s free and fun for the whole family. For more information, https://coachfredi.wixsite.com/frscitech

Briza Quinonez, French horn and Patty Medrano, trumpet, have earned spots in the All-Region Band for the Southwest Region after auditioning for the prestigious selections, January 27. They will rehearse with the other regional selections for two days, and perform at the Southwest Region Music Festival, February 17 at McClintock High School.
For the second year in a row, Carl Hayden has a football player who is moving to the next level and furthering his education in college. Giovannie Arevalo signed a letter of intent, February 10, to play defensive line for Phoenix College next year.

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The Carl Hayden Boys soccer team won a play-in post-season game over Apollo, 4-2 January 25 to advance to the 16-team 5A State Tournament, but the Falcons, seeded #13, lost to #5 Scottsdale Chaparral, 3-2, in a first round game, January 31.

February 14

Carl Hayden sophomore Corwin Matt was one of only 19 teens who competed in the World Championship Hoop Dance Contest at the Heard Museum on February 10. He represented the Dine, Apache and Colville tribes. Matt placed 9th. He has been performing and competing as a Hoop Dancer for eight years.

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Carl Hayden’s Boys Basketball team extended its season into the first round of the 5A state tournament with a play-in victory over Marana Mountain View, 68-66, February 8. The #13 seeded Falcons, however, lost at Williams Field in the first round, February 13.

February 21

Code Day Phoenix was held at the University of Advancing Technology on February 17-18, co-sponsored by Phoenix Coding Academy. This was a 24-hour hackathon, and over 100 competitors worked in teams to plan, research, design, and code either apps or computer game using any software or programming language. One of the four teams from Carl Hayden won the Best Game in Class award. Their game was “Penelope,” designed by Edgar De Leon Sanchez, Ariana Reyes, Julio Parra, and Danny H. Miron.

February 28

Carl Hayden Community High School is holding a 60 years of Falcon Pride Celebration on March 30-31. The weekend kicks off with an “Old School Dance” in the Argie Rhymes Gymnasium from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. Festivities continue on March 31 with a day of alumni activities from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be campus tours, class graduation pictures posted around campus, power point of pictures from all the decades, silent auction for Falcon baskets, a battle of the bands competition, best decade dress competition, exclusive Falcon Swag available for sale, athletic competitions: 3 on 3 basketball tourney, flag football, powderpuff game, soccer tournament, volleyball tournament, mush ball softball tournament and a plethora of delicious food choices.

Carl Hayden High School
The school wants to raise scholarship funds for future Falcon graduates and are asking individuals and businesses to donate items for their silent auction baskets.

“Some items we have acquired so far for these baskets include: local business gift cards; restaurant discounts; Falcon swag and memorabilia; furthermore, and some interesting gift items from our Friends and Falcon Alumni,” Assistant Principal, organizer and Hayden alumnus (1985) Victor Mena said.

To donate or find out more about the 60 Year celebration, call the school at 602-764-3035 or Mr. Mena at vmena@phoenixunion.org 602-764-3010/09; or cell #602-686-6340.

March 7

It is Robotics season, and the first FIRST (for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Regional is this weekend at NAU’s Walkup Skydome. The Carl Hayden Falcon Robotics team and Bioscience’s Dragon Robotics will be among a strong field of 60 teams. This year’s game is called Power Up, where, according to FIRST, “three-team alliances have three ways to help defeat the boss: tipping the scale or the alliance’s switch in their favor to earn points, exchanging power cubes for power ups (force, boost, and levitate) to gain a temporary advantage during the match, and climbing the scale tower to face the boss.” The 2 ½-minute matches include 15 seconds of autonomous and then the robot is tele-operated by a driver.

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Carl Hayden Community High School’s Student Government hosted the Central Phoenix Relay for Life event, February 23, to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Several Carl Hayden clubs were out to support the event, the Desiderata Student Government, along with community teams. The event kicked off with the presentation of colors by the Falcon color guard followed by fundraising activities, food, and entertainment provided by the Falcon Wrestlerettes, to help us STOMP out cancer. The event was organized by science teacher Andrew Scott.

Student Government collected donations for luminarias to line the track that was decorated in honor of survivors, caregivers, and loved ones lost to cancer. The teams celebrated survivors with an honorary lap at the beginning and the event closed out with a lap in silence to honor those that have been lost. Through the hard work of Student Government, community members, and the generous donations from corporate sponsors the Central Phoenix Relay for Life was able to raise over $14,000 for the American Cancer Society over the Relay season. Next year the goal is to raise $20,000 with the support of more Phoenix Union clubs.

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The Falcon Funds Participatory Budgeting had its election, March 1, and the Library Upgrade was the ballot winner, receiving 782 votes. The school had a voter turnout rate of 77%. The Library
Upgrade project will create a cozy space for students to work in the library by providing comfortable seating for 10-12 students and additional charging ports.

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The University of Nevada, Reno has selected Falcon Basketball player Isaiah Rhymes as a preferred walk-on for the Lobos, a Division I school. Rhymes was Union Region Co-Player of the Year.

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March 21

Carl Hayden Falcon Robotics won its sixth regional in seven years at the Arizona North Regional in Flagstaff, March 8-10, and the Phoenix Coding Academy, in its first year of competition, won the Rookie All-Star Award at the Los Angeles Regional, March 15-17.

Carl Hayden went 6-1-1 in qualifying matches, and drew the attention of the top-seeded team, the Cheesy Poofs from San Jose, California, who picked the Falcons for the three-team alliance, along with the Plasma Robotics from Red Mountain High School. The alliance cruised through the quarterfinals, semis and finals to win the regional. Hayden also won the Woody Flowers Design Award. They will compete in another regional in Las Vegas before heading to Houston, April 18-21 for the world championships.
“I am anxious to see what they can do. Another regional win will help build the anticipation that we might be a contender for the world title. This build season has been hard on the team but they persevered and it is great to see some reward come their way,” Coach Fredi Lajvardi said.

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March 28

Carl Hayden’s Falcon Robotics has done a lot in their history, but they had never won two Regional events in one year…until last weekend. The Falcons were winners of the Las Vegas Regional Saturday, after winning the Arizona North Regional two weeks earlier. The Falcons placed third in qualifying, with a 10-2 record. The number one seed picked Hayden for their three-team alliance in the playoffs, but the Falcons declined, because they didn’t think the top-seeded team’s robot abilities complimented theirs. Instead, the second-seeded team was selected. That gave the Falcons the opportunity to pick its two partner teams for their alliance, picking the High Rollers of Las Vegas’ Cimarron HS and the Sultans of Santee HS in California.

The Falcons’ team breezed through the quarterfinals and semifinals, and easily won the first of a best-of-three match final. Then came trouble.

“Our wrist motor had broken loose from the transmission. We noticed this during an inspection of all the robot systems during the five-minute break between our matches,” Coach Fredi Lajvardi said. “With three minutes to go, the team had to diagnose and solve the problem, which was to remove and replace the right motor with transmission. With only seconds to spare they made it.”
The Falcons’ alliance won the second match to win the regional title. Falcons also won the Industrial Design Award for best design. Their next competition is the World Championships in Houston, April 18-21, where they have high hopes of keeping their winning streak alive.

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Former Carl Hayden basketball star Gerald Brown has been hired as an assistant coach at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA, his alma mater. Brown was brought in by new coach Lorenzo Romar, who left the University of Arizona for the head coaching position at Pepperdine, his second stint coaching the Waves. Brown played under Romar at Pepperdine Brown was an assistant coach for the past three years at Concordia-Irvine, coached at Arizona Christian University for one year. Brown was originally signed by the Phoenix Suns, and played internationally for 14 in leagues in Israel, Serbia, Germany, Spain, Australia, Poland, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico.

Brown was the Arizona High School State Player of The Year in 1993, leading his team to a 29-1 record and 5A state championship.

April 4

Basketball player Isaiah Rhymes was selected for the 2018 Sports360AZ All-Academic Boys Basketball First Team (4A-6A) He is the only PUHSD boys basketball athlete selected for this
April 11

This spring, 16 Carl Hayden sophomores, juniors and seniors in the Center for Computer Studies Magnet Program will be among the first in the Phoenix Union High School District to participate in the National Cyber League online cyber security competition.

The National Cyber League (NCL) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in May 2011 to provide an ongoing virtual training ground for participants to develop, practice, and validate their cybersecurity knowledge and skills using next-generation high-fidelity simulation environments. The NCL challenges are based on the CompTIA Security™ and EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)™ performance-based exam objectives.

Under the supervision of team sponsor and coach Michael Marmolejo, the Hayden cyber-athletes are currently training in the NCL’s virtual gym, where they are studying content in the areas of: Open Source Intelligence, Scanning, Enumeration and Exploitation, Password Cracking, Traffic Analysis, Log Analysis, Wireless Security, Cryptography, and Web Application Security in preparation for the spring Preseason and Regular Season competition. The students are all enrolled in the Center for Computer Studies’ Networking and Operating Systems class, which recently shifted its curricular focus to Cyber Security and Cyber Defense in response to the rapidly escalating demand across the technology industry.

The competition is a defensive and offensive puzzle-based, capture-the-flag style cybersecurity activity. The Hayden cyber-athletes will spend the next two months preparing and testing themselves against cybersecurity challenges that they will likely face in the workforce. The students will be able to develop and validate their cybersecurity knowledge and talent across a range of industry-recognized competencies, making them more valuable to recruiters. At the conclusion of the competition, the athletes will receive certificates of participation and personalized scouting reports that are made available to companies seeking to hire qualified personnel. Top performers in the competition also have the chance to win individual and team awards, as well as scholarships.

“Like the world-famous Falcon Robotics team before them, the Hayden cyber-athletes are competing against teams from colleges across the country. The team is eager to make their mark as it competes in this emerging e-sport that not only provides students with real-world skills that can be applied to future career and academic opportunities but also affords them the opportunity to blaze a trail in what promises to be the premier academic sport of the 21st century,” Marmolejo said.

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The Carl Hayden Handball Club traveled to Tucson to take on the Fred Lewis Handball Club (FLHC) at the private Tucson Racquet Ball & Fitness Club, March 7. Seven Falcons had the opportunity to compete against nationally ranked players in their age group.

“Overall, we had a good experience, and our players reflected on the importance of being prepared, and the importance of building relationships, especially with our Handball brother/sister to the South,” said Coach Chris Hogan.

April 18

The Falcon Robotics team is in Houston for the FIRST World Championships, April 18-21. According to Coach Fredi Lajvardi, they are in the toughest division, the Turing Division, with 69 other teams. That division has the highest Offensive Power Rating average. It is named after Alan Turing, the British mathematician who broke the Nazi code during WWII. There are five divisions of 70 teams, with the winner of each division competing on Einstein Field, April 21. For their many accomplishments, the one title that has escaped the Falcons is winning the World Championships. They did finish in second place in a division in 2008. But organizers in a pre-event video, have pegged Carl Hayden as a favorite based on their two wins in Regionals and their robot’s ability to score. The team must impress in preliminary matches, and then select (if they are a high seed), or be selected to a play-off alliance of three teams.

April 25

The Falcon Robotics team travelled to Houston for the FIRST World Championships, April 18-21 with two Regional titles under their belts. They found themselves in the toughest division, and went 10-0 in preliminary rounds. Because of some complex scoring rules, however, they were only seeded 7th in the 69-team division. The Falcons were selected by the number two seed for the playoff alliance and swept the quarterfinals, but in the semifinals they lost in a three-match tiebreaker. Falcon Robotics also won the Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors. In all, Carl Hayden went 42-4 with one tie. To put that year in perspective, the world champions, called the Cheesey Poofs, went on to win the world championships, posting a 46-0 record. That team has many engineers from NASA, a huge budget, a full machine shop, a full-sized practice field and over 70 team members.

It is the end of an era for the Carl Hayden Falcon Robotics team. Their longtime coach Fredi Lajvardi is retiring this year after a string of successes and accomplishments that span 27 years. Sixteen years ago, he got the school involved in FIRST (For Inspiration of Science and Technology) Robotics, and in those years, the Falcons won seven regional championships, two state championships and made it into the FIRST Hall of Fame in 2008. Along the way, they have won several regional Chairman’s Awards that qualified the Falcons to the World Championships,
and in 2008, the team won the International Chairman’s award. They have won awards for design, innovation, industrial safety, engineering, creativity, quality and even gracious professionalism.

His robotics mission went underwater and into outer space, as well, and eventually into the streets of Phoenix and the halls of Congress. Who can forget the four students who ventured to a college-level underwater robotics competition in California, and upset the field that included MIT and other technological powerhouses with a makeshift robot named “Stinky.” There was a magazine article, “La Vida Robot,” that inspired a documentary, “Underwater Dreams,” that not only depicted the amazing upset, but the trials and tribulations of being undocumented, but unafraid. Lajvardi, from an immigrant family himself, instilled in his students the ability to tell their stories, and join in political activism and not let anything stand in their way. The Falcons stood not just for engineering prowess, but as an example for DREAMERS everywhere. Their story made it to the big screen as “Spare Parts” celebrated the hopes and dreams of Latino students everywhere. There was a book, a segment in the IMAX film, “Dream Big,” a CNN feature by Soledad O’Brien called “Don’t Fail Me,” and three ELL books that feature the Falcons’ unlikely victory over MIT.

The Robotics team won a national Spirit of Innovation Award in the Aerospace Exploration category. The students built a prototype of a small portable astronaut-operated vehicle that could do maintenance tasks including maneuvering a camera to inspect space stations or shuttles. The team developed a 3-D camera and viewing system with the support of Intel to give astronauts “remote eyes” in space.

Before his robotics phase, Lajvardi and his students explored the past, building pumpkin-launching catapults, called trebuchets, and saw the future, developing electric and solar vehicles. They once raced a police car with their hand-made vehicle.

He has won numerous awards, including Teacher of the Year at Phoenix Union and similar accolades from many other organizations, including Cesar Chavez Foundation Leadership Award, a couple of Science Foundation Arizona awards, and he has been to the White House four times with students. He is now a sought-after speaker nationally, and internationally.

Finally, his contributions to his students have been phenomenal. He has sent hundreds of students to college, and many have become successful engineers. Dulce Matuz was named to Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in 2012, for her establishment of the Arizona Dream Act Coalition. Angelica Hernandez was valedictorian for the ASU Fulton School of Engineering, and went on to Stanford for post-graduate work. Oscar Vazquez testified before Congress about the DREAM Act, and was a guest of Michelle Obama at a State of the Union address.

Lajvardi does not ask his students what they want to be when they grow up…he asks, “What problems do they want to solve.” There is no finer example of an educator who, through project-based learning, tests the limits of his students’ potential than Fredi Lajvardi.

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Carl Hayden High School
Carl Hayden’s Handball club competed in the ASU Homework & Handball Tournament, April 21. On the academic side of the tournament, ASU representatives provided information on attending ASU (academic/financial), a college interest inventory, Q & A discussion, and a tour of the ASU campus, if interested. Moreover, the ASU Handball Club went a step farther by recognizing individual student with good grades with a framed certificate. Carl Hayden had five handball scholars highlighted: Tenth-graders Jesus Castillo, Chris Cedeno, Uziel Rodriguez, Lorenzo Medrano and Eliezer Zavala.

The tournament consisted of two division, Big Ball (AM) & Small Ball (PM) with classifications of Elite, Challenger, Contender, and Successor. Participants were from Camelback, South Mountain, Phoenix Police Department, and the Fred Lewis Foundation (Tucson).

The tournament consisted of two divisions, Big Ball and Small Ball with classifications of Elite, Challenger, Contender, and Successor. Participants were from Camelback, South Mountain, Phoenix Police Department and the Fred Lewis Foundation (Tucson). Big Ball winners from Carl Hayden were Rodrigo Silva, Elite; Jesus Castillo, Successor; Small Ball: Jesus Castillo, Contender and Luis Madrigal, Successor.

May 9

The Anne Frank Exhibit was on display at Carl Hayden, May 9. The traveling exhibit is sponsored by the Anne Frank House and Foundation in Amsterdam and the Consulate General of the Netherlands in San Francisco. Youth Healing Youth Club members at Carl Hayden were trained by the Anne Frank House Foundation to give tours to their peers. They also created two panels for the exhibit in which they related the issue of discrimination to their own community. The club was fully booked May 7-11 with class tours and the students hosted a reception May 9 for staff, students, families and community. The tour started at a middle school in Scottsdale and will continue on from Carl Hayden to Phoenix City Hall next week where a reception with the mayor will occur. Social Studies teacher and Youth Healing Youth Club sponsor Jennifer Turner has been instrumental in organizing this project.

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Jesse Gaines, a senior who attends Linda Abril Educational Academy, but ran for Carl Hayden, qualified for the 1600 meters and 400 meters, and placed 4th in the 800 meter run at the Division II State Track and Field Championships, May 5. He was also part of the Falcons 7th finish in the 4 x 800 relay.
Central High School

4525 N. Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85014
602-764-7500
www.phoenixunion.org/centralhs

Founded: 1957
Colors: Red/Gray
Mascot: Bobcats
Central High School 2017-2018
Around Our Schools
Central
2017-18

August 16

The Central High Global Studies program will host visiting students and a teacher-chaperone from their sister school in Himeji, Japan, beginning August 18. The program will also host students from China, France and Costa Rica this semester. The Central students will travel to sister schools in the spring.

August 23

Senior **Matthew Bancroft** represented Team USA in the International Tae Kwon-Do Federation Open World Championship in Corrientes, Argentina. He competed on August 12 in the Junior Division and placed 2nd in Individual Sparring; 3rd in Patterns; 3rd in Team Patterns and 3rd in Team Specialty Breaking.

Bancroft’s dream of competing internationally began in 2007 at AZ Kicks, when he was first introduced to the sport. He enrolled in a class out of curiosity and then excelled, becoming increasingly focused and disciplined. He has represented Arizona in tournaments all around the southwestern region, as well as in Connecticut and London in 2015.

He says, “Competing on Team USA was part of my dream. I have been through many challenges along the way, and it took me about 10 years of training and hard work. It was all possible because of donations from my family and sponsorships from my reservation.” Bancroft has Navajo, Apache and Hopi heritage.

August 30

The Arizona Community Foundation, through the Burton Family Foundation and the Black Philanthropy Initiative, secured a Scottsdale movie theater to host a screening of the new documentary, “Step,” August 22 for members of the Black Student Union across the District. The documentary chronicles the trials and triumphs of senior girls on the high school’s Step Team as they prepare to be first in their families to go to college, and the first graduating class of the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women. Central took full advantage, bringing the most students from any campus, including the new step team, Central High Step Up.
September 20

Junior Kayla Eldred won the Four Corners Cross Country Girls Seeded race, in Flagstaff September 16. She ran a time of 20:05 over the three-mile course in Buffalo Park at 7,000-foot elevation.

Central visits Camelback in a big rivalry game, September 22, but Principal John Biera will miss it. He has a good excuse, though. He is heading to Texas for his 40th Homecoming this weekend; where his alma mater, the Merkel Badgers will meet the Ballinger Bearcats. Not only that, but he is the Grand Marshal of the Homecoming Parade, Friday afternoon. Now, that’s a homecoming.

September 27

The Central Badminton team has shown that it is play-off worthy. The Bobcats knocked off Gilbert Highland, 8-1 September 19, which was ranked #5 in the state at the time. Central is ranked #13, and leads the Metro section, which is made up of five Phoenix Union teams and Millennium. They defeated Maryvale, September 26, 9-0 and have an overall record of 7-4, playing some strong East Valley schools. Twelve teams make the Division I playoffs, five as sectional champions, and seven others as at-large, based on rankings.

October 25

The Central Bobcat Badminton team was the only Phoenix Union team to make the post-season. Central swept through the Metro Section with a 5-0 record, had a 10-4 record overall and advanced to the 16-team Division I playoffs as the 12th-seeded team. The Bobcats met #5 Corona del Sol, October 23 in the first round, but lost to the Aztecs, 5-1.

November 1

Junior Kayla Eldred won the Girls Division I Sectional Cross Country race, October 27 beating some 100 other girls, to qualify as an individual runner at the November 4 State Championships. The Central boys also qualified as a team, finishing 7th in the team standings. Dawit Ajju was the top Bobcat, finishing 12th in the race.

Central High School’s Oliver Kwete was recently selected from refugee youth candidates across the country to be a speaker at the International Rescue committee’s (IRC) Rescue Dinner, November 2 in New York City. Kwete, 19, is a junior, who came to the U.S. last fall with his
family, including six other brothers and sisters. Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, he grew up in Zimbabwe where he lived for 13 years, much of those years in a refugee camp. His family moved to the U.S. thanks to a re-settlement program that connected them with the local IRC branch. **Vital Ntibushemeye**, a school liaison for the IRC nominated him for this event.

“I was not surprised. I knew I would make it,” Kwete said. “Vital was our case worker and helped us all enroll in school here.”

The IRC was founded in 1933 at the request of **Albert Einstein**. The organization offers emergency aid and long-term assistance to refugees and those displaced by war, persecution or natural disaster. The IRC is currently working in over 40 countries and 22 U.S. cities where it resettle refugees and helps them become self-sufficient. The annual gala brings together luminaries from the corporate, philanthropic, diplomatic and media communities in support of the IRC’s humanitarian work. This year, former New York mayor **Michael Bloomberg** will be honored, as well as actress **Liv Ullmann**.

Kwete and his mother are spending the week in New York, to participate in coaching and rehearsals, as well as a little sightseeing. He says his speech is be about how he emigrated from the Congo to Zimbabwe to the U.S. and the difficulties his family encountered.

Kwete found a home at Central High early on, going out for the football team. He was an instant success, after playing rugby for many years in Africa. This year he was too old to play, but his twin brothers, Cosmos and Eloi, were standouts for the Bobcats. Kwete speaks seven languages, including his mother’s tribal tongue, **Lingala**, and his father’s, **Kikuba**, as well as **Swahili**. He spent a year in ELL classes, but tested out, and now has his sights set on college, where he wants to study entrepreneurship. He might be able to play rugby at Lindenwood College in Missouri, otherwise he would attend college locally. He wants to start his own online marketing business, and is already doing online work.

**November 8**

There were 11 PUHSD cross country teams at the State Championships, Saturday, but it was a girl without a team who had the best showing. Central’s **Kayla Eldred**, a junior, placed 6th in the 156-runner Division I race, covering the 5,000-meter course at the Cave Creek Golf Course in 19:40. She qualified as an individual by winning the sectional race eight days earlier. **Dawit Ajju** in the Boys division, placed 79th, as the Bobcats finished 19th in team standings.

**November 15**

Four culinary students participated in Food Fanatics Live 2017, November 8. This is an event put on by U.S. Foods. C-CAP (Careers in Culinary Arts Program) Arizona picked Central to represent Arizona and this new partnership with U.S. Foods. Two students, **Liliana Flores Hernandez** and **Derek Tolano**, went onstage with chefs to participate in a live demonstration for the crowd. The other two students, **Michaelangelo Vasquez** and **Alexis Lopez** worked in the Interactive Kitchen.

Central High School
with five other professional chefs making and preparing samples of the dish that were demonstrated on stage.

“This opportunity for Central was remarkable. The students got firsthand experience of what it is like to cater an event of this magnitude and to work with a plethora of professional chefs. Liliana (Hernandez) and Derek (Tolano) were even presented with a job opportunity at the end of this event,” Culinary teacher Erin Sullivan said.

November 22

Anel Zhuvanizhbayeva traveled to Mesquite High School for the Water Tower Speech and Debate Invitational, November 18. She placed 8th in her chamber of Congressional Debate. Because of the number and quality of speeches that she has given this year, she has earned membership into the National Speech and Debate Association Honor Society. She is an exchange student from Kazakhstan.

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If you played Central’s football team this year, you couldn’t help but run into brothers Eloi and Cosmos Kwete. The twins, having grown up playing rugby in the Congo and Zimbabwe, were a defensive force. Eloi Kwete was named the All-Phoenix Union team’s Defensive Player of the Year, and Cosmos Kwete made the defensive team as a linebacker. Other Bobcats honored were Jose Escaleera, defensive back, Andrew Taylor, quarterback and Casey Clanton, tight end.

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Former Central Lady Bobcats basketball player Alexis Smith is currently attending Ottawa University after spending her first two playing years at Glendale Community College. She is the starting point guard for the Ottawa University Spirits, and in early games this year, she has scored 18, 27 and 16 points, and had a 14 rebound game, as well.

December 6

EiEi Naing was named Badminton Singles Region Player of the Year, and Nene Naing and Amy Dietrich were named to the all-Region Doubles Team. Monica Lam represented the Bobcats at the Individual State Tournament in singles, and Nene Naing and Dietrich in doubles.

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Central English teacher Mark Williams has written five novels, but his shortest, and perhaps most important work is definitely non-fiction. It is called “Forty-Seven Seconds,” subtitled, ‘What educators need to know and do during a very bad day.” The title, as Williams explains, “is the amount of time you, as a teacher, staff member, or employee have to secure your room, your space,
your work area during extraordinary events, like shootings, or emergency evacuations for thinks such as bombs or weather.”

He will be the keynote speaker at the Arizona Department of Education Emergency Preparedness and School Safety Conference, December 7.

Williams spent the first 21 years of his career as a Special Agent for the Organized Crime Division of the State Attorney General's Office. He traveled across the United States as an instructor for law enforcement in various capacities.

December 13

Central’s varsity cheerleaders took first place in the Co-ed Varsity Show Cheer Novice division at the USA Regionals at Deer Valley High School, December 9. Scoring 89.9 out of 100, the team also qualified for Nationals in Anaheim, California in February, where they will compete against other schools from around the country. The Bobcat cheer squad will compete with the same routine, and they also get to spend a couple days at Disneyland. The cheerleaders are coached by Cecily Frutos, the photography teacher, who was a cheerleader when she attended Central as a high school student.

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Students, Staff, Family, and Friends from the “good neighbor next-door campuses,” Central High School and The Phoenix Coding Academy, served in a Nationwide Feed My Starving Children Mobilepack Drive, Saturday, November 2 at the Phoenix Convention Center. Together 1,413 boxes were packed (305,208 meals) and 836 kids will eat for a year. Central teacher John Gerace, organized the event.

December 20

Eloi Kwete, a defensive lineman from Central High was the only District player named to the American Family Insurance All-USA Arizona High School Football Team. Only a junior, he had 146 tackles, including 42 for losses, and eight sacks. He also made the Channel 12 All Friday Night Fever Team, and was named Phoenix Union Defensive Player of the Year. You may recall, Eloi, his twin brother Cosmos, and his older brother, Oliver came to the U.S. last year from Zimbabwe, and played American football for the first time at Central, making the natural transition from their rugby experience. They are originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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Former Central football player Azur Kamara is signing a letter of intent to attend and play for the University of Kansas. The defensive end spent the last two years in Yuma, playing junior college ball at Arizona Western. This year, the Matadors were undefeated until losing at East Mississippi in the NJCAA Championship game. Kamara had 12.5 sacks and 15.5 tackles for losses this year. Since his high school days, he has grown two more inches and a few pounds to 6-6 and 230 pounds.
As a senior with the Bobcats, Kamara was named Channel 12’s Friday Night Fever Defensive Player of the Year for Arizona. Only six years after relocating from the Ivory Coast, and three years playing football, he broke the state sack record. In his senior year, he had 107 tackles, 25.5 sacks, 47 tackles for loss, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. He also ran two kickoffs back for touchdowns.

Central alumnus Dom Flemons will be back in town over the holidays, bringing his American Songster show to the Music Instrument Museum, December 27 at 7 p.m. Now a Grammy Award winner for his unique blend of traditional music with a contemporary approach, Central staffers remember him as Domonique Flemons who went around campus with a guitar and a harmonica like Bob Dylan. He also played percussion in the band. Flemons co-founded the Carolina Chocolate Drops, an African-American string band, in 2005, and won a Grammy for its 2010 album, Genuine Negro Jig. He has performed at New York’s Carnegie Hall and at the opening ceremonies of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. His latest album, Ever Popular Favourites celebrates the songs of black cowboys.

Dom Flemons’ brother, Estaban Flemons, is the International Baccalaureate Coordinator at North High School.

January 10, 2018

Central boys basketball is off to a fast start, ranked #9 in the first 6A rankings of January 8. The Bobcats are 6-2 overall, with a 3-0 mark in the Metro Region.

January 17

Speech and Debate coach Kevin Berlat was in Washington, D.C. the first week of the spring semester, chaperoning a group of last summer’s national Congressional Debate champions. He was an invited guest of the Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership, because of his role as tabulation chair for the National Tournament. The students on the trip are now students at Harvard University and Princeton University, and one who is still in high school in Florida. All three were winners of either the national championship, or the student-voted Leadership Bowl at the 2017 National Speech and Debate Tournament.

“The students and I met with Representative Alcee Hastings of Florida and Representative Terry Sewell of Alabama. We had an opportunity to watch the final vote in the House of Representatives on the controversial surveillance bill January 11. We toured the Capitol building, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and were guided on a nighttime tour of the monuments. We also visited the Supreme Court,” Berlat said.

The Stennis Center is a federal agency charged with a mission to promote public service in America. The purpose of the program is to provide individuals with intimate exposure to Congress and those who make Congress work as an institution of American democracy.
January 31

Central will hold its annual Multicultural Show, February 2. This special event will feature Korean Fan Dancers, Ballet Folklórico, the school’s new step team, a new Norteño Music band and original poetry. This event is put on by the Multicultural Club.

February 7

Central High School welcomed Osborn Middle School 8th graders to campus, January 31. Calling them the Class of 2022, each student received a passport and collected stamps for exploring the many opportunities. They went to a physics class to see how energy is being stored and transferred, and learned that they need three years of science for high school graduation. They stopped to pick up a copy of Central’s newspaper, The Central Echoes, learned about Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs such as marketing, business, culinary, child development, engineering science and sports medicine. There were stops at the bookstore, gymnasiums, library (where students check out 15,000 books per year), learned about the 16 Advanced Placement offerings, completed an anatomy experiment in science, checked out the flagpoles representing the Global Studies magnet, learned about visual arts including digital and traditional photography and picked up some Phoenix Suns swag from the Suns-Central program. Central also has 43 student clubs, and AIA sports across the board, including swimming and badminton.

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When the chef from Levy Restaurants, the chef for the Phoenix Suns, calls you to work a job, culinary arts teacher Erin Sullivan says yes- even if it has a start time of 3:30 a.m. Sullivan, instructional assistant Jasmine Moore and 15 students arrived at Talking Stick Resort Arena to help make breakfast for 2500 people for the Arizona Goodwill Extravaganza, February 6.

“Despite the super early start time, my students showed me once again just how amazing they are. I am so proud of their dedication, commitment and drive,” Sullivan said.

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There is something about rivalry games. The Lady Bobcats Basketball team handed North its first loss of the season in the Metro Region, 41-39, January 31, after trailing by 7 at half. Junior point guard Matalina Ochoa scored 15 points, dished out 5 assists, and had 9 steals in helping lead Central to one of their biggest wins of the season. Freshman Athienk Aleu pulled down 15 rebounds. The Bobcats wrapped up their regular season with a 7-11 record, and 5-5 in region. North fell to 9-1 and 16-2 overall.

February 14

The Central Boys Basketball team reached the post-season, but lost in a play-in game to Chandler Perry, 74-54, February 9 to end the Bobcats season.
February 28

Eight students from Central’s Japanese classes participated in annual Japanese Speech Contest at ASU Foreign Language Fair on February 27, and they all scored very high. This year, juniors weren’t able to compete in Advanced level competition due to ACT testing, but Sarai Lopez Martinez won the 1st place in the Intermediate level competition. Jennifer Garcia Najera won 3rd place in Novice level completion (1st year level).

February 21

Former Central Lady Bobcats basketball player Alexis Smith, playing for Ottawa University Arizona, was named to the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association All-West Region First Team. She led the Spirit averaging 14.3 points, 6.6 rebounds and 3 steals per game in the school’s inaugural season, after playing two years at Glendale Community College.

“Alexis was our floor general all year and was able to get hers in the scoring category, while also getting into the paint to find her teammates," said Coach Kilee Karre. "I'm excited for her growth into next season."

March 21

Central’s student art show runs from March 23-30 at the Alwun House on 12th St. and Roosevelt. The students will enjoy an opening reception on the first evening, March 23.

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The Central Bobcat Family Dream Academy held graduation, March 8 for 95 families. In partnership with Arizona State University, Central High School successfully graduated families who worked diligently during an eight-week program to access college information and scholarships to better provide for their children’s education.

March 28

March 24-25 was a busy weekend for the International Magnet Program. A group of students started their journey to Costa Rica, March 24. A group of students took flight to Grenoble, France, via London, March 25, arriving in France, March 26.

April 4

Serena Cuevas and Lesley Rodriguez-Saenz will exhibit their photography at The Emerge 2018 Student Photography Show at Art Intersection in Gilbert. Every year, the gallery puts on this exhibition, which is judged by a local artist/photographer, and is only open to student photographers in high school and college. The two will join photography students from ASU, Mesa
Community College, New School for the Arts, Metro Arts, Williams Field High School, Chandler, Gilbert, and Camp Verde High Schools in the exhibition. Cuevas, a junior and Rodriguez-Saenz, a senior, are the only students from Phoenix Union in the show, which runs from May 1-26 at Art Intersection at 207 N. Gilbert Rd., Gilbert, AZ 85234.

April 11

Central High School Principal John Biera has been selected to fill an administrative position at CEE for the 2018-19 school year, requiring a new principal search. Candidates have been interviewed, and four finalists will visit Central, Monday, and participate in a community forum, Monday, April 16 from 5-7 p.m. in the school’s library. Community members, parents, teachers and students are invited to hear the candidates answer questions from the audience and can weigh in on the selection process by sending comments to the superintendent.

Biera is in his fourth year as Central’s principal. He was a high school principal for 12 years in the Scottsdale School District --ten at Coronado and two at Arcadia. His public education career spans 36 years, including 24 as an administrator in Arizona and Texas.

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Central’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) had a successful state conference, April 4-6 in Tucson. Three students will be travelling to Baltimore this summer to compete at Nationals: Sheldon Tsosie – Computer Applications; Annabelle Brown – Sales Presentation and Robson Jigayo – Job Interview. Jigayo had a near-perfect score on his resume and cover letter and scored a 98/100 in prelims. “The events our students chose to compete in are extremely competitive. They have multiple sections and only the top score moves into Finals,” club sponsor and business teacher Renee Morgan said.

April 25

Central High School will welcome a new principal for the 2018-19 school year. Leticia Avalos Salomon will lead Central, taking over for John Biera, who will move to the District office as a Leadership Coach next year.

Salomon is currently at Betty Fairfax High School, where she has been the Assistant Principal for Registration for two years. Previously, she was an Assistant Principal at Trevor Browne High School for two years. Salomon was a reading teacher and instructional leader at Carl Hayden High School from 2008-2014. Prior to her Phoenix Union career, she taught middle school social studies at Glendale Elementary District, beginning her educational career in 1998. Salomon has a Bachelor’s in Education, specializing in history, and two Masters in Secondary Education and Educational Leadership, all from ASU.

Biera is completing his fourth year as Central’s Principal. He was a high school principal for 12 years in the Scottsdale School District --ten at Coronado and two at Arcadia. His public education career spans 36 years, including 24 as an administrator in Arizona and Texas.
Salomon will start her new position, July 1.

May 9

Amanda York was accepted to the STARTALK Chinese program hosted at Arizona State University this summer. The STARTALK Chinese program is a prestigious program funded by the U.S. government in which students from all over Arizona who are interested in learning Chinese language come for a 15-day camp. This is an intensive camp where students not only expand their knowledge in Chinese language, but also experience college living on campus. York recently visited China and takes Honors Chinese 3-4 in school.

“This scholarship STARTALK program is extremely tough to be accepted into, so we applaud Amanda York for being allowed this chance of a lifetime,” Central Chinese instructor Rebecca Yuan said.

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York and classmate Mugarineza Zuza have been accepted to the Cornell University Curie Academy and will join an esteemed group of youth from around the nation in June. The Curie Academy is a week-long summer program at Cornell University for young women interested in engineering. CURIE participants spend a week living on Cornell's campus and work on a research project with Cornell Engineering faculty.

May 16

Central Bobcat JROTC Battalion Commander, Cadet Amelia “Bingo” Bingochea competed in the National Archery in Schools program in Kentucky. There was over 15,000 Archers in the competition. Bingochea scored a 283 out of 300 to rank 304th out of 5,589 girls. In the High School Division, she was 198th of 2393 archers, and 46th out of 446 in the 12th grade division.
Around Our Schools

Cesar Chavez High School

3921 W. Baseline Road Phoenix, Arizona 85339
602-764-4000
www.phoenixunion.org/cesarchavez

Founded: 1999
Colors: Purple/Silver
Mascot: Champions
Cesar Chavez High School 2017-2018
Around Our Schools
Cesar Chavez
2017-18

September 6, 2017

Top college basketball prospect Malik Porter will begin his college career at the College of Southern Idaho, a premier junior college program. The 6-foot-5, 200-pound Porter played this past summer with Team Harden with elite players on the Adidas circuit.

In his senior season for Chavez, Porter averaged strong overall numbers, helping his team to a 24-5 overall record. Porter averaged 11.4 points, 9.7 rebounds, 3.1 assists, 3.8 blocks and 2.1 steals per/game.

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Cesar Chavez’ 0-2 start in football is a bit misleading. The Champions have lost games to undefeated and top-10 teams. They lost by 6 points to 5A #4 Queen Creek and #7 Gilbert Highland by 2 points. The non-region schedule is a tough one, with another game against #5 and perennial powerhouse Hamilton in two weeks. Chavez completes its season playing six Phoenix Union schools, including four at home.

September 20

The Laveen Bowl is Friday, September 22, when Cesar Chavez hosts Betty Fairfax in their sometimes-annual football game. The two Laveen schools have played four times in the last six years. The series began in 2011, when Fairfax beat Chavez 45-25. But that was the last time the Stampede won. Chavez won 52-0 in 2012 and after a two-year hiatus, The Champions have notched two more victories. Last year Chavez broke open a close game in the second half to win 28-14. Both teams advanced to the playoffs last year, and both are considered favorites to win their respective regions. Despite being 20 blocks apart on Baseline Road, Chavez is in the 6A Metro Region and Fairfax is in the 5A Union Region.

October 4

The Cesar Chavez Percussion group performed at the Arizona Percussive Arts Society competition at Mesa Westwood High School, September 30. The Champions received an Excellent rating in all captions and turned in the high score for their division. The students were able to meet the clinicians and had pictures taken with them.
October 25

The first annual Cesar Chavez Classic Cross Country Invitational was held, October 7, at Cesar Chavez Park. Forty-two teams and 950 runners competed in varsity and junior varsity divisions. The host Champions had the best team score of Phoenix Union schools, finishing 5th, while the Maryvale Girls placed 4th. Individually, Carl Hayden’s Fidel de Los Rios and Benjamin Morfin finished first and second. For the girls, Central’s Kayla Eldred placed 4th overall.

November 1

Cesar Chavez is taking the boys and girls cross country teams to the State Championships, qualifying at the Sectional Races, October 27 ay Cesar Chavez Park. The boys finished second, as all five runners finished in the top 24 spots. Christian Gomez was 4th, Fernando Valero, 10th and Eddy Yescas, 11th. The Girls were fifth in the team standings, with Amber Fowler leading the Champions with a 5th place individual finish.

The Chavez football team is headed to the playoffs, finishing a regular season of 7-3, and 5-0 in the Metro Region. The Champions, seeded 12th, visit #5-seeded Pinnacle in the first round of the 16-team 6A playoffs, November 3.

November 8

Eleven Cesar Chavez students competed in the Marshall-Brennan Moot Court competition at ASU's law school, November 3-4. Approximately 75 students competed, and 30 students advanced to the semifinals, nine from Chavez. Of those 30, ten went onto the final round, including three from Chavez. When it was concluded, Mimi Bitangacha and Nimo Ismail were among six Arizona students who earned a trip to the nationals in Washington, D.C. in April. There is a possibility a third student, Alex Moran, will also be traveling pending an appeal on the scores.

Moot Court is a competition where two opposing attorneys argue about what the law should be regarding a Constitutional question. They must use previous decisions made by actual courts. High school students participate in the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project nationally, studying constitutional law with law-school students. The project is named after former Supreme Court Justices Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan.

“I was extraordinarily proud of how our students performed - their dedication, their presentation, their research, their comportment and their public speaking. All 11 were a testament to what makes Chavez an awesome school,” Coach William Kibler said.

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Cesar Chavez placed 12th overall in Division III at the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association State Marching Festival, November 4 at Dobson High School. The Champions received an “Excellent” Rating, and received Outstanding Music Performance, Outstanding General Effect, and Outstanding Percussion Performance Captions.
The Cesar Chavez boys finished 17th in the team standings at the Division I State Cross Country Championships, November 4 at Cave Creek Golf Course. The Champions had the highest finish among the four Phoenix Union schools that qualified for state. The top runners for Chavez were Fernando Valerio, 69th place and Christian Gomez, 81st place in the 164-runner field. The Chavez Girls finished 21st in their state race, with Amber Fowler having the team’s best finish at 70th.

Cesar Chavez may have ended their 2017 season, one game into the playoffs, but they received a boost for 2018 when the Arizona Cardinals and Barrows Neurological Center donated 20 new silver football helmets to the program at a November 8 assembly. Dr. Javier Cardenas, a neurologist who has done much work with PUHSD high schools, ASU and the NFL, discussed concussions in sports, sideline protocols that have been implemented, signs to recognize concussion symptoms, and baseline testing, and return-to-play protocol. Former Cardinals wide receiver Frank Sanders joined in the conversation, recalling his early days when a concussion was treated with smelling salts. Dr. Cardenas then had the curtain pulled, and Cardinal Cheerleaders and mascot Big Red presented the brand new helmets, Riddell Revolution Speed helmets, the best helmets available.

November 22

Cesar Chavez dominated the Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon Friday and Saturday, winning the team title, the super quiz relay and 44 individual event medals, including 13 gold medals. The Champions also had six of the nine overall top scores in the three divisions. Chavez’ 42,521 score far outpaced second-place Basis Peoria, and third place Mesa Mountain View. Alhambra was 4th, Maryvale, 6th, South Mountain, 7th and Betty Fairfax, 9th in the 19-team field.

Sabrina Gallardo had the top Varsity division score, Samuel Porter, (gold), Barbara Martinez (silver) and Tina Chen, (bronze) swept the Scholastic overall medals. Irma Ceco won bronze in the Honors overall.

Other PUHSD highlights include Boston Lawrence of Betty Fairfax with Varsity golds in economics and interview, where he had the outstanding overall performance. Alhambra’s Enrique Mighty won a gold in Varsity language and literature, and teammate Jose Baldovino had a gold in Scholastic math.

Ten different Champions won gold in individual events. Chavez swept all nine medals in the music event, and eight of nine medals in the art event.
Cesar Chavez had eight players named to the 2017 All-Phoenix Union Football team, led by Player of the Year Andrew Blitzke, running back/linebacker and Offensive Player of the Year Chris Russel, quarterback. They were joined by Javier Meza, offensive lineman; Thairyk Blue, receiver; Alberto Borvnda, defensive lineman; Chris De La Fuente, defensive end and Carlos Ritchie, defensive back.

**November 29**

Senior Gisel Avila has signed a letter of intent to play softball for Chandler-Gilbert Community College, November 27. Avila, who plays centerfield and pitches, has started since she was a freshman. She has been a captain the last two years, and was all-Region as a sophomore and junior. Last year, she hit .394, scored 22 runs, and was a perfect 13 for 13 in stolen bases.

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Jasmine Chavarria was awarded 2nd place in Division 2 (10,11, 12 grades) in the Arizona Dance Educators Association Essay Contest for 2017-18. According to the judges, the senior addressed the theme of how dance affects society and how society affects dance, as well. Her school will receive $50 for their programming.

**December 6**

Cesar Chavez Student Government hosted its second “Smiles for Christmas” event, November 30, bringing together elementary and high school students to share in holiday cheer.

This event brought together 250 STUGO representatives from Cesar Chavez, North, Carl Hayden, Alhambra, Camelback, Fairfax, South Mountain, Desiderata, Metro Tech and Bioscience who hosted over 250 students from Laveen’s Cheatham Elementary School.

Each high school student was paired with one elementary student and together they played carnival-style games, decorated cookies, built bird and bug houses, decorated gingerbread houses, ate lunch, and met the Phoenix Fire and Police Department.

**Salvador Lopez**, the STUGO sponsor at Cesar Chavez coordinated the event.

**December 13**

Cesar Chavez Wrestling captured a third straight Metro Wrestling Invitational team championship, December 8. The Champions had five first place medalists--126 lb. —George Poland; 138 lb. —Diego Herrera; 145 lb. —Camilo Hernandez; 170 lb. —Sergio Orozco and 195 lb. —Erik Orozco. Three other Chavez wrestlers finished second. Sergio Orozco received the “Most Outstanding Wrestler” award. He pinned all of his opponents, including his opponent in the first period of the finals. Sixteen teams participated, including all ten PUHSD teams. Trevor Browne was third, putting five wrestlers in the finals.
“Our district is starting to produce some real good wrestlers that will make some noise at the state
tournament this year. I can't wait to see what those individuals can do at the state tournament,”
Chavez coach Daniel Rubio said.

**January 10, 2018**

The Academic Decathlon team participated in an invitational scrimmage in Sierra Vista over the
holiday break, and found out just how good they are. The seven-team invitational featured the top-
ranked team in the state, Canyon del Oro. Chavez beat them, coming in first, and capturing half
the medals available in the event. The Champions next event will be the Region II Decathlon,
February 2-3 at Camelback High School. Regional events determine which 40 teams advance to
the state championship.

Some of the highlights included Sam Porter and Sabrina Gallardo, winning gold medals for
top overall scores in their divisions. Gallardo won seven individual medals, including four gold.
Barbara Martinez, Kevin Chen and Karla Fonseca won silver medals for second-best overall
scores in their divisions.

Chavez was ranked as high as second last year, before finishing fourth in state. Since 2010, Cesar
Chavez has finished in the top 10 at state seven times in eight years (two 9th place, three 7th place
and two 4th place) under Coach William Kibler.

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The Chavez boys and girls basketball teams won holiday tournaments during the winter break. The
boys won the Phoenix Union Holiday Classic, with a 75-64 win over Betty Fairfax in the finals,
December 23. The tournament Most Valuable Player was Chavez’ Tyrone Washington. The
boys came began the second semester with a win over Central to take sole possession of first place
with a 4-0 Metro Region record.

The girls won the Silver division of the Chandler Prep Girls Tournament, December 28-30.

**January 24**

It seems the high school football season starts earlier every year, and in Arizona, that means heat.
Cesar Chavez High School has gone to extremes to cool off next year, while providing an amazing
adventure for the team. The Champions will open their season in Anchorage, Alaska, August 17.

Chavez has agreed to a home and home series with East Anchorage High School the next two
years. East Anchorage will play in Phoenix in 2019. Chavez athletic director Lenny Doerfler came
up with the idea.

“Arizona teams go to California, Nevada, but kids can go there anytime. But how many of our
students have the opportunity to travel to Alaska.” Doerfler said.

“I thought Mr. Doerfler was joking when he talked about it. Not many schools like us go out of
state to play a game,” football coach Manny Alcantar said. “We would be the first team in

Cesar Chavez High School
Arizona to play in Alaska. I was excited and happy that this was presented to us. Still in shock but blessed we have a chance to play in Alaska.”

“Our boys deserve it just as much as any other high school going out of state to play a football game. The majority of our kids have not been on planes or been further than Nevada. This will be something they remember for decades to come.”

Doerfler knows the area well, having spent 19 summers there, participating in coaching camps, and connecting with the local coaches, who were trying to improve high school football in the state. That familiarity will help Chavez navigate the locale.

“They are going to provide transportation once we get there, and we will probably sleep in the gym, since school won’t be in session yet. Their coaches are inviting our team to an Alaskan feast of salmon, halibut, moose and bear.”

The East Anchorage Thunderbirds were 9-3 last year, advancing to the quarterfinals of Division I, the largest school division. The school, with an enrollment of 2,200, has also been labeled the most diverse school in America, culturally, ethnically and socio-economically.

Now comes the hard part, raising the $25-30,000 to take 40 student-athletes and staff on a long road trip. Doerfler says Chavez has a very active booster club that will help. They are planning a golf tournament, and hoping to receive some help from local businesses. Doerfler also wants to educate parents about the Arizona Education Tax Credit, where up to $400 can be donated, and that amount is credited after tax returns are completed. The deadline for this year’s credit for 2017 taxes and contributions is April 16.

The game is Friday evening, but with the long hours of sunlight, they may not even need Friday night lights. While the temperature in August is in the 60’s in Anchorage, you have to wonder what East Anchorage will think the next year when they have to travel to Arizona in the summer. Seems Chavez got the better deal on this schedule.

To help the Cesar Chavez team’s journey to Alaska, contact the school’s athletic department at (602) 764-4045 or doerfler@phoenixunion.org. To contribute to the Chavez football team through the Arizona Education Tax Credit online, visit www.phoenixunion.org/taxcredit.

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The Cesar Chavez wrestlers finished 3rd out of 32 teams at a tournament at Salpointe High School in Tucson this past weekend. The Champions placed eight wrestlers on the podium. Sergio Orozco was 2nd in the 170-pound division. It is the highest finish for Chavez in this tournament in the last three years.
February 7

The favorite may not have won the Super Bowl, but Cesar Chavez, as expected, ran away with the Region II Academic Decathlon, February 2-3 at Camelback High School. The Champions won the region for the third consecutive year, and by almost 6,500 points ahead of second place Basis Peoria, and Boulder Creek. Chavez will move on to the 40-school State Decathlon, March 9-10 at ASU West where it has finished fourth the past two years.

Chavez decathletes won 38 medals, including 12 gold medals in individual events. Seven of the top nine scorers in the three divisions-Varsity, Scholastic and Honors were from Chavez. Barbara Martinez was the top scorer in the Scholastic division, winning gold in economics, music and social science. Sabrina Gallardo was the top Varsity scorer, winning gold in art and language & literature. Kevin Chen was a silver medalist overall in the Varsity division, and won gold in music, science and social science. Clara Martinez won bronze in the Varsity overall scoring. Chavez swept the Scholastic division. After Martinez, Samuel Porter was second in scoring, Tina Chen, third. Irma Ceco was the third highest scorer in the Honors division, earning bronze.

The Champions, who also won the Super Quiz Relay, will go into state with the 3rd highest score from the four regionals. Chavez is coached by William Kibler.

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The Champion Wrestling team competed in the Division I Section 3 Wrestling Tournament, February 2-3 at Desert Vista High School to determine who will move on to the state tournament. Chavez placed third overall in team points behind Sunnyside and Desert Vista, and qualified eight wrestlers for the state tournament. Chavez placed six wrestlers in the finals of weight divisions and Camilo Hernandez at 145-pounds and Sammy Hernandez at 152-lbs. were sectional champs. Placing second were Adrian Cruz, 128 lb.; Diego Herrera, 132; Robert Dominguez, 138 and Erik Orozco, 195.

The state tournament is Thursday and Friday, February 8-9 in Prescott. The individual wrestlers who qualified can earn points toward the overall team scores at state, as well, to determine a state championship team.

February 14

Cesar Chavez’ Boys Basketball team quietly made its way back into the state tournament. Ranked 20th in 6A with an 11-8 record, the Metro Region champs took care of Westview, 81-63 in a play-in game, February 9, to advance to the first round of the 16-team state tournament, against third seed Desert Vista, February 13, where the Champions’ quest for a state title fell short.

Cesar Chavez’ Camillo Hernandez was the top finisher in the Division 1 AIA State Wrestling Championship in Prescott Valley, February 8-9. He made it to the semi-finals of the 145-pound class, but lost 4-2 in that match, to finish his season at 35-8. Chavez, which had eight wrestlers qualify for state, finished 20th in the team standings with 26 points.
March 7

Cesar Chavez will lead a contingent of five Phoenix Union schools to the 40-school Arizona Academic Decathlon, March 9-10 at ASU West. Chavez won the 27-school Region II Decathlon for the third consecutive year, February 2-3. The Champions ran away from the competition at the regional, winning by almost 6,500 points ahead of second place Basis Peoria, and Boulder Creek. Their winning point total of over 42,000 was the third-highest recorded in the state among the four regions. Chavez has finished fourth in State the past two years. Earlier this year, the Champions beat defending champion Canyon del Oro, so they will be among the elite at State.

Social Studies Teacher William Kibler has been the coach since 2005. During that span, Cesar Chavez has qualified for state 12 straight years, and finished in the top 10 at state seven times in the past eight years (two 9th place, three 7th place and two 4th place).

The Cesar Chavez girls varsity wrestling team captured their second consecutive state team championship at Camp Verde High School, March 3. The tournament hosted all the schools in the state of Arizona. The Champions were led by senior and team captain Mykyla Black who won her second state championship at 130 pounds.

Third place winners were Yessenia Martinez 126 lbs.; Lorna Baker, 147 lbs.; Heidi Reyes, 152 lbs.; Alizay Morales at 130 lbs.; and Jonnel Bennet, 126 lbs. were fourth place finishers.

Ty Ty Washington was named the 6A Metro Region Boys Basketball Player of the Year. His Coach, Gary Lee was the Coach of the Year. Lee was also named the All-Phoenix Union Coach of the Year. Ricardo Sarmiento joined Washington on the All-Region First Team. In the Girls All-Reigon, Zenysah Medina was the Metro Player of the Year.

Athletic Trainer Kevin Graff has to work during Spring Break, but it is quite an opportunity. He will be the trainer for the U15 Girls Olympic Development Team in Glasgow, Scotland, March 10-18. The girls will be playing several international matches there.

March 21

Cesar Chavez again showed that they are among the state’s elite in Academic Decathlon, finishing 5th in the Arizona Academic Decathlon, March 9-10 at ASU West. Chavez has finished 5th or better in the last three years, and have finished in the top 10 at state eight times in the past nine years. The Champions finished above schools such as BASIS Peoria, BASIS Chandler and Seton Catholic. Canyon Del Oro, a team Chavez beat earlier in the season in a scrimmage, finished first, followed by Hamilton, Mountain View Mesa and Westwood.

Cesar Chavez High School
Chavez had several top scorers, including Sam Porter, 4th overall in Scholastic division, and Sabrina Gallardo, 4th overall in Varsity division. Barbara Martinez was 8th in Scholastic and Clara Martinez was 8th in Varsity. Tina Chen finished 14th best in Scholastic and Kevin Chen was 12th in Varsity division. The Champions also won the Super Quiz team event to close out the competition.

Gold medal winners included Gallardo in Art, Tina Chen in Scholastic Social Studies, and brother Kevin Chen in Varsity Social Studies.

Other Chavez Medalists were Porter, silver Art and bronze-Math; Gallardo, silver-Music; Tina Chen, silver-Music and bronze-Science.

April 11

Cesar Chavez Senior pitcher Brianna Celaya was perfect April 5 against Maryvale. The senior sat down all 15 batters she faced in throwing a 5-inning perfect game against the Panthers. She had 14 strike-outs and no walks and only allowed one ball in play, an infield pop-up in the 3rd inning. It was the first no-hitter in Celaya’s career.

May 9

Freshman Uzuri Graves finished 3rd in the Javelin at the Girls Division I Arizona Track and Field Championships, May 5.

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The Cesar Chavez Drumline competed in its first indoor drumline championships, last month at ASU. The Champions came in 3rd overall, and placed first for Best Music.

The next day, April 8, they were invited to march with Phoenix Vice Mayor and PUHSD Governing Board member Laura Pastor to march in the Phoenix Pride Parade.

And just this week, senior Josue Morales was offered and accepted a snare drum spot on the ASU Drum line.
Around Our Schools

Franklin Police & Fire High School

1645 W. McDowell Road Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-764-0200
www.phoenixunion.org/franklin

Founded: 2007
Colors: Blue/Red
Mascot: Thunderbirds

Franklin Police & Fire High School 2017-2018
**Around Our Schools**
Franklin Police and Fire
2017-18

**September 20**

Franklin Police and Fire showed improvement in five of six AzMERIT exams taken last Spring, and had gains of 19 points in 9th Grade English Language Arts (ELA), 46 in 9th grade Algebra, 15 in 11th Grade Algebra, and +9 and +8 in 10th ELA and 10th Geometry, respectively. Franklin students surpassed the state average in five exams, as well.

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Franklin will partner with Phoenix Fire and Phoenix Police Departments to host a community event on Saturday, September 23 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event will feature free food, music, free raffle items, giveaways, child vaccinations, job recruiting and much more. Exhibits will be presented by a variety of agencies. In addition, Franklin students will be performing demonstrations to give the community an inside look on the different training they receive at Franklin.

Community partners are Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Grand Canyon University, Valley Hispanic Bomberos, Phoenix Fire Department, Phoenix Police Department, PBS, College Depot, Red Cross, and Native Health.

**December 6**

Law enforcement students were invited to attend two first-time events. First, all seniors attended the FBI Teen Academy on November 14. It was a day filled with presentations and practical hands-on sessions. On December 5, the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Northern Arizona University hosted the first ever DPS/NAU experience at DPS headquarters. About 70 local high school students attended the event. The emphasis was higher education and career opportunities within DPS, both professional and sworn. Ten juniors represented Franklin.

**January 17, 2018**

Franklin doesn’t have a football team, but it now has an alumnus who has been signed to a Division I football program. **Manuel Orona**, who graduated from Franklin in 2016, and played football for Trevor Browne, has signed a letter of intent to attend Memphis State. The offensive lineman played two years at Glendale Community College after high school.

Orona was a student in the firefighting program at Franklin and competed on the school’s state champion fire muster team. He has a younger brother and sister who attend Franklin.
January 24

Franklin doesn’t have a football team, but it now has an alumnus who has been signed to a Division I football program. **Manuel Orona**, who graduated from Franklin in 2016, and played football for Trevor Browne, has signed a letter of intent to attend Memphis State. The offensive lineman played two years at Glendale Community College after high school.

Orona was a student in the firefighting program at Franklin and competed on the school’s state champion fire muster team. He has a younger brother and sister who attend Franklin.

April 25

Franklin Police and Fire High School repeated as Fire Muster Champions at the 15th Annual Arizona High School Fire Science Muster competition in Peoria, April 21. The competition tests the students’ basic firefighting skills in seven events. Franklin had five teams competing, among the 35 tams from 10 schools across the state. The team of **Christian Simmons, Mark Gutierrez, Josh Javier, Jorge Verdugo, Christian Cota, Gabriel Mora, Miguel Serrano, Angel Sandoval, Alberto Melendrez, and Fernando Flores** brought home the title for the third consecutive year. In the girls division, the Thunderbirds fielded two teams, but after winning the state title five years in a row, a team from Peoria beat them this year.

The fire muster competition is a timed contest testing the skills of donning turnouts (protective fire clothes and gear) putting on the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), securing a water source from a fire hydrant, advancing a fire attack hose line, performing a rescue drag of a 165-pound mannequin, and two new events: the fire equipment carry, and the forcible entry, where competitors simulate breaking through a (prop) door to make entry into a structure.

This was also the first year of the “Gladiator” competition where one student makes a solo run of the entire course. **Daniel Le** represented Franklin, but was edged out by a student from Peoria High School for first place.

**Richard Verduzco**, a fire instructor, is the Franklin coach.
Around Our Schools

Maryvale High School

Maryvale High School
2017-2018

3415 N. 59th Ave Phoenix, Arizona 85033
602-764-2000
www.phoenixunion.org/maryvale

Founded: 1963
Colors: Black/Gold
Mascot: Panthers
Maryvale High School 2017-2018
Maryvale High School
Around Our Schools
Maryvale
2017-18

August 30, 2017

Maryvale High School completed its first year of implementing virtual learning during its Evening School Opportunities (ESO) program, with 76% of the students obtaining their credits. About 891 students completed ESO at Maryvale during the 2016-2017 school year; of those students, 471 credits were earned by seniors, which allowed them to graduate. Maryvale utilized Edgenuity, which is a rigorous virtual learning program that individualizes the classes to best meet students’ needs and allow students to recover credits from classes they either failed, did not complete or were unable to take due to scheduling conflicts. The ESO teaching staff set a high standard of accountability by maintaining that students earn a 70% on assessments with 100% completion of the course.

September 6

Maryvale went big for the District’s Moment of Peace and Unity event, September 1. Students lined up and joined hands on the running track, while students gave speeches and poems from the middle of the field. Jacqueline Suarez and Leslie Reyes of student government read impassioned messages, and Alaiza Lopez performed a poem she had written for the occasion. Students listened to inspirational sound bites from famous folks over the loudspeakers, interspersed with music as they entered the stadium and upon leaving. The whole event, which included dozens of water stations in the 100-degree heat, lasted some 20 minutes, with students and staff moving with the precision of a well-trained army. State Senator Martin Quezada came out to watch the spectacle. Several staff members took photos and video, including coverage from a drone, high overhead.

September 27

The Maryvale Girls Cross Country team beat everyone but the three-time State Champions at the Doug Conley Cross Country Invitational, September 23. The Panthers finished second to Desert Vista in a field that included nearly 60 teams. The team is Ariz Duarte; Janet Chavez; Mia Avelar; Julieta Aviles and Angel Tapia. Duarte finished 7th, Chavez, 8th and Avelar, 13th.

October 25

The Maryvale girls won the Phoenix Union Cross Country Championships for the fourth straight year. All five girls- Ariz Duarte, Janet Chavez, Mia Avelar, Anette Carrasco, and Julieta Aviles finished in the top ten.

Angel Tapia and Mia Avelar both took home trophies for being the fastest ninth grader. Maryvale also took home the trophy for Combined Team Champions for the second time in three years.
The path to State Championships goes through Cesar Chavez Park, October 27, at the 2017 Cross Country Sectionals.

November 1

Both the boys and girls cross country teams qualified for the Division I State Championships, with their performances at the Sectional Meet, October 27. The Maryvale girls placed second as a team, and Janet Chavez finished second individually. Mia Avelar was 8th. The Boys were the last team to qualify, finishing 8th in the 15-team field, with Angel Tapia at 23rd, recording the best Panther finish in the 100-runner race. The Championship races are November 4 at Cave Creek Golf Course.

November 8

Valeria Salcido will be honored as the Female High School Student of the Year, at the Phoenix Indian Center’s Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards event, November 14 at the Scottsdale Resort. Salcido, is a member of the Tohono O’odham community. She is a senior, the school’s student body vice-president, and a youth leader. This annual recognition celebrates individuals and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership to the advancement, promotion and developments of the cultural, educational social, economic or political welfare of the American Indian Community in Arizona.

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Longtime librarian Jean Kilker will give the welcome to Arizona speech to open the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) national convention in Phoenix, November 9. Kilker is the chair of the Teacher-Librarian Division of the Arizona Library Association. She is getting a little help from her students, who put together a series of welcome messages in a video displaying the District’s diversity. The students were videotaped in the Maryvale library, holding books about Arizona. Kilker has been with PUHSD for 43 years, was the District’s first librarian to earn National Board Certification, and she was named the Arizona Library Association Librarian of the Year in 2007.

November 15

Former Maryvale student Jazmen Marie Banks was crowned Miss Black Arizona, November 4. Banks, who graduated in 2015, was a member of the speech and debate team, and it came in handy. Her talent for the pageant was a poetry interpretation of the poem, “Paper People.” She competed for Maryvale in poetry interpretation, programed interpretation and duo Interpretation. She was also a cheerleader for the Panthers. Banks completed her certified nursing assistant program before she graduated, and she is currently working at Barrows Neurological Institute ICU unit at St. Joseph’s Hospital. She is attending Rio Salado and is a private caregiver, as well. Banks also attended real estate school and is working on getting her real estate license. The National Miss Black Arizona competition will be in Washington, D.C. in August.

Maryvale High School
The Maryvale Mariachi Panteras de Oro group was selected by the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA) Board to perform at the 2018 Arizona Music Educators Association State In-service Convention at the Mesa Convention Center in February. The convention performance will be attended by music educators and administrators from across the state. The group, led by Maryvale Band Director Mike Dominguez, has performed across the state, and recently recorded their music. There is also a class with 20 students enrolled. The Maryvale Mariachi will also perform at the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Conference in December, hosted by PUHSD Athletic Director Dr. Zack Munoz, Arizona’s state association president.

Maryvale Principal Manuel Silvas has been named the Central Arizona Theatre Administrator of the Year. Silvas earned this award for his support of Theatre Arts by facilitating the hiring of a second theatre teacher, renovating the theatre room to accommodate small performances, helping start a CTE technical theatre program and according to Patrick Shanahan, Maryvale theatre teacher, “just overall eliminating barriers for our department.” He receive the award at the Phoenix Convention Center, November 17, front of thousands of theatre students and hundreds of theatre educators at the annual Arizona Thespian Festival.

“In a time when the Performing Arts are on the top of school’s budget cutting list, it is refreshing to find administrators who can see how the Performing Arts are an important part of a well-rounded school program. It has come to the attention of the Executive Board of the Arizona Thespians that you are one of those Administrators,” AIA and Thespian board co-director Steve Abaroa said.

November 22

Maryvale’s Luis Camacho was a silver medalist in the Honors division at the Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon, November 17-18. He also won gold in science and essay, and was named the outstanding overall essayist. Maryvale also finished tied for second with Mountain View in the super quiz relay.

November 29

The Maryvale varsity football team and Coach George Martinez were picked for the 2017 Sportsmanship Award for the 6A Conference by the Arizona Football Officials Association.

“After the conclusion of games during the season, officials provided feedback in several areas used in the selection of recipients for this award which is presented to one school in each division who displays exemplary sportsmanship during the season,” wrote the association.
The award will be presented during one of the AIA Football State Championship games at the University of Arizona Stadium, December 2.

December 13

Jean Kilker, Maryvale Teacher-Librarian, received a grant for $6,500 from the American Library Association for its initiative “Libraries Ready to Code.” The Libraries Ready to Code program is to design tool kits that any library can use. School libraries are a hub for digital design, coding and computational thinking. The grant will fund technology hardware and software. The target audience is Maryvale’s Child Development classes which conduct a preschool. Kilker will work with those students and any Maryvale student. The focus is teaching coding and computational thinking to the high school students who in turn will design computational thinking activities for preschool age children. Topics for the preschoolers include through play: sequencing, logic, anticipating and rectifying errors, and coding vocabulary. The program will also focus on reading, creativity, and hands-on robotics and software programs.

December 20

The Maryvale varsity cheer team has video-qualified for The United Spirit Association Spirit Nationals in the large co-ed varsity show cheer division. The Panthers will travel to Anaheim to compete, February 23-25. This is the third time in four years that Maryvale has qualified for this competition.

January 24, 2018

Maryvale’s Spiritline won the AIA Co-Ed Division I Spiritline Championship, January 20 for Partner Stunts. The competition was held at Chase Field.

Maryvale special education teacher Gerald Neal received a big check, January 23, from KTAR Radio. He was selected as this month’s Tribute to a Teacher awardee. Larry Gaydos of KTAR’s Mac and Gaydos Show presented the $1,000 check. Neal was nominated by Maryvale paraprofessional Carla Esparza. The check was made out to Neal, but he donated it to Panthertown (the school’s diversity club that he runs.) Mac and Gaydos also interviewed him on air with questions about his teaching, before presenting the award.

January 31

Maryvale has a new potter’s wheel for their ceramics classes, and they can thank senior Esmeralda Sanchez for it. She competed in the “Rock of Clayages” event at Marjon Ceramics, January 27, placing in two events, she earned tickets to a drawing and won a new potter’s wheel, valued at $1500. Sanchez placed 3rd in the “Widest Cymbol,” taking 10-pounds of clay and creating a large
bowl (meant to be in the shape of a drum cymbol.) She placed 2nd in the two-person “Duet” event, in which two people “throw” one pot at the same time with the largest piece winning. She and her partner made a large vase. Ressa Mazzocoli is the Maryvale ceramics teacher.

Maryvale’s Intermediate, Advanced and Production Theatre Classes performed in the Central Arizona Acting Festival, January 27. Four of the ensembles and one of the monologues received ratings of “Excellent.” Chrystal Navarro, a sophomore, received Maryvale’s only “Superior” rating this year for her monologue performance and was only one point away from a perfect score. Navarro is under the direction of Anabel Olguin, Maryvale’s newest Theatre teacher, who is also a Phoenix Union alumnus, a graduate of Alhambra High School.

February 7

Maryvale’s Academic Decathlon team placed 4th in the Region II Decathlon, February 2-3 and the Panthers will advance to the state decathlon, March 9-10 at ASU West, joining 39 other schools. Luis Camacho was the second highest individual scorer in the 27-team event. He won gold in Honors social science, language and literature, and art and silver in science. Aiyana Navarrette won gold in Scholastic speech and won the Outstanding Overall Speech and Vivian Nguyen took silver in Scholastic science.

The Panthers also placed third in the Super Quiz Relay, behind Cesar Chavez and Basis Peoria.

The Maryvale Mariachi gigging band, Marichia Panteas de Oro was selected to perform at the Arizona Music Educators Association, this Saturday, February 3 at the Mesa Convention Center.

This is only the third time in 20 years that an instrumental group in Phoenix Union has been selected to perform. (The other two groups also came from Maryvale!)

In order to be selected for one of these performances, the director must submit a recording of three songs. The judges listen to ensembles submissions from all over the state of Arizona to pick their line-up of groups for this conference. There are typically only 5-10 groups selected each year for performances. This is the first time they have ever had a Mariachi Band perform.

The Maryvale Mariachi ensemble began seven years ago and up until 2015 was primarily a class that performed at campus activities and bi-annual concerts. In 2015, under the direction of Mike Dominguez, Mariachi Panteras de Oro was created. The founding members of the group not only created the name of the ensemble, but they were also responsible for creating a logo and branding themselves as a fully functioning Mariachi Ensemble.

The Mariachi class offered at Maryvale provides students with the opportunity to learn about different styles of music that Mariachis perform, without any experience of playing in a mariachi. The students from the Mariachi class have the opportunity to audition for a spot in the Mariachi
Panteras de Oro. This elite group of students is responsible for representing Maryvale High School as musical ambassadors in the community.

Mariachi Panteras de Oro have performed for: Arizona School Board Association; Arizona Latino School Board Association; American Heart Association; National Athletics Directors Conference; Arizona State Senate; Representative Cesar Chavez; City of Phoenix Cinco de Mayo celebration; Palo Alto Public Library Hispanic Heritage Event; ASU Dia de Los Ninos; Maricopa Community College Commencement; Phoenix Union Foundation for Education Scholarship Dinner; Desert Broom Library; Pueblo Grande Museum; Creighton School District; Cartwright School District; community parties, quinceañeros and weddings.

February 14

Maryvale choir members had a successful trip to the NAU Jazz/Madrigal Festival in Flagstaff, February 10. The Intermediate Cantabile Womens Choir received their third “Excellent,” rating of the year, and the Advanced Bella Voce Women’s Choir received the highest score in every category for the second year in a row, a “Superior” in every category.

“These amazing young women performed with beauty and power and look forward to their next competition in Seattle, WA, April 7,” choir director Amanda Taylor said.

February 21

Talk about a field trip. Dozens of history students from Maryvale are going to see the play, Hamilton, Friday, February 23, as part of the Hamilton Education Program, and it is only going to cost them $10 per ticket. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, thanks to a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, made this opportunity available for Title I (low income) students in cities where Hamilton is playing. Schools applied in June, and teachers guided the students through a class project introducing them to the people, events and documents of the Hamilton era, including how Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda incorporated primary sources into the songs. One project included creating original lyrics. Rodrigo Alvarado Sevilla, an AP US History student is doing a rap called “The Boston Tea Party.”

There will be an educational component in the morning, and the performance will be in the afternoon at ASU’s Gammage Auditorium.

March 7

It is Spring Break March 12-16, and that means another amazing trip for the Maryvale Touring Guitar Ensemble, under the direction James Yancey. This time, the students will travel 9,613 miles to Cape Town, South Africa. They will be in concert, March 16 at the Central Methodist Mission. The group has been featured in concerts in Vienna, Rome, Peru, and throughout the U.S.

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Maryvale High School
The High School Nation Music and Art Tour came to Maryvale, March 5. The tour brought many interactive zones, musical entertainment, and giveaways.

“Our students were able to experience music and art in a very unique, hands-on way. In addition, this foundation is going to donate $10,000 in music and art supplies to Maryvale, just for hosting this event,” English teacher and Student Government Advisor Aileen Galaz said.

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Students from Maryvale and Camelback welcomed the C-SPAN Bus to campus, March 6 as the network’s road show continued its 50 state capitals tour to celebrate 25 years on the air. The bus showcases its public service resources and is interviewing state elected officials throughout the tour, and gathering video responses from visitors about issues that are important in their state. The next morning it was at the Capitol featuring Arizona elected officials during C-SPAN’s morning program, Washington Journal.

March 28

The Maryvale Earth Club submitted an application for funding up to $2500 for their community garden to Recyclebank.com/Green Schools, a program that encourages students to make a difference in their communities, promoting environmental education, innovation and creative solutions. The main objective of the school garden is to establish a sustainable outlet for students and staff to appreciate the elements of urban gardening by incorporating collaborative project planning within academic subjects and grade levels.

The top 50 programs were placed on the Green Schools Program website, where members could donate their Recyclebank points. For every 250 points donated to a school’s project, $1 was added to the grant. Twenty-five schools were selected nationwide for grants, but Maryvale was the only Arizona school. And while some schools set a goal of $500, Maryvale went for the maximum amount. The Earth Club promoted the grant contest to friends, family and community members and reached their $2500 goal and will receive a check to fund their projects. The school will have a presentation in May.

April 11

Maryvale High School will have a new principal next year. Principal Manuel Silvas has been selected to become a Talent Director at the District Office for the 2018-19 school year. Principal candidates have been interviewed, and four finalists will have the opportunity to participate in a Community Forum, Tuesday, April 17, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Maryvale Auditorium.

Silvas became principal of Maryvale in October of 2015. He was an assistant principal at South Mountain and Trevor Browne prior to that assignment and served as dean for three years at Carl Hayden. He was an administrator at Wilson Elementary and taught math and science in the Creighton District prior to coming to Phoenix Union.
April 25

Maryvale High School will welcome a new principal for the 2018-19 school year, but she won’t be new to the school. Shakira Simmons takes the reins at Maryvale, succeeding Manual Silvas, who will become a Talent Director for Phoenix Union.

Simmons joined Phoenix Union and Maryvale last year as Assistant Principal for Instruction, and she was a principal (2015-2017) and vice-principal (2014-15) at Pendergast Elementary School District. She has a background in special education, both in the private sector and as a teacher and coach at Pendergast and Deer Valley School Districts, since 2005. She has a Bachelor’s in Education-Elementary and Special Education from Northern Arizona University, and two Masters: School Counseling from Ottawa University and Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University.

Silvas became Principal of Maryvale in October of 2015. He was an Assistant Principal at South Mountain and Trevor Browne prior to that assignment and served as dean for three years at Carl Hayden. He was an administrator at Wilson Elementary and taught math and science in the Creighton District prior to coming to Phoenix Union.

Simmons will start her new position, July 1.

May 9

Maryvale’s Mawata Lucky Demaih placed second in both the Division I Girls 100 meter and 400 meters at the State Track and Field Championships, May 5. Teammate Ariz Duarte was 8th in the 800 as the Panthers scored 17 points to finish 13th in the team standings. Demaih finished 11th in the 800 prelims, failing to qualify for the finals in that event. Duarte qualified for the championship in the javelin, and Adolfo Cano finished 11th in the discus and 14th in the shot put.

May 16

As memorable as it was for 41 Phoenix Union students who attended the 2018 DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta last month, it was a rush of memories for Steve Johnson, the DECA advisor from Maryvale who was recognized with a "Years of Service to DECA" award for 40 years, during the closing awards session. He is retiring this year.

Johnson, a Minnesota native, began his teaching career in 1976 and for the last 25 years he has been at Maryvale, where he has taught Marketing Education, supervised on-the-job training (Cooperative Ed), General Business, Keyboarding, Typing, Consumer Math, and CTE 1 to freshman.

He has also coached football, freshmen and JV basketball, softball, cross country and track. Johnson has also coordinated the Maryvale Student of the Month program the last 20 years.

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Maryvale put on its first-ever Career and Technical Education (CTE) Expo, May 11. The expo was a Disney-themed fashion show with original designs and creations by Amanda Jacob’s Fashion 3-4 students. The fashion show was a CTE collaborative effort with four different CTE programs contributing. The lights and music were designed and run by students in Patrick Shanahan’s Technical Theatre class, the food for the V.I.P. section was created and served by Adrian Lamos’ Culinary students, and the event was documented by Jacob Dunklee’s Video Journalism class. The expo, which was sold out, was a great display of CTE real world application.

Maryvale teachers will get a well-deserved, end of the year treat when the Million Dollar Teacher Project recognizes educators with a prize package, food and appreciation at Peter Piper Pizza, May 22. The Feel like a Million Dollars celebrates schools where students and staff vote, and one teacher will be awarded the Green Owl prize package, valued at over $1,000. The Million Dollar Teacher Project began in 2016 by Lloyd Hopkins, who worked in the Alhambra School District. His organization supports teachers and education by increased recognition, compensation and support and where every student is taught by a highly trained, qualified, understanding and engaged teacher.
Around Our Schools

Metro Tech High School

1900 W. Thomas Road Phoenix, Arizona 85015
602-764-8000
www.phoenixunion.org/metrotech

Founded: 1985
Colors: Maroon/Gray
Mascot: Knights
Metro Tech High School 2017-2018
Around Our Schools
Metro Tech
2017-18

August 16

Principal Bryan Reynoso was named the Phoenix Union Administrator of the Year at the Opening of Schools Convocation. Reynoso has been at Phoenix Union as teacher and administrator for 33 years, and his educational experience goes back 38 years. His school is unique, but one that has changed its brand from a vocational school to a college and career-ready school. Metro Tech is famous for its early enrollment, waiting list, and this year, a lottery, to determine its freshman class. Even as the school is growing into a comprehensive-sized campus, its excellence has remained high. This year its seniors had the most scholarships offered, ever—over $6 million. The school had the highest FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion rate among PUHSD schools and its students applied for the most colleges and universities in last fall’s College Application Campaign. The school is regularly recognized in U.S. News and World Report’s ranking of Top High Schools. It was called the “Safest High School in Phoenix” by one on-line publication. Its most recent four-year graduation rate is 96% and its dropout rate is 2-tenths of one percent. As the school evolves, it now has music, drama, and many interscholastic sports. This year, Reynoso decided to renew a prestigious designation a year early, and continued as an Arizona Education Foundation A-Plus School, one of only eight high schools in Arizona.

The best deal in town for cosmetology services is at Metro Tech High School’s Protégé College of Cosmetology, one of over 30 Career and Technical Education programs at the school. The salon is open Tuesday through Friday, 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Haircuts are $6, and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, you can get two for $6. Clipper cutting; waxing; hair color; facials; manicures; pedicures and perms are also offered. All work is supervised by licensed instructors. No appointment is necessary. Protégé is located off Thomas, just west of 19th Avenue on the Metro Tech campus. The phone number is (602) 764-8057.

August 30

Metro Tech students had a signing party, August 25, pledging to class themes. Freshmen pledged to “Start Strong,” sophomores to “Be Strong”, juniors to “Stay Strong,” and seniors to “Finish Strong.” The banners will be posted in a common area as a reminder to the students. Assistant principal Dan Dodge heard about the idea from a school back east and thought it was a great way to encourage the different classes to be true to their class slogan.

Metro Tech Assistant Principal for Student Success Keith Brazier will be honored with the JV Educational Leadership Award for providing outstanding leadership within the area of Student Support Services in Academics for 2017. His nomination focused on educational and enthusiastic technique, contribution to student retention, and dedication to his discipline through scholarly
advancements, according to the company, which is an educational consulting firm. He will receive his honor at the 15th Annual Male of Color Empowerment and Retention Conference on October 26.

September 6
The Greater Chamber of Commerce and its Phoenix Forward initiative, held a Workforce Programs tour today with Phoenix Union. The topic was Construction Trades. The group began at the Linda Abril Educational Academy, and concluded with a tour of Metro Tech’s construction program and welding program. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson and Metro Tech Principal Bryon Reynoso spoke, along with Chamber President Todd Sanders and Senator Steve Smith. A student panel of Metro construction students answered questions from Sanders and the audience. Construction is one of the focus areas of Phoenix Forward, because of the shortage of skilled workers.

September 13
Metro Tech alumni Natalie Torres, Cande Duran, and Ashley Salazar, along with teacher/advisor Bob Marquis were announced as nominees for the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences National Student Production Awards, also known as the Emmys. Nominees were selected from high school student entries across the country in 23 programming and craft categories. National winners will be announced at the awards presentation, which will be live-streamed October 3 from Los Angeles.

The three Metro girls produced commercial, called “Workplace Etiquette Video.” These students advanced after winning a Rocky Mountain/Southwest Chapter Emmy.

Over 200 young professionals, from 19 regional chapters of the NATAS were narrowed down from 1,500 entries by judges selected from industry professionals to advance to the national competition.

Phoenix Union High School District employees strive to instill six core values-compassionate, collaborative, committed, courageous, creative and conscious. At Metro Tech, the administration is celebrating examples of those with “traveling trophies,” to its employees. For teachers, English teacher Cassandra Villegas earned Committed; English teacher Erika Harvey, Collaborative; and PR/Health teacher Nick Malko, Compassionate. Maintenance/Campus Operations worker Gilbert Enriquez earned the Committed Trophy.

The school also selected the Professional Learning Community of the Month to the Exceptional Student Services Vocational program, and members James Irvine-Business Prep; John Snyder-Horticulture; LaCholla Caraway-General Tech and Dennis Bullino-Commercial Building Maintenance.
October 4

Two years ago, Natalie Torres of the Metro Tech Digital Film department and a couple of classmates submitted a video for a Career and Technical Education (CTE) contest, and this week, she won an Emmy at the National Student Production Awards for her production.

Torres, Cande Duran and Ashley Salazar, now alumni of Metro Tech (Class of 2016), were the only Arizonans to win the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences award in the Commercial category for “Workplace Etiquette.” The awards honor student productions from across the country.

The piece initially won a video contest and Arizona CTE teachers used the video to address the workplace and employability standards. The CTE Arizona Curriculum Consortium liked the piece so much that they hired Torres part-time.

The trio won a Rocky Mountain Emmy Student Production Award last October, and the work was nominated for the national award. Over 200 students were nominated from the 19 regional chapters of the NATAS and selected by industry professionals and university professors to advance to the national competition.

South Mountain graduate Amanda Salemeh was also nominated for a national award for a video essay.

Bob Marquis, Metro Tech’s Digital Film teacher was also recognized. He watched the live streaming presentation from Los Angeles with Torres and Duran at school, October 3. Tom Bergeron (Dancing with The Stars) hosted the event, and nominees were announced with pre-recorded message from television personalities such as Nancy O’Dell and Kevin Frazier (ET), Sharon Osbourne (The Talk), Pat Sajak and Vanna White (Wheel of Fortune) and Whoopi Goldberg.

“Metro Tech High School (and Phoenix Union) now has an Emmy Student Production Award under our belt. Natalie, Ashley, and Cande are making us proud,” Marquis said.

“The recognition of these talented young men and women in one of the most important things the Academy does,” said Bob Mauro, President & CEO, NATAS. “It is in the hands of these honorees that we will entrust the future of our great industry, and by the level of talent seen here, we’re on the way to a very bright tomorrow.”

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A makeover of The Shop at Metro Tech took place over the summer and is ready for a Grand Opening, October 17 with the help of the Diamondbacks. Originally, the domain of the Floral Design program, The Shop allows all groups and classes on campus to sell items in a gift shop environment. The Shop is operated by the students in Jen Colvin’s Small Business Operations & Floral Design classes, and sells balloons, stuffed animals, gift items and plants from the Horticulture department.

Metro Tech High School
The class purchased a floral display cooler with a $5,000 grant they won from the Arizona Diamondback School Challenge last May. In honor of the grant, they will hold a Grand Opening, in which floral vendors and representatives of the Diamondbacks will attend, to see how their donation enhanced the program.

The program teaches small business operations while using The Shop as a business model, Colvin says.

“The students in this program have a real world experience by not only designing the flowers and arrangements that go into our new D-backs floral cooler, but also by deciding on the day to day operations of The Shop. They do cost analysis to determine how much our products will be for sale. They do advertising/marketing to make sure customers know what is available. Each of my students have filled out job applications, written resumes, and were interviewed for the various jobs available in this class. We have managers, asst. managers, cashiers, sales, marketing, designers, and delivery positions which have all been filled. Each class works as a team to make The Shop run smoothly, stay clean, and has the products that our customers want, all while being successful! We are constantly busy and trending in the floral/small business industry,” Colvin said.

Colvin has taught for two years, following a career of 23 years in the floral industry and a business owner for 11 years. She has served on the AZ State Florists Association board, as well as the Advisory board council for the Arts & Flowers program at the Phoenix Art Museum before choosing to become a teacher last year.

“I absolutely love it. I have some amazing goals for this program in the coming years and look forward to making them all happen,” Colvin said.

**October 25**

Metro Tech will hold its annual Fall Garden Festival and Community Celebration, Saturday, October 28, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.in association with the University of Arizona Master Gardeners. There will be plants for sale, a rummage sale, food, fresh produce, arts and crafts, music, games and activities, a silent auction, and Master Gardener presentations. Over 20 Metro clubs will participate.

**November 1**

The Metro Tech Weightlifting club hosted a Regional Weightlifting Competition, October 26, Six Metro Tech girls competed, and two, Yuliana Lopez and Lesly Martinez set state records in Olympic Lifting. Lopez in 69 kilogram (152 lbs.)-weight class, set the records in Clean Jerk at 63kg (138 lbs) and Snatch at 45kg (99 lbs.) Martinez competed in the 63 kg (138 lbs.) weight class and set marks in the Clean and Jerk, 63 kg and Snatch of 35 kg (77 lbs.) Their coach is math teacher and national champion weightlifter Dina Medina.
Senior Yamileth Martinez was one of four Arizona winners of the Girl’s Rule Foundation. She received a check for $500 which she is putting toward her education. Girls Rule Foundation is an Arizona nnonprofit organization that is a leader in empowerment and leadership programs for girls ages 12-18. Its programs help girls learn the social, emotional and leadership skills they need to thrive to become our next generation of leaders in the industry or role they pursue.

November 15

MetroTech’s Future Business of America Leaders and Student Government spent Veterans Day with the residents of the Arizona State Veterans Home to ensure they were honored and remembered for their service. Over 100 students donated eight hours of their time Saturday helping set the celebration up, decorating, escorting the residents to a concert and enjoying a barbeque with them. Students also accompanied the Veteran’s to the parade in their honor. Metro Tech, for the past 15 years, has made this an annual tradition with alumni even returning to help. Debbie Cross, a retiree and originator of the event, was busy facilitating as usual.

November 22

Metro Tech Small Business/Floral students had a real world experience, helping a celebrity florist design the 58th Annual “Heart Ball” at the Phoenician Resort, November 18. The “Heart Ball” is a huge fundraiser for the American Heart Association that attracts some of the most prominent people in Arizona.

“I was contacted by Jose Graterol Designs in Florida to see if I had any students available to work a huge event they were in town for,” teacher Jen Colvin said. “I was so excited that my students were able to use some of their skills they have already learned in the Small Business Operations/Floral class and truly got the real world experience that our CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs hope for. It truly was an opportunity of a lifetime.”

Graterol was extremely impressed with Metro Tech’s Floral students and invited them to work with him on future events here in town. He will also be making a special visit to Metro Tech to talk to the Business/Floral students in a few weeks.

“He has a fascinating story of how he came from Valenzuela as an immigrant with nothing, learned English on the streets of Florida, and found a job at a local florist before making it big on his own. Jose was very humble and kind and treated his entire staff, including our students, like family members,” Colvin said.

Metro Tech was named the Most Improved School at the Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon, November 17-18. The Knights jumped 8,419 points from last year to this year.
December 6

Three Metro Tech students were recipients of the Phoenix Regional Hispanic Heritage (HHF) Youth Awards, honored for their leadership in the classroom and community. The ceremony took place, November 30 at the Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Campus. Estefanía Marie Torres for Business & Entrepreneurship; Cecy Abigail Mendoza for Technology, and Gisselle Beltran for Healthcare & Science all won silver awards.

The Phoenix event is one of 10 regional events in the U.S. Youth Awardees will receive grants for their education or to fund an idea or community project. Recipients will be mentored by past Youth Awardees as they prepare for college and career through the HHF’s LOFT (Latinos on Fast Track workforce development program. Regional Youth Awardees will be narrowed to one National Youth Award recipient for each of the seven categories.

December 13

Three Metro Tech students won this year’s Congressional App Challenge, Congressman Ruben Gallego 7th Congressional district, announced December 7. The App Challenge is a competition that encourages high school students from across the United States to create their own mobile applications.

Metro Tech High School seniors Edgar Alvarez, Jesus Hernandez, and Niyonkuru Pamphile won first place for their app, titled “American Trivia.”

“American Trivia” will be displayed on the Congressional App Challenge website and will be exhibited on a digital display in the Capitol Building for a year.

The students created the app as a part of a Game and App Development class, a Career and Technical Education course. The students designed the functional, fun and user-friendly app using JavaScript in Code.org’s App Lab.

“The user is prompted with a variety of questions about American history, some are basic, some are kind of off-the-wall. The user earns points for correct answers and loses tries if they get it wrong. After they have missed three questions, the game presents the user's score and they can choose to play again,” teacher Chad Renning said.

“I want to congratulate Edgar, Jesus and Nyonkuru, the winners of this year’s Congressional App Challenge,” said Rep. Ruben Gallego. “Coding takes creativity and hard work, and I was thoroughly impressed by the entries submitted by the talented students in our district. These students have a bright future ahead of them, and will help create the technology that will change our world.”
“These three young men will be successful in any career they choose,” Renning said. “They all have a desire to learn, are self-motivated and work hard – not to mention they are extremely smart. I can’t wait to see what else they create.”

The winners were chosen by a team of judges selected from throughout Arizona’s 7th Congressional district. The judges included engineers from Intel, Honeywell, GKN Aerospace and the Society of Hispanic Engineers, and general manager of Galvanize.

The annual Congressional App Challenge highlights the value of computer science and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. This was the first year that students from Arizona’s 7th Congressional district submitted entries to the competition.

**December 20**

Mark Moore became a part of Metro Tech High School in 2011. During a visit to Metro Tech, he shared the wonderful story of his mother, Annalee Moore, who worked as the bookstore manager when Metro Tech was West High School. He told us of a woman who was hardworking, kind, and generous. She never missed an opportunity to help and care for West High’s most vulnerable students in need. In honor of his mother, Moore started the Annalee Memorial Fund. This memorial fund honors Annalee and her legacy of kindness and generosity.

Through the Annalee Memorial Fund and at the direction of the principal, the Fund has provided cosmetology kits; paid for books lost in a house fire; relieved the burden of unpaid debts for seniors whose family was experiencing financial hardship; fees for ACT testing and joy to students who without the Fund, would not have been able to attend prom. Six years later, the Annalee Memorial Fund now known as West Supports Metro Tech is providing food gift cards for families who struggle to provide their children with a holiday meal. The Moore’s exemplify the Spirit of Christmas all year through their continued generosity and support of Metro’s students.

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Metro Tech will be in the 47th Annual Fiesta Bowl Parade, riding and walking with the Wells Fargo Stagecoach Float. Assistant Principal Dan Dodge is spearheading the project. The two-mile parade is December 30, beginning at 9 a.m. at North Central Ave. and Montebello.

**January 10, 2018**

Metro Tech High School was recognized at the annual Fiesta Bowl Parade for being an A+ School of Excellence. Several student and staff members rode and walked alongside the Wells Fargo Stage Coach at the December 30 parade.

**January 17**

The Metro Tech Baseball team, in its second year of existence, will receive a $5,000 donation from the Diamondbacks Chase Your Dreams program. The baseball program can use the donation for

Metro Tech High School
equipment, or other ways to benefit the team. The Diamondbacks will come out later this semester to present the donation, and the Metro baseball and softball teams will be invited to a Diamondbacks game this season.

January 24

Some Metro Tech culinary students read a story in the *New York Times* about a chef in Phoenix. One of the students recognized him, because his mother works at the same restaurant, St. Francis. His name is **Suni Santana**, and the class invited him to come to Metro and speak to the students. Turns out, Santana is a graduate of Central High School. His sous chef, **Francisco Cruz**, is also from Central, and Santana’s other sous chef, **Miguel Vazquez** is a graduate of Metro Tech’s culinary program. The St. Francis restaurant is located at 111 E. Central.

January 31

The Metro Tech Boys soccer team hosted and won a “play-in” game 5-4 over Thunderbird in a match that went into overtime and a shootout. The win propelled the Knights into the 16-team 4A State Tournament which begins, January 31, when Metro travels to #4 seeded Douglas in the first round. It is only the second year that Metro Tech has competed in AIA soccer.

February 7

The Metro Tech Weightlifting Team competed in the Arizona State High School Championships, February 3 at Queen Creek High School and came home with five state champions and the girls state team title.

**Celina Ortega** was named Arizona Sophomore Lifter of the Year and won the 75 kilogram weight class. **Yuliana Lopez** was named the State of Arizona Senior lifter of the year and won the 69 kg. weight class and set two state weightlifting records. **Araceli Cabera** won the 63 kg. weight class. **Lesly Martinez** won the 58 kg. weight classes. **Carlos Ortega** won the Boys 105 kg. weight class. **Carmen Zamora Cruz** took 2nd in the 48 kg. weight class and **Johana Vargas** was 3rd in 53 kg. weight class.

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The Metro Tech Boys soccer team hosted and won a “play-in” game 5-4 over Thunderbird in a match that went into overtime and a shootout, January 25. The win propelled the Knights into the 16-team 4A State Tournament but the Knights fell to #4 seeded Douglas, 2-0 in the first round. This is only the second year that Metro Tech has competed in AIA soccer.

March 7

The Sixth Annual Physics Phun Day attracted 10 Phoenix Union schools and over 600 students, March 2, the biggest ever. Metro Tech distanced itself from the pack in the overall competition by winning six of the 14 events. North was second and Central was third.

Metro Tech High School
“This event provides an amazing way to celebrate the process of science, mixed in with some phun and good-natured competition, all while creating lasting memories and authentic cognitive connections for the students. One of the best aspects of this endeavor is how over the years our Physics PLC has worked together to keep refining and adding competitions that allow students to deploy the physics models they’ve developed during the year,” Metro Tech Physics teacher Andrew Chapman said.

This year, two new events were added: the Robot Relay and the Self-Driving Spheres Coding Competitions. Both required the competitors to work together to create a course from scratch at the park that each team then navigated their robots through. Metro Tech and Bioscience won those two inaugural events.

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Former Metro Tech graduate (Class of 2015) and basketball player and Alhambra pitcher Sam Romero, was the Arizona State starting pitcher vs. Oklahoma State University, March 2, and dominated the Cowboys, going 6 innings, with seven strikeouts and allowing one earned run.

March 21
Thirty-three students from Metro Tech, North, Alhambra and South traveled to Tucson to attend the 2018 Educators Rising State Conference and Competition from March 5-7. Over 500 students from all over the state competed in events that showcased various skills such as teaching, speaking, and writing. One-third of the Phoenix Union students placed in the top five for their events. Chantel Clark from North was recognized as Arizona Teacher Leader of the Year and her student, Jenny Chinchilla, was elected as next year’s Arizona State Officer. Other achievements included Bronze Chapter Awards for Metro Tech, North and Alhambra.

Three Metro Tech students will travel to the Educators Rising National Conference in Orlando, Florida this summer. Carolina Melendez, State Officer, placed 1st in Job Interview. Abraham Rivera, dual student from Phoenix Day School For the Deaf, placed 1st in Lesson Planning: Humanities. Ricardo Rojas placed 4th in Creative Lecture (TED Talk).

“All the students who attended were very supportive of each other and enjoyed networking with other students from across the state who had similar goals,” Metro’s Education Professions instructor Maria Piazza-Palotto said.

March 28
For the past 11 years, Phoenix Union students have participated in the Diversity Leadership Alliance’s Youth Leadership Academy. The DLA is a nationally recognized diversity education organization, working to transform the culture of Arizona and cultivate an inclusive community.
The Youth Academy is designed to assist students transitioning from school to work, provide them with resources to build leadership skills, participate in mentoring programs, and earn scholarships.

This year, 13 students from seven Phoenix Union schools earned 16 scholarships, totaling $16,500. Metro Tech’s Niyonkuru-Alexis Pamphile participated in the personal leadership training, will receive $3,500 in scholarships, and was selected to give his speech at the DLA conference this Fall, after delivering it March 21 to DLA members. He has been with the DLA Youth Leadership Academy for three years. Born in Tanzania, he is Burundian, speaks four languages, and says in his speech that he is an “asylum seeker, immigrant, African, refugee and first generation,” and his goal is to “aspire to inspire.”

Other Metro Tech scholarship recipients are Luis Pena, Michelle To, Yamilla Martinez, Rosa Ortega, Angel Gomez and Daniel Cruz.

April 4

Thirty students have been working with a company called Gigapult. It is a work tech startup that connects high school students with “gigs” - virtual work that is greater than a task but smaller than a project. Organizations post gigs and students can then apply to do the gig and students are paid based upon gig size and complexity. After the students complete the gigs they receive employer feedback. As students complete more gigs they can 'level-up' and become available to apply for higher level gigs. The site will also allow the student to develop a digital resume of their past work experiences and will include the ratings of the employers.

“The Gigapult founders have worked with the students for the past eight months in defining a “gig”, designing the user interface, and beta testing the platform,” teacher computer network technologies teacher Charles Renning said,

"It's great to see the students engaged. The best part is they get to apply skills we are learning and working on in class, to real world work... and they get paid,” Renning said.

Current participating companies offering gigs are: ProPay, InterimCMO, and Pearson.

Gigapult will present at the prestigious ASU + GSV (Global Silicon Valley) Summit in San Diego, California, April 16-18. This summit focuses on funding innovative technology in education and talent. This summer the gigapult team is looking to expand the group of students as they offer more gigs. To learn more you can visit gigapult.com or email the founders at: hello@gigapult.com

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Christina Cao, a dual student at Alhambra and Pharmacy Support Services student at Metro Tech High School placed 12th in the Brain Bee at Midwestern University Medical school's competition, January 29. One hundred-fifty high school students from around the Valley participated in Neuroanatomy, Neurophysiology and medical diagnosis questions.
Around Our Schools

North High School

1101 E. Thomas Road Phoenix, Arizona 85014
602-764-6022
www.phoenixunion.org/north

Founded: 1939
Colors: Blue/Red
Mascot: Mustangs
North High School 2017-2018
Around Our Schools
North
2017-18

August 16

Phoenix Suns’ Alan Williams is feeling right at home. In July, the North High alumnus signed a three-year $17 million contract with the home team. He was back at North High School August 12-13, holding a youth basketball camp in the gym where he starred as a high school player. One hundred-twenty boys and girls, ages 7-17, participated in the clinic, including several players from the North girls and boys teams. According to North boys coach Joe Bustos, Williams provided several dozen camp scholarships for the kids.

Williams was part of the Mustangs’ back-to-back state championships in 2009 and 2010, and as a senior, he was the Arizona High School Player of the Year. He had an outstanding college career at California-Santa Barbara, but was undrafted. He played a year in China, and in March of 2016, he signed a 10-day contract with the Suns. He made the team last year, and after spending much of the first half on the bench, the 6-8, 260-pound forward got his chance. In 24 games after the All-Star break, he averaged 11.4 points and 9.1 rebounds in just 22.6 minutes.

The clinic was a family affair, and a reunion with some former high school teammates who assisted in the clinic. His mom, Jeri Williams, the Phoenix Chief of Police and his father, Cody Williams, a former city councilman, were helping out. The Suns’ Devin Booker and Marquese Chriss made appearances, as well.

September 20

The Lady Mustangs took first place in the Silver Division in the 9th Annual Valley Vista Volleyball tournament, September 16, beating Dysart, Maryvale, Peoria and Gila Ridge.

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Phoenix Union has four schools that compete in swimming. Three of them-North, Central and Alhambra got together for a meet, September 12 at the Brophy pool. In a very close competition, the North Boys (86 points) edged Alhambra (75) and Central (71). North also won the girls division. One of the highlights was the Coaches/Kids relay, with three teams made up of two coaches and two students per school. According to the coaches, they survived the swim.
October 4

The North High Band collected some awards, September 30 in what Band Director Daniel Eaton called an 18-hour day of “bando commando fun.” The Mustang Marching Band took 1st Place Overall at the Tucson Sabino Mountain March Invitational, with captions in music general effect and percussion. The Mustang percussion team earned Excellent ratings at the Arizona Percussive Arts Society for snareline, tenorline and pit captions at Westwood High School the same day. With the Sabino first place, North qualified for the Arizona Marching Band Championships in November.

October 25

If you like marching band music, you can see every marching band in the District at the Phoenix Union Marching Band Exhibition, Wednesday, November 1 at the North High School football stadium. Ten marching bands will tune up for state competition, performing their season programs.

November 1

In volleyball, North went 10-0 in the Metro region, and 14-4 overall to make it to the 6A post-season, only to fall to Sandra Day O’Conner October 26.

November 8

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recognizes top students throughout the country in a few different ways, based on their PSAT test scores. There are National Merit Scholars, National Merit Commended students, and National Hispanic Recognition Scholars. This year, seven North High students have received such honors.

North has one National Merit Scholar semifinalist- Nihar Dalal. Dalal is a straight-A student and will be North’s valedictorian. He received a perfect score of 800 on his PSAT math subject test, and a 36 out of 36 on his ACT. His passion is math and physics and he wants to use his talent as a Wall Street market Analyst or mathematician. He has spent summers at universities, studying number theory at Brown Univ., calculus at ASU and more math at Boston College last summer. He is currently taking the highest level of math offered in our District. He is North’s newspaper editor, plays tennis for the Mustangs, is president of both the science and math clubs, is on the robotics team, and is a peer tutor for other North students. Dalal, whose family came from India in 2014, is interested in attending Harvey Mudd in California, Williams in Mass., or Rice University.

National Merit semifinalists qualify by being among the highest-scoring entrants in each state in the 2016 PSAT/NMSQT. The 16,000 semifinalists this year represent less than one percent of the
1.5 million juniors from over 22,000 high schools who take the PSAT. National Merit Finalists are highly coveted as prospective students to every college and university in the country. About 90% of National Merit Scholarship semifinalists become finalists, according to the NMSC.

North High has three National Merit Commended Students—Maxwell Sweet, Daniel Nguyen and Bryan Ibanez.

Sweet is also an IB student, with impressive credentials—a 1530 SAT score, an 800 top score in math, and a 33 of 36 on his ACT. He wants to become a neuroscientist or neuro engineer but he might also explore a career in international economics. He is the treasurer for the robotics club, the number one chess player on the North Chess team, and will be a four-year letterman in baseball. He also works up to 32 hours a week. Sweet wants to attend UCLA, where his sister is a swim coach.

Nguyen’s favorite classes are physics and mathematics so it’s no surprise that he wants to become an aerospace engineer. He would like to work on a large rocketry project someday, or something having to do with astronomy and aviation. He has been involved in robotics, the chess club and peer tutoring at North. He is hoping to attend USC, or ASU as a backup plan, and major in aerospace engineering.

Ibanez is also in the International Baccalaureate program. He is the secretary of the robotics club, and lists biology and history as his two favorite classes. He is still undecided on a career, but he is leaning toward match, mechanical engineering or economics, and eventually would like to go to law school. ASU is his school of choice at this point.

National Merit Scholarship Commended students represent about 34,000 of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT, and receive letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.

Since 1990, North High has had 97 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists and finalists and 126 Commended students.

North has four National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars: Erik Barraza, Sabrina Bojorquez, Rosario Peralta and Ibanez, is also a Commended Student.

Barraza has an interest in science and politics, with a little marching band music mixed in. He is the historian and webmaster for the Robotics team, and a member of the Mustang Marching Band. He has also done fieldwork as an intern for the Arizona Democratic Party, working on numerous campaigns. He has also been a research intern for ASU, providing assistance on lab research in geochemistry/thermodynamics. He is interested in pursuing a career in medicine, with a specific focus on oncology or neurology.

Bojorquez is busy with theatre, as co-president of the drama club, and acting in several plays. She is also in the science club and the hiking club. She says she did not study for the PSAT but her score and Recognition Scholar designation didn’t surprise her, or her parents, who simply said, “good job.” Bojorquez would like to study environmental engineering at UCLA or ASU and travel the world, doing fieldwork providing clean drinking water for everyone.
Peralta’s favorite courses are biology, history and she is the layout editor for the school newspaper. She competes in cross country and track, and is active in the ‘No Place for Hate’ club, and as the Peer Leadership program president. She wants to be a veterinarian, specializing in exotic animals. She once owned a bearded dragon. She plans to major in biology for pre-vet, perhaps at the Univ. of Arizona, and UC-Davis, for vet school.

National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars are among the top 5,000 scorers among the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT test. The program is an academic honor that can be included on college applications. It is not a scholarship, but colleges do use this program to identify academically exceptional Hispanic/Latino students.

North placed 12th overall in Division IV of the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association State Marching Festival, November 4, at Hamilton High School. The Mustangs received an “Excellent” Rating, and received Outstanding Music Performance and Outstanding Percussion Performance Captions. North will compete at the Arizona Marching Band Association Championships, November 11, 4:30 p.m. at Campo Verde HS.

November 15

North’s Marching Band had a successful season, wrapping up, November 11 with an 8th place finish at the Arizona Marching Band Association State Festival, one of three Phoenix Union schools to finish in the top ten. The Mustangs scored a 12th place at the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association State Marching Festival, November 4. During the season the band, under the direction of Daniel Eaton, captured 14 “Outstanding” performance captions- (Music Performance (3), Visual Performance (1), General Effect (2), Percussion (5), Arizona Percussive Arts Society (3).

Ray Pino, North’s assistant principal for student opportunities, has been recognized as a Certified Athletic Administrator, by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA.)

To earn this distinction, Pino has demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration, according to the NIAAA. The voluntary certification process included a thorough evaluation of the candidate's educational background, experience and professional contributions, as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written examination.

The NIAAA is a national professional organization consisting of all 50 state athletic administrator associations and more than 10,000 individual members. It is dedicated to promoting the professional growth of high school athletic administrators and preserving the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the secondary school curriculum.
**November 22**

Twenty-one North High School students attended the DigiGirlz event at the Microsoft Store in Scottsdale. This program is designed to provide high school girls with a better understanding of what a career in technology is all about. During the event, the students interacted with Microsoft staff and management to gain exposure to careers in business and technology and to get an inside look at what it is like to work at Microsoft.

The women were introduced to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and participated in a team activity about creativity and problem-solving through technology.

**Karla Camarena**, a senior, said, “I was impressed to learn that more women need to get into STEM careers and that there are many pathways of having a career in technology.”

Junior **Adalmaris Rendon** learned about persistence, “keep going is really important even in the face of challenges and failures.” **Nuvia Villasenor**, a freshman, described her day as “a wonderful experience that will motivate me to pursue my goals and dreams. Being a girl won’t stop me.”

“The event was even more special and personal because our Microsoft hosts were both graduates of North High School,” **Dr. Renata Geurtz**, Business department instructional leader said.

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North had a successful 7-3 record in football this fall, and had several players named to the 2017 All-Phoenix Union team—**Joey Cortez**, offensive line; **Dominic Fiorucci**, running back; **Eric Saucedo**, receiver; **Maximus Valdez**, defensive line; **Jason Cortez**, defensive back and **Carlos Cruz**, kicker.

**November 29**

North High is holding a Community Fair, promoting healthy living, December 8 from 4:40-8 p.m. The fair will offer local resources for parents and community members, student education and career exploration and prevention/communication training for parents, presented by DrugFreeAZKids.org. Terros Health and the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family is sponsoring the event.

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The 6A Metro Region Volleyball champions were well represented in the All-Region teams. The Mustangs had the Player of the Year in **Olga Rivas**, a hitter/middle blocker; the Defensive Player
of the Year, Dulce Carrizoza, a Libero and Mindy Marques-Williams was the Region Coach of the Year. Setter Ashley Arroyo joined Rivas and Carrizoza on the All-Region 1st Team. Jenny Switalski and Gracie Palerin made 2nd team All-Region. The Mustangs won the Metro Region, going 10-0 and 14-4 overall in regular season play.

December 6

North High is holding a Community Fair, promoting healthy living, December 8 from 4:40-8 p.m. The fair will offer local resources for parents and community members, student education and career exploration and prevention/communication training for parents in English and Spanish, presented by DrugFreeAZKids.org. The school is collaborating with Terros Health with the support of a High School Wellness Grant from the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family. There will be 20 community agencies, local colleges, the Phoenix Fire Department.

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The girls soccer team won the Scottsdale Christian High School Desert Cup Classic, December 2. The Mustangs beat South Mountain for the championship, 7-0. They lost to Northwest Christian, but beat Trevor Browne and Sedona to reach the finals.

December 13

North High School Future Business Leaders of America Chapter has partnered with Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy this year. Chick-fil-A Leader Academy is a national high school leadership program focused on impact through action. As part of North’s FBLA Kickoff 22 members helped pack 100 meals for St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance.

“I was part of this program last year with my English teacher Joyce Donaldson, so doing it again with FBLA was a great way to continue and help give back to my community” stated sophomore Wendy Gomez Ortiz.

December 20

Eleven Key Club members spent Saturday, December 16, creating a magical holiday party for nearly 500 children in foster care through the Hope and a Future Christmas Party at Para Park in Tempe. The members set up dining tables, decorated Christmas trees, arranged gifts, and set up games.

Children in foster care and their extended families are invited to this annual party where they play games, take photos with Santa, and enjoy a holiday feast. All the children received at least one gift.

The Key Club at North High School is committed to community service. Last year, members served nearly 1,500 hours.
January 10, 2018

The boys soccer team won the Arizona Showcase Soccer Tournament, December 27-30, winning five games, and beating Copper Canyon, 3-1 in the championship game. The Mustangs also defeated Washington, Flagstaff, Liberty, Ironwood Ridge in their championship run.

The North girls basketball team is the highest ranked Phoenix Union team, at 9th in the 6A rankings. The Mustangs ran off a 10-game winning streak before the break, and their non-tournament record was 9-0, with a 4-0 start in region play through January 10.

January 24

Jonathan Solano won the 152 lb. championship at the Bourgade "Last Chance" Wrestling Tournament, January 19. He finished the tournament with a 4-0 record, including pinning his opponent in the championship match. North finished in 5th place out of 15 teams, including 10 medal winners.

North’s swimming coach David Smithers is one of ten statewide individuals who have been named 2016-17 Sectional Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State Association (NFHS) Coaches Association. The AIA is part of Section 7, which includes Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California and Hawaii. The NFHS recognizes coaches in the top 10 girls sports and top 10 boys sports by participation numbers, and in two “other” sports-one for boys and one for girls not including in the top 10 listings.

Smithers coaches boys and girls swimming and diving, and has been North’s only swim coach, a career spanning 22 years. He has been named Division II State Coach of the Year, four times.

January 31

Both North soccer teams advanced to post-season play, winning the Boys and Girls 6A Metro Regions. The boys were ranked in the top eight, and were automatically seeded in the 16-team State Tournament bracket where they will host San Luis, January 31. The girls had to win a “play-in” game to advance, but the Mustangs lost, 1-0 to Boulder Creek, January 25, to end their season.

February 7

North held its Mustang Strong Kick-off event, January 26. Over 25 community organizations participated and there were stations set up for students to participate in activities that lead to living healthy, living life and living drug free. This is a part of the Health and Wellness Grant that the school received from the Office of the Governor. There were several different yoga stations, kickboxing, make-up tutorials, basketball, throwing clinics, therapy dogs (rescue dogs) and more.

North High School
“The feedback that we received from both the students and staff is that they had an amazing time and they wanted to know when we are doing it again,” Principal Vanessa Casillas said.

North will have three students represented in the All-Regional Music Festival, February 17, having passed auditions competing against musicians from all over the state, January 27. The North students will perform in three different ensembles. Michael Serna, tenor, will be in the All-Region Choir. Kenia Ramirez, piccolo is in the band and Joey Rankin, violin, earned a spot in the orchestra. The West Region Music Festival will be held at North Canyon High School. The students will rehearse together for two days prior to the festival performances. From the regional ensembles, students can qualify for All-State.

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The North Girls Basketball team won the 6A Metro Region with a 9-1 record, and 14-4 overall. They began post-season play with a play-in game, hosting Cibola, February 8.

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The North Girls Basketball team advanced to the 6A State Tournament with a play-in game win over Yuma Cibola, February 8. The Mustangs, travelled to Valley Vista for a first-round game in the 16-team tournament, but ended their season with a loss.

February 21

Some of the most talented young jazz musicians in the world from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at UCLA conducted a performance assembly and clinic for North High School students February 20. The group performed music from all eras of jazz and discussed the evolution of the music. Following the assembly, there were master classes with the opportunity for the touring musicians to play alongside their like-instrument high school musicians. Grammy award-winning drummer and Phoenician Lewis Nash accompanied the Institute musicians. He
has played on over 400 records.

The Institute Fellows are hand-selected by Herbie Hancock and other jazz greats to study tuition-free at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music in a prestigious master’s level program.

The “informance” and clinic is part of an educational outreach tour that also included stops at PUHSD schools Carl Hayden (Feb. 22) and Trevor Browne (Feb. 23) The tour is underwritten by the Arizona Community Foundation/Black Philanthropy Initiative and free to the schools and students.

February 28

Twelve North High School students woke up extra early to help with the annual Coronado Neighborhood Community Home Tour and Street Fair, February 25. While this is the 31st annual Home Tour, it was the first time Key Club members volunteered. Karla Camarena, a senior at North, was surprised by the experience; “I have been a student at North for the past four years and didn’t know about this community or the history of Coronado.” Volunteers were treated to tickets to the home tour. Bridget Martinez, a sophomore, said, “I found my future house! These are so beautiful.”

The Key Club of North High School is a group of student who are dedicated to service in our communities. We celebrate and promote community service and volunteerism. The sponsor is Dr. Renata Geurtz and the sponsoring Kiwanis are the Kiwanis Club of Phoenix, which recently celebrated 100 years of service to children in Phoenix.

March 7

North goalkeeper Ricardo Arteaga was one of eight high school soccer players nominated for azcentral’s Arizona Soccer Player of the Year. He allowed only 10 goals in 19 games, and helped his team to a 15-3-1 record and 6A Metro Region crown. The eight will be narrowed to three finalists in each sport and the winners announced, June 10, at the azcentral Sports Awards at ASU Gammage. Trevor Browne’s Ervy Diaz was an Honorable Mention. Mustangs also dominated the Metro All-Region team, landing six players on the first team. Juan Rodriguez was the Player of the Year, Marcelo Cruz was Defensive Player of the Year, and Carlos Zubiate was the Coach of the Year.

Just as impressive, the Mustang Girls had eight first team All-Region players. Ashley Tavizon was the Defensive Player of the year, and Selene Segura was Offensive Player of the Year. Sarah Crites of the Metro Region champions, was Coach of the Year.

North students learned about the risks of distracted driving, and driving under the influence during a hands-on safety program presented by Banner Health in classrooms, February 26-March 2. They
also learn the importance of wearing seat belts. Mock exercises involved walking on a designed map, not actually driving. The students tried to “drive” using a steering wheel while texting, and then perform the activity again without distractions. The students attempted to “drive” with and without goggles that simulated effects of marijuana and alcohol, using goggles that altered students’ perception. That distraction activity was timed and performed with and without goggles.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. According to the CDC, a total of 2,333 teens in the U.S. were killed in 2015.

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Mustang Girls Basketball Coach Daryion Shabazz was the 6A Metro Region Coach of the Year. Three Mustangs-Adela Garcia, Anjanae Mueck and Mary Jane Raizola were also named to the first team. North Girls won the Metro Region this year.

March 21

Victoria Aiken was one of ten finalists at the Poetry Out Loud State competition at the KJZZ studio on March 3. She placed fourth. The event, put on by the Arizona Commission of the Arts, was recorded and will air on Arizona PBS, Friday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m.

North High was in the sports news recently for a track and field record that some thought would never be broken. Sixty years ago, Dallas Long set a high school record in the shot put of 69 feet, 3 inches for the Mustangs. It remained an Arizona record until Tyson Jones of Goodyear broke it earlier this month with a 70-4 ½ toss. Long, who went on to star for USC and win Olympic medals -bronze in 1960 and gold 1964, sent a congratulatory note to Jones, along with an autographed picture of Long shot putting. His note read: Dear Tyson, It’s about time someone broke my 1958 high school record. It’s taken 60 years for someone to do so! Congratulations and best wishes to you. He signed it, with North Phoenix High School Class of 1958 under his signature.

March 28

North High School was the only Arizona high school team to compete in the 15th Annual Arizona Dragon Boat Festival at Tempe Towne Lake, March 24. Sixteen students from North’s Future Business Leaders of America, and the Mustang Track team made up the crew. North competed against three year-round teams from other states, finishing third in the 2,250 meter race, despite only practicing twice before the festival. The boats, life jackets and paddles are provided by the Arizona Dragon Boat Association for all teams and North is coached by Lana and Jeff Walther, Team Captains for AZ Dragon Riders.
North has been dragon boat racing since 2011, when FBLA advisor Rita Lopez met the ASU Dragon Boat coach, and she convinced her to put a team together.

The North High School Visual Arts Department will hold its 2018 Senior Art Exhibit in the Old Gym, Thursday, March 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Our Visual Art seniors have been working hard for many years to perfect their styles and master their medium. This their time to shine, answer questions and talk about what it takes to be an artist,” said art teacher Scott Black.

April 4

The City of Phoenix Youth Commission selects the Outstanding Young Man and Young Woman Awards each year. It begins with each of eight city councilman/woman nominating two high school students from their district. The nominees are in, and two North students were nominated. From District 5, Isabelle Lukau and from District 7, Samantha Faria. They will receive a scholarship, and will be invited to a luncheon in May, where the two citywide Outstanding Young Man and Young Woman will be announced.

April 11

Four North High School swimmers were named Academic All-Americans by the National Interscholastic Swim coaches Association. Seniors Anna Whitley, Darianne Sanchez, Joshua Jacobson and Kyle Haines qualified by having a minimum non-weighted grade point average of 3.75 through seven semesters and lettered in swimming or diving. With these four, coach David Smithers, who is retiring this year, has had 81 Academic All-Americans in his 22-year career.

North’s Robotics team, the Cyborg Mustangs, attended the Arizona West Regional for the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition, April 4-7 at Grand Canyon University.

The Cyborg Mustangs have been involved with FIRST since 2008, and on Saturday the team brought home the Judges’ Award which recognizes a team’s “unique efforts, performance, or dynamics.” This is the team’s first award win since the team was created. The team won the award for a project on suicide awareness lead by Vanessa Rodriguez, a junior and team safety captain, Alan Canales, a freshman was the robot driver. He is also the club’s vice-president.
April 18

Members of North High School’s Key Club participated in the 68th annual District Convention held in Chandler, Arizona, April 13-15. Attending the conference were nearly 500 Key Club members, sponsors, and chaperones from Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The conference celebrates the achievements of Key Clubs and their members. North’s Yennifer Lopez won first place for her digital poster promoting Key Club. The club was awarded a trophy for its single service project when it hosted Trauma Week, a collaborative project with Banner Health Care to promote driving safety.

Receiving the 150-hour service pins were Isabel Joyce and Yennifer Lopez. Receiving the 100-hour service pins were Monica Ortiz and Iris Yanez. Bridget Martinez was elected as a Lieutenant Governor for the Southwest Division of Key Club International. She will work with 12 high schools to promote community service. She will also attend the International Convention in Chicago.

Key Club is an international student-led organization which provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build character, and develop leadership. Key Club has more than 300,000 high school members in nearly 5,000 clubs in 31 countries.

April 25

Isabelle Lukau, a senior at North High School, was named the City of Phoenix 2018 Outstanding Young Woman of the Year at a luncheon, April 20 at Phoenix Country Club.

Three other Phoenix Union students were among the 16 students named Outstanding Young Men and Women for each of the eight city council districts, including North’s Samantha Faria for District 7. The program is presented by the City of Phoenix Youth and Education Commission.

Lukau won a $2,000 scholarship. The winners were selected for outstanding community service and commitment to excellence in all areas of their lives.

Lukau is Angolan, the youngest of six siblings of an immigrant family. After considering New York University, she will attend Notre Dame to study Biochemistry. She wants to be a medical doctor, and perhaps go back to her native country working with Doctors without Borders and eventually building a private practice there as a general surgeon. She has become civically active at North, learning to speak out against injustice and racism and “becoming politically cognizant.” As an International Baccalaureate student, she developed a cultural competence workshop as a project. Lukau played two years of tennis, and is a member of the French Club, Stand and Serve, and the Chess Club. She has already taken calculus and psychology summer courses at ASU. She has already taken calculus and psychology summer courses at ASU. Of her five siblings, she has two brothers who graduated from ASU, and another from U of A.

The Outstanding Young Men and Women nominated have to acknowledge someone who has been instrumental in their lives. Lukau picked her counselor Abigail Dolin, who was with her when she
received her award, and she acknowledged an inspirational young person, **Rita Anane-Wae**, who graduated from North last year and is now attending University of Virginia.

Lukau is the sixth consecutive Phoenix Union student to win the Outstanding Young Man or Woman award.

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Art teacher **Julie Peters** was elected Arizona Art Education Association President, April 21. She held an interim position since January.

Peters was a presenter at the National Art Education Association conference March 23 in Seattle. For the last seven months she participated in the NAEA’s School for Art Leaders program. She presented two sessions and was honored at the national conference upon completion of the program. Upon successful completion, participants become members of the national School for Art Leaders network and are positioned to excel as leaders in education, the arts, and advocacy.

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The North Bands and Orchestra performed at the State Concert Festival at Chandler High School, April 26. All three groups—Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Orchestra earned an Excellent rating. This marks the first time that three groups have qualified for State, AND maintained their Excellent rating status throughout the concert season. Director of Bands, Orchestra and Percussion is **Daniel Eaton**.

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**Peters** won 2016 Outstanding Secondary Art Educator Award, an honor presented by the Arizona Art Education Association. Peters has been teaching drawing, painting and advanced art for IB for 13 years and is the Visual Arts Instructional Leader at North. A graduate of Camelback High School, Peters has taught in Las Vegas, Colorado, and Peoria before coming home to Phoenix Union. She earned National Board Certification in 2012, joining **Stephanie Grijalva** (now at Camelback) as the first PUHSD Art teachers Board Certified.

**May 9**

North High had three ensembles at the State Concert/Jazz Festival, April 26, despite the educator walkout, but as North’s Director of Bands **Daniel Eaton** said, “The show must go on!” The Mustangs turned in three Excellent Ratings for Symphonic Band; Intermediate Band and Orchestra.

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Football head coach **Bernie Busken** is retiring from the game he has coached for 42 years. Busken was with the North Mustangs for four years, turning around the program in that time, with “old-
fashioned” hard work. He leaves a team that went 7-3 last year, completing a 19-21 overall record. “Hard to overcome that 1-9 first season,” Busken said.

“I have had a blast at North. Never have I been around kids that let you know how much they love you. They are all great kids.”

He came into a program where the freshman team did not have one student who had ever played football. He leaves with 75 current student-athletes, and successful freshmen and JV teams coming up. Under his regime, he emphasized the weight room for strength and stamina, practiced early mornings before school so students could work after school, and helped develop a booster club with parents.

Busken won three state championships and had a 40-game winning streak at Mesa Mountain View in the nineties, coached at Western New Mexico University, and returned to Arizona at Basha High for three years before arriving at North. He plans to move to Texas to be close to his daughter and grandchildren.
Phoenix Coding Academy

4445 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 764-5700
www.Phoenixunion.org/phoenixcodingacademy

School Founded: 2016
Mascot: Pythons
School Colors: Blue/ Silver
Phoenix Coding Academy: 2017-2018
August 16
Phoenix Coding Academy teacher and National Board Certified Teacher Gina Vullo was selected by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to write gifted standards for the country. She will be a standard setting panelist in her certificate area of Early Childhood through Young Adulthood/Exceptional Needs Specialist. The panel met, August 10, in Chicago. Vullo joined the Coding Academy team last year after teaching International Baccalaureate courses such as theory of Knowledge, Experiential Learning and Research Methods at North for 21 years. She earned her Board Certification in 2014.

September 20
Phoenix Coding Academy teachers were treated to lunch, September 15 as recipients of the Take a Teacher to Lunch program, sponsored by Macayo’s Depot Cantina and Mix 96.9 Radio. The program is part of the Million Dollar Teacher Project, an organization that supports education and teachers. The founder of the Million Dollar Teacher Project, Lloyd Hopkins, reached out to the school last year through teachers George Cardenas and Susana Masamery. He visited and talked to the staff about his organization dedicated to supporting teachers. He then pitched having a few of our students build an app for his organization. He also brought a couple software developers to mentor and guide the students’ project.

“Our school was a natural choice with the work our students are doing with Million Dollar Teacher Project,” Principal Seth Beute said.

October 25
Nine students from Phoenix Coding Academy spent their fall break completing an intensive one-week cyber security course in ethical hacking skills held in the Cyber Security Lab at Advanced Business Learning (ABL) in Tempe. ABL Cyber instructors demonstrated actual wireless (Wi-Fi) attacks for the students and then provided multiple hands-on training in how to defend and securely use public wireless internet. Cyber industry tools and strategies for assessment of websites and programs for detecting vulnerabilities were taught and students performed hours of hands-on activities used by professionals to help secure businesses and individuals. The students received certificates of completion for the 30-hour course.

Stephen Andrews, the Networking and Security instructor at Phoenix Coding Academy said “One just needs to look at the daily news to see the tremendous need for graduates with skills in Network Security and anti-hacking skills today. With the projection of almost 2,000,000 job openings going unfilled globally through 2020 including over 20,000 jobs here in Arizona unfilled, there is an extraordinary market demand for young people with these skills.”
Arizona is well positioned to be a leader in cybersecurity, with nationally ranked cybersecurity programs and cyber warfare ranges,” Todd Sanders, President and CEO of the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce said. “There are currently 50 percent more job openings than employees to fill these critical roles. The Greater Phoenix Chamber Foundation sponsored Cyber-Dive Week because it is imperative that our students are exposed to these high-paying career opportunities and gain valuable hands-on experience. Students who participated in Cyber-Dive Week will have an advantage with employers as they seek internships and job opportunities in the future.”

Susan Morris from ABL said ABL was honored to be able to provide this type of experience to PCA students. “The students were so enthusiastic, eager to learn, and fully engaged. I believe one of your (Coding Academy) students expressed it best: ‘Thank you for all you have done to open our minds to the wonderful world of cyber security.’”

November 22

Phoenix Coding Academy students took home two awards at Code Day Phoenix, Nov. 11-12 at the University of Advancing Technology, for Best App, and Best Teamwork. This was a 24-hour event and approximately 100 competitors from around the state worked in teams to plan, research, design, and code either an app or computer game using any software or programming language. There were 22 students from Coding Academy, and five from Carl Hayden.

“The kids were terrific, and really represented our schools and district in a positive light. Several 8th graders competing were very excited about enrolling in the district after talking with our kids,” Network Design teacher Stephen Andrews said.

November 29

Governor Doug Ducey is kicking off Arizona’s Computer Science Education Week, December 4, at the perfect location—Phoenix Union’s Coding Academy, where he will join students in 460 schools across the state in the Hour of Code. A Coding Academy student will take the governor through the hour, teaching him along the way.

The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with one-hour coding activities and expanding to all sorts of community efforts. There will be over 200,000 events worldwide, participating in the Hour of Code.

Gov. Ducey will have a proclamation about Computer Science Education week, Principal Seth Beute, superintendent Chad Gestson and industry representatives will also be on hand.
December 6

Governor Doug Ducey kicked off Arizona’s Computer Science Education Week, December 4, at the perfect location—Phoenix Union’s Coding Academy, where he joined Coding Academy students and students in 469 schools across the state in the Hour of Code. Four Coding Academy students-Samantha Cerpa, Joseph De La Cruz, Harrison Kerkhoff and Ellie DeLa Cruz guided the governor in Mindcraft, teaching him coding along the way. The students also chose a Star Wars activity, or Code Combat, a coding activity developed by local Amazon engineers who came to the event.

Principal Seth Beute welcomed a VIP list that included Arizona representatives from Google, Linked In, Go Daddy, Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Uber, Verizon, Arizona Tech Council, ASU, Code.org and its regional partners--Science Foundation Arizona and Grand Canyon University, who presented the Hour of Code and provides professional development for educators.

“These students represent the not-too-distant workforce. Keep an eye on these kids. They are going places,” Beute said.

“There is no reason that one of the students in this room can’t be the next Steve Jobs or Bill Gates. You are in a great place. Take full advantage of it. It is very special what is happening here,” Governor Ducey said.

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February 21, 2018

Sophomores Gabino Meraz and Kimberly Sanchez sophomores at the Phoenix Coding Academy where chosen to participate in an ASU EPICS (Engineering Projects In Community Service) Design Review on February 19. They presented alongside university-level teams based on their exceptional project, Kanine Kots – a cost-effective and long-lasting series of beds for animal shelters. This was an opportunity to learn and receive feedback from professional engineers in industry.

This team was also selected as one of 140 applicants to the Watson Institute Basecamp in Phoenix, March 10-11. Watson Institute hosts a fully funded weekend basecamp for the most promising next-generation social entrepreneurs (who have an idea for social change) to learn the fundamentals of social entrepreneurship and be introduced to the Watson model and method.

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Code Day Phoenix was held at the University of Advancing Technology on February 17-18. Co-sponsored by Phoenix Coding Academy, 20 Coding Academy students were part of the 100 students participating in this 24-hour hack-a-thon, in which teams plan, research, design, and code
either apps or computer game using any software or programming language. **Kaitlyn Martinez**, a 10th grader at Coding Academy, was awarded “Best Website.”

**March 21**

Phoenix Coding Academy, in its first year of robotics competition, won the Rookie All-Star Award at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Los Angeles Regional, March 15-17.

Python Robotics brought 15 Coding Academy freshmen and sophomores (and a foreign-exchange student from Central) to the LA Regionals in Pomona, CA. Of the 54 teams that participated, the Python Robotics team ranked 15th in qualifying. The Coding team was scouted by higher-seeded teams, and was asked to be in an alliance with one of the top eight teams. That three-team alliance made it to the quarterfinals where they were ultimately eliminated.

Coding Academy earned one of only five world championship bids available at the regional.

“The fifth and final spot was awarded to the recipients of the Rookie All-Star Award. This award was granted to the rookie team that best exemplified what the FIRST Robotics Competition stands for and has a working robot that met the goals of the competition,” Coach **George Cardenas** said.

Now comes the hard part—raising over $10,000 to get to the World Championships in Houston, April 18-21. If you are interested in making a tax credit donation before the tax deadline, contact Coach Cardenas at **gcardenas@phoenixunion.org**.

**March 28**

The Phoenix Coding Academy Robotics team was just looking to get a little experience when it participated in its first-ever robotics competition in Pomona, California this month, but now the team is dealing with what their coach calls, “Catastrophic Success.”

The Python Robotics team, made up of 16 freshmen and sophomores (and a foreign-exchange student from Central) won the Rookie All-Star Award at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Los Angeles Regional, March 15-17, which comes with an invitation to the World Championships in Houston, April 18-21.

“Now we have to raise $10,000-plus in a hurry to go to the championships, Coding Academy engineering teacher and robotics coach **George Cardenas** said. “I have contacted all of our corporate sponsors, we are having a car wash this weekend, a video game tournament next week, and making sure people know on our social media we need help with tax credits. We are doing it on a shoestring. We have all other expenses covered except the $5,000 registration fee, which is due March 30.”

Coding Academy has been no slouch when it comes to funding the program. The team secured a grant from NASA and Boeing to help them get to Regionals, and several in-kind donations from
other companies. The students have aggressively promoted the Education Tax Credit program, in which donors can contribute up to $400, and receive a tax credit in the same amount.

“These kids have been incredible. They are only freshmen and sophomores and they are amazing. It was our intention that this year would be a learning experience, but they blew it out of the water. They were the highest-ranked rookie team, and earned high marks for their presentation to judges and their community service.”

The best way to help the team is through an Arizona Education Tax Credit which can be made online from the team’s website www.pythonrobotics.org.

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When Kaitlyn Martinez saw one of her classmates fail a writing assignment because she had no pencils or paper at home and was too embarrassed to tell the teacher, the 15 year old had an idea. She began a nonprofit called Backpacks 4 Kids AZ. The organization gives "Love Bundles" to shelters, county offices, resource centers, foster parent agencies, police stations and schools for abused or neglected children, and backpacks filled with school supplies to disadvantaged children.

Now a sophomore at Phoenix Coding Academy, Martinez has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a Certificate of Excellence from The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards and with a president’s Volunteer Service Award.

Presented annually by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honors young people across America for outstanding volunteer service.

Certificates of Excellence are granted to the top 10 percent of all Prudential Spirit of Community Award applicants in each state and the District of Columbia.

President’s Volunteer Service Awards recognize Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country. Besides her Backpacks 4 Kids AZ, https://www.backpacks4kidsaz.com/ she is actively involved in just about every volunteer and community service opportunity at school.

“We are extremely proud of the work Kaitlyn does at school and especially in the community at large,” Coding Academy Principal Seth Beute said.

April 18

Coding Academy students get all their high school academic requirements at the small specialty school, and have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, such as band or athletics at other comprehensive campuses. Shaun-Anthony Hill, a sophomore is making his mark on the track team at Central High School next door to the Coding Academy. On March 22 at the Schuster Jones Underclass Showcase, Hill earned four gold medals placing first in the 100 Meters, 200 Meters, 400 Meters, and 4 x100 Relay events. Coach Andrew Chavez said Hill posted the
fastest time for all Arizona 10th grade students in the 200 Meters. He then secured two more gold medals on March 30 at the Peoria Invite in the 200 Meters and 400 Meters.

“Could Shaun-Anthony Hill be on pace to earn the first athletic scholarship by a Coding Academy student? We’re excited to follow his progress running track and running code,” Principal Seth Beute said.

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The Coding Academy Python Robotics are in Houston for the FIRST Robotics World Championship, April 18-21. It has been quite an inaugural season for the team, made up of freshmen and sophomores. The Pythons warmed up for the World Championships competing in the Arizona West Regional at Grand Canyon University, April 12-14. They won the Rookie Inspiration Award; their second rookie-based award this season after also winning the Rookie All-Stars Award at the LA Regionals over spring break, which qualified the team for the World Championships. After scrambling to raise enough money for the trip, with the help of several donors, Coding Academy will join the veteran team from Carl Hayden at the FIRST Robotics World Championships.

April 25

It was a learning year for the Phoenix Coding Academy’s Python Robotics team, but it turned into a meteoric experience when the team qualified for the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Houston, April 18-21. The 16-student team, made up of freshmen and sophomores, won not one, but two Rookie All-Star awards in Los Angeles and in Phoenix Regionals as the best first-year team. Houston was a bit humbling, as the Pythons and their robot, Snaaaaaaaaaake! finished 66th in the Galileo Division. According to coach George Cardenas, the team faced a number of mechanical issues, and very tough competition from experienced and established teams. “But the teams till persevered and managed to hold their own. They have their sights on attending the world championship next year. But they won’t sneak up on anyone anymore after an amazing rookie season.

May 9

Shaun-Anthony Hill attends Coding Academy, but runs track at Central High next door. Both are claiming him this week, as the sophomore qualified for both the 200 and 400 meters at the Division I State Track and Field Championships, May 5. Hill had the 5th best time in the prelims to advance to finals of the 400 meters, where he finished 8th, earning one point for the Bobcats.
Around Our Schools

Small Schools

Linda Abril Educational Academy
3000 N. 19th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85015
www.Phoenixunion.org/lindaabril
School Founded: 2016
Mascot: The Phoenix
School Colors: Red/Yellow

Bostrom High School
3535 N. 27th Ave Phoenix, Arizona 85015
602-764-1700
www.phoenixunion.org/bostrom
School Founded: 1976
Mascot: Bulldogs
Colors: Red/Black

Desiderata Program
2920 N. 34th Dr. Phoenix, Arizona 85017
602-764-0800
www.phoenixunion.org/desiderata
School Founded: 1977
Mascot: Sharks
School Colors: Purple/Gray

Phoenix Union - Wilson College Prep
3005 E. Fillmore St. Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602) 764-9600
www.phoenixunion.org/wilson
School Founded: 2017
Mascot: Wolf
School Colors: Red/Black
Margarita Valdez, the Senior Office Assistant at the Linda Abril Educational Academy was named the Phoenix Union Support Staff Employee of the Year at the Opening of Schools Convocation, August 1. Valdez lives by the description of “other duties as assigned.” She is called the MVP of her school and she is involved in every aspect, from counseling students and parents about what the school offers, to coordinating graduation. She keeps the books for clubs, she coordinates testing for AzMERIT and ACT and interprets and translates for Spanish-speaking parents. Valdez is the bookstore manager and the librarian. She is on the security committee. Her colleagues say “she is the one who ends up doing everything that is unassigned to do by others. She does the work of five people in one day. She thrives on it.” “She is our supply closet, our psychiatrist, our mediator, our trip planner, our event planner, out copy girl, our lunch room security, our hall monitor, our class coverage person, and much more.” She came to the District in 2008, and no other classified employee has served at the then Suns/Diamondbacks, now Linda Abril Academy for more years than her. While the school has had two names and four locations, she was the point person making the final move last fall to a new campus, and organized the opening of a new school, which was completed hours before the first students arrived.

The school will have its mid-year graduation, Thursday, December 21 at 7 p.m. at the Central High School auditorium. Board member and school namesake, Linda Abril will be part of the program.

Sixty-three graduates will receive diplomas, Thursday, December 21 at the Linda Abril Educational Academy mid-year graduation, at Central High School.

Linda Abril Education Academy does not have any athletic teams, but this past weekend, their students were chanting, “Were Number One,” winning the City of Phoenix Food and Fitness Challenge Championship, and a first-place prize of $2,500 at Alhambra, Saturday. Eight PUHSD schools participated in the five-week campaign, and weekly winners took part in the Final Challenge, competing in a series of fun events. One of two Alhambra teams finished second, winning $1,500 and Wilson College Prep was third, earning $1,000. There were relays, including a wheelbarrow race, during which weights were removed each time a team answered a question correctly. Students can help decide how to spend the winnings to continue to bring awareness to food and fitness on their campus.
The funding came via a grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America to the Phoenix Office of Sustainability. The city partnered with the Mollen Foundation to increase knowledge and understanding of healthy eating habits and staying active.

Sustainability Officers on each campus led the challenge, posting challenge videos each week and encouraging students to respond and post their activities to the Food and Fitness Challenge Campaign Facebook group.

The campaign kicked off the week of January 22 with a different focus each week including Hydration, Local Food Production, Snack and Healthy Reasons.

**May 9**

**Jesse Gaines**, a senior who attends Linda Abril Educational Academy, but competed for Carl Hayden, qualified for the 1600 meters and 400 meters, and placed 4th in the 800 meter run at the Division II State Track and Field Championships, May 5. He was also part of the Falcons 7th finish in the 4 x 800 relay.
Around Our Schools
Bostrom
2017-18

December 20, 2017

Bostrom’s Jordon Brown and Anaticia Ajumada are the first Bostrom students to earn college credits through Dual Enrollment. Their Business Technology Education teacher, Ronda Nichols, was instrumental in guiding them through the Gateway Community College GBS110 curriculum.

January 31, 2018

Eight students participated in the Be A Leader Officers’ Retreat at Gateway Community College, January 26. The student leaders took part in workshops to develop communication skills, as well as conflict resolution techniques. They will be helping to revitalize the Be A Leader club. The club supports and encourages their membership to actively participate in the monthly workshops, and providing students with opportunities to help them enhance their college-going efforts.

Desiderata
2017-18

December 6

Desiderata celebrated its 40th birthday, December 1, along with Free Arts of Arizona, an organization that provides creative and therapeutic arts programs for children. The school and the non-profit have partnered for several years. The event celebrated and showcased the achievements of students participating in different professional artist series workshops. There was an artwalk, with projects such as books, paintings and decorated top hats, music, poetry reading, a drumming presentation and dancing, followed by snacks prepared by the students. Desiderata’s caring staff serves over 100 students with special needs. The program has had several homes in its history before moving to its permanent home 11 years ago.
Around Our Schools
Phoenix Union Wilson College Prep
2017-18

August 23

Phoenix Union Wilson College Prep held a dedication and ribbon cutting, August 17, commemorating the opening of the new specialty school. A large turnout of staff, students, District leaders and representatives from neighboring elementary districts Balsz, Creighton and Wilson were on hand. Principal Keoni Dang hosted the proceedings, which included Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson, Wilson Superintendent Antonio Sanchez, board members Ian Danley, Laura Pastor and Stephanie Parra, speaking, and Randy Schiller and Stanford Prescott attending.

Sanchez praised the partnership, and projected four years out, when “a public school will be sending a huge number of students to college.” Danley exhorted the students; “We believe in you. Wilson has been battling for years in this corner of the city. You are the seeds and this school will water these seeds.”

Students Jose Rodrigues and Yasmin Contreras spoke about AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination,) pledging to graduate, attend and graduate from college. Rodrigues summed it up this way, “Dreams and dedication are a powerful combination.” Representing AVID was Val Angus, who praised the school as “the only site in the world that is built upon the AVID foundation, strategy and energy for every student in the school. I want to watch this school closely to see it flourish and become a flagship school. I thank the people who had the courage and leadership to build this superior learning environment.”

Architechnology and McCarthy representatives worked to get the school ready to open for the freshman class, and gave the school its first gift for its trophy case- a chrome construction helmet commemorating the event.

Dang unveiled the new school logo, and the program finished with a ribbon-cutting at the front gate.

On August 30, the school will hold its Freshmen Induction, at 5 p.m.
Around Our Schools

South Mountain High School

5401 S. 7th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85040

602-764-5000

www.phoenixunion.org/southmountain

Founded: 1954
Colors: Columbia Blue/Red
Mascot: Jaguars

South Mountain High School 2017-2018
Around Our Schools
South Mountain
2017-18

August 16

South Mountain is one of 24 schools nationwide selected as a PBS NewsHour 2017-18 STEM Student Reporting Lab. The STEM Student Reporting Labs initiative is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and aims to transform STEM learning through student journalism. Research from 2015-2016 showed a significant increase in STEM self-efficacy, media literacy and interest in STEM careers. Participating schools will have access to the STEM Student Reporting Lab curriculum and be paired with a STEM mentor, a practicing scientist who will advise the students on their stories once they have been decided. Educators who successfully complete the program will receive a $1,000 equipment stipend, can host, or be connected to a nationwide screening party, and bragging rights- the multi-media magnet is part of a NSF-funded study that uses a curriculum aligned to Next Generation Science Standards. Multi-media instructor Heather Jancoski applied for the opportunity. Her program has been a PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Lab school for the last few years, a national journalism initiative to connect middle and high school students with public media stations to produce original, youth-focused news reports for the national NewsHour site and the nightly broadcast, which reaches over one million viewers each night.

August 30

Sarah Cowherd was nominated for two Rocky Mountain Emmys, August 28. Both of her projects were produced last year. Nominated in the High School Long Form Non-fiction category was a documentary on the late Carl Hayden Basketball Coach Pete Tuccio that was created for Carl Hayden and played during a ceremony at a basketball game last year. The other project was a public service announcement that she made for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. Cowherd is a senior this year in the multimedia magnet.

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The South Mountain Football team won its first two games of the year, equaling the Jaguars’ win total for all of last year’s 2-8 season. South beat Maryvale and Trevor Browne, and will visit North High, Friday, September 1. The team’s slogan is CTC, which stands for “Change the Culture.”

September 6

South Mountain’s football team has more wins in three games than the Jaguars had all last year. With a 19-13 win over North, September 1, the Jags are 3-0, for the first time since 1994. South hosts Alhambra this Friday.

September 13

South Mountain alumnus Amanda Salameh, along with teacher/advisor Heather Jancoski were announced as nominees for the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences National Student Production Awards, also known as the Emmys. Nominees were selected from high school student
entries across the country in 23 programming and craft categories. National winners will be announced at the awards presentation, which will be live-streamed October 3 from Los Angeles.

Salameh, who graduated last year, produced a video essay (single camera only) called “Females in Aerospace.” She advanced after winning a Rocky Mountain/Southwest Chapter Emmy. She is the second South Mountain student in the past two years to be nominated for a national Emmy.

Over 200 young professionals, from 19 regional chapters of the NATAS were narrowed down from 1,500 entries by judges selected from industry professionals to advance to the national competition.

The South Mountain school community is holding a Water Drive with St. Vincent de Paul for community members in need, September 11-15. Students and staff will be collecting water bottles with a goal of 4,000 (two per student.) The community service activity will culminate with the students removing the water bottle brand stickers and replacing it with inspirational messages written by the students Saturday morning at the school cafeteria. These messages will bring reflection and hope for those receiving the water bottles. Former South Mountain graduate Marcelino Quinonez (Class of 2002) who is now the Director of Youth Outreach at SVdP helped to organize the event.

**September 20**

The South Mountain Water Drive with St. Vincent de Paul was a big success. The community service activity culminated with 85 students removing the water bottle brand stickers and replacing it with inspirational messages written by the students Saturday, September 16 at the school cafeteria. The weeklong drive collected 3,262 water bottles for SVdP.

The turnaround season for the South Mountain Football team hit a roadblock September 15, when Central dealt the Jaguars their first loss of the season, after starting 4-0. South will take a week off and then begin 5A Union Region play, September 29 against Camelback, Glendale, Independence, Carl Hayden and Betty Fairfax.

**September 27**

South Mountain has been awarded a $20,000, two-year grant to participate in the Verizon Innovative Learning design thinking program. The program is in conjunction with ASU. South Mountain will join a network of over 50 schools and 200 educators from New York, Chicago, Baton Rouge, Boston, Atlanta, Long Beach and Washington, D.C. in engaging students and teachers in design thinking, entrepreneurship and emerging technology. Teachers will participate in a fall training institute, receive virtual modules, and work with ASU staff and faculty on professional development and implementation. The program hopes to foster innovation,
entrepreneurship and digital literacy through hands-on projects with local small businesses. Multimedia instructor Heather Jancoski wrote the grant and will oversee the program at South. Camelback was one of the first schools picked for this program three years ago.

**October 4**

The South Mountain High School Shakespeare Team consisting of 15 actors and techs and eight dancers competed at the Utah Shakespeare Competition in Cedar City, Utah, September 29-30. This year 3,394 students from 115 schools and six states gathered on the campus of Southern Utah University to compete in Shakespeare scenes as an ensemble, duo/trio scenes, monologues, dance ensembles, madrigal choirs, tech Olympics and an Improvisation Competition. South Mountain’s Improv team, the LOL’s, came in shy two points from 1st place award, taking the 3rd place trophy with all “superior” ratings. The LOL’s are Josiah McCabe, Jorge Morataya, Daniel Lerma, Audrey Sweten, Zyra Johnson and Sefora Caldera.

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The South Mountain Construction classes have built a putt-putt miniature golf course, and it will make its debut at the second annual Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame Benefit Golf Tournament, October 7. The course will be set up at the Grand Canyon University Golf Course, site of the tournament, and will be the course for non-golfers. The fun starts at 10 a.m.

**October 25**

The South Mountain Jaguar News took home several honors at the Fall Arizona Interscholastic Press Association Conference, October 24. For the first time ever, the multimedia magnet program took home General Excellence in Broadcasting-First Place, as well as one Superior Rating, six Excellent Ratings, and seven Honorable Mentions. Four seniors-Sarah Cowherd, Tiyee LaMar, Adrianna Torres, and Blanca Ramos dominated the categories.

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Seniors Tiyee LaMar and Blanca Ramos were honored for their work with the United States Department of Agriculture, October 18. Valentino Reyes, an alumnus of the SMHS aerospace program, started the partnership with South Mountain.

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Reading teacher Breshawn Harris had the honor of seeing her number retired at her alma mater, October 20. Her volleyball jersey (#2) was raised to the rafters of the arena among the other indoor sports athletes of Howard University. Harris starred at Howard from 1991-1994. Harris was already inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame, leading her team to back-to-back Mideastern Athletic Conference championships as the league MVP, leading the NCAA in team blocks in 1994, and she was a member of the first Historically Black Colleges and University to make the NCAA playoffs.
November 1

South Mountain JROTC took second place at the Annual Latino Veteran’s JROTC Competition held at the American Legion Post #41 October 28. The competition consisted of Armed and Unarmed Exhibition Drill, a Physical Fitness Event, a written civics test and brought JROTC Navy, Army and Air Force teams from throughout the state. Greenway High School Navy JROTC took the championship sweepstakes award.

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American Legion Post #41 began in 1948 and has been deeply involved in local community and veteran affairs. The members of Post #41 continue to be civic leaders and have been pioneers in Phoenix in ending segregation and discrimination.

November 8

South Mountain will host the Bridge Forum, November 14 from 10-11:30 a.m., featuring a panel of law enforcement officers and community leaders discussing community-law enforcement relations. Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Police Chief Jeri Williams, Sheriff Paul Penzone, Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell and Peoria Police Chief Roy Minter and Arizona Representative Reginald Bolding will be panelists. The event will be moderated by Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. CEO & President of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and Dr. Ann Hart, NAACP Maricopa County Branch President.

November 15

The South Mountain Boys Basketball Booster Club hosted the 1st Annual South Mountain Alumni Basketball Game, November 11. The event connected South Mountain Alumni and the 2017-2018 South Mountain Boys Basketball players to our community through the common bond of basketball. The concept was created as a way to raise funds for the current basketball season with the ultimate goal of bringing the community back to South Mountain as part of our school-wide mission to "Change the Culture" or "CTC," according to Athletic Director Brian Fair.

Alumni players played for the Rebels (South Mountain’s former mascot) and the Jaguars -- from the Classes of 1989-2011. Clement Chapman and Cleather Lane coached the teams. Chapman coached the 1985 Girls Championship team and 1990 &1991 (32-0) State Champion Boys Teams. Lane was a member of the 1983 Boys Championship team.

The Jaguars edged the Rebels at the end by a score of 96-92 led by 1992 alumnus Brian Fair. The Rebels were led by 1989 alumnus Brent Russel. In addition, South alumni volunteered their talents as DJ and MC for the event. Throughout the evening prizes and "Jag Swag" were awarded to crowd participants in our dance-off, half-court shot contest, and basket relay.
The national award-winning South Mountain Step Team also shared their talents during halftime and the 2017-2018 basketball players were introduced to their community. Our current players connected with the crowd by greeting at the door, selling merchandise and concessions.

**November 22**

The South Mountain Football team had its best season in years, winning five games. That turnaround was acknowledged when head coach Mark Carter was named the All-Phoenix Union Coach of the Year. Joining their coach on that team were Mike Jackson, Jr. offensive line; Jacori Murphy, wide receiver; Cesar Caperon, linebacker; Jaiden Hayes, defensive back and Dontae Lee, kick returner.

**November 29**

Seven magnet photography students from South Mountain, and seven photography students from Central are exhibiting their work at the Young@Art Gallery in the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, November 30-February 4. The exhibit, “In Search of Beauty,” is inspired by Ansel Adams’ imagery of the Southwest. Led by photographers David Emitt Adams and Nissa Kubly, the student artists ventured into the desert, using large-format cameras, exploring Adam’s techniques of landscape photography. The students are in the teen art Visions Program, run by the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art for the entire school year. The Opening Reception is November 30 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and the public is invited.

**December 6**

Social studies teacher Charles Diaz presented at the National Council for the Social Studies annual convention in San Francisco, November 22.

**December 13**

South Mountain alumnus Terry Fair has taken an assistant football coach position at the college where he played—the University of Tennessee. Fair, the brother of South’s athletic director Brian Fair, was coaching defensive backs at Colorado State University the past three years. He was a first round draft pick by the Detroit Lions in 1998, and played cornerback for the St. Louis Rams. He returned to Tennessee in 2013 as a graduate assistant, and joins the new Volunteer head coach, Jeremy Pruitt, who was a defensive coordinator at Alabama.

**December 20**

As usual, there were several South Mountain inductees into the Phoenix Union Spots Hall of Fame this year (December 19), including former Minnesota Vikings tight end Steve Jordan and 1976 Olympic medalist Dwayne Evans, who coaches at the school, but the biggest applause may have been for special inductee Rudy Sanchez, the first-ever athletic trainer to be inducted. Sanchez, the trainer at South Mountain, is the longest tenured trainer in the District. A West High graduate, he
starred his career at North in 1984. After a stint at Grand Canyon, he returned to South as a teacher and athletic trainer. Currently on the State Board of Athletic Training State Licensure, he has served on numerous committees and has written curriculum and policies for athletic training.

January 10, 2018

South Mountain JROTC program recently advanced onto the next level of the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl (JLAB) competition to be conducted in February. If the teams advance beyond the Level II testing, they qualify for the nationals in Washington, D.C. in June.

JLAB is a nationally recognized academic competition created exclusively for JROTC students. By participating, cadets learn the values of citizenship, academic competition, and college opportunity. The JLAB Team consists of a four-person Leadership Team and a four-person Academic Team. Team members compete against other schools on leadership, JROTC curriculum, and academic knowledge. Many of the questions are similar to ACT math, science, and English questions.

January 17

Wrestler Andres Avelar won the Apache Junction High School Prospector Invite Championship in the 106-pound weight class and was named the Outstanding Wrestler for the tournament, January 13. Avelar improved his record to 24-0.

January 24

If you didn’t make it to the Barrett Jackson Auto Show, or any of the other classic car auctions last week, come out to the 3rd annual South Mountain Car Show, this Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free, unless you have a car to show. Car entry is $25 with a free meal ticket. For more information, contact Luis Araiza at laraiza@phoenixunion.org

January 31

South Mountain will have a Future Freshman Day for The Academies @ South Mountain, Saturday, February 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Next year’s 9th graders will be the first to experience a high school transformed into four unique schools-within-a-school, featuring academies for Science and Technology, Public & Social Service, Aerospace & Engineering, and Media, Arts & Design. The campus will also undergo a remodeling project over the next three years to establish the distinct Academies and support the additional programs and classes associated with each
Academy. The Academy approach will give students the advantages of a large school, with a small school experience. For more information, call (602) 764-5000.

February 7

South Mountain will have a Future Freshman Day for The Academies @ South Mountain, Saturday, February 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Next year’s 9th graders will be the first to experience a high school transformed into four unique schools-within-a-school, featuring academies for Science and Technology, Public & Social Service, Aerospace & Engineering, and Media, Arts & Design. The campus will also undergo a remodeling project over the next three years to establish the distinct Academies and support the additional programs and classes associated with each Academy. The Academy approach will give students the advantages of a large school, with a small school experience. For more information, call (602) 764-5000.

Seniors Tiyee LaMar and Adriana Torrez took 1st and 2nd place for the City of Phoenix's Teen Dating Violence Awareness PSA Contest. They were presented with awards, February 5. LaMar, with the help of four students won $500 and tickets for her group to attend the Phoenix Suns game, February 8 in a suite. Torres won $250. LaMar was interviewed on Channel 99 for her work with the video and spoke at the City of Phoenix Brown Bag Luncheon, February 7.

Wrestler Andres Avelar placed 1st in a state sectional tournament and secured the number 1 seed in 106-pound division the AIA State Tournament, February 8-9 in Prescott Valley. It is the second time he has won the sectional tournament to qualify for state.

South Mountain’s Academic Decathlon team finished 6th in the Region II Decathlon, February 2-3, qualified for the State Academic Decathlon, March 9-10, and was named the Most Improved School among the 27 teams competing. The Jaguars scored 5,771 points higher than last year. Nayely Garcia won a gold in Varsity speech, Dazhane Brown took silver in Honors speech and Bianca Quintero won bronze in Honors language and literature.

February 14

South Mountain alumna Marissa Delgado, the executive sous chef of Tempe-based Santa Barbara Catering, was a contestant on the television show, “Chopped,” which aired February 13 on the Food Network. The episode, called “Chocolate, Chocolate, Chocolate,” gave chefs 20 to 30 minutes to create, plate and present their dishes to three judges, One "Chopped" champion could win $10,000.
“For a 25-year-old chef that grew up watching 'Chopped' throughout high school, standing in that kitchen for the first time is like entering an alternate reality,” Delgado said to azcentral.com, "It’s the day you notice that who and what you’ve wanted to become is actually coming true... It is an experience that I would describe as being stuck on the highest point of a roller coaster — exhilarating and scary — and a moment you will take with you throughout your life’s journey.”

Pat Christofolo, who owns Santa Barbara Catering, along with affiliated businesses such as The Farm at South Mountain and Quiessence, described Delgado as a "powerhouse," calling her "wise beyond her years, creative, spunky and, at times, incorrigible in the best way." Delgado has been with the company for seven years. "She shows great leadership skills tempered by her keen sense of humor and playfulness," Christofolo said.

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South Mountain’s Visual Arts Magnet students currently have their work professionally exhibited in the Fletcher Library of the Arizona State University West Campus. The VA Magnet and our students have partnered with the Cultural Arts Coalition since 1996 to grant our students the opportunity to meet and work with professional artists from our community. Students have been working for over a year to prepare for the showing of their work as it has been the main focus of our curriculum.

Students took a close look at the Paul Gauguin painting "Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?" and drew inspiration from the research they did on this painting.

“Our Jaguars have collaborated with professional artist, Gloria Casillas, to create a quilt of canvas that identifies who they are as individuals and brings them together as a community, said magnet manager Megan McRae. “We highly stress the importance of preparing students for college, career, and life and firmly believe that this work we are doing with our magnet students supports the mission of our district and that opportunities such as these sets the magnet apart from general arts courses. This is a wonderful chance for our students to network with artists, art curators, as well as gain an understanding of how a professional gallery setting works.”

Students also meet with school recruiters, they tour the college campus, and get highlights of the college experience from students studying various concentrations in media, arts, and science. In addition to opportunities afforded to the students, the Cultural Arts Coalition honors exceptional student achievements, they fund advertising and market our gallery exhibition.

Student Nicole Duarte's digital artwork was purchased by the staff at the Fletcher Library for their permanent collection.

The student show will be on display in the Fletcher Library until February 22, after which it will be on display in the campus art gallery.
Wrestler Andres Avelar finished third in the 106-pound division the AIA State Tournament, February 8-9 in Prescott Valley. He lost his second match of the year in the opening match, and then won four straight to capture the consolation title. He finished the season, 40-2.

February 28

South Mountain had its second school-wide community service event—a food drive aimed at filling the food pantry for a full year

There was an excellent turnout with all students receiving four hours of community service for their Advisory grade. Community Liaison Crystal Lucero and the students were able to sort, organize and prepare the resource pantry.

“Thank you to everyone who donated food items, all items will be used to support our Jaguars. We had nearly 600 food items donated,” assistant principal Matt Lersch said.

March 7

South Mountain has received a $20,000 grant to implement innovative computer science curriculum by Project Lead The Way The grant comes via a partnership between the Verizon Foundation and Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a nonprofit organization that provides transformative learning experiences for K-12 students and teachers through K-12 pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science.

South Mountain is one of 72 schools across the country receiving part of a $3 million grant provided by the Verizon Foundation for implementation of PLTW computer science curriculum.

“This opportunity is essential to South Mountain’s transition to The Academies @ South Mountain and is available to students within the Science and Technology Academy,” said Matt Lersch, Assistant Principal of Instruction.

South Mountain will offer Computer Science Essentials in year 1 and AP Computer Science Principles in year 1. The courses provide an opportunity for students to experience computer science in a relevant and engaging way, empowering them to solve real-world problems.

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The South Mountain Girls were the highest Phoenix Union finishers at the Metro Relays, hosted by Maryvale, March 3. South Mountain Girls, finished third, behind Casa Grande Union and Centennial among the 16-team field The Jaguar Girls dominated the relays, winning the 4 x 100; 4 x 200 and 4 x 400 relays, and the 100 x 100 x 200 x 400-meter medley.
April 4

A video that senior Blanca Ramos worked on last summer during her internship with the United States Department of Agriculture has been posted on the PBS NewsHour School Reporting Lab website.

https://studentreportinglabs.org/video/meet-group-behind-natural-disaster-recovery-efforts-u-s/

Ramos’ video is about how the USDA, through the Emergency Watershed Protection program, provides support for the recovery of natural disaster areas and its inhabitants. Valentino Reyes, a former South Mountain graduate, arranged for Ramos to intern with USDA.

April 11

South Mountain student reporters from the Southwinds Newspaper took a field trip to the Talking Stick Arena, March 24 to meet the Phoenix Suns. They toured the arena, watched a practice and interviewed some of the athletes, including Devin Booker. Students also were able to watch and listen as the professional reporters did their interviews. They interviewed azcentral.com’s Suns beat reporter Scott Bordow.

The part of the trip that I enjoyed most was getting to meet the players and interviewing them, Marrisa De Santiago said. They were not as intimidating as I assumed, and it was not an experience you get to have every day.”

“I enjoyed having a chance to gain experience in the journalism field by interviewing people that weren’t on campus and people we didn’t already know personally. We stepped out of our comfort zone,” Mia Robles said.

Communications teacher Anne Montgomery, a former sports journalist herself, brought the students to the arena for the memorable day.

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Elijah Jenkins, former South Mountain High School Law Magnet student, is set to graduate from Howard University School of Law with Magna Cum Laude honors in May 12. At Howard, Jenkins has earned CALI (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) Awards in Criminal Law, Legal Reasoning, Research & Writing, and Commercial Law. He is the Executive Publications Editor for the Howard Law Journal. He earned a judicial internship and a summer associate at one of the top-tier law firms in the world, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. Jenkins spent part of the summer working in their New York office, and also working in their London, England office. Subsequently, he was offered an Associate position with Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP this fall.
April 18

The Academies at South Mountain will take flight next school year, and the unique high school concept will be “launched” at a Launch Ceremony, Thursday, April 26. The ceremony, which is similar to a groundbreaking, will feature the landing of the World War II-era Douglas B-26C Invader to its new resting place in the front plaza of the re-designed campus. The plane was originally donated by Allied-Signal in 1991, and was inside the campus. A $25-million construction and renovation project will divide the campus into four academies—Science and Technology, Public & Social Service; Aerospace & Engineering, and Media, Arts & Design. The ceremony will feature artist renderings of the campus construction and layout of the front plaza. Students and staff will highlight the four academies, which will offer a big school advantage and a small school experience, beginning 2018-19 school year.

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South Mountain will host a showcase for Verizon Innovative Learning (VIL) Design Thinking Program participants, tonight in the Jag Café from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Student teams will have the opportunity to showcase and pitch the technology solutions they created for local small businesses to a panel of judges from different disciplines. Two winners from the school showcase will represent South Mountain in the regional showcase, April 25 with winners from six other high schools in the area.

According to the Verizon Foundation, “By 2020, 77% of US jobs will require technology skills, yet millions of students lack access to technology and resources to help them thrive in a digital economy.” Verizon Innovative Learning (VIL), the education initiative of the Foundation, addresses this issue by providing free technology, free access and innovative curriculum to students impacted by the digital divide.

May 3

The Jaguar News-Advanced Broadcast Class will hold a Documentary Showcase, Thursday, May 3 from 6-8 p.m. in the South Mountain Auditorium. The seniors have been working since October with the program’s Advisory Committee to create documentaries. The films cover the following topics: Teenage Depression; The Tiger Mountain Foundation; Cyberbullying; Verizon and their project with South and After School Program Help. Admission is $7 for adults, $5 for students, children 5 and under and staff (and a guest) are free.
May 9

At its first ever Student Showcase, South Mountain High School’s Communication Arts Magnet program received both the Arizona Group of the Year Award and the Western Regional Group of the Year Award from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Two students from the South Mountain High School’s Communication Arts Magnet program contributed over 225 hours last summer through the NRCS Earth Team Volunteer program. Tiyee La Mar and Blanca Ramos assisted in the development of three outreach videos as well as recorded video for five additional videos.

The videos they helped develop will be used to connect with communities who can benefit from the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program that is currently improving those structures nearing the end of their design life. In addition, they developed a video on the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) that can be used to help communities protect life and property after a catastrophe such as a wildfire.

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South Mountain’s 4 x100-meter relay team finished second in the Division II Girls State Track and Field Championships, May 5. Individually, Autumn Boyd was 7th and Alaijah Huckaby, 8th in the 100-meters. Boyd placed 7th in the 200-meters and Ta’kia Shivers was 7th in the javelin. South finished 13th in the team standings.

May 16

Senior Raelynn Fair was named the Phoenix Union Female Athlete of the Year at the All-Phoenix Union Sports Awards ceremony, May 16 at Central High School. She has competed in track and field, volleyball and cross country. She has been a member of a state champion track team, won state titles in the 4 x 100 relay three years in a row, and placed in other events. She comes from a family of college and professional athletes, and when she hangs up her track spikes, she would like to be a sportscaster. Her father Brian, now the school’s athletic director, played basketball for Connecticut, and uncle Terry, played in the NFL. Both attended South Mountain. Fair, who has a 3.85 grade point average, will attend Arizona Western Community College in Yuma, next fall.