PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
AROUND OUR SCHOOLS
2016-2017
August 11, 2016

The 2015-16 School year began, August 8 with the opening of two new schools to the 17-school Phoenix Union High School District. The Phoenix Coding Academy opened its doors to the first freshman class. The Linda Abril Educational Academy had a ribbon-cutting, August 5, and welcomed students three days later. Formerly known as Suns-Diamondbacks Education Academy, it was renamed with the completion of the alternative school’s first permanent home, a 42,000 square-foot two-story school building at 3000 N. 19th Ave. It was named after Governing Board member Linda Abril, a longtime champion of small, alternative schools.

Phoenix is one of 22 cities selected to receive up to $55,000 in the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Completion Challenge through National College Access Network (NCAN). Through this project, NCAN is challenging the 22 cities to increase FAFSA completion rates by at least 5 percent for the graduating high school class of 2017. FAFSA will opening up October 1, 2016. It will make applying for aid easier. The grant funding will support the planning and execution of citywide, cross-sector FAFSA completion efforts for the 2016-17 school year, with strategic efforts to help students navigate the new changes and timing. Phoenix Union counselors began working with community partners this summer at the FAFSA Brainstorming event in July. They have set an internal goal of reaching 50% FAFSA completion for the District.

This summer the District received notification that all PUHSD JROTC programs received a passing grade for the school year 2015-2016 U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC Program Accreditation audit. Notably, the JROTC programs at Alhambra, North, South, Camelback and Trevor Browne received the “Honor Unit with Distinction Gold Star” for maintaining exceptionally high standards of training and discipline as determined by the Command Formal Inspection and Unit Report. This formal inspection conducted by administrators from the 5th ROTC Brigade in Texas occurs every three years in accordance with U.S. Army Regulations and is in support of the national JROTC AdvancEd certification. The inspection reviews curriculum and teaching in the classroom, Cadet training effectiveness, and adherence to federal expenditure guidelines, school support and progress towards a continuous improvement program. These objectives are largely demonstrated by Cadet Interaction, interviews and briefings with the inspectors.

PUHSD has over 2,000 students in Army ROTC Units, representing 11 high schools. Congratulations to one of Phoenix Union’s outstanding programs.
August 18

Governing Board member Randy Schiller has been known to attend every Phoenix Union graduation humanly possible, and many of those are back-to-back in the same venue. He outdid himself on the first day of school, Monday, August 8 when he visited all 17 PUHSD schools. After dropping off his 10-year old daughter to a neighborhood school in Laveen, he encountered traffic jams at Betty Fairfax and Cesar Chavez, and decided to come back later. At that point he called in to his work, and begin his journey. It took him 7.5 hours, logging 78.2 miles and 5.2 gallons of gas, but he made it to all 17 schools, shook hands with every principal, and was able to pick up his daughter before hitting the last two schools in his journey. Among his highlights, the Betty Fairfax upper classmen wearing “ask me” t-shirts to help the freshmen navigate the campus, and his first-ever visit to Desiderata, a small, alternative school.

Ready or not, high school football is here. Of Phoenix Union’s ten teams, eight of them play games on August 19, or “zero week” on the AIA schedule. Three of the games involve PUHSD matchups- Alhambra at Carl Hayden, Camelback at Betty Fairfax, and Maryvale at South Mountain. Cesar Chavez hosts Queen Creek and Trevor Browne travels to Yuma Kofa.

This year, six schools-Alhambra, Cesar Chavez, Central, Maryvale, North and Trevor Browne play in the Class 6A Metro Region. Camelback, Betty Fairfax, Carl Hayden, and South Mountain are in the 5A Union Region, along with Independence and Glendale. Despite the separation by classification, most of the schools’ schedules are heavy with intra-district contests. Some teams have as many as nine of their 10 games against PUHSD schools. Chavez has the fewest in-district games with six, and its schedule starts off with four East Valley opponents.

In sports, there is a Most Valuable Player or MVP award. The Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation developed the D-backs MVT Award to support the everyday heroes in our schools that are shaping the future for our community and our kids.

Several Phoenix Union teachers have received on-field recognition prior to a Diamondbacks home game this summer, as well as a check for $1000 to use for classroom supplies. In May, PUHSD teachers honored were Matt Burke – Trevor Browne Science; Helene Meacham – Betty Fairfax English; Megan Dallas- Trevor Browne Performing Arts; Teri Woods – North Math. In June, Joshua Baker – Maryvale Science; Torunn Randich – Carl Hayden English; Erika Parra – Metro Tech Math; Nictee Arriaga – North World Languages. In July, Catherine Barrett – Carl Hayden Reading; Xavier Flores – Central Math; Alison Brightwell-Balot- Cesar Chavez Performing Arts. On August 26, the Diamondbacks will honor two more- Angela Palacios-Spanish teacher and Muhammad Shaikh- Math teacher, both from South Mountain.

In September, the D-backs will recognize and award the Teacher of the Year who will receive on-field recognition and a $5,000 grant.
Phoenix Union schools had their best ACT College Exam results since the District began testing all junior eight years ago. At most school districts, ACT and SAT exams are voluntary, but in an effort to encourage more students to go to college, the District began free ACT tests for all 11th graders. For the first time in five years, the average scores increased in all four areas—math, reading, science and a composite score, and in college readiness. The 5,036 test-takers were the most ever. Five schools increased in all four areas—Bioscience, Metro Tech, Maryvale, Carl Hayden and Cesar Chavez, while five more schools improved in three of the four categories—North, Central, Camelback, Franklin and Alhambra.

The story is the same all around Arizona—school districts need bus drivers. Phoenix Union is short 13 drivers, which means longer routes and slower trips to and from school. Bus drivers start at $14.38 an hour, work six-hour shifts and receive full benefits. For more information, contact the PUHSD Talent Division at 602-764-1100, or www.phoenixunion.org/jobs.

Through the first 12 days of school, enrollment is up 376 students from this time last year at 27,751, and running over 200 students ahead of projections. Enrollment tends to grow for the first four weeks of school before leveling off. The District uses a High Point date 20 days into the school year to compare attendance. Last year’s High Point attendance was 27,424.

Phoenix Union High School District is making football safer for its student athletes by implementing a comprehensive football safety instructional program called Safe Football at all ten football schools. Safe Football, founded by former ASU and NFL lineman Scott Peters, will train every football coach and player in the District annually over the next three years. Through proper technique training, players can avoid serious injuries, such as concussions. Players and coaches will learn the Safe Football techniques, from pre-snap stance to the point of impact for blocking, engaging blockers, tackling and tackle avoidance, without using their helmet as a tool for contact.

Peters developed the program in 2009 and has worked with over 400 teams, including college and professional. He worked with the University of Washington in 2012-13, and while the Huskies improved dramatically both offensively and defensively, it was in the training room where the real results were realized. The players incurred no concussions or “stingers” for the entire season.

“The real goal is the reduction of injuries, but we have seen that that also correlates into higher performance,” Peters said.

While Phoenix Union Athletic Director Dr. Zack Muñoz isn’t predicting state championships yet, he sees great value in the program.

“Many of our student-athletes didn’t play youth football, and come with limited knowledge of the game. Improving their skill level at their positions with the right, safe techniques will prevent injuries that often come from inexperience,” Muñoz said. “I have also been impressed with how our coaches have embraced this training.”
Muñoz is combining Safe Football with soft shell gear from a company called RockSolid. The District acquired the shoulder pads and soft helmets that allow players to practice safe techniques on non-contact days, and during the off-season. RockSolid helped underwrite the Safe Football program.

“The RockSolid soft shell shoulder pads will be used in conjunction Safe Football to educate the student athletes on proper blocking, shedding and tackling techniques to improve performance and decrease the risk for injury/concussion. We aim to protect the student-athletes as well build a foundation of positive coaching, execution and team morale,” RockSolid’s Craig Reddinger said.

Safe Football instructors start with three-hour clinics for coaches at the freshman, JV and varsity levels. Following interactive demonstrations, the coaches are tested in their ability to re-teach the techniques and drills to receive certification. The coaches’ clinics are followed by two-hour on-site player camps, led by Safe Football instructors. Players are then taught Safe Football techniques through a series of fun, engaging and progressive drills designed to use the hands and shoulders, not the head, to apply and resist force on the field.

Phoenix Union High School District is leading the effort in its recycling and sustainability endeavors and the mission of environmental stewardship. All of the District’s comprehensive campuses have solar compactors completely off the grid using biodegradable hydraulic fluid to collect recycled material. Students and staff collaborate to have recycling programs on their campuses.

The Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame held its inaugural Education Ceremony last December, and in October, the District and Phoenix Union Foundation for Education will hold a Benefit Golf Tournament at the Grand Canyon University Golf Course in advance of this year’s Induction Ceremony. The event will be Saturday, October 8. There are sponsorships available, or golfers can play for $120 each. Sponsorship Registration Deadline is Sept. 17; Foursome and Player Registration Deadline is Sept. 30 A registration form is at www.Foundation4Education.org. For Questions, Call (602) 764-1334
August 31

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 efforts of a company called Cynergistic and other energy management practices, Phoenix Union has earned ENERGY STAR Certification at 15 schools. That turns out to be every PUHSD school, since Phoenix Coding Academy and Linda Abril Academy were not finished. The schools were recognized at the September 1 governing board meeting.

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. Twelve schools scored a 90 or higher - Trevor Browne- 90; Alhambra- 92; Bioscience- 92; Franklin – 92; Maryvale – 92; Camelback- 94; Metro Tech- 94; Carl Hayden- 95; Betty Fairfax- 95; Bostrom- 95; and the top scorers -- South Mountain- 97 and Desiderata- 97.

Certification is given on an annual basis, so a building must maintain its high performance to be certified year to year. The information submitted in the certification application must be verified by a licensed Professional Engineer or Registered Architect to be eligible for approval.

Five schools- Camelback; Central; South Mountain; Betty Fairfax and Bostrom are taking part in the ENERGY STAR Battle of the Buildings Boot camp 2016, a competition that challenges building mangers and occupants to reduce energy and water use, and save money. The competition runs September 1 through November 30. Competitors will work to cut energy and water waste using Boot camp training kits that focus on new energy or water-saving action in the workplace. The school with the greatest verified weather-normalized energy savings (by percentage) wins. Reduction will be based on energy performance by the end of the competition period compared to before the competition began.
September 8

Phoenix Union’s enrollment numbers have increased by 337 students over last year, and the 27,766 students are the most in 39 years. The year-over-year figures are taken after the 20th day of the school year, called “High Point” by the District. Traditionally, enrollment continues to grow in the first four weeks of the school year. PUHSD administrators had projected a gain of 109 students from 2015-16. North High School had the largest increase of 236 students and South Mountain increased 140 students. North had 105 more freshmen and South had 99 more freshmen. Ten schools experienced gains, while six schools decreased their student population. Small school Linda Abril Educational Academy added 76 more students to its new campus, and the addition of the new Phoenix Coding Academy contributed to the growth.

Trevor Browne and Maryvale continue to be the largest schools. Browne has 3,154 students, and Maryvale has 3,021.

“We continue to attract students from within and outside the district boundaries, but as important is that with our improved graduation rates and reduced dropout numbers, we are retaining more students. Our freshman class is actually 11 less than last year, but we have 173 more juniors and 105 more seniors,” Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson said. “This signals the confidence our community has in our schools, and the quality teachers, support staff and leaders who love and support our students.”

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Over 30 Arizona State Legislators have scheduled 2-4 hour blocks of time to shadow local public school teachers in their district as part of the Arizona Education Foundation Take Your legislator to School Initiative. In its third year, AEF has seen over 200 teachers invite their Senator or Representative into the classroom. Teachers and legislators are matched based on legislative district. The shadowing and time spent between teachers and legislators is unique to each pair. Rep. Ken Clark (LD24) will visit Franklin Police & Fire High School, September 15 and Sen. Catherine Miranda (LD27) will go to South Mountain High School September 26.
September 15

Phoenix Union High Schools will hold the nation’s largest school district voter registration day event on National Voter Registration Day, September 27. It is one of hundreds of events across the nation being recognized by the National Voter Registration Day campaign. The event is the culmination of a month that saw 8,000 students take the Civics Exam, and Trevor Browne High School host a naturalization ceremony. The District’s student Civic Engagement committee is partnering with the non-partisan One Arizona organization in an effort to educate all students about voting and voter registration the Friday before, and invite and register up to 2,200 age-eligible students (those who turn 18 by November 8) at events on 15 campuses, Sept. 27. The events, held during Advisory periods in gymnasiums, will include speakers, entertainment, registration tables, civic engagement opportunities and social media stations.

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September 28

If it’s October, it must be Arizona College Application Campaign month, but this year, besides the goal of having all seniors apply for college, the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) period has moved up from January to October 1st to align with the application season.

The College Application Campaign has a goal of 100% of seniors at a school complete at least one college application. Students go to campus computer labs and with the help of counselors, community members and agencies, they complete on-line applications. Last year, the entire district participated and had a college completion rate of 83%. Central High had 489 seniors, or 95% of its senior who applied. Bioscience also had 95%; North had 93% Maryvale had 90%. Six schools had 80% or more seniors apply. Of the 5,539 seniors reported from 14 PUHSD schools, 10,017 applications were submitted before and during the campaign.

The campaign, organized by the Arizona Commission for Post-Secondary Education, will kick off Monday, October 3 with an assembly at Central High with Mayor Greg Stanton leading the rally. Following the assembly, students will apply to colleges, and complete the day with a FAFSA Fiesta, with food, music, gift cards, and parents invited to fill out the financial aid application.

According to Dolores Ramirez, the District’s post-secondary articulation specialist, Phoenix Union students did well with the applications, but left a lot of money on the table with lower FAFSA completion, which had the later application window.

Schools started September 26 and will complete the campaign by November 19.

Among the partners in this effort are College Depot, Be A Leader Foundation; Arizona College Access Network; ASU; Thriving Together; Post-Secondary Commission.

October 5

With a goal of 100% of its seniors applying for college, Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton helped Phoenix Union schools kick off the College Application Campaign, October 3 at Central High School. Along with the goal of having all seniors apply for college, students also received help filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA). This year, the FAFSA opened October 1 to align with the college application season. For the third year, all Phoenix Union schools will participate in this campaign. Stanton joined Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson, board members Lela Alston, Laura Pastor, Stephanie Parra and community volunteers who helped students register in the library and computer labs.

“College is the best time of your life, and once you earn a degree your earning potential over the course of your life is $1 million more in your pocket,” Mayor Stanton said. A college degree will impact your future, your family’s future, and what we want to accomplish as a city.”

“It will change your family dynamics,” said Pastor, who works at Phoenix College.
Students participated in a FAFSA Fiesta, completing the FAFSA financial aid application, and then entered drawings to win prizes, including a television for the student that applies to the most colleges. Last year’s winner applied to 16 schools. There were dorm refrigerators, microwaves, cap and gown graduation sets and gift cards, as well. The Central Student Government organized the Fiesta, playing music and dishing out Mexican food to the seniors who applied to college and financial aid. The Fiesta lasted until 5 p.m., allowing parents to come to the school to help with the FAFSA application.

Last year, the entire district participated in the campaign and had a college application completion rate of 83%. Central High had 489 seniors, or 95% of its senior who applied. Bioscience also had 95%; North had 93% Maryvale had 90%. Of the 5,539 seniors reported from 14 PUHSD schools, 10,017 applications were submitted before and during the campaign. However, FAFSA application percentages were much lower.

“We want our students to access as much free money as possible. Most of our students can earn a $5,815 Pell Grant,” PUHSD Post-Secondary Articulation Specialist Dolores Ramirez said. “This year, Phoenix is one of 22 cities that received a FAFSA Completion Grant. To continue the grant, they are looking for the most innovative campaigns and highest growth of FAFSA completion.”

Some of the statistics she noted:
- Students have an 85% chance of getting some kind of student financial aid.
- 92% of applications from low-income households receive grant money, which never has to be paid back.

Metro Tech and Alhambra began the application campaign last week, and some campuses will have events into November.

Among the community partners are College Depot, Be a Leader Foundation, Arizona College Access Network, ASU, Maricopa Community Colleges, Grand Canyon Univ., Univ. of Arizona, NAU, UTI, Friendly House, Thriving Together and the Post-Secondary Commission.

One hundred forty-four of the top students in Phoenix Union and their parents were invited to the Phoenix Union Scholars Workshop, October 1 at the College Depot in the Burton Barr Library. These students were selected for having at least a 26 on their ACT College Entrance Exams, which is at or above the 83rd percentile. These students are often highly desirable by universities around the country. The attendees heard from a panel of representatives from the Flinn Foundation, Dorrance Scholarship, The Dream.US, College Success Arizona, Arizona Community Foundation and Hispanic Scholarship Fund. They learned about the College Depot Scholarship Website, Ivy League schools, and learned about out-of-state colleges that meet full financial aid. College representatives from Grand Canyon, ASU Barrett Honors College, NAU and U of A were also on hand to meet students and parents. The event wrapped up with individualized FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Assistance) help.
Irene Diaz, Phoenix Union’s Director for Student Discipline, Safety & Security was recently invited to speak at a community event titled Guns, Violence & Peace: A Community Conversation, September 29. She presented on Trauma Informed Practices for Schools and how trauma, specifically violence, affects the brain, learning, academic performance and behavior. In addition, she discussed the importance of schools addressing the impact trauma or ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) have on learning in order to ensure all students reach their full academic potential. Other topics included Black Lives Matter, Mental Health Issues, and Justice & Law Enforcement. The event was sponsored by ASU Project Humanities and the First Congregational UCC.

The Be a Leader Foundation Taking Steps Towards College Success Resource Fair and Walk takes place October 23. The free event provides students and families with access to over 50 community organizations who support students through their educational journey. Following the resource fair at Phoenix Civic Space Park downtown, participants will walk to the Civic Center to visit with over 200 colleges and universities. Last year, Phoenix Union schools had 2,200 participants.

The Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame will hold a Benefit Golf Tournament at the Grand Canyon University Golf Course in advance of this year’s Induction Ceremony, Saturday, October 8. This year’s Induction Ceremony will be at the Talking Stick Arena, December 20. The Hall of Fame committee is naming Modern Era (1950-1969) coaches, athletes and teams this year.

October 12

The fourth annual Experience Phoenix Union High School Expo will be held Saturday, November 5 from 10 a.m.to 2 p.m. at Phoenix College. Middle school students and parents are invited to explore all that Phoenix Union has to offer at the Expo. Attendees can visit all Phoenix Union schools in one location, meet students and staff, learn about the many programs, clubs and services offered, and take advantage of the first day to apply to a PUHSD school. There will be live performances by high school students, giveaways and interactive activities and the first 1,000 8th graders will receive a free drawstring backpack.

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Former teacher, coach, principal and District athletic director Dr. Moody Jackson was named to the Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame, September 12. Jackson was presented with the award from current Phoenix Union Athletic Director, and AIAAA President Dr. Zack Munoz. Jackson attended South Mountain where he starred in several sports, was a JC All American football player at Phoenix College, and eventually played pro football in Canada. He began his educational career as a teacher at South Mountain, where he coached football, track, boys and girls basketball. He was Phoenix Union’s athletic director from 1999 to 2009.

October 19

The Phoenix Union Governing Board heard the annual Accountability and Achievement report at the October 13 Board meeting. Among the highlights was that the preliminary 4-year Graduation rate for 2016 eclipsed the state average. The 4-year Hispanic Grad Rate was eight percentage points higher than the state average for Hispanic students. PUHSD’s annual dropout rate of 3.2 percent fell below the state’s 4.5 percent. Advanced Placement Access and Exams taken jumped over 800 students to 3,422. Just five years ago, it was at 1,913 students taking AP courses and taking exams.

There were four AP courses and four teachers that had students score above state and global averages. At Trevor Browne, students in Sonia Kapoor’s Calculus AB class, 81.5% scored a 3, 4 or 5, compared to 53% for Arizona, and 60% worldwide. At Maryvale, students in Joshua Baker’s AP Chemistry, 57% scored 3, 4 or 5, compared to the state average of 49% and the global average of 52%. In AP Studio 2-D Art, two teachers topped state and global averages. At Cesar Chavez, Annie Cook’s students scored at 85% and Cianne Conklin’s class at Central scored at 96% compared to state 83% and global, 82%.

Phoenix Union was a SRP 2016 Champions of Energy Efficiency Award winner for Schools K-12 for saving money and conserving resources. The award was announced October 18 at a luncheon honoring businesses, municipalities and schools. The District has saved close to $1.5 million, in part by educating staff and students about energy conservation and sustainability. It has installed LED lights, implemented a comprehensive recycling program, and worked with partners to reduce energy use and costs. Every campus recently received ENERGY STAR certification, indicating that it performs better than at least 75 percent of similar buildings nationwide. Executive Director of Logistics Juvenal Lopez joined Governing Board member Stanford Prescott, Carl Hayden Science Teacher Alejadrina Mejia, Cesar Chavez High School facility supervisor Gilbert Sanchez, Maryvale teacher Christine Turner and Laura Bogen, Cenergistic, Inc. Energy Specialist for the presentation.
“Students and staff are trained to know that leaving on a single computer monitor may cost one penny per day, but multiplied by thousands of monitors, the savings can be tremendous,” Lopez said.

Being named an SRP Champion of Energy Efficiency is a significant achievement. These companies serve as examples for other businesses to follow,” SRP’s Director of Market Research and Customer Programs Dan Dreiling said.

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Phoenix Union’s Exceptional Students Services will hold a Division of Developmental Disabilities Expo, November 19 at Alhambra High School from 10 a.m. to noon. Students, parents and teachers are invited to attend. Exhibitors will have services and resources such as employment opportunities, training programs, adult independent living and support, and many continuing learning opportunities. For more information, contact Renae Moncibaez at moncibaez@pheonixunion.org.

Carol Lindsay, a longtime board member and former President of the Phoenix Union Foundation for Education was a 2016 Volunteer Excellence Award Winner for her company, Freeport-McMoRan. Lindsay, a Director-Treasury Operations in Phoenix, won the top honor for North America site employees and a $10,000 grant for the Foundation, where she has volunteered for 25 years. Lindsay has been secretary, treasurer and 10 years as president of the executive board. She oversaw the creation of an annual Scholarship Dinner and has been involved in the disbursing scholarship funds and launched a scholarship endowment fund that has reached $350,000. Current Foundation President Jason Gellman wrote this in his nomination:

“The Foundation would not still be standing without Carol’s involvement. She has poured her heart and soul into the Foundation for many years. Under Carol’s leadership, the Foundation now has a robust and formal process for providing in program funds, and we passed the $1 million mark in terms of total scholarships awarded in 2016.”

Linda Abril • Alhambra • Bioscience • Bostrom • Trevor Browne • Camelback • Cesar Chavez • Central • Desiderata
Betty Fairfax • Franklin • Carl Hayden • Maryvale • Metro Tech • North • Coding • South Mountain
October 26

The fourth annual *Experience Phoenix Union High School Expo* will be held Saturday, November 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Phoenix College. Middle school students and parents are invited to explore all that Phoenix Union has to offer at the Expo. Attendees can visit all Phoenix Union schools in one location, meet students and staff, learn about the many programs, clubs and services offered, and take advantage of the first day to apply to a PUHSD school. There will be live performances by high school students, giveaways and interactive activities and the first 1,000 8th graders will receive a free drawstring backpack.

Phoenix Union will have a Fall Teacher Career Fair, Saturday, November 19 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](http://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 2

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It’s that time of year when the band season starts winding down, but not before some big events this week. Four Phoenix Union High Schools-- Carl Hayden, North, Cesar Chavez and Betty Fairfax-- have qualified for the State Marching Festival this Saturday, November 5, at McClintock High School. Bands qualify by receiving a rating of “Excellent” or higher at a marching band competition leading up to the State event. All PUHSD Bands are competing in the 29-school Division III, which means bands of less than 65 members. The schedule is: 12:15 pm – Carl Hayden Community High School; 12:30 pm – North High School; 1:00 pm – Cesar Chavez High School; 2:15 pm – Fairfax High School.
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November 9

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November 16

Phoenix Union will have a Fall Teacher Career Fair, Saturday, November 19 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.
The Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon takes place November 18-19 at Maryvale High School. It is the first competition for many of the teams, as they prepare for the Region Decathlon in February. Eleven teams from PUHSD will be joined by Kingman Academy, St. John’s and Sierra Vista Buena. There will be 254 student competitors and over 200 volunteers.

Four-hundred seventy-seven Phoenix Union employees reached their five, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 year anniversary last year, and they were invited to the Employee Appreciation Reception, November 17 at Metro Tech’s Banquet Room. The employees received a service pin and certificate. Those employees reaching 20, 25 and 30-year milestones received a plaque.

Phoenix Union’s Exceptional Students Services will hold a Division of Developmental Disabilities Expo, November 19 at Alhambra High School from 10 a.m. to noon. Students, parents and teachers are invited to attend. Exhibitors will have services and resources such as employment opportunities, training programs, adult independent living and support, and many continuing learning opportunities. For more information, contact Renae Moncibaez at moncibaez@phoenixunion.org.

November 23

Student Governments in Phoenix Union have a new officer position—Sustainability Officer. Fourteen schools selected sustainability officers dedicated to help promote recycling, water conservation, clean air and other objectives. On November 17, the students and the Student Council Sustainability Officers Initiative was introduced by City of Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton. Three years ago, Bioscience High School was the first to have a sustainability officer, who worked with the city’s sustainability office. This partnership with Phoenix and the ASU School of Sustainability is the first of its kind in the nation to have dedicated student sustainability officers. The program is designed to improve sustainability literacy in public schools, and provide opportunities for students to become sustainability leaders. ASU will provide leadership, resources and scholarship opportunities for the students. The 13 student officers met for an orientation after the announcement.

Over 150 employees attended the Phoenix Union Employee Appreciation and Awards Reception, November 17, at the Metro Tech banquet room, honoring employees who reached their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 30 and 35-year service milestones at the end of last school year. In all, 475 employees reached those marks last year. Thirteen have been with the District for 30 years, and one individual, Albaro Portillo, who retired last year, hit the 35th year. 20, 25 and 30-year employees received plaques and service pins. Five, 10 and 15-year employees received certificates and service pins. Governing Board President Lela Alston, who always attends this event, was surprised when Superintendent Chad Gestson presented her with a shadow box of service pins for her 34 years of service at Phoenix Union High School District. Alston once mentioned she had never received a pin. She retired a year before this event began. Alston is all Phoenix Union. She attended Phoenix Union High School and taught home economics from 1968 to 2002 at West High, Maryvale, Alhambra, Metro Tech and Bostrom. She has served on the Governing Board for eight years, and will begin her third term in January.
November 30

Phoenix Union, Phoenix College and the Maricopa Community Colleges will present the 5th Annual C3 Latino Youth Conference, December 2 at Phoenix College. The C3 stands for College, Career and Commitment to the Future. Eleven Phoenix Union schools and almost 200 students will participate in career exploration and a college and community resource fair and hear from a motivational speaker. Career workshops will be offered in 10 areas, including civic engagement, coding and computer information, engineering, healthcare, law enforcement and education. The three state universities and the Maricopa Community Colleges will be at the college and resource fair, as well as college preparatory agencies such as MCC’s ACE (Achieving a College Education), Aguila Youth leadership, Be a Leader and College Depot.

Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson and MCC Chancellor Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick will speak during the opening session.

The event is presented by the Chancellor’s Latino Advisory Committee.

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The Association of the United States Army and the Phoenix Union JROTC hosted the 28th annual Armed Forces Career Officer Day luncheon at McCormick Ranch, Scottsdale, November 22. All PUHSD JROTC programs attended, along with 24 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, U of A, NAU, New Mexico Military Institute, Norwich and Emory Riddle Aeronautical University all attended.

This program is 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 after college in becoming a commissioned officer in the U.S. Armed Forces.

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

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Phoenix Union High School District will hold its second annual Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner, Tuesday, December 20 at Talking Stick Arena, honoring coaches, athletes and teams from 1950-1969. This year’s event will also feature eight special inductees, such as legendary baseball coaches Jim Brock and Martin “Pug” Marich.

Among the 51 inductees are 13 coaches and 34 athletes and a few who both played and coached at PUHSD schools. The program will also recognize 70 State Championship teams. This year’s list includes four Olympians- North’s Dallas Long, gold medal shot putter, 1960; Central’s Winn Young, bronze medal in diving, 1968; Central’s Marylyn Ramenofsky, swimming, silver medal, 1964; and Central’s Lois Drinkwater, Arizona’s first female Olympic runner, 1968.
Special inductee Jim Brock played and coached at North long before his Mesa Community College and ASU coaching careers. Pug Marich earned fame as Phoenix College’s baseball coach, but he began his career at Phoenix Union in 1947, and became the first football and baseball coach at Central High School in 1957. Other notable names include Central Tennis coach Dave Silcox, Alhambra Baseball coach Ron Scott, PUHS District athlete and athletic director Moody Jackson; Central Basketball player and Valley philanthropist Jimmy Walker, and Alhambra Football player Boyd Epley, who is considered the “founder” of strength and conditioning coaching while at Nebraska.

The inaugural event last year honored 44 inductees from as far back as 1913, as well as some “modern era” coaches from 1950-present.

The Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony begins at 5 p.m. at the Talking Stick Resort Arena, in the main lobby. The public is invited. Tickets are $30, or $260 for a table. Tickets can be purchased through the Phoenix Union Foundation for Education at www.foundation4education.org, or checks may be mailed to the kFoundation, at 7949 Acoma Dr. #207, Scottsdale, AZ 85260 in care of Sports HOF Ceremony. Registration deadline is December 15.

December 7

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**December 14**

Phoenix Union has two new National Board Certified Teachers- English teacher Amy Hollister of Carl Hayden and science teacher Lauren Hubert of Camelback. They were recognized on their campuses Friday by the Arizona K12 Center and fellow NBC Teachers.

The certification process changed last year, and only a few teachers statewide earned certification. In fact, Phoenix Union had two of the ten in Arizona who were certified in 2016. National Board Certified Teachers represent about two percent of the teachers in the U.S.

Considered the teaching profession’s gold standard, 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 to advance student learning.

Phoenix Union now has 48 current NBC Teachers.

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The Phoenix Union Holiday Classic Boys Basketball Tournament will run December 21-23. Sixteen teams, including all 11 Phoenix Union teams, and teams from Glendora, CA and Sturgeon, Alberta, Canada will participate in the annual event that will be hosted at four schools-Cesar Chavez, South Mountain, Betty Fairfax and North High. Teams will play two games the first day, and one game Thursday and Friday. It will be the first time that Metro Tech will play in the tournament, as this is the Knights’ first year in AIA. They didn’t get a friendly draw, having to play Cesar Chavez on the Champions court in round one a 2 p.m. December 21. The consolation and championship games will be at South Mountain, December 23, at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. respectively.

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December 21
Phoenix Union High School District will open two new small schools next school year, further advancing its reputation as a premier portfolio district.

The District will partner with Wilson Elementary School District to launch a college prep academy at 3005 E. Fillmore Street. Built upon the foundation of the highly successful AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) College Readiness System that both Wilson and Phoenix Union have incorporated into their curricula, this high school will be the first of its kind in the nation designed to provide AVID Secondary College Readiness to all students.

Phoenix Union will also open a gifted and talented academy to serve students who demonstrate exceptional aptitude and are identified as “gifted.” Honors, Advanced Placement, dual (college) enrollment and other electives will be taught by teachers who are expert in the subject areas, gifted-endorsed, with an understanding of holistic education. It will initially be housed at Maryvale High School.

The college prep academy will enroll up to 120 freshmen in a building Phoenix Union is leasing from Wilson School District. It is expected that many of the students will come from Wilson Elementary, a school that has earned distinction as an AVID National Demonstration School, implementing AVID Elementary strategies schoolwide. It is anticipated that the prep academy will also attract students from nearby Balsz and Creighton elementary districts. Of course, enrollment is open to any eligible student in the Valley. The school is expected to grow to 400 students with a new freshman class added each year.

The gifted and talented academy will accept about 30 freshman. Approximately 5.9% of Phoenix Union students are gifted.

These schools will join a small schools lineup that includes Bioscience, Franklin Police and Fire, the new Phoenix Coding Academy and the Camelback Montessori College Prep. Phoenix Union also has three small support schools - Bostrom, Linda Abril Educational Academy and Desiderata.
"We are very excited to strengthen and expand our portfolio - partly to meet the diverse needs of our students, partly to address our continued growth in enrollment, now at its highest since 1978,” PUHSD Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson said. "We appreciate the ongoing support of the greater Phoenix community. We could not continue to be flexible and innovative in our school models without full support from our stakeholders."

Phoenix Union is beginning the process to hire staff, and the names of the new schools will be recommended to the Governing Board in early 2017.

For more information about the college prep academy, contact Dr. Zack Muñoz at 602 764-1335 or zmunoz@phoenixunion.org. For information on the gifted and talented academy, contact Dr. Renu Singh at rsingh@phoenixunion.org or PUHSD Exceptional Student Services at (602) 764-1025.

Phoenix Union currently has 17 schools, serving 27,761 students in its 220-square mile attendance area, and is projected to grow to over 29,000 students over the next eight years.

This is usually the time of year to contribute to schools and school programs through the Arizona Education Tax Credit. Although the new deadline is April 15, many have become accustomed to giving prior to the New Year, and it makes it easier to calculate when you do your taxes early. A contribution to an eligible school club or activity is worth a dollar-for-dollar credit up to $200 for individuals, or $400 for married couples, filing jointly.

Any individual who pays taxes in Arizona is eligible for the tax credit. Companies are not.

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The Phoenix Union Holiday Classic Boys Basketball Tournament will run December 21-23. Sixteen teams, including all 11 Phoenix Union teams, and three out-of-state schools will participate in the annual event that will be hosted at four schools-Cesar Chavez, South Mountain, Betty Fairfax and North High. Teams will play two games the first day, and one game Thursday and Friday. It will be the first time that Metro Tech will play in the tournament, as this is the Knights’ first year in AIA. They didn’t get a friendly draw, having to play Cesar Chavez on the Champions court in round one a 2 p.m. December 21. The consolation and championship games will be at South Mountain, at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. respectively.

The 2nd Annual Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held December 20 at the Talking Stick Resort Arena. Forty-eight inductees and/or family members were in attendance and honored. The second class of Hall of Famers is 54 strong, recognizing coaches from 1950-69 and athletes from 1950-69, as well as 10 special inductees. Over 350 attended the event, which also recognized 70 State Championship teams.

Among the honorees were two women Olympians, who both attended Central High School. Marilyn Ramenofsky, swimming, silver medal, 1964; and Lois Drinkwater, Arizona’s first female Olympic runner, 1968. According to some in attendance, the two Bobcats had never met until that night. These trailblazers succeeded even though the school had no formal athletic program for girls.
Central, North, Alhambra, South Mountain and Phoenix Union High School were well represented. Other notable names included Alhambra football player Steve Matlock, who was accompanied by former Dallas Cowboys Danny White, and Bob Bruenig, an Alhambra alumnus; Central Basketball player and Valley philanthropist Jimmy Walker, and Alhambra Football player Boyd Epley, who is considered the “founder” of strength and conditioning coaching while at Nebraska. Central Tennis coach Dr. Dave Silcox, South Mountain all-around athlete and District athletic director Dr. Moody Jackson; South Mountain’s Larry Willis, track star and NFL player; North’s Chuck LaBenz, the first sub 4-minute miler for ASU, North’s Jim Brewer, a pole vaulter who held the high school record for nine years, North basketball player Dr. Dennis Dairman, who went on to star at ASU in the sixties, and Marv Nevins, who coached at Alhambra for 44 years.

Proceeds from the event will provide Phoenix Union Foundation for Education scholarships to a male and female athlete this year.

January 11, 2017

The Greater Phoenix Music Festival, featuring all-star musicians from junior high and high school musicians, will be January 20-21, with a culminating concert, January 21 at 3:30 p.m. at Central High School. A junior high honors band will consist of students from 21 different schools representing eight partner districts. A mixed (junior high and senior high) string orchestra, a high school honors band and a percussion ensemble will round out the lineup. The students auditioned and will rehearse together Friday and Saturday morning before taking the stage. The groups are led by guest conductors. Admission to the performance is $2 for adults, and children are free. The event started 33 years ago as a recruiting opportunity for the high schools, to have promising 8th grade musicians to experience high school music programs.

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Phoenix Union’s Exceptional Student Services division is partnering with Raising Special Kids to host a three-part Parent Training series for students and families, beginning with a January 24 session at Maryvale High School, from 6-8 p.m. The first training is focused on helping students with disabilities prepare for employment. In February the focus will be on legal options and other transition based supports. The April event will be about helping transition students from middle school to high school.

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It is not too late to contribute to Phoenix Union schools, clubs and student activities through the Arizona Education Tax Credit program. The deadline was moved from December 31 to April 15. A contribution to an eligible school club or activity is worth a dollar-for-dollar credit up to $200 for individuals, or $400 for married couples, filing jointly.

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Eight Phoenix Union JROTC programs recently advanced onto the next level of the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl (JLAB) competition to be conducted in February, 2017: Betty Fairfax, Camelback, Cesar Chavez, Maryvale, South Mountain and Trevor Browne advanced in the in the Leadership Bowl category and Camelback, Central, North, South Mountain and Trevor Browne advanced in the Academic Bowl category.

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.

One of the main goals of the JROTC Academic Bowl is to prepare students for state exit/graduation exams as well as college entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT. There are a mix of JROTC curriculum as well as English, Math and Science in each level of the competition as well as questions about current events – focusing on national and international news, particularly international relations, politics, business and science.

The JLAB Leadership teams are questioned on knowledge of leadership principles and classroom applications, their knowledge of leadership tenets from George C. Marshall, their understanding of JROTC Leadership theory and their ability to translate those tenets and theories to scenario-based questions.

January 18

The Greater Phoenix Music Festival, featuring all-star musicians from junior high and high school musicians, will be January 20-21, with a culminating concert, January 21 at 3:30 p.m. at Central High School. A junior high honors band will consist of students from 21 different schools representing eight partner districts. A mixed (junior high and senior high) string orchestra, a high school honors band and a percussion ensemble will round out the lineup. The students auditioned and will rehearse together Friday and Saturday morning before taking the stage. The groups are led by guest conductors. Admission to the performance is $2 for adults, and children are free. The event started 33 years ago as a recruiting opportunity for the high schools, inviting promising 8th grade musicians to experience high school music programs and their musicians.
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Ian Danley was elected president by acclamation at the January 12 Governing Board meeting, succeeding Lela Alston, who led the board for the past two years. Stanford Prescott will serve as board clerk. Danley and Alston also began new four-year terms as at-large members, and were sworn in by city councilman Daniel Valenzuela.

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January 25

The Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) announced that 25 education leaders from across the state earned an Arizona College Access Professional certificate in 2016, including 10 from Phoenix Union. These leaders are 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.

Licet Herrera, Alhambra; Patricia Short, Bostrom; Ernest Pouncy and Elizabeth Carrasco, Central; Jennifer Presnal, Cesar Chavez; Jennifer Corbett, Simir Rand and Marta Carter, Maryvale; Maria Enrique, Phoenix Coding Academy, and Stephanie Clay, South Mountain.

Phoenix Union had five counselors earn the certification last year in the program’s first year.

“College Access Professional Training is a rigorous, hands-on combination of scholarly reading, online discussion and action planning. These practitioners have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to their craft and to the students they serve,” Linda Jensen, Director of AzCAP said.

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.

Phoenix Union and ASU’s Teachers College are teaming up again for the International Teachers in Education Program (ILEP). Sixteen teachers from eight 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 20, for the first time, and they will team-teach every Thursday at six campuses-Metro Tech, North, Carl Hayden, Central, Franklin and South Mountain. Two teachers each come from Ghana, India, Tanzania, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, Bangladesh, and Brazil, where they teach English, math, science or social studies. The Fellow teachers range from six years to 20 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 fifth year Phoenix Union has participated in this program, and many of the partner teachers have done this before. The partner teachers are:

Carl Hayden: Kristin Roberts-English; Central-Dawn Maxwell, math; Franklin: Heidi Bonfante and Elizabeth Moran, social studies; Metro Tech: Kelly Blake, Stephanie Knorowski and Jennifer Moore, English; North: Jennifer Moore, Joyce Donaldson, Kalia Athena, Joann Martin; Nicholas Valente-English; Renata Geurtz, CTE; Mohamed Abdellatif, science and Mary Pinnecker, social studies; South Mountain: Elise Bostic and Leah Hooper, biology.

The ILEP fellows are required to teach a content lesson and a cultural lesson.
Social Venture Partners Arizona (SVPAZ) Education Affinity group recently selected projects to fund as part of their Mini-Grant program, and ten schools and programs benefited with a combined amount of nearly $5,000. Started in 2016, this program asks students, teachers, and administrators from Phoenix Union to submit proposals for funding in the areas of academics, arts and culture, leadership and development, and school culture. This grant cycle saw more than 35 proposals reviewed and ranked by members of the Education Affinity Group. Here are the projects that were funded:

1. Franklin Police and Fire High School – Accuplacer Ready Workshops
2. Alhambra High School – Quiz Bowl
3. Bostrom High School – Bostrom’s Got Talent (Talent Show)
4. Cesar Chavez High School – High Teach Tutoring
5. Bioscience High School – Dragon News (Broadcasting)
6. Carl Hayden High School – Sensory Room
7. Cesar Chavez High School – Preschool Physics Fun
8. North High School – MemBean Online Vocabulary Development Subscription
9. South Mountain High School – All Jaguars Reaching Higher Together (ART)
10. Trevor Browne High School – Theatre- “Shrek the Musical”

It is not too late to contribute to Phoenix Union schools, clubs and student activities through the Arizona Education Tax Credit program. The deadline was moved from December 31 to April 15 two years ago. A contribution to an eligible school club or activity is worth a dollar-for-dollar credit up to $200 for individuals, or $400 for married couples, filing jointly. The donation can be applied to one’s 2016 or 2017 tax returns.

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February 07, 2017

It was another fantastic showing for Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon teams at the Region II Decathlon this past weekend at Boulder Creek High School. Six teams qualified for the 40-school State Decathlon. Led by Cesar Chavez, which defended its title, Alhambra placed third, Maryvale, fifth, Betty Fairfax, eighth, North, 10th and Central, 11th. These teams will advance to the State Decathlon, March 10-11 at ASU West.

The 9th Annual Phoenix Union Foundation for Education Scholarship Dinner will be held Friday, February 24 at the Phoenix Art Museum. The Foundation’s largest fundraiser each year, the theme is “Art of Education: A Night on the Red Carpet.” There will be student artwork, student entertainment, a silent auction, and honorees for Counselor of the Year- Antoinette Jones, Cesar Chavez High School; Alumni of the Year- Police Chief Jeri Williams and Fire Chief Kara Kalkbrenner, and Friends of Phoenix Union- Karen and Bart Nadolski of Express Technology. For information on attending the Scholarship Dinner and supporting PUHSD student scholarships, visit www.Foundation4Education.org
Twenty-five students, six more than last year, were selected to All-Region bands, orchestras and choirs from Phoenix Union schools. There are 17 band members, six choir members and two orchestra members representing three different regions. Camelback will host the North Central Region on February 17-18, with Cesar Chavez, Alhambra, Camelback, Trevor Browne and Betty Fairfax musicians rehearsing, February 17 and performing in a concert, February 18. North and Central students will be at the West Region, at Corona del Sol High School, and Carl Hayden will be at the Southwest Region, at McClintock High School.

Some of the most talented young jazz musicians in the world from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at UCLA conducted a performance assemblies and clinics for Betty Fairfax, Central and Carl Hayden High Schools, February 8-10. 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.

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 was part of a five high school educational outreach tour in the Phoenix area. The tour is underwritten by the Arizona Community Foundation/Black Philanthropy Initiative and free to the schools and students.

February 15

Three small school principals will be recommended for hire to the Phoenix Union Governing Board by Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson. The principals would take over a new specialty school, and two support schools - Bostrom High School and Linda Abril Educational Academy.

Keoni Dang has been recommended to launch a college preparatory school focused on AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) in partnership with the Wilson Elementary School District. Deana Gillespy would take the leadership reigns at Bostrom High School, and Eric Kemp is the principal selection for Linda Abril Educational Academy for the 2017-18 school year.

Dang, currently an assistant principal for instruction at Alhambra, would begin work immediately to prepare for the August opening of the college prep school at 30th Street and Fillmore in a building leased from Wilson District. The school will begin with a freshman class. Dang has an extensive background in AVID, a college readiness system designed to provide students in the academic with structure and support, access to rigorous curriculum and preparation for entrance into a four-year university. He has been an AVID teacher, coordinator and staff developer and national trainer. Dang was an assistant principal at Metro Tech, and was a professional development specialist and math teacher at Betty Fairfax, where he began his 10-year career with Phoenix Union. He also participated in the Rodel Foundation Aspiring Principal program.
Gillespie is the assistant principal for instruction at Cesar Chavez, and is in her fourth year as a school administrator there. She has been with the District since 2006, as a social studies teacher, instructional leader, student government advisor, librarian and coach. This is her 17th year in public education. Bostrom High School, (3535 N. 27th Ave.) is a support school of approximately 300 students, 10th-12th grade, who desire a smaller, more structured learning environment rather than a large, comprehensive campus. Gillespie would succeed Alvin Watson, who is retiring this year.

Kemp is in his second year as assistant principal of registration at Maryvale High School. He has spent eight years at Carl Hayden in administration, serving as an assistant principal of instruction, asst. principal-registration, asst. principal-student opportunities and dean of students. He began his teaching career in Maryland in 1994, and spent eight years teaching in the Tempe Union High School District. Linda Abril Educational Academy (3000 N. 19th Ave.) is a support school enabling students to complete their high school education through six-week terms designed to recover credits in a personalized, small school environment with flexible scheduling to allow for work, parenting, and life’s challenges. Kemp will replace Rick Beck, who is retiring after leading the school for 13 of its 15 years.

Formal approval of the principal selections will take place at the March 2 Governing Board meeting.

The 9th Annual Phoenix Union Foundation for Education Scholarship Dinner will be held Friday, February 24 at the Phoenix Art Museum. The Foundation’s largest fundraiser each year, the theme is “Art of Education: A Night on the Red Carpet.” There will be student artwork, student entertainment, a silent auction, and honorees for Counselor of the Year- Antoinette Jones, Cesar Chavez High School; Alumni of the Year- Police Chief Jeri Williams and Fire Chief Kara Kalkbrenner, and Friends of Phoenix Union- Karen and Bart Nadolski of Express Technology. For information on attending the Scholarship Dinner and supporting PUHSD student scholarships, visit www.Foundation4Education.org

Phoenix Union’s annual Spring Teacher Career Fair will be Saturday, March 4 at Metro Tech High School. The District is seeking teachers for the 2017-18 school year in all areas, but particularly in English as a Second Language, math, Exceptional Student Services (special education) and physical science. The current first year teacher salary is $40,003 (2016-17), and the District honors up to eight years teaching experience on the salary schedule. Initial screening interviews are from 7:30 to 9 a.m., and the selection process runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Applicants should complete an online application prior to March 4 at www.phoenixunion.org/jobs and can schedule a screening interview prior to the March 4 Career Fair by calling the Talent Division at (602) 764-1101. For additional information, contact Alvina Turman at turnman@phoenixunion.org.

Phoenix Union’s Exceptional Student Services division is partnering with Raising Special Kids to host another Parent Training session for students and families, February 21, at Maryvale High School, from 6-8 p.m. The focus will be on different legal options and other transition-based supports families should consider when a child becomes an adult at age 18. The April event will be about helping transition students from middle school to high school.

Linda Abril • Alhambra • Bioscience • Bostrom • Trevor Browne • Camelback • Cesar Chavez • Central • Desiderata
Betty Fairfax • Franklin • Carl Hayden • Maryvale • Metro Tech • North • Coding • South Mountain
Over 500 students and their guests attended the Phoenix Union JROTC Military Ball at the Crescent Hotel, February 4. The Military Ball King was Mario Castillo from North and the Queen was Reyna Contreras from Central. Brain Corte, PUHSD Director of Curriculum was the guest speaker. Special guests included Central principal John Biera, and his daughter Alex, Central AP Gilbert Jones and his wife Josie; Camelback Principal Dana Cook and her husband Ed; Cesar Chavez principal Matthew Georgia and his daughter, Gracie; Trevor Browne principal Tony Camp; Metro Tech principal Bryan Reynoso and his wife Ruth and Carl Hayden AP Dr. Marisol Miller. 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 HS JROTC Cadets planned and hosted the event.

February 22

The 9th Annual Phoenix Union Foundation for Education Scholarship Dinner will be held Friday, February 24 at the Phoenix Art Museum. The Foundation’s largest fundraiser each year, the theme is “Art of Education: A Night on the Red Carpet.” There will be student artwork, student entertainment, a silent auction, and honorees for Counselor of the Year- Antoinette Jones, Cesar Chavez High School; Alumni of the Year- Police Chief Jeri Williams and Fire Chief Kara Kalkbrenner, and Friends of Phoenix Union- Karen and Bart Nadolski of Express Technology. For information on attending the Scholarship Dinner and supporting PUHSD student scholarships, visit www.Foundation4Education.org

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February is Career and Technical Education Month. In Phoenix Union, 8,901 students are taking a CTE course. CTE is very good at tracking students after high school. One way is to measure the percentage of CTE students attending school, in the military or working. The last count, in 2014-15, 1,000 out of 1,192, or 84% were in that category. CTE students are going to college in greater numbers, as well. Not only do Phoenix Union CTE students attend college at a greater number than non-CTE students, CTE seniors earned $10.1 million in scholarships last year. Many CTE students already have college credit upon graduating from high school. There are 17 programs (23 classes) that offer dual enrollment.
March 8

There is an election scheduled for five schools in the Phoenix Union High School District, March 20-24, but in this case, there will be no losers. The students are voting to see which projects at their schools will be funded through Participatory Budgeting. Three small schools- Phoenix Coding Academy, Franklin Police and Fire and Bioscience will each have up to $4,000 to pay for the projects, while large campuses Carl Hayden and Central can spend up to $7,000 each. The elections will get a further dose of reality with the Maricopa County Recorder’s office, helping with voter booths, ballots and scanning machines to tabulate the results. The students worked with District officials to research projects to vote on, their feasibility and estimated cost of the projects listed on each school’s ballot. The District’s student Civic Engagement Committee has been working with the Participatory Budgeting Project, a nonprofit organization to determine spending through a public process. Among the ballot items, a campus beautification project, hydration stations with filtered water and a sports concession kiosk.

County Recorder Adrian Fontes is planning on visiting the Carl Hayden polling station with superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson and Governing Board member Stanford Prescott, Thursday.

Six Phoenix Union teams will compete in the 40-school State Academic Decathlon, March 10-11 at ASU West. Led by Cesar Chavez, the Region II champion and second-ranked team in the state, Alhambra, Maryvale, Betty Fairfax, North and Central qualified. Cesar Chavez will be at State for the 11th consecutive year, and the Champions have been ranked #2 both of the last two years. Canyon Del Oro is the top-ranked school. Chavez has finished in the top 10 in the State for the past seven years. Last year, Chavez had its highest state finish, placing fourth. Only the winner advances to the Nationals in Madison, Wisconsin in April.

It was the 5th Annual Physics Phield Day at Castles and Coasters, March 3, and the biggest yet for Phoenix Union. Ten schools, and over 500 students had a phun-philled day of contests, projects, pizza and rides. The students, clad in their school team shirts, built and tested gummi bear and toothpick bridges, marshmallow catapults, egg drops, mouse trap cars, paper towers, and tried shooting ping pong balls into baskets with hair blow dryers (Bernoulli Ball, named after the effect behind the aerofoil.), or sweeping a bowling ball through a tight obstacle course (vector bowling), in a dry land version of curling. There were 12 events in all. The teachers acted as judges and scorekeepers and had as much fun as the students.

“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.

There was practically a three-way tie in the overall, with Metro Tech, North, Maryvale separated by “the slimmest of margins,, the width of a foosball, one gummi bear, a ping-pong ball or an egg.”
March 22

Six Phoenix Union teams competed in the 40-school State Academic Decathlon, March 10-11 at ASU West. Cesar Chavez finished 4th for the second year in a row. Maryvale was 12th, Alhambra 16th, Betty Fairfax, 29th; North, 35th and Central, 36th. Canyon Del Oro won state for the fourth consecutive year, followed by Hamilton and Westwood.

Chavez, ranked 2nd in the state after winning Region II, won seven medals, led by Rodrigo Terrazas, who had the second highest overall score in the Scholastic division.

Phoenix Union-Wilson College Prep, the District’s newest school, will hold an Open House, Wednesday, April 5 from 4-7 p.m. at the school, located at 3005 E. Fillmore Street. The school will be enrolling ninth graders for next year at the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) school, the first of its kind in the world designed to provide AVID Secondary College Readiness to all students. For more information, contact Principal Keoni Dang at 602 703-9821, or go to www.wilsoncollegeprep.org

March 29

Phoenix Union-Wilson College Prep, the District’s newest school, will hold an Open House, Wednesday, April 5 from 4-7 p.m. at the school, located at 3005 E. Fillmore Street. The school will be enrolling ninth graders for next year at the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) school, the first of its kind in the world designed to provide AVID Secondary College Readiness to all students. For more information, contact Principal Keoni Dang at 602 703-9821, or go to www.wilsoncollegeprep.org

March is National Athletic Training Month. Athletic Trainers are highly qualified, multi-faceted allied health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. Athletic trainers work under the direction of a physician as appropriate under licensure in Arizona. Only 37% of public high schools nationally have a full-time athletic trainer to focus on the healthcare of their student-athlete population, but Phoenix Union is fortunate to have 11 athletic trainers, one at each comprehensive high school, to provide service to our thousands of student athletes day in and day out.
April 5

Five Phoenix Union students are among the 2017 Phoenix Outstanding Young Man and Young Woman City Council District winners. Three of them are from Betty Fairfax high School- Ameerah Battle from District 4, and Christopher Joseph and Mitiku Meron from District 7. Joseph was also selected last year. North’s Douglas Bencomo of District 4 and Camelback’s Elena Alsen of District 5 are also nominated. High school students representing the eight city council districts will attend a luncheon at the Phoenix Country Club, April 27, where the citywide Outstanding Young Man and Young Woman will be announced. Council District winners receive a small scholarship, and can earn more as the citywide winner. A PUHSD student has been Phoenix’ Outstanding Young Man or Woman four consecutive years. Angela Esono of South Mountain was Phoenix’ Outstanding Young Woman last year. BrieAnna Frank of Maryvale won in 2015, Jesan Islam from Cesar Chavez in 2014 and Genesis Miranda-Soto of Betty Fairfax in 2013. The program is presented by the City of Phoenix Youth and Education Commission.

March 20-24 was election week for five PUHSD schools. But in these elections, each school came out a winner, with students selecting school improvement projects to be funded in a process called Participatory Budgeting. Vote Week was designed to encourage students to learn “democracy by doing.” Three small schools- Phoenix Coding Academy, Franklin Police and Fire and Bioscience had up to $4,000 to pay for the projects, while large campuses Carl Hayden and Central could spend up to $7,000 each.

The elections had a realistic touch with the Maricopa County Recorder’s office donating voter booths, ballots and scanning machines to tabulate the results. The students worked with District officials to brainstorm and research projects, the feasibility and estimated cost of the projects listed on each school’s ballot. The District’s student Civic Engagement Committee worked with the Participatory Budgeting Project, a nonprofit organization, to determine spending through a public process.

Organizers say this is the first time in the U.S. that multiple schools in one school district have engaged in participatory budgeting.

The students came in to the polling station, class by class throughout the day, had their ID’s scanned, and received a real ballot, printed by the Recorder’s office. The students voted their choices at polling booths, and then dropped the ballots into a scanning machine, and received a sticker signifying they had voted.

Here are the results:

**Phoenix Coding Academy** had an 83% voter turnout, with 74 students voting. The winner was digital music equipment for performance and recording for the school’s music club.

**Central** had 1696 students vote for an 84% turnout rate, and installing four hydration stations with filtered water won overwhelmingly.
**Bioscience** had 263 students vote for an 87% turnout and of five options, outdoor seating and shade won.

At **Carl Hayden**, 1563 students voted, a 76% voter turnout, and a hydration station won there, as well.

At **Franklin Police and Fire**, 89% of the students, or 258 students, including 30 who filled out early ballots because of a field trip, voted. The winner was a Thunderbird Leadership Lounge, where students can have access to a quiet space to work on homework or other activities away from the cafeteria.

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Summer School is just around the corner. Phoenix Union will be offering Summer School for continuing students, those going into 10th, 11th and 12th grade and a Freshman Academy for incoming 9th graders. Most schools will start May 30 and run until June 29, with morning and afternoon classes Monday through Thursday. Alhambra’s summer schools run June 5-June 29, Monday through Friday. Due to building maintenance projects this summer, Trevor Browne students will attend at the Maryvale campus, and Camelback students will attend at Linda Abril Educational Academy. Student registration began March 20 for continuing students, who can sign up with their counselors. For more information and what courses are offered in the summer, you can go to [http://www.phxhs.k12.az.us/summerschool](http://www.phxhs.k12.az.us/summerschool).

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There is a new “micro” school opening next school year. The Phoenix Union Gifted and Talented Academy will debut as a “school-within-a-school” at Maryvale High School in August. Applications for incoming ninth-graders are available at [www.phoenixunion.org/newschools](http://www.phoenixunion.org/newschools). There will be opportunity to apply and interview with staff at Maryvale (3415 N. 59th Avenue) on Saturdays, April 8, 15 and 22 from 8 a.m. to noon. Wednesday, April 26 is the Maryvale Expo, where parents and students can also interview. The school will be accepting approximately 40 ninth-grade students. For more information, contact **Dr. Renu Singh** at (602) 764-2016 or rsingh@phoenixunion.org.

Phoenix Union’s Exceptional Student Services division is partnering with Raising Special Kids (RSK) to host another Parent Training session for students and families, April 11, at Maryvale High School, from 6-8 p.m. This session is the final one in the Parent Training and Support series. The discussion will be about the transition from middle to high school. With input from facilitators from Maryvale and North High School, RSK has created a unique presentation for our students and families. Topics include exploring the similarities and differences between middle school and high school; discussing common parent and teacher concerns; tips for communication between parents and teachers; parent action steps to help the change be successful; comparable services for students with disabilities; the basics of ‘High School Transition,’ and exploring resources.
April 12

Summer School is just around the corner. Phoenix Union will be offering Summer School for continuing students, those going into 10th, 11th and 12th grade and a Freshman Academy for incoming 9th graders. Most schools will start May 30 and run until June 29, with morning and afternoon classes Monday through Thursday. Alhambra’s summer schools run June 5-June 29, Monday through Friday. Due to building maintenance projects this summer, Trevor Browne students will attend at the Maryvale campus, and Camelback students will attend at Linda Abril Educational Academy. Student registration began March 20 for continuing students, who can sign up with their counselors. For more information and what courses are offered in the summer, you can go to [http://www.phxhs.k12.az.us/summerschool](http://www.phxhs.k12.az.us/summerschool).

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It’s official. The new small specialty school that will implement the AVID Secondary College Readiness system to all students will be called the Phoenix Union-Wilson College Preparatory, paying tribute to the partnership PUHSD has with Wilson Elementary School District. The school, located in a Wilson-owned former high school, located at 3005 E. Fillmore St, will open in August with a 9th grade class. This school is the first of its kind in the world, offering AVID, which stands for Advancement via Individual Determination, to all students. One of the top AVID schools in the country, Wilson Elementary, is an AVID Demonstration School, designated because of its successful implementation of AVID.

Phoenix Union-Wilson College Prep had an Open House, April 5 and over 70 prospective students came. Some students had already enrolled, and were picking up school shirts and meeting the staff, while others were filling out applications and being interviewed. A second Open House is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Besides Keoni Dang, the principal, the first-year staff (thus far) of four teachers and a counselor were there. Four of the five are from PUHSD schools- Martin Caballero, math teacher from Betty Fairfax; Shannon Harsh, Science teacher from Metro Tech; Candis McGovern, English teacher from North, and Jill Lehman, counselor from Trevor Browne. Brian Eisen, a social studies teacher comes from Verrado High School. Samuel Pantoja is the campus facility supervisor.

For more information contact Principal Keoni Dang at 602 703-9821, or go to [www.wilsoncollegeprep.org](http://www.wilsoncollegeprep.org) for an application.

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Phoenix Union Indoor Percussion was crowned the Percussion Scholastic Regional Champions, April 1 at the WinterGuard Arizona State Championships held at Desert Ridge High School. This is the first multi-campus competitive music entity of its kind and has brought 25 musicians and four band directors together from six PUHSD campuses (Chavez, Franklin, Hayden, Linda Abril, North, and Trevor Browne). The percussion ensemble presented an amazing performance of the Firebird Suite, titled “Out of the Ashes”, that represents the birth of this musical opportunity and the group rising out of central Phoenix.

Carl Hayden and Erica Shultz hosted the team this year, for rehearsals, equipment and facilities. The ensemble practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays and competes on Saturdays. Alison Brightwell-Balot at Chavez and Dan Eaton at North were also instrumental in preparing the group.

“For the members and directors involved this was truly an amazing Gold Medal finish of the flagship year for Phoenix Union Indoor,” Shultz said.

There were 45 competitive groups performing during the State Championship, and eight in the A Division that Phoenix Union won.

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Two talented students represented the Phoenix Union High School District April 6-8 at the Arizona Music Educators Association’s 2017 Arizona All-State Music Honor Festival. The festival includes the best musicians from band, choir, and orchestra. Students must pass a rigorous audition process to be accepted into these prestigious ensembles, which represents the top high school musicians in the state of Arizona. Andres Alcazar of Betty H. Fairfax and Jesus Galaviz Arreguin of Alhambra were both members of the All-State Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Talberg, director of choral activities at the California State University- Long Beach. The festival was held at Arizona State University with a culminating performance at ASU’s Gammage Auditorium.

April 19, 2017

Fifty-two Phoenix Union students were awarded Grand Canyon University’s Students Inspiring Students scholarships this year. The students received visits from GCU representatives who presented the scholarships over the last two weeks at nine schools. The full-ride scholarships cover tuition, books and fees. To qualify, the students had to have a grade point average of 3.4 or above, and spend at least 50 hours at the GCU Learning Lounge, an after-school program, working with college tutors. In return, the scholarship students will pay it forward, providing 100 hours per year of mentoring and academic support per year to high school students, while maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA.
The scholarships, funded by the Grand Canyon University Scholarship fund and local business and philanthropic leaders, began last year. One hundred scholarships were offered this year, to PUHSD schools, as well as schools such as Washington, Glendale and Bourgade, among others. The GCU Learning Lounge started four years ago, originally helping Alhambra student, but it has expanded to serve several local high school students.

Here is the breakdown of Students Inspiring Students scholarship recipients for Phoenix Union schools: Alhambra, 13; Camelback, 2; Carl Hayden, 10; Central, 8; Franklin, 2; Maryvale, 2; Metro Tech; 9; North, 5 and Trevor Browne, 1.

The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education Scholarship Open Golf Tournament will be held May 5 at the Grand Canyon University Golf Course. Proceeds from the tournament go to post-secondary scholarships for Phoenix Union students for next year. Proceeds from last year’s tournament and other fundraising efforts are being dispersed this month to seniors. The tournament has sold out the last four years, but there are still a few spots left. For more information, contact the Foundation at (480) 289-5761 or info@foundation4education.org.

Summer School is just around the corner. Phoenix Union will be offering Summer School for continuing students, those going into 10th, 11th and 12th grade and a Freshman Academy for incoming 9th graders. Most schools will start May 30 and run until June 29, with morning and afternoon classes Monday through Thursday. Alhambra’s summer schools run June 5-June 29, Monday through Friday. Due to building maintenance projects this summer, Trevor Browne students will attend at the Maryvale campus, and Camelback students will attend at Linda Abril Educational Academy. Student registration began March 20 for continuing students, who can sign up with their counselors. For more information and what courses are offered in the summer, you can go to http://www.phxhs.k12.az.us/summerschool.

The annual Phoenix Union Student Art Show will be held April 26 at the Phoenix Art Museum, with the awards presentation at 6 p.m. in the Wolfswinkel Education Center. Over 100 art pieces representing 13 schools are judged in six categories: drawing, painting, traditional photo, digital photo, mixed media and 3-D (ceramics, jewelry or sculpture).

Phoenix Union will celebrate its athletes and athletic programs at the PUHSD Athletic Recognition Award Night, May 9 at Central High School. The 11 schools that offer interscholastic athletics will select male and female Players of the year for each team and individual sport, as well as Academic Student-Athletes, and recognize an All-Phoenix Union 1st Team for each team sport. The event is 6-8 p.m. for more information, contact the PUHSD Athletic Office at 602 764-1334.
The annual Phoenix Union Student Art Show was held April 26 at the Phoenix Art Museum, with the awards presentation at 6 p.m. in the Wolfswinkel Education Center. Over 100 art pieces representing 13 schools are judged in six categories: drawing, painting, traditional photo, digital photo, mixed media and 3-D (ceramics, jewelry or sculpture).

Phoenix Union will celebrate its athletes and athletic programs at the Inaugural All-Phoenix Union Sports Awards, May 9 at Central High School. The 11 schools that offer interscholastic athletics will select male and female Players of the Year for each team and individual sport, as well as Academic Student-Athletes, and recognize an All-Phoenix Union 1st Team for each team sport. The event will feature over 120 of the top student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors and programs across the District. The keynote address will be delivered by former North High Basketball All-State Alumnus and rising star of the Phoenix Suns, Alan “Big Sauce” Williams. The Awards presentations ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. in Central High’s auditorium with the evening concluding with awarding of the Most Outstanding Sports Program at 8 p.m. Parents and community members are invited to attend this free event. For more information, contact the PUHSD Athletic Office at (602) 764-1334.

May 03, 2017

Governing Board member Linda Abril heard at the last board meeting from the student government representative that a Small Schools Prom was scheduled for Franklin, Desiderata, Bostrom and Linda Abril Educational Academy. She reminisced and regretted that in her shortened high school career at Phoenix Union, that she never attended a prom. Before you knew it, board member Randy Schiller and Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson conspired to invite Abril to the April 29 prom at the Linda Abril Educational Academy. Needless to say, the 75 year old board member, who was named the evening’s Prom Queen, had the time of her life, Saturday night.

The new Phoenix Union-Wilson College Prep will hold an Open House for incoming ninth graders, Saturday, May 6 from 8 a.m. to noon at the school located at 3005 E. Fillmore Street. Principal, teachers and staff, and current AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) students from other campuses will be there to introduce students to the first school in the world to provide the successful AVID Secondary College Readiness system to all students. There will be food, opportunity to interview and apply for the school, and a scavenger hunt to learn more about the school, and earn Arizona Diamondback tickets. Over 50 students have already enrolled in the first class, which will have approximately 120 freshmen. The school is located next to Wilson Elementary School, where many students have experienced the AVID program before.

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The 13th Annual Phoenix Union Student Art Show opened April 26 at the Phoenix Art Museum, with the awards presentation in the Wolfswinkel Education Center. Almost 100 art pieces representing 15 schools were judged in six categories: drawing, painting, traditional photo, digital photo, mixed media and 3-D (ceramics, jewelry or sculpture).

The winners are: Drawing- Jonathan Fuentes, Metro Tech; Painting- Mariela Medina, Maryvale; Traditional Photo- Arturo Reyes; Digital Photo- Adrian Alvarez, Trevor Browne; Mixed Media- Marian Ruvalcaba, Alhambra; 3D- Reid Belanger, North;

Phoenix Union will celebrate its athletes and athletic programs at the Inaugural All-Phoenix Union Sports Awards, May 9 at Central High School. The 11 schools that offer interscholastic athletics will select male and female Players of the Year for each team and individual sport, as well as Academic Student-Athletes, and recognize an All-Phoenix Union 1st Team for each team sport. The event will feature over 120 of the top student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors and programs across the District. The keynote address will be delivered by former North High Basketball All-State Alumnus and rising star of the Phoenix Suns, Alan “Big Sauce” Williams. The Awards presentations ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. in Central High’s auditorium with the evening concluding with awarding of the Most Outstanding Sports Program at 8 p.m. Parents and community members are invited to attend this free event. For more information, contact the PUHSD Athletic Office at (602) 764-1334.

It seemed like Phoenix Union Teacher Appreciation Night at Chase Field last Friday night prior to the Diamondbacks-Rockies game. The first wave of Diamondback Most Valuable Teacher (MVT) awardees were recognized, and of course, PUHSD dominated. Exceptional Students teacher Patty Sanchez, from Desiderata explained.
“We were chosen from over 160 teachers nominated. We were recognized on the field before the Diamondbacks and Rockies game and each of us was presented with a check for $1,000 to use in our classrooms. I was so excited with this honor, but then as I met the other recipients I realized that five out of the 10 teachers were my Phoenix Union colleagues.”

Chris Coupelin (Science) from South Mountain, Jodi Weber (English) from Alhambra, Dr. Genevieve Sanders (World Languages) from Metro Tech and John Gerace (Global Studies) from Central were also Diamondbacks MVT’s.

“How exciting and validating that so many of us were recognized for our hard work and dedication. I know we are not the only ones by far, but it is nice to receive accolades for Phoenix Union and our talented and passionate teachers,” Sanchez said.

The D-backs MVT program is a program in which students, parents, and fellow teachers are asked to nominate an educator that goes above and beyond, someone that deserves recognition, and someone that has made a significant impact.

Adding to the Phoenix Union theme, another outstanding teacher, Trevor Browne choir co-director Troy Meeker was selected by the Arizona Choral Director’s Association to guest conduct the National Anthem at the same game, Friday. The choir consisted of over 150 students from around the state who combined to sing for this performance. Meeker had just 30 minutes to rehearse with the group prior to taking the field.

May 10

The Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board has called for a 15 percent Maintenance and Operations Budget Override and Bond election for November 7, 2017. The action was taken at the May 4 Governing Board meeting.

The election will be a mailed ballot-only election with ballots mailed to qualified electors residing within the District.

The override asks voters for authorization to continue the current 15 percent override for fiscal year 2018-2019 and six subsequent years. This would be a continuation of the existing override approved by voters in 2013. There would be no additional taxes if the override is approved. The override amount for the first year of the proposed continuation would be $24,300,000, approximately equal to the current secondary tax rate for the existing budget override. The override provides for over 400 teachers and support staff that directly impacts students and student achievement.
The bond would be for $269 million to fund capital improvements over and above those funded by the state. The District annual capital budget has been cut from $21 million to just under $2 million since the Recession. The bulk of the bond would fund maintenance, and renovation of school buildings and technology. This would include instructional technology, such as distance learning expansion, transforming media centers and upgrading student labs, maintaining one-to-one computer-to-student initiatives, and infrastructure to include software, network and wireless upgrades. The bond would also cover purchasing buses, acquiring school lots, improving school grounds, supplying school buildings with furniture and equipment, and providing all utilities and other capital items necessary for the construction and renovation of school building and grounds.

The estimated average annual tax rate for the proposed bond authorization is $.38 per $100 of net assessed valuation used for secondary property tax purposes, which is approximately $38 a year for a home with an assessed value of $100,000.

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The Phoenix Union STEP (Student Expedition Program) Class of 2017 has been announced. Twenty-two students, from 10 different schools received 41 acceptances from Arizona universities and 47 from out of state schools.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>School Attending in the Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Garcia-Delgado</td>
<td>Bioscience</td>
<td>Claremont McKenna College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexis Rosales</td>
<td>South Mountain</td>
<td>Smith College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brysha Pelt</td>
<td>Betty Fairfax</td>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassandra Gomez</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Smith College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Serrano Najera</td>
<td>Trevor Browne</td>
<td>Wellesley College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deja Royal</td>
<td>Metro Tech</td>
<td>ASU Barrett Honors College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Bencomo</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Bowdoin College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erwin Rubio Butron</td>
<td>South Mountain</td>
<td>GCU Honors College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estephany Garcia</td>
<td>Maryvale</td>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estrella Garcia</td>
<td>Carl Hayden</td>
<td>Wellesley College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As a class, they received over $1 million in first year gift aid from the schools they will be attending and over $12 million in total gift aid. Twelve students each received over $60,000 in first year gift aid from the schools they are attending. And six students received over $1 million dollars each in total gift aid.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas and the Arizona Department of Education is holding a “We Are Listening” Tour, Monday, May 15 at Phoenix Union’s Governing Board Room from 6-8 p.m. The community-parents, educators, citizens and students are invited to come for a conversation about education policies and ideas. Douglas will provide an overview of the state education plan “AZ Kids Can’t Wait! Comments may also be submitted to HearingEveryvoice@azed.gov, or via Twitter using #BeHeardAZ. The tour will also be at Deer Valley Unified School District, May 16 and Verna McClain Wellness Center, May 17.

Summer School is just around the corner. Phoenix Union will be offering Summer School for continuing students, those going into 10th, 11th and 12th grade and a Freshman Academy for incoming 9th graders. Most schools will start May 30 and run until June 29, with morning and afternoon classes Monday through Thursday. Alhambra’s summer schools run June 5-June 29, Monday through Friday. Due to building maintenance projects this summer, Trevor Browne students will attend at the Maryvale campus, and Camelback students will attend at Linda Abril Educational Academy. Student registration began March 20 for continuing students, who can sign up with their counselors. For more information and what courses are offered in the summer, you can go to http://www.phxhs.k12.az.us/summerschool.
Phoenix Union celebrated its athletes and athletic programs at the Inaugural All-Phoenix Union Sports Awards, May 9 at Central High School. Eleven schools, 138 athletes and dozens of coaches were represented. Each school picked a Player of the Year in each sport, and from that list, each sport recognized a Phoenix Union Player of the Year and Coach of the Year. There were also 22 All-Academic Players of the Year.

Some of the highlights: Male Athlete of the Year was Alhambra Baseball player David Avitia and Female Athlete of the Year was Betty Fairfax Soccer player Brianna Boehm. Betty Fairfax High School was the Athletic Program of the Year and Cesar Chavez Basketball coach Gary Lee was the Coach of the Year. Ray Manquero, a football player at Carl Hayden was the INPIERATIONAL Athlete of the Year, and Joseph Grant, a football player at Camelback won the Community Outreach Award. Chavez’ Stacie Porras was the Athletic Director of the Year. Sportscaster Kevin McCabe was the Master of Ceremony, and former North High Basketball All-State Alumnus and rising star of the Phoenix Suns, Alan “Big Sauce” Williams delivered the keynote address.

May 17, 2017

The Phoenix Union High School District Class of 2017, consisting of over 5,200 students from 16 schools, will graduate over three days, May 23-25. It is the second year over 5,000 seniors have received diplomas, and will likely be the largest class ever.

For the eighth consecutive year, all 11 large schools will hold graduations at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum, beginning with Central High School at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24, and ending with Trevor Browne in the final ceremony at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, May 25. Three small schools lead off with graduations, Tuesday, May 23.

Small schools Franklin Police & Fire, Bioscience and Bostrom will hold commencement exercises at Phoenix College’s Bulpitt Auditorium, May 23 at 1, 3 and 5 p.m. respectively. Linda Abril Educational Academy will graduate May 24 at Alhambra.

The comprehensive high schools will hold ceremonies at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum, May 24 and 25. Five schools will go on the first day- Central at 10:30 a.m.; Betty Fairfax at 1 p.m.; South Mountain at 3:30; North at 6 p.m. and Camelback at 8:30 p.m. Six schools will be on Thursday, May 25: Metro Tech, 8 a.m.; Carl Hayden, 10:30 a.m.: Alhambra, 1 p.m.; Cesar Chavez, 3:30 p.m., Mayvale, 6 p.m.; and Trevor Browne, 8:30 p.m.
For the 36th summer, the Phoenix Union High School District, along with other agencies, will provide breakfast and lunch for needy children 18 years of age and younger at 9 high schools, Monday through Thursday, May 30th – June 29th.

Funded through the U.S. Department of Education food and nutrition programs, the Summer Food Program has, for over three decades, prepared and served more than 4 million meals at as many as 60 sites throughout Phoenix. Summer lunches are an extension of the National School Lunch Program.

Meals are prepared at PUHSD’s various high school campuses, serving thousands of meals per day. New foodstuffs are purchased at the beginning of the program to support the nutritional needs of children in impoverished areas. Food left over at the end of the program is donated to local food banks for distribution.

This year, nine high schools are participating in the Summer Food Program—Alhambra, Betty Fairfax, Carl Hayden, Central, Cesar Chavez, Maryvale, Metro Tech, North and South Mountain.

Meals will be made available to all children 18 years of age and under without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability. There will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Food will be prepared, as it is during the regular school year, at each location in the school cafeteria. Participating community members will be directed to the designated areas of each campus.

Breakfast will be served from 7:15 A.M. until 8:00 A.M., with lunch being served from 10:45 A.M. until 12:15 P.M. Adults are welcome to accompany children and can purchase breakfast for $2 and lunch for $3.

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Carl Hayden and Franklin Police and Fire High Schools were two of 35 Arizona schools the Anti-Defamation League designated as No Place for Hate Schools for the 2016-2017 school year, at a May 4 event at Phoenix College. These schools were recognized for creating safe and respectful learning environments and bringing awareness to the issues of bullying and bias.

The No Place for Hate initiative provides schools and communities with an organizing framework for combating bias, bullying and hatred, leading to long-term solutions for creating and maintaining a positive climate.

According to ADL, No Place for Hate schools receive their designation by building inclusive and safe communities in which respect is the goal, and all students can thrive; empowering students, faculty, administration and family members to take a stand against hate and bullying by incorporating new and existing programs under one powerful message; engaging schools and communities in at least three anti-bias activities per year, which ADL helps to develop; and sending a clear, unified message that all students have a place to belong.
April 26

The *U.S. News and World Report* released its Top High Schools rankings today, and Phoenix Union had four schools listed as Bronze schools—Metro Tech, North, Camelback and Bioscience. The rankings were based on a 2015 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 participation and passing rates. The publication looked at 22,000 high schools, and ranked 6,041 as Gold (1-500) Silver (2,109 schools) and Bronze (3,432 schools). Many of the schools were ranked by state. Metro Tech was 65th; North, 71st and Camelback, 73rd in Arizona. Bioscience was not ranked.

The new Phoenix Union-Wilson College Prep will hold an Open House for incoming ninth graders, Saturday, May 6 from 8 a.m. to noon at the school located at 3005 E. Fillmore Street. Principal, teachers and staff, and current AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) students from other campuses will be there to introduce students to the first school in the world to provide the successful AVID Secondary College Readiness system to all students. There will be food, opportunity to interview and apply for the school, and a scavenger hunt to learn more about the school, and earn Arizona Diamondback tickets. Over 50 students have already enrolled in the first class, which will have approximately 120 freshmen. The school is located next to Wilson Elementary School, where many students have experienced the AVID program before.

The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education Scholarship Open Golf Tournament will be held May 5 at the Grand Canyon University Golf Course. Proceeds from the tournament go to post-secondary scholarships for Phoenix Union students for next year. Proceeds from last year’s tournament and other fundraising efforts are being dispersed this month to seniors. The tournament has sold out the last four years, but there are still a few spots left. For more information, contact the Foundation at (480) 289-5761 or info@foundation4education.org.

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Around Our Schools

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 2016-2017
August 11, 2016

Phoenix Union’s Administrator of the Year is former Alhambra principal Claudio Coria. The award was presented at the Opening of Schools Convocation, August 2. Coria completed his fifth year as principal of Alhambra and was recently named the District’s Executive Director of Leadership, where he will oversee principals, and develop future leaders. He made a huge difference at Alhambra, leading the staff in improving from a D school, to knocking on the door of a B in the State’s Letter Grades. The school was recently named a “Beat the Odds-Silver School” by the Future of Arizona’s Beat The Odds Institute. In his tenure, Alhambra produced 11 National Board Certified teachers, the most in the District. He forged a partnership with Grand Canyon University that has included mentoring, dual enrollment, scholarships and providing student teaching and internship opportunities. Coria led a team of teachers presenting at the U.S. Department of Education “Teach to Lead” Summit in Washington, D.C. The Arizona Commission for Post-Secondary Education selected his school as the Pathways to Post-Secondary Education Award, K-12 Division last spring. The school has provided training during summer school for Teach for America candidates. A Teach for America graduate himself, Coria taught in the Roosevelt District and was an administrator in the Balsz and Pendergast Districts.

Alhambra won the School of the Year award for Partnership at the Opening of Schools Convocation, August 3, because of its strong partnership with Grand Canyon University. Alhambra students have benefited with free after-school tutoring at the Grand Canyon Learning Lounge, dual enrollment with no tuition, and a STEM Scholar School, where students and staff participate in STEM related activities. Alhambra has Adult ESL classes, with instructors paid by GCU. Alhambra offers practicums, student teaching and interns for GCU Education students during the year and for summer school. The university started a Neighborhood Safety Initiative, providing extra police which benefits the Alhambra community. This year, 25 Alhambra students received full-ride Students Inspiring Students scholarships to GCU, paying it forward by providing Learning Lounge tutoring for our high school students.

August 18

The Alhambra Lions won the Division III Baseball State Championship last May, largely on the strength of its pitching staff. Coach Chris Hoth took the mound August 15 to throw out the first pitch at the Diamondbacks-New York Mets game. No report on his pitching ability, but it is safe to say he will be back with high school baseball next spring.
September 15
Social Worker **Christie Pinner** can’t wait to hear the question, “what did you do on your summer break?” Pinner flew to Nepal, and the 9,383-ft. airport in Lukla, and proceeded to climb to the base camp of Mount Everest. The 80-mile roundtrip took nine days up to the 17,300-base camp and five days back down. She joined a group with REI, carrying 25-pound day packs, and spending the nights in Sherpa villages or tents.

Adventure is nothing new for Pinner, who taught English as a Second Language for 10 years at Central, and three as a social worker. She climbed 19,300-foot Mount Kilimanjaro in 2010. She says her next goal might be running a marathon.

September 28
The Alhambra Choral Music Studies Department is holding its 6th annual Invitational Concert, October 4 at 6 p.m. The high school students sing with choristers from Alhambra’s partner elementary schools to give them a preview of what it’s like to sing post-middle school.

November 16
Alhambra High School alumna **Tanairi Ochoa-Martinez** just won a seat on the Alhambra Elementary School Board, garnering the most votes, November 8, receiving almost 28% of the votes in a four-person race.

**Ochoa-Martinez**, who graduated in 2009, was named that year’s the Outstanding Young Woman of the Year by the Phoenix Youth and Education Commission. She was the class valedictorian and attended St. Mary’s University in San Antonio. She is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Administration at ASU. Ochoa-Martinez had an eye on politics early on. She was a state officer with Future Business Leaders of America, attended the Junior Statesmen of America summer school at Stanford University prior to her senior year at Alhambra, and was selected to represent the Junior Statesmen Foundation at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver. She is married, and has a son in the Alhambra Elementary District.

Two others were elected, including former Phoenix Union board member, **Garthanne de Ocampo**, who served 1995-2002.

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Running back **Yakir Cobb** and kicker **Jose Solorio** were selected to the All-Phoenix Union Football team, voted on by the coaches.
November 23

Alhambra finished third in the Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon, November 18-19 scoring 32,905 points. Cesar Chavez was first, Maryvale was second. Among the highlights, the Lions won five medals in math, including three gold medals. Cesar Carreto took gold in Honors Math, and Anthony Jimenez and Jose Orozco tied for gold in Scholastic Math. Kayla Resendiz won silver in Scholastic math, and Quan Tran took bronze in Honors Math. Jose Baldovino won gold in Honors Science and Tran tied for the gold in Honors Social Science.

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Alhambra alumnus Nash Kleppan (2012), graduated Magna Cum Laude from ASU in May with a degree in Computer Systems Engineering. Upon graduating, he accepted a position as an engineer at Intel where he was an intern in the two years leading up to his graduation. Kleppan currently works on hardware and software in Intel's storage division and is responsible for product and prototype testing.

December 14

Alhambra is developing two new learning academies. One academy is designed to build on the work that started last year to formalize a pipeline of 21st Century Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) curriculum. The other academy will explore professions in the education field (civic engagement through teacher preparation, social work, etc.). At this stage, administration has been gaining feedback from staff and students to inform the development these future academies.

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Anthony Orduno of Alhambra is a QuestBridge Finalist, and has starting receiving some of his early entrance results to some of the 38 schools, such as Notre Dame. He too is awaiting further results from the remaining schools through the early entrance and regular decision process.

QuestBridge is a national non-profit that connects the nation’s most exceptional, low-income youth with leading institutions of higher education and further life opportunities.

December 21

World languages teacher Rosario Gayton has won a $5,000 Fiesta Bowl Wishes for Teachers award, in partnership with College Football Playoff Foundation Extra Yard for Teachers. She wants to provide iPads for his classroom. Over 2,400 teachers from Arizona submitted applications, and Rutan’s wish was randomly selected to be granted. Each winning teacher is also invited to attend the Motel 6 Cactus Bowl at Chase Field, December 27, where they will be honored on field with fellow Wishes for Teachers recipients. The Extra Yard for Teachers program is distributing $500,000 in Fiesta Bowl Wishes to 100 Arizona teachers.
January 25, 2017

Two Alhambra students won awards at the New Horizons High School student art exhibition sponsored by the Shemer Art Center, January 21. Over 80 student art pieces are on display through February 2. Each school was allowed to submit two artworks, both of which had to be by 11th or 12th grade students. Alhambra’s Jazmin Herrada won the Shemer Family Award, and Elizabeth Kearny won the Linda Tracey Brandon Award for Excellence in Figurative Art. Alhambra art teachers Tina Yoder and Kim Schuster were on hand.

February 7

Alhambra finished third in the 24-team Region II Academic Decathlon February 3-4 at Boulder Creek High School, and qualified, along with five other Phoenix Union schools for the 40-school State Decathlon, March 10-11 at ASU West. The Lions scored 37,357 points, trailing only Cesar Chavez and Boulder Creek. They were led by Brandi Barrett, who was the silver medalist for top overall scoring in 10 events in the scholastic division. The Lions will enter the State Decathlon ranked 10th in Arizona.

February 22

Alhambra High School was named a Beat The Odds-Gold School by the Future of Arizona’s Beat The Odds Institute. A celebratory announcement was made at the school, yesterday in front of staff, students, community members, the superintendent, his executive team and governing board members.

Beat The Odds Schools must demonstrate consistent student academic growth over time, teachers and staff are surveyed annually, and the school must be recommended by the Beat The Odds Mentor Partner who visits the school regularly. Beat the Odds is a rigorous, multi-year school improvement program providing mentoring and training for principals. It focuses on K-12 schools where at least 50 percent of the students are on free or reduced lunch and at least 50 percent are minority, primarily Latino. Using methodology from best-selling author Jim Collins (Good To Great), and based upon research, the six keys are: a strong and steady principal, a clear bottom line, ongoing assessment, collaborative solutions, a program built on individual student needs and a commitment to stick with the program.

Marty Hoeffel from the Future of Arizona, and a former Alhambra principal, presented a plaque and banner to current Alhambra principal Karen Cardenas and Claudio Coria, who was principal the last five years, and went through the process.

Alhambra is one of nine schools named a Beat the Odds Gold School this year, and one of only two high schools.

Alhambra is the third Phoenix Union School to earn a “Beat the Odds” Gold School designation. Metro Tech High School became a “Beat the Odds” School in 2013 and Franklin Police and Fire in 2015.
March 8

Alhambra’s **Andres Jimenez** received an email February 22 that will change his life forever. He was accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy. The senior who is number one in his class with a weighted 4.682 grade point average, and is the Cadet Battalion Commander of the 240-member JROTC unit, will be one of an elite class of less than 1000 admitted to the academy in Annapolis, MD. A Naval Academy education is valued at over $500,000.

Jimenez became interested in an academy when Lieutenant Colonel **Jackson MacDonald**, his JROTC instructor, arranged for him to attend an engineering camp at the Air Force Academy between his sophomore and junior years. This past June, he attended a summer seminar at Annapolis, and became intrigued with nuclear engineering, because of its future potential. He was introduced to the traditions, history and academic rigor expected by midshipmen, a term used for cadets at the Naval Academy.

He will report to the Academy, June 29 for six weeks of “plebe summer,” consisting of rigorous physical and mental training to turn civilians into midshipmen. Following his education, he would like to be an officer on a submarine. His commitment is five years, but Jimenez says he wants to serve his country 20-plus years, and ultimately make it to captain, “one step below an admiral.”

Jimenez has worked hard mentally and physically in high school. He is currently taking Advanced Placement Calculus and Physics, is a National Hispanic Scholar, and is a member of the National Honors Society. He already has full scholarship offers from ASU and Arizona. He has participated in the various JORTC activities, such as color guard, drill team and “RECONDO”, the unit’s Adventure Team. He has volunteered at an animal shelter and tutors grades school children. Jimenez has been on the wrestling team, track and cross country, and he works out for an hour every morning with 30-50 cadets before school.

Success is nothing new in his family. His sister, Karen, a 2012 Alhambra graduate and Navy JROTC cadet at the University of Arizona, is a Navy nurse, stationed in Portsmouth, VA. Another sister, Esmerelda, was a salutatorian at Alhambra in 2014, and is studying to be a veterinarian at the U of A, on a full scholarship.

Sophomore, **Alaiza Lopez** is a Regional Gold Key recipient for the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Her original poem "We Cannot Be Taken Down" is currently being considered for national recognition in New York City. National Medalists will be announced on Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

Last Spring, a Phoenix Union school was crowned state champion in a sport that a District school had not won since 1977. The wait was even longer for Alhambra, which had never won a baseball championship. So waiting for their championship rings didn’t seem so long. But on March 1 for their home opener, the Lions were rewarded. The 2016 team members received championship rings provided by the Arizona Diamondbacks through their Play Ball Fund,
March 29

**Charles Santay**, a sophomore at Alhambra High School, began studying programming in the fall in his computer science class. After he learned of the Media Center's 3D printer and its possibilities in creating 3D printed models, he began to explore the idea of building a fully functional 3D-printed quadcopter. Santay began studying, researching, testing, and building in November. After months of work, Santay achieved first flight on the Grand Canyon University campus.

Along the way, Santay taught himself a variety of skills to bring his idea to life: CAD design, 3D printing, electronics, power supply mechanics, guidance systems, R.F. communications, control software, and a host of other skills.

"I have gone through a lot of crashes and a lot of parts, but Mr. Brink (Alhambra's Librarian and overseer of AHS's Media Center) has helped with replacement print parts to me keep going, I have a whole box of damaged propellers...I've crashed a lot."

At Alhambra's annual Science Fair / Sustainability Expo March 23, Santay amazed his classmates by demonstrating his ability to achieve flight as well as answer a variety of questions on the building process and very technical aspects of his project.

“After hearing him talk at length of his learning, it is apparent Charles has learned a great deal on many topics over the course of the quadcopter's development. Charles plans on continuing his learning,” social studies teacher **Clayton Jones** said.

"My next project is going to be a much smaller and faster design for racing. I am working on ideas for a first-person, real time, camera feed as part of the guidance system," Santay said.

April 5

Alhambra is hosting the Desert Classic JROTC Drill Championship, Saturday, April 8 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Over 350 competitors from 29 schools will participate, representing JROTC programs form all four services-Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. There will be ten PUHSD units, and teams from Las Vegas and New Mexico. There are 12 events in this competition in categories of Unarmed Drill Team, Armed Drill Team and Color Guard. The day culminates with a drill down, where hundreds of cadets respond to rapid fire commands, or face elimination, until only one cadet remains.

April 26

Alhambra was the Division III Baseball State Champion last year, but this year the Lions were moved up to 6A with the largest schools in the state. Alhambra won the Metro Region, went 9-1 and 15-3 overall, but was only seeded #20 in the rankings. That meant they had to “play into” the State Tournament. Alhambra’s post-season run ended in a Play-in game in Yuma, dropping a 4-3 decision to Kofa High School, April 26.
May 10

Alhambra’s **Kristen Wasbotten** applied for the School Challenge Grant via the Arizona Diamondbacks and on April 25, she was recognized at the start of the game as a recipient of the $5,000 grant from University of Phoenix. She will use the money to purchase iPads for her refugee literacy students. Many ESL students come to PUHSD without having learned to read or write in their native language. Wasbotten has done research on which apps will help them build their literacy skills and the foundation needed to be successful English learners at Alhambra.

In addition to the $5,000, the Arizona Diamondbacks also gifted Alhambra High School 500 tickets to the game.
Around Our Schools

Betty Fairfax High School

8225 S. 59th Ave. Laveen, Arizona 85339
602-764-9020
www.phoenixunion.org/bettyfairfax
Founded: 2007
Colors: Midnight Blue/Columbia Blue
Mascot: Stampede
Betty Fairfax High School 2016-2017
Around Our Schools
Betty Fairfax
2016-2017

August 18, 2016

Betty Fairfax High School was ranked #14 among a list of Most Picturesque High School Campuses in the U.S. The list was compiled by the LawnStarter website, which described the Laveen campus this way:

“Highlights of this sleek, modern campus include gorgeous landscaping and mountain views.”

The school, which opened in 2007, was funded by the 2003 Phoenix Union Construction Bond. The architect was the DLR Group and the contractor was Adolfson & Peterson Construction. [https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/environment/prettiest-high-school-campuses/](https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/environment/prettiest-high-school-campuses/)

August 25

The Fairfax Football program will partner with Shamrock Farms to help student-athletes support their nutritional needs. Fairfax is one of 35 Phoenix Metro Area Schools selected. Student-athletes will soon have the advantage of Rockin’ Refuel real milk and natural protein that they need to build and rebuild muscles. Additionally, with the support from the Dairy Council of Arizona, the program educates athletes about refueling the body with protein. Throughout the football season, the team will receive 20 cases of Varsity Muscle Recovery weekly.

August 31

From the Where Are They Now Department:

Betty Fairfax’ **Victoria Hernandez** never strayed too far from the Laveen campus. A four-year varsity volleyball player at Fairfax, she graduated in 2012, went to ASU, and came back to Betty Fairfax, where she coached and won her first varsity volleyball game for the Stampede this week, beating Central High. Hernandez does have to commute to her old school for volleyball, as she is a history teacher at South Mountain High School.

Another Fairfax alum, **Derron Brown** traveled to Sydney, Australia last week when his University of California football team played Hawaii. The outside linebacker (#4) sent this message to his high school: “Thank you to the Fairfax Staff, Teachers, and Coaches. Without you, I would not have had the opportunity to get an Education at Cal Berkley and play Football”

Former Fairfax alumnus and University of Arizona graduate **Reggie Gilbert**, who signed a free agent contract with the Green Bay Packers this year, made the first round of cuts, and has one more cut to survive Saturday to make the 53-man roster. The Packers final preseason game was September 1 vs. Kansas City.
September 21

Two students from Betty Fairfax were selected for the All-State Show Choir, and another was selected for the All-State Jazz Clinic Choir following auditions September 17 at Paradise Valley High School. Courtnee King, 3rd Chair Alto and Christopher Joseph, 3rd Chair Tenor made the Show Choir, and Andrez Alcazar, 2nd Chair Bass made the Jazz Clinic Choir. Hundreds of students from all over the state of Arizona compete to earn a spot in these prestigious ensembles. The festival will take place in November, culminating in a performance on Saturday, November 19.

Betty Fairfax alumni got together on the football field halfway across the country, when Wabash College in Indiana hosted Allegheny College from Pennsylvania, September 17 in an NCAA Division III contest. Defensive back David Perez, (Class of 2015) and Running back Brandon Sellers (Class of 2014) play for Allegheny, while defensive tackle Deonte Simpson (2014) plays for the Wabash Little Giants. Wabash is ranked 13th in the nation in D-III, and beat Allegheny that day, 59-7. Athletic Director and former football coach Kevin Belcher keeps tabs on former Fairfax athletes who continue their careers in college and beyond.

The Fairfax September Students of the Month are Mario Oliveros and Jadon Coleman, Exceptional Students; Victor Miranda and Xavier Woods, AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination); Natalie Miranda, Science, Brie Boehm, Art and Vincent De La Cruz, Performing Arts. They will be honored at a breakfast Friday, September 30.

September 28

Eden Jenkins has been selected to participate in the Arizona Ivy League Project, joining 25 other Ivy League Project scholars from 14 different high schools. The two-year program includes a 2017 East Coast tour to visit Ivy League Universities such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown, Columbia, and other elite colleges.

Students are expected to maintain a grade point average of at least 3.75 and attend a minimum of eight Saturday Leadership Sessions in the first year and at least five senior sessions throughout the remainder of the program.

Eden, a junior with a 4.0 grade point average, who plays varsity volleyball and tennis, is the daughter of Fairfax Exceptional Students teacher Sandra Jenkins.

During Saturday sessions students work on developing networking skills and oral communication skills. They will interact with fellow colleagues, professional role models, and be expected to read and respond to articles, books, and other material. Ivy League Project Scholars will gain access to Ivy League admission officers, Ivy League students and alumni.

Betty H. Fairfax High School attended the Historically Black Colleges and Universities HBCU College Fair at Phoenix College, September 28. Fairfax’ 50 students were the largest school group.
October 26

One week before the football regular season ended, Betty Fairfax clinched a 5A playoff spot by winning the Union Region with a 22-0 win over Independence. The Stampede will go into their final game against South Mountain with a 7-2 record, and 4-0 mark in region. Fairfax’ only losses this year came against #1 ranked Desert Edge, and 6A neighbor, Cesar Chavez.

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The Betty Fairfax Musical Ensemble performed at the Alpha Delta Kappa Central District Founders’ Day Celebration in Avondale, October 15. Alpha Delta Kappa is an international teachers’ organization dedicated to educational excellence, altruism, and world understanding through fellowship. The ensemble performed beautifully for over 30 minutes before an appreciative crowd of 114 educators from across the Central District of Arizona. Ensemble director Christopher Hughes received many accolades regarding the professionalism and talent of his student ensemble.

November 2

The Fairfax High School Marching Band, “EQUUS,” qualified for State at the NAU Band Day Marching Festival, October 28, with an “Excellent” Rating and a score of 64.875, the highest in Fairfax’s history. They will be competing at the ABODA State Marching Festival hosted at McClintock High School, Saturday, November 5. Fairfax performance time is 2:15 PM.

The 2016 “EQUUS” has a 24-freshmen student population that comprises 44% of the marching band and over half of the band students are first-year marchers and/or musicians.

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Betty Fairfax completed its regular season with an 8-2 record, and the 5A Union Region title. The Stampede, seeded 16th, will have to travel south to take on top-seeded Vail Cienega in the first round, November 4.

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International Baccalaureate English teacher Tom Turk will be at Oxford University for a special honor, November 25. The Bodleian Library is forming a collection in Turk’s name of all his research into 290 translations in 42 languages of the English poet Thomas Gray’s famous Elegy. These papers will appear in digital format available for study by scholars worldwide. Turk has been working on this project for about 15 years and he has published several articles on his work. Gray’s Elegy is the most translated poem in the English language. It is also the most quoted.

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Betty Fairfax Students of the Month for October were Rachel Whmpner and Noah Mitrevski in reading; Chelsea Figueroa, Yasin Muhammad and Noah Hinojosa in science; Sarah Doll and Imari Walker for exceptional students; Michael Lynd in world languages, and Christopher Joseph in performing arts.
November 9

There was only one Phoenix Union golfer to qualify for State Tournament, and she came from Betty Fairfax. Sophomore Iman Abraham played in the Girls Division II Championship, October 31-November 1 in Tucson, and tied for 41st among the 93 golfers. She shot a two-round total of 179. She qualified last year, as well, and improved her finish by 35 places. Abraham also was the low medalist in the Phoenix Union Girls Golf Championship, October 20, as the Fairfax Girls won the tournament for the second year in a row.

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The “Equus of Fairfax” Marching Band competed in the 2016 ABODA State Marching Festival at McClintock High School, November 5, and earned and maintained their “Exellent” rating with a score of 68.425. The highest score for Fairfax HS Band. They also came in 14th in Music Performance out of 29 competing bands.

November 16

Shamar Moreland was the All-Phoenix Union Football Defensive Player of the Year, and Dylan Winemiller was the Coach of the Year. The All-PUHSD teams were selected from the ten teams by the coaches. Linebacker Kaleb Williams and lineman Tyreke Humphrey were named to the Defensive team. Damian Pina was the Punter. Fairfax finished 8-2 in the regular season, 5-0 in Region, but lost in the 5A opening playoff round.

November 23

The Fairfax Spirit line has advanced to compete for the AIA state title in Game Day division by placing 7th in the Regional Qualifier. The Spirit line will compete in AIA Show Cheer division and All-Girl Stunt on December 10. The varsity and JV will also be competing this month to Qualify for USA nationals. This Summer Fairfax had10 girls make all-American.

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Three students participated in the All-State Jazz and Show Festival, November 18-19. Andrez Alcazar was in the All-State Jazz choir, and Christopher Joseph and Courtnee King were in the All-State Show Joseph performed a solo at the festival.

The Betty Fairfax Students of the Month for November are Ivan Alcazar—Performing Arts; Ameerah Battle—Science; Sarah Crosby—History; Quentin Kyyitan—Exceptional Students; Gisela Magana—Reading; Mark Navarro—Counseling; Taylor Poe—Math; Caleb Ryan—World Language; Grecia Saquelares—ELL; Jasper Smith—English; Celine Souvanna—Art.

December 7

Athletic Director Kevin Belcher recently completed all the steps, classes and a written examination to earn the designation of Certified Athletic Administrator from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). He is believed to be the first PUHSD employee to achieve this designation. Belcher says it will provide more opportunities for the Fairfax Community and its student-athletes.
December 14
Betty Fairfax punt returner Shamar Moreland made the 5A Division All-State Football Team, the only Phoenix Union player named to that division’s elite squad.

January 11, 2017
The Betty Fairfax Girls Basketball team participated in a 24-team tournament December 26-28 at Arcadia High School. The Stampede won the tournament and improved to 11-2 on the season.

The Betty Fairfax staff collected over 100 toys for Phoenix Children’s Hospital at their holiday party at the Southern Ridge Golf Club. Student Body President, Ameerah Battle delivered the presents to the hospital.

February 7
Several Betty Fairfax students participated in the North-Central Regional Honor Choir auditions along with thousands of students from the Greater Phoenix area in this challenging process January 28. Two bass vocalists were selected for this prestigious festival--Andrez Alcazar and Vincent De La Cruz (1st alternate). They will perform in the festival on Saturday, February 18, at 3:00 p.m., at Camelback High School.

At Betty Fairfax, football players signed. Ezzard Carroll, a wide receiver who wants to study electrical engineering, is headed to Division II South Dakota School of Mines on a fullride, despite visiting there in 17-degree weather. Shamar Moreland, a defensive back and return specialist and Daron Stevenson, a wide receiver will remain teammates at Langston College in Oklahoma. Tyreke Humphrey, a defensive end may go to Phoenix College, but Allegheny College in Pennsylvania is interested. Two other Stampede graduates are there. Kaleb Williams, a linebacker/strong safety signed with Phoenix College. The Fairfax signees also had a surprise visit from alumnus, Reggie Gilbert, who went to U. of Arizona and is now with Green Bay.

February 15
It has been a good year for Betty Fairfax Basketball, boys and girls. The girls team posted a 20-3 overall record, and 10-0 mark in the Union Region. They beat Lake Havasu in a play-in game, February 9 and opened 5A state tournament play at Marana, February 14. The Boys also won the region, with a 8-2 record, 15-4 overall, and beat Verrado in a play-in game, advancing to the first round or the tournament at Chaparral, February 15.

The boys team captured many Union Region honors, including Player of the Year Vincson Landrum and Coach of the Year, Josh Wray. Landrum, Jordan Louis and Donavan Regan were 1st Team All-Region, and Ethan Nelson and Khyri Marshall were 2nd Team All-Region.
Betty Fairfax Students of the Month for January were Damion Bunz, Business; Ashley Castrejon-Martinez, English; Dominique Delco, Art; Ifeoma Ezechukwu, English; Agrey Hamilton, history; Mario Hernandez, history; Abraham Lopez, English; Karyme Morazan, science; Mathew Myore, English; Raquel Nichols, world languages; Xitlallic Ortega-Perez; Jorge Sarabia, performing arts; Jonathan Smith, journalism; Aaron Tuggle, counseling.

March 8

The Third Annual Stampede Football Family Golf Benefit will be held Saturday, April 29 at Southern Ridge Golf Club in Laveen. The four-person scramble with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start generates funds for the football program. Sponsorships are available, or a $70 donation per golfer. There will be gift bags and shirts, a BBQ lunch, raffle and prizes. For more information, contact Stampede Booster at stampedetouchdown@gmail.com, or Coach Dylan Winemiller at winemiller@phoenixunion.org.

March 22

The Third Annual Stampede Football Family Golf Benefit will be held Saturday, April 29 at Southern Ridge Golf Club in Laveen. The four-person scramble with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start generates funds for the football program. Sponsorships are available, or a $70 donation per golfer. There will be gift bags and shirts, a BBQ lunch, raffle and prizes. For more information, contact Stampede Booster at stampedetouchdown@gmail.com, or Coach Dylan Winemiller at winemiller@phoenixunion.org.

March 29

Betty Fairfax Track and Field athletes competed in the 77th Annual Chandler Rotary Track meet, March 24-25. This is one of the top five high school meets in the country, with several states and 125 schools attending. Two Fairfax athletes were invited to the Elite session Saturday night, and both medaled. Shamar Moreland won the long jump competition. He and a Chandler High long jumper both went 23-3, but in the tiebreaker, their second best jump, Moreland won by one inch. Moreland also placed 4th in the 300 hurdles. Destiny Henry placed 3rd in the javelin.

Betty Fairfax alumnus Kurtis Walls is going to play pro football in the Czech Republic. Following a record-setting career at Valley City State University in North Dakota, where he threw for 8,675 yards and 87 touchdowns in four seasons, Walls will play for the Prague Lions of the top division Czech League of American Football.

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April 5
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April 12
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April 19
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April 26
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May 3
Ten Betty Fairfax math students traveled to the Arizona Cardinals Marquee Math competition at the Arizona Cardinals stadium, April 29. The two teams of five competed against 26 teams from all over the state. The students took a one-hour test consisting of physics and math questions written in a football context. Team one, consisting of Leo Ruelas, Leo Lopez, Yallison Wakayo, Stephanie Martinez and Justin Sanchez, took fourth place overall and team two placed 14th. This is the inaugural year of the Betty Fairfax Math club, which has been led by Ruelas, a National Hispanic scholar, who will be attending Texas A&M next Fall. The teams and club were organized by math teachers Susan Heikkinen and Katherine Martinez.

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Betty Fairfax High School
This past Saturday ten Betty Fairfax math students qualified to attend the mathleague.org state competition in Tucson, Arizona. These students competed in five rounds; power, relay, target, team, and sprint against fourteen schools. To qualify these students participated in a local competition in Tucson earlier in the year and took an in-school test in April. Two students placed in the 12th grade category, Lao Yao (7th place) and Leonardo Ruelas (10th place). Yao is a student in the 2016-2017 Lanzhou International student program who will be attending Arizona State University in the fall.

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The Betty Fairfax Vocal Ensemble traveled to Anaheim to participate in the WorldStrides Heritage Festivals competition. There were 30 different choirs there from around the country, and Fairfax’s performances in both madrigals and jazz received Silver 2nd Place awards. In addition, Ivan Alcazar received the "Legacy Lives On" award. This award is presented to a student who has shown strength of character and a passion for the arts as they pursue excellence no matter what challenges they may have faced. Two students received "Maestro" awards for excellent performances: Andrzej Alcazar and Christopher Joseph for their respective solos. Only six of these awards were given in the entire festival of approximately 700 students.

May 10

Betty Fairfax had the most success of any Phoenix Union school at the State Track and Field Championships, May 6 at Mesa College. The Stampede Boys and Girls each finished ninth in their divisions. Only two other schools in Division II, North Canyon and Chaparral, placed both boys and girls squads in the Top 10.

Shamar Moreland won the Boys Division II 300 meter hurdles (40.35 seconds) and the long jump (23-9). He also finished 3rd in the 110 meter hurdles. Fairfax’ Ma’Kayla Dickerson placed 2nd in the 300 meter hurdles, 2nd in the 200 meters and 4th in the 100 meter hurdles.

The Fairfax Boys finished 9th out of 43 Division II teams, while the Fairfax Girls and the South Mountain Girls tied for 9th out of 33 teams.
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 2016-2017
August 11, 2016

Bioscience held a College Boot camp for seniors from: Bioscience, Camelback Montessori and Students Expedition Program (STEP) last week, August 1-5. The weeklong event included an overview of admission timelines and important deadlines, how to communicate effectively with admissions personnel, student panels, rotation of university/college presentations and college application workshops. The College Admissions Boot camp combined information, exposure and action.

August 25

Bioscience teacher Milton Johnson and four students are searching the Milky Way Galaxy for newly forming stars. They are getting some help from a NASA astronomer as part of the NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program (NITARP).

Johnson and senior Cassandra Montufar, and juniors Elizabeth Chiffelle, Lis San Emterio and Anthony Aragon spent a week at Caltech in July at a training workshop with their partner scientist Dr. Luisa Rebull. The team was trained in the scientific techniques that were needed to continue and complete their research project. Teamed with two other teachers from California and Oregon, and their students, the group began sorting through data on 30,000 stars in our galaxy in order to identify a much smaller pool of young, newly forming stars. At Caltech they learned specific data analysis techniques. They also toured the Jet Propulsion labs in Pasadena, which are responsible for managing all of NASA’s deep space missions.

The team is looking for forming stars less than 10 million years old, in a star-forming region of the Milky Way, known as Cepheus C. Their project title is “Finding High Quality Young Star Candidates in Ceph C.” The team will present at the American Astronomical Society annual meeting in Texas, in January.

“We are using images taken by several of NASA’s infrared space telescopes,” Johnson said. “Dr. Rebull’s professional team is trying to identify young stars in this region of space so they can do further research on how stars form. We hope to find maybe 50-100 Young Stellar Objects (YSOs) by the end of our work.” Thus far, the students have worked really hard and done a tremendous job learning the science and processing the data.”

Johnson applied for the nationwide program in 2015 and was one of six new teachers selected. NITARP works with educators because they can reach thousands for students per year, with information about how science really works, what NASA does, and the availability of astronomy data the public has access to.
September 21

In recognition of Arizona Bioscience Week, which is Sept. 18-24, the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce issued a statement celebrating many of the area’s achievements in the field, and Bioscience High School was mentioned.

“Phoenix Union Bioscience High School provides an innovative learning environment to build a strong talent pool for the bioscience industry.”

October 12

Bioscience is hosting an Open House for interested students and families, Thursday, November 3. It will also be in conjunction with the school’s annual Dia de los Muertos celebration. The event runs 4-8 p.m. The science and math specialty small school is beginning to enroll next year’s 9th, 10th and 11th graders. Students and parents can check out the school, meet the staff and see the opportunities at the school. The Dia de los Muertos celebration will also feature games, entertainment, face painting, robot driving, DNA extraction and food from Lupita’s Sonoran Hot Dogs. For more information, call the school at 602 764-5606.

October 19

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The Dragon Robotics team just received a $10,000 donation from NRG. According to the team, NRG has been its most supportive sponsors for five years. They have provided a mentor for the team as well as other donations.

October 25

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December 7

A student club on campus called the Green Leapers applied for and won a $1,800 grant from The City of Phoenix Recycling Division to purchase zero waste supplies for the school’s Town Hall and cafeteria. Starting in January, students and staff will dispose of their lunch waste differently: first by scraping uneaten food and paper into composting bins, then depositing recyclable plastic and metal into recycling bins, and finally any trash that cannot be recycled or composted. The Green Leapers will train the school in how to properly sort their items and will monitor the bins to ensure success. They already worked with the cafeteria staff to train them in how to discard waste from the kitchen. Students will then empty the bins each day into a special composting receptacle in the back of the kitchen, which will be picked up by the city of Phoenix every week. The students who initiated this program are Alejandra Villarreal, Nancy Ochoa, Alicia Flores, and Griselda Solis.

Junior Dulce Gariepy went before the Girl Scout board to defend her Gold Award Project, December 1, and is now a Gold Award recipient. The Girl Scout Gold Award is equivalent to the Eagle Scout for the Boy Scouts. They are the highest awards a scout can receive. Gariepy’s Gold Award is the culmination of 12 years of scouting. Her project focused on educating teens about understanding obstacles that elderly people face.

Dulce comes from a family of achievers. Her sister, Reyna earned her Gold Award in December 2015 and is still in scouting. Her brother, Santiago Gariepy, from Bioscience’s Class of 2013, is an Eagle Scout. He is now in his final year at Antioch College in Ohio, majoring in media arts. Their mother, Lionila Gariepy is the student liaison at Bioscience, and was the school’s employee of the year in 2015.

December 14

December 1 was match day for QuestBridge Scholar finalists, and Harvey Arein Nguyen matched to Bowdoin College in Maine. It was his top choice and he will be getting a full scholarship to the prestigious school.

Nguyen, raised by his Vietnamese immigrant grandparents since he was two months old, has a 4.6 grade point average and led all District science test-takers with a top score of 5 on the Advanced Placement (AP) Physics exam. This success was student-led, outside of class. Now he is putting together curricula for himself and some classmates to take the AP Physics 2 exam. He is Bioscience’s student body president, and leads several clubs and campus projects, including a club to help bring educational equality to undocumented citizens. This summer he interned with No Dream Deferred, learning how to help individuals’ complete DACA paperwork. He started a Be a Better Man Club for male students lacking a strong male role model in their lives. He has co-led the two-week freshman orientation at Bioscience. He also works 20 hours a week to help his grandparents.
He is interested in politics, engineering, philosophy and astrophysics. His counselor, **Terry Haggerty** says he is the most honorable young man she has ever met.

“I don’t always know with Arein if I am speaking to a future engineer, CEO, cabinet member or Supreme Court Justice. His range of skills—written, oral, technical, blows me away,” Haggerty said. “Harvey Arein Nguyen is the whole package.”

Bioscience has three other QuestBridge Finalists: **Autumn Martin, Carlos Yanez Navarro**, and **Alex Garcia Delgado**. They can be admitted to one of 38 QuestBridge college partners later through QuestBridge Regular Decision.

QuestBridge is a national non-profit that connects the nation’s most exceptional, low-income youth with leading institutions of higher education and further life opportunities. By recruiting, developing, and motivating these students—beginning in high school through college to their first job, QuestBridge aims to increase the percentage of talented low-income students attending the nations’ best colleges and to support them to achieve success.

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The Bioscience Dragon Robotics team played host to two FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics tournaments this month. The FIRST Lego League (FLL) tournament for junior high students, December 3, had 28 teams with 300-plus attendees. The FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), December 10, had 20 teams from high schools from the valley and state with 200-plus attendees. Two Phoenix Union schools participated in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) tournament.

The Phoenix Union Coding Academy Pythons Team won the Judge’s Award with “their robot, their claw, and their ability to make their presence known in the downtown Phoenix community.” PCA was picked by Brophy BroncoBots for the quarterfinals elimination matches.

The second team, Metro Tech’s Knight Tech Robotics went through the qualification matches and earned the second-seeded alliance captain for the quarterfinals elimination matches.

According to coach Bioscience coach **Po-pe Enrique**, Dragon Robotics 2375 mission is to create a culture where science and technology is celebrated and is getting ready for the upcoming FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) season themed as “Steamworks.”
January 11, 2017

Science teacher Milton Johnson and his team of five Bioscience students travelled to Texas during the winter break for the American Astronomical Society conference to present the results of their work over the past year in the NASA/IPAC Teacher Research program. IPAC is Caltech’s Infrared Processing and Analysis Center. Teaming with Caltech astronomers, high school teachers and students, the teams conducted a year-long research project. The Bioscience team, which included students and teachers from two other schools from Oregon and Los Angeles, presented the results of their study to find newly forming stars (Young Stellar Objects-YSO’s) in a molecular gas cloud about 2100 light years from Earth. No one had spent much time determining which objects were young stars, but using data archiving with IPAC, they found 245 YSO candidates. They shared this information with the professional astronomical community via a poster session.

The Bioscience students were Anthony Aragon; Elizabeth Chiffelle; Cassandra Montufar, Lis San Emeterio, and Kevin Hernandez.

“Of course, the students were ‘stellar’ in presenting and got loads of compliments from professional astronomers from around the country. They came home on ‘cloud 9,’ full of confidence for what they had accomplished,” Johnson said.

They plan to independently continue our work this coming year and hope to present at the next American Astronomical Society conference in Washington D.C. (Jan 2018).

January 18

The school held an assembly January 13 to announce its partnership with the City of Phoenix Publics Works Department, and Reimagine Phoenix to become the first school in the city to implement a Zero Waste program. The program was initiated by four Bioscience students- Alicia Flores, Griselda Solis, Nancy Ochoa and Alejandra Villarreal, called the “Green Leapers” who approached the city. Leapers comes from the acronym- Leaders for Environmental Awareness and Protection. John Trujillo from Reimagine Phoenix congratulated the girls and the school, and gave some statistics that emphasize not only the volume of trash, but also different ways to turn trash into resources.

“The city will double in population by 2050, and it is important to act now to minimize what you waste. Phoenix travels seven million miles every year to pick up and dispose trash. That is 14 times to the moon and back. We need change agents. We will spend millions if we do not recycle right.”

The city is giving the school three types of receptacles for recycling, for compost such as food and liquids and for trash, such as sandwich wrappers, chip bags. Coincidentally, the smallest cans are for trash.

Lucas Mariacher from the city gave examples of what to recycle, and took questions form the students.
March 22

The Dragon Robotics team competed at NAU earlier this month, finishing 26th out of 48 teams in a regional FIRST Robotics event that had teams from as far away as Turkey, Mexico and Canada. The Dragons won the Imagery Award, celebrating attractiveness in engineering and outstanding visual aesthetic integration of machine and team appearance. They also won the Safety Pit of the Day award.

The Chairman’s team of Sorvino Nguyen (senior), Alex Haywood (frosh), and Jazmin Andrade (frosh) presented how the team empowered students, provided STEM outreach, and broke down cultural barriers in our community. Their sincerity made the judges cry, according to teacher/coach Nadia Smith. The drive team was made up of Edmund Dong, Edwin Lozano, Cesar Parra and Laura Lozano and driver coach and Bioscience alumnus Jonah Lerner.

The Dragon Robots have one more competition, April 5-8 at Grand Canyon University.

May 3

Last year, Dr. DeeDee Falls, a longtime Bioscience principal, retired, but in her honor, a scholarship fund was created and two students were awarded $2000 scholarships. That fund has already expanded to $10,000 this year, which will help four seniors this year with their college studies.

Carlos Yanez Navarro – Arizona State University, Biomedical Studies; Reyna Gariepy - Bryn Mawr College, Neuroscience; Cassandra Montufar - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Aerospace Engineering; Hana Malkoc - Arizona State University, Nursing.
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 2016-2017
August 11, 2016

The District’s Support Staff Employee of the Year is David Caddell, a senior security assistant at Camelback. The award was presented at the Opening of Schools Convocation, August 2. He has been at Camelback for 12 years, but has actually been with the District for 28 years. A graduate of North High, he worked with our visually impaired students in Community Based Training (CBT) classes. His value to Camelback belies his title. Many on his campus refer to him as the “go-to Guy,” helping teachers move classrooms, grabbing snacks for a class or club, or just being the one person the students know and can trust. He prides himself on knowing every student. His formula for success is simple, says his administration- build relationships, and treat people with respect. David also places a value on holding students accountable to high standards. He has volunteered to help coach football, girls basketball, baseball and after-school weight-lifting. Now the number two security person at his school, Chis colleagues say he consistently demonstrates a whatever-it-takes attitude in making sure the campus and students are safe and well-cared for.

Camelback won a School of the Year award for Innovation at the Opening of Schools Convocation, August 3, featuring the Camelback Montessori College Preparatory, which was founded five years ago as Arizona’s first and only Montessori high school. Students at Camelback Montessori engage in a 21st Century technology-based curriculum through a one-to-one device program, and each student uses his/her iPad daily. Through digital tools, the students of Camelback Montessori have more autonomy over their education as they transition into productive adult members of society.

From that first class, 16 students are graduating, and all are going to colleges or universities. In fact, 14 students will be able to attend college with tuition fully covered. The Montessori students totaled $1,605,700 in scholarships, not including grants or financial aid.

Camelback also had the Female Student of the Year recognized at the Convocation—Helena Silva Nichols. She was a Gates Millennium Scholar, a National Merit Commended student, a National Hispanic Recognition Scholars and a Hispanic Heritage Gold Youth Award winner in Innovation and Technology. This summer, she was awarded a $100,000 Ronald McDonald House HACER scholarship. A Valedictorian with a 4.89 GPA, she was a neuro-oncology intern at Barrow Neurological Institute and wants to continue in the field of neuroscience. She is already at Stanford University taking summer classes, but her mother, Monica Nichols, is a teacher at Bioscience accepted the award for her daughter.
Camelback marketing classes held its annual Alumni Day, August 16, and 150 juniors and seniors listened to 35 Camelback alumni who returned to give guidance to the students as they face college, career and life. Marketing teacher Julia Bourdo and community volunteer Jeff Stephens have been doing this formally for 12 years, although they have been bringing alumni to classes for over 20 years to have them share their experiences. This year, the alumni ranged from the Class of 1988 up to Class of 2015 graduates. The Class of 2005 had the biggest turnout. Their professions or college student status included a dentist, pilot, two attorneys, law student, counselor, two non-profit, army, three supply chain management, Tesla employee, an entrepreneur "Breezy Pops", an engineering student, 10 ASU students, Big Bros & Big Sisters employee, mortgage broker, minister, banker, urban designer (city planner), makeup artist, teacher, America Express employee. Stephens, a local architect who has been volunteering with the Camelback DECA program for 30 years, invited the alumni. Eighteen of them went to DECA National competitions when they were students at Camelback.

Freda Sullivan, Class of 1988 and a member of the first graduating class at ASU in Supply Chain Management recalled her DECA days.

"DECA helped gain confidence in public speaking and organizing thoughts."

August 31

Former Camelback student-athlete Antonio Zepeda will open the season for the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Rebels as a starting defensive end, Thursday, September 1. A junior majoring in public administration, Zepeda is now 6-6, 285 pounds. Football has been his salvation. When he was eight years old, he was homeless, until Child Protective Services placed him in a group home with up to 10 children who had been abused or neglected. A staff member at the home introduced him to the game of football, and his Camelback coach Brandon McNutt rescued him after a brush with the law, and took Zepeda into his family.

“I felt like for the first time ever, I was part of a family,” Zepeda shared with the Las Vegas Review newspaper. “If he didn’t take me in, I don’t know where I’d be at. He kind of got my head on right. He helped me become more of a man, with my morals, my ethics and my character.” Zepeda played defensive end, tight end, and quarterback and was the Spartans’s kicker at Camelback. He was named to All-State honors, and was recruited by UNLV.

Now, Zepeda wants to become an advocate for troubled teens, saying he has faith that everything he went through happened for a reason.

October 5

Children’s Action Alliance awarded Camelback $250 dollars for donating the most amount of pottery to be auctioned for children's charities. The Amazon gift cards will be used to purchase ceramic supplies. Twenty-three of the works will be up for auction at the "Through the Eyes of a Child" luncheon. Sonya Desjardins is the Camelback ceramics teacher.
October 12

The Girls Volleyball team leads the 5A Union Region with a 5-0 record, having beaten each of its region foes once. The Spartans will play each team again, beginning October 18 after fall break. Betty Fairfax is in second place, with a 4-2 record. Camelback is 10-4 overall, yet only ranked 26th in 5A, because of power points and strength of schedule.

October 19

Members of the Camelback Football team and staff were invited to the Cardinals Training facility for a USA Football Heads Up clinic put on by the NFL, ESPN and Dick’s Sporting Goods, last Saturday. The event was in conjunction with Monday Night Football, which was in town for the Cardinals-Jets game. Three area teams went through three technique stations for tackling and blocking. Jon Gruden, the Monday Night Football analyst dropped by to give an inspirational talk and presented each of the schools with a $2000 donation to their program. A video clip of the clinic was on the Monday Night Football game telecast.

“It went really well. The kids had a great time and the coaches were able to actually have conversations with Jon Gruden,” Camelback coach Joseph Brissette said.

October 25

The Camelback Volleyball team won the 5A Union Region with a perfect 10-0 record, and 15-4 overall, but had to play Scottsdale Chaparral in the play-in game, October 27. Camelback was ranked #24 and Chaparral was #9. The winner advanced to the 16-team state tournament.

November 2

Camelback High School Student Government hosted a month-long fundraising campaign (for the Arizona chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation in October. The entire campus and many student groups (including DECA and over 30 Advisory classes) got involved with the fundraising through car washes, collecting donations, buying t-shirts, lunch activities, and more. Through this team effort, the Spartans were able to raise almost $4000 to benefit Arizona kids struggling with a life-threatening illness. The campaign efforts were headed by the Student Government Director of Service & Sustainability Marissa Martinez.

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Rocio Lopez, a senior of Camelback Montessori College Preparatory was selected as a Barrows Neurological Science research volunteer. This highly-selective program had over 50 applicants and only accepted seven students after a rigorous application and interview process. She will be working on brain tumor research under the head lab coordinator, Dr. Adrienne Scheck. Lopez is hoping to major in neuroscience in college, so this is a huge stepping stone in building real world experience.
November 9
Camelback graduate Helena Silva-Nichols is a freshman at Stanford University, where members of the Class of 2020 were given the opportunity to acknowledge one former educator who played a significant role in their intellectual, academic and personal development, in the Teacher Tribute Initiative. Silva-Nichols selected Dr. Quintin Boyce, now the Executive Director for Teaching and Learning for the District. Boyce was a teacher and principal at Bioscience, where she attended her first three years, and principal at Camelback from which she graduated.

“Dr. Boyce has been an incredible role-model and leader throughout my high school career. His understanding of my unique needs as a student helped me thrive in the Phoenix Union High School District. He made it possible for me to have an amazing team of counselors, highly skilled teachers and the flexibility to pursue my passion. Thanks to his leadership, mentorship and support, I am exactly where I hoped to be today.”

November 23
The Marketing program was awarded an additional $5000 for the third year. Verizon has given the program $27,000 plus 40 Samsung tablets in 2014, $20,000 and eight Samsung tablets in 2015 and in 2016 they also selected teachers Maria Ciolfi-Abrams and Julia Bourdo to be “experts” giving them a personal stipend to help new teachers receiving the 2016-17 grant. The Verizon Innovative Learning through Design Thinking Program promotes a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation at the high school level that supports both unique missions of Arizona State University and Verizon while driving growth for each school and its surrounding community.

December 7
Camelback and Cesar Chavez played in the Bradshaw Mountain Boys Soccer Invitational in Prescott this past weekend. Both teams advanced for an All-Phoenix Union Championship game on Saturday. Camelback defeated Cesar Chavez in the championship game, 7-1. The Spartans scored 25 goals in the four tournament games, allowing only two. The two teams met again last night, with Camelback winning 5-2.

December 14
Camelback student Syeda Aktar recently placed 4th place in the VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Competition. Although she didn’t place high enough to win a monetary award, she was recognized at a dinner and received a plaque and certificate of achievement. This was especially meaningful to her because she has only lived in the United States for four years. She moved to the United States from Bangladesh and just tested out of ELL classes last year, according to teacher Cindee Badalamente.
One of the ways that Camelback’s Marketing DECA Club can take field trips to Chicago and New York, and go to DECA National Competitions is through the generous support of the community, particularly the local Toastmasters Speak E’s Annual Auction. For 31 years, this event, which was held December 15, has supported the DECA program at Camelback. The club also encourages its members to contribute through the Arizona Education Tax Credit program.

“They have continued to give opportunities to our students beyond their dreams. Last year Speak E's Toastmaster Club raised thousands of dollars for our DECA students. Every teacher would benefit so greatly with this kind of community support. You are all such a blessing to our students and us,” Marketing teacher Julia Bourdo said.

January 25, 2017

For the second year in a row, Camelback entrepreneurship students have won “Best in State” in the Verizon Innovative App Challenge. The app, called XChange, makes it easier for foreign exchange students to find a location, school and host family matching personal characteristics. Inspired by Svea Boelchl, an exchange student from Germany, she and teammates Andrea Gonzalez, Tasneem Al-Sabbry, Ismael Roman and Daniel Cortez won tablets, and $5000 for the school from Verizon. Marketing teacher and DECA Advisor Julia Bourdo Lichty helped the team with the App Challenge.

“This win is life-changing for these girls,” Lichty said.

Each year, the public gets a chance to vote on the favorite app concept. To be the “Fan Favorite” national award winner, a team must garner the most text votes. That team will also win a $15,000 award for the school and training from MIT experts to develop their concept into a working app. The voting opened the week of January 16 and closes February 14.

To vote for the Camelback App Exchange, text Xchange to 22333. There you can also see the Camelback video and others, as well as a ranking based on votes received. Voters can only vote once.

Last year, four Camelback girls won Best of State in this competition, developing an app called SHOPeasy that works as an indoor GPS for grocery shopping.

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February 15

The Camelback football team served the surrounding community by cleaning up yards, raking leaves, pulling weeds, picking up trash, and most importantly, building relationships with the school’s neighbors, February 11.

“We had 20 football players in the community giving back. We cleaned a number of yards, spoke with a lot of people about the team and how they could support us through tax credit and simply attending games. The feedback from the community was awesome, not one person was upset or unhappy to see us at their door,” Coach Joseph Brissette said.

March 8

Camelback competed at the DECA State Competition and qualified 25 students to the DECA International Competition to Anaheim, CA in April. This is the school’s largest total ever. Camelback students will be joining 17,000 students throughout the world for the DECA International Career Development Conference. There were 2,400 students from 72 schools that attended the DECA State Competition and Camelback had the second largest number of students attending in the state. Among their wins, the students who won the Verizon Best in State App contest also won in the Innovation Competition, the second year in a row that Camelback has won with the Verizon challenge winners.

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The Camelback JROTC took nine cadets on a field trip to the Arizona State Capitol, February 28. The trip was focused on the Capital Museum and gaining an understanding of some of the history of our great state. While at the Capitol, the students were able to meet State Representative Kelli Butler. The cadets were able to visit her office and were given a tour of the House of Representatives with her. The cadets also met and were welcomed in the museum by Secretary of State, Michelle Regan.

March 29

Make-A-Wish Arizona wanted to grant Camelback student Joseph Grant a wish, but Joseph had another idea. He gave his wish away to his high school in the form of a new shade structure with outdoor seating. Joseph presented his wish, called “Joseph’s Hangout,” to his fellow students, March 24 at two assemblies.
Joseph, who has a life-threatening heart condition that required a transplant, has been working on his wish for more than two years, deciding how to leave his legacy to a school that has been amazingly supportive during his illness. He approached then-principal Dr. Quintin Boyce, and with the help of the school, District facilities personnel, and local builders, the wish came true, with construction taking place during spring break.

McCarthy Construction, SunShades Arizona donated a large percentage of the wish, in one of the largest undertakings this year for Make-A-Wish Arizona.

“I first hooked up with Make-A-Wish my sophomore year, and when they wanted to know what my wish was. I wanted to hold off, and then I said, let’s do something for my school,” Grant said. “There are a lot of kids here, and they like to congregate outside the cafeteria, and there was no place to sit, and a space like this was very much needed.”

“They wanted to call it Joseph’s Corner, but Hangout sounded better. It has a ring to it. I like the way it sounds,” he said.

Joseph worked with the companies, and the school to create a plan and color scheme that complements the school colors-orange and blue.
Joseph’s gift did come with some anxiety. The seating area replaced the bell tower. During the assembly he was a little defensive. He hoped students wouldn’t remember him as “Oh no, that’s the bell tower kid,” he said.

But on the plaque that will designate the space, his true message is recorded: Selflessness is all the heart needs.

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Twenty-four Camelback students performed with GRAMMY Nominated Country Recording Artist Eric Church, March 28, during his tour stop at the Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix. Church is a strong supporter of public music education and he’s inviting a high school choir local to each tour stop to join him.

The GRAMMY Foundation contacted band director Jaime Johnston, who had been nominated by the organization a few years ago as a music instructor of the year.

The students, selected from members of the performing arts department- band, choir, and guitar arrived at the arena at 4p.m., had a dress rehearsal with Church on stage to figure out exactly what they had to do in the performance. They had a catered dinner and enjoyed the back stage experience and a dressing room just for them.

They performed the opening song, "A mistress named music".

“I am so excited for these thriving performing arts students to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity. They got to see behind the scenes and the inner workings of a touring, award winning musician,” Johnston said.
April 5
Camelback art students will display over 40 pieces of art in the Devonshire Exhibition, at the Devonshire Community Center at 2802 E. Devonshire. Opening reception is April 6 from 5-7 p.m.

April 19
Newly elected Maricopa County Sheriff **Paul Penzone** visited Camelback High School along with Superintendent Dr. Chad Géstson, April 17, to talk to a small group of students about making good decisions in their life and treating everyone with respect. Students asked questions such as why he wanted to be the sheriff and what a sheriff’s typical day looks like, and then took photos with him. Sheriff Penzone also spoke with some staff members during their lunch hour to share his vision for the Sheriff’s office, including changes that he has already made or plans to make. The staff asked more challenging questions about how the department works with various cultural groups, treatment of inmates and the procedures they have for working with different law enforcement agencies.
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 2016-2017
August 11, 2016

The Robotics team doesn’t take summer off. A dozen students competed in an autonomous unmanned vehicle competition called RoboSub in San Diego, July 25-31. The Falcons’ robot was called “Haboob,” in honor of our monsoon dust storms. The competition, called “A Pirate’s Life for Thee” was an obstacle course requiring several tasks performed by the pre-programmed robot. There were 46 teams from all over the world, including university tams from Singapore, Brazil, Canada, India, Japan and Russia, as well as three high school teams. Coach Fredi Lajvardi figures the Falcons finished ninth, one spot out of the finals because in a last chance bid, they scored 4,500 points, while another team scored 5000 to qualify for the eight-team finals. The competition also includes creating websites, videos and written reports.

“We have become very adept at using our one sensor, the fiber optic gyro. We are very excited to complete the AUV so that we can hopefully place in the top three next year,” Lajvardi said.

The Robotics team, and alumnus Angelica Hernandez in particular will be featured in an IMAX movie called “Dream Big.” The film will show amazing engineering feats, and show how today’s engineers are shaping the future. The segment on her and the Robotics team will be approximately 7 minutes, 45 seconds long. It is expected to be in theatres in February of 2017. A trailer can be seen at http://macgillivrayfreeman.com/dream-big/

Carl Hayden won a School of the Year award for their Facilities at the Opening of Schools Convocation, August 2. The selection process looked at a school’s environmental, sustainable and aesthetic qualities in our selection process. According to the presentation, Hayden has a robust culture of environmental stewardship that is driven and supported by the students and staff. Neatly landscaped trees and shrubs and the clean exterior of the buildings contribute to its curb appeal. Inside the classrooms, restrooms and hallways are crisp and clean. The maintenance staff maintains a clean and healthy environment. With collaboration from an outstanding student-led sustainability club and maintenance, this school has the largest recycling initiative in the District. There is constant attention to using water, electric and gas responsibly while balancing out the campus needs. Best practices are used for cleaning and grounds that incorporate green cleaning and landscaping. Carl Hayden has set the example for curb appeal and sustainability. Accepting the award was Principal Ricardo Cordova, and Alejandrina Mejia, who leads the school’s Blue Planet Society. Mejia has been invited to the White House for a Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators.
August 18

Science teacher Alejandrina Mejia received a Presidential certificate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, August 16 at the White House. She was selected as an Honorable Mention for the 2015-2016 Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators. Mejia was one of 18 teachers and 63 students from across the country recognized for their outstanding contributions to environmental education and stewardship.

Mejia has been a leader in sustainability and recycling at Carl Hayden, and championed other campus clubs to success. Her Blue Planet Society is the most robust and largest recycling club in the District. Mejia has incorporated a sustainability strand into her science curriculum, and her students have attended field trips to the city’s Material Recovery Facilities, a metal recycling plant, and volunteered to clean up a local riparian area. Her club built and participated on a sustainability float in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl Parade.

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Sylvia Meredith, Director of Little Falcons Preschool at Carl Hayden has completed the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential through National Louis University, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership. To date only 48 Preschool and Child Care Center Directors in Maricopa County have achieved this credential.

September 8

Reading teacher Catherine Barrett has been selected as an Arizona Cardinals MVP in the Classroom, presented by the University of Phoenix. She receives four tickets and a parking pass to Sunday night’s Cardinals opener with New England. She will also receive four pre-game sideline passes, a Cardinals jersey and a $500 gift card. Her selection was based on nominations the Cardinals received.

“The students, staff and leadership team are wonderful and make so much possible for us all,” Barrett said.

September 21

Carl Hayden Community High School, Carl Hayden JROTC and the Military Order of The World Wars conducted the 52nd annual Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance, September 11. The ceremony serves as a reminder that patriotism begins with human allegiance as described by Norman Cousins, Political Journalist, – (1915-1990). “Sometimes we feel as though we, as a nation, are no longer interested in the sentiment of sacrifice and dedication.”

Over 23 organizations participated in this year, including the 108th Army Band, Arizona Army National Guard, Phoenix Union JROTC programs, local Girl and Boy Scout Chapters, Association of United States Army, American Legion, Gold Star Wives, Military Officers Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, the Women Army Corps Veterans Association, Arizona Youth Leadership Conference and religious leaders from the Sun City Jewish Congregation, the VA Hospital and the Covenant Presbyterian Church.
September 28

Seven Center for Marine Science magnet students from Carl Hayden visited California State University Monterey Bay, September 23, with hopes of being admitted to study marine science there. Led by teacher Fredi Lajvardi, the group also toured Monterey Bay Area Research Institute, and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

October 5

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month and Phoenix Union is partnering with the City of Phoenix Mayor’s office to create awareness through the Paint Phoenix Purple initiative for a third year. Carl Hayden has two winners for the 2016 Paint Phoenix Purple Domestic Violence Awareness Art Contest. Isaac Ruiz Garcia won 2nd place and will receive a check for $150. Garcia was also a second place winner last year. Violeta Felix Acosta won 3rd place and will receive a check for $75. Both students are in Sabrina Sauer’s art classes. She has been a great supporter of the Paint Phoenix Purple campaign. The students received their checks in class, October 5, along with certificates signed by Mayor Greg Stanton, and were invited to attend the Phoenix Suns game that evening to be recognized. The students’ artwork will also be on display in the City Hall Atrium for the month.

October 12

Carl Hayden senior Jackson Gray has been named a National Merit Scholarship Corporation Commended Student. This academic award is based on results from the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

National Merit semifinalists qualify by being among the highest-scoring entrants in each state in the 2015 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.

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. Commended students represent about the top three percent of the 1.5 million juniors from over 22,000 high schools who take the PSAT.

Gray has a 4.6 GPA and ranked 6th in his senior class. His rigorous academic curriculum includes every Advanced Placement and Honors classes that have been available to him. He took the most advanced AP Calculus AB class as a junior, and is enrolled at Phoenix College to take AP Calculus BC. Gray is in the Computer Magnet program where he took the most advanced AP Computer class as a sophomore. He has been a member of the Carl Hayden Robotics team for four years, in which he has served as a programmer. He says he is equally interested in the electrical and mechanical aspects of robotics, as well. He has also volunteered to mentor youth interested in computers and robotics.

Gray is considering Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MIT, ASU Barrett Honors College, USC and Washington for college. He is considering majoring in electrical engineering, “with some level of computer engineering.”

Carl Hayden High School
“I really do live and breathe engineering. I spend a lot of my own time reading, watching and learning about electrical, mechanical or computer systems.”

He would like to have a career in engineering, and possibly work in a start-up company.

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The Falcon Robotics team is hosting a FIRST Lego League Robotics tournament Saturday, December 3 for fourth to eighth grade students. Volunteers are needed to judge. Contact math teacher and robotics mentor Ken Whitley at whitley@phoenixunion.org if you are interested.

“No experience is necessary. I guarantee you will have a great time,” said Whitley.

October 19

Thirty of the top robotics teams in Arizona were invited to participate in the inaugural Steve Sanghi Foundation FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics State Championships, October 14-15 at Arcadia High School. The game was called “Stronghold,” a “high-tech capture the flag” game, requiring school teams to align with teams from other schools and program and drive their robots to cross barriers and shoot balls into a castle structure in order to complete the task. It was the same game that was played at all the events last year.

The championship came down to a three-match tie breaker in the double elimination tournament with Carl Hayden and its two partner teams, Team Caution, a community team, and Pridetronics from Mountain Pointe High School, taking the title.

Sanghi is the founder, former president, CEO and chairman of the board of directors for Microchip Technology. He has been a supporter of Carl Hayden and FIRST Robotics for many years.

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“No experience is necessary. I guarantee you will have a great time,” said Whitley.

October 26

Fridays are special for the Little Falcons Pre-school students because that is the day “big” Falcons visit. The senior football players came to the pre-school to play with the kids, October 21.

“They all were engaged with our preschoolers and our kiddos had so much fun. They asked about when they will be back again. The players looked so sharp in their pink jerseys,” Little Falcons Preschool Director Sylvia Meredith said. “I think our kiddos will be sad when the football season is over. Thanks Coach (Randy) Gross for sharing your players with our kiddos each Friday.”

The good deed paid dividends. The big Falcons won their football game that night, 21-12 over South Mountain.
November 2
The Falcon Marching Band is heading to the State Marching Band Festival, after receiving a rating of “Excellent” at a competition at Marana Ironwood Ridge High School, October 29. They also earned caption awards for Outstanding Percussion and Outstanding Visual. Their next performance is the Phoenix Union Marching Exposition; a showcase of all marching bands in Phoenix Union, November 2 at Cesar Chavez (Hayden performs at 7:30 p.m.).

The State Championships will be held at McClintock High School on Saturday, November 5.

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Carl Hayden may need more than one van for the Division II State Cross Country Championships, November 5. Both the Boys and Girls teams are going. The Hayden boys finished in third place to qualify as a team, while the girls were seventh in the sectionals. Top individuals for the Falcons were Fidel de los Ríos, 6th and Ricardo Anaya, 7th. The top Falcon girl was Jennifer Sandoval, in 15th place.

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The Sixth Annual Carl Hayden Car Show is scheduled for Saturday, November 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event has grown every year with hundreds of entrees, food, and entertainment. It is free and fun for the whole family.

November 16
CodeDay Phoenix was a 24-hour “hack-a-thon” with 100 student competitors from around the state, November 12-13 at Infusionsoft in Chandler. The students worked in teams to plan, research, design, and code either an app or computer game using any software or programming language.

Sophomore Felipe Marquez Lopez worked alone and won the MVP-16 award for his game: “Project Carnival.” Senior Brandon Bustamante was offered a game design internship from Rogue Robot Studio. Also participating from Carl Hayden were Karyme Gomez, James Garnica, Gerardo Montoya, Jorge Ortiz Rivas and Lauro Casas. The teacher-adviser who mentored and prepared these students was computer science teacher Archana Chaudhari.

November 23
Carl Hayden won the Most Improved Team trophy at the Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon, November 18-19, in part by the performance of Brandi Barrett. Barrett won five event medals, and another silver medal for finishing second in the ten-event overall scoring in the Scholastic Division. She took gold in Science and Economics, Silver in Social Studies and Essay, and bronze in Math. The Falcons improved by 7,942 points from last year, and Barrett accounted for 7,569 points. Her point total was the second-highest in the decathlon, regardless of division.
November 30

The Falcon Robotics team is hosting a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League robotics tournament Saturday, December 3. This program is an introduction to robotics for fourth through eighth grade students.

January 18, 2017

Carl Hayden Alumnus Oscar Vasquez testified January 11 at the U.S. Attorney General Confirmation hearing for Jeff Sessions in Washington, D.C. Vasquez was one of the Falcon Four Robotics team members who beat MIT and other colleges in an underwater robotics competition, which subsequently generated a magazine article, a documentary (Underwater Dreams) and motion picture (Spare Parts). Vasquez told his immigration story, including earning a degree in mechanical engineering at ASU, and serving in the U.S. Army. He was speaking on behalf of those young people with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status, and DREAMERS, (named after the never-passed DREAM Act--Development, Relief, Education for Alien Minors) whose futures could be in jeopardy with new immigration policies.

Wrestler J'Carie Redmond placed first in the Apache Junction Tournament, January 14, in the 220-lb. weight class. He is the first Carl Hayden wrestler in four years to win a tournament title.

January 25

Falcon running back J'Carie Redmond has committed to a football scholarship to Arizona Christian University. Redmond was Carl Hayden’s co-Offensive Player of the Year this past season.

Student Government advisor Tony Dolata was selected as the Arizona Association of Student Councils Advisor of the Year at the annual state convention in Lake Havasu City, January 21. Dolata, who is a social studies teacher, was nominated by several students and staff members for this honor. There are 175 schools in the AASC, and Dolata was one of 35 nominated for the award.
January 07, 2017

It has been a while since a Carl Hayden football player received a scholarship to continue his athletic career at a four-year school. But on Letter of Intent Signing Day, February 1, running back J’Carie Redmond signed with Arizona Christian University.

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The Carl Hayden community remembered Coach Pete Tuccio with a commemoration event, February 3 before the Falcons last home basketball game. Tuccio, who passed away last year, devoted 57 years to Carl Hayden as teacher and coach. He began teaching in 1958 and was the varsity basketball coach from 1962-82, and volunteer coached from 1984-2015. Family and friends arranged to have a trophy case and plaque for him in the gymnasium lobby. Former players and colleagues were featured in a video produced by the South Mountain Communications magnet during the pre-game ceremony. On the plaque is a quote that Tuccio lived by: “If you are in the game for winning and losing, you’re in it for the wrong reasons.”

February 15

The Carl Hayden Robotics team is part of a new IMAX documentary, called Dream Big: Engineering Our World, which opens next week. Dream Big shows how engineers push the limits of ingenuity and innovation in imaginative and amazing ways. From solar cars and underwater robotics to engineering smart, sustainable cities, the film demonstrates that the future will be in the hands of a new generation of talented, diverse engineers. Dream Big introduces the audience to three female engineers who are powerful role models. One of those is Carl Hayden alumnus Angelica Hernandez, whose passion for engineering began with the Falcon Robotics team. She is a 2014 graduate of Stanford University, having earned a master’s of science in atmosphere and energy. Hernandez graduated as a distinguished student of the mechanical engineering class of 2011 from Arizona State University. Hernandez now works as an engineer in the clean tech industry at Nexant, Inc.

The filmmakers came to Carl Hayden last summer to produce the segment, which also features the team that beat MIT in an underwater robotics competition. Falcons’ robotics coach Fredi Lajvardi will attend the premiere at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., February 15, and the documentary is scheduled to be shown at the Arizona Science Museum, beginning February 17.
April 12, 2017

Carl Hayden athlete and Franklin Police and Fire student Ray Manquero received the Fiesta Bowl Courage award at the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame Scholar Athletes Awards Banquet, April 8. The award comes with a $5000 scholarship. According to football coach Randy Gross, he is the second student in Carl Hayden history to be honored by this association in 36 years. Manquero has had to deal with Crohn’s Disease since he was four years old, but it has not deterred his success in life and in sports. He played football and basketball for Carl Hayden, and was a 2nd Team All-Region tight end. Besides the Crohn’s, he has endured a torn ACL, a separated shoulder and a broken arm in his high school athletic career. He also had to travel to practice every day from his home school of Franklin. Manquero takes Advanced Placement and Honors classes and is a member of the National Honors Society. He tutors students in Algebra, has volunteered at the St. Mary’s Food Bank, the Fiesta Bowl Parade, Neighborhood Cleanup projects and Special Olympics, and has attended the national leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Manquero plans to attend NAU and eventually work in the medical field.

For the first time in 12 years that the Falcon Robotics team will not be going to the FIRST World Championships. The team competed in two regionals, and made it to the semi-finals at NAU, and again, April 7-8 in Las Vegas. The Falcons had their moments, eliminating former world champions, the High Rollers, and they forced a third match in the semi-finals with two former world champions. As a Hall of Fame team, Carl Hayden is invited annually, but the team has chosen not to use that anymore as a way to the championships.

“The team felt like it did not want to ride on the success of the past teams so the team has made it their policy that they will only go the world championships from now on if they win a regional. We are the only Hall of Fame team that does not take the free ride,” Coach Fredi Lajvardi said. “I see a marked difference on the team when they realize they get to go without winning a regional. I like it better when they learn how to ‘fight.’ ”
Around Our Schools

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 2016-2017
August 11, 2016

The Phoenix Union Employees of the Year were announced at the Opening of Schools Convocation August 2. The District’s Classroom Teacher of the Year is Central’s Erica Earl, an ESL Teacher and the school’s Instructional Leader for ESL. The ESL program serves 168 students who connect with her every day. Despite their country of origin or language, or the sometimes difficult names to pronounce, she knows every student by name and their story. She meets with every student’s parent or sponsor in the ESL program. Said one colleague, “Her passion for teaching is second to none; however, her compassion for students and their families, is without a doubt, number one. She is not only a teacher, but a mother and caring soul to all students whether hers or not.” Whether it is to help a student understand homework from another class, or finding tutoring opportunities, she is involved with the students from the moment they enter the ESL program to when they walk across the stage at graduation. Her department serves a large refugee and immigrant population and her students are thriving. Earl can relate—the daughter of immigrants from the Netherlands, her first language was Dutch. A teacher for 17 years, she has been with Phoenix Union for 10 years.

August 25

Nine Japanese students and a teacher-chaperone are visiting Central High School and Arizona, August 18-27 as part of an exchange program with the Global Studies magnet program. The group is from Kotogaoka High School in Himeji, Japan, a sister city of Phoenix. The visiting students are being hosted by Central’s students and family. The group also visited Flagstaff, the Grand Canyon and Sedona, visited the Central Japanese and Global Perspectives classes, and will go to the Musical Instrument Museum.

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Freshman Jennifer Martinez is a recipient of a Phoenix Foley Alliance scholarship. James Foley was a journalist killed by ISIS two years ago. Prior to that he was a teacher at Lowell Elementary School from 1996-1999. Last year there were two scholars selected; this year, six. The goal is to give financial help and mentorship throughout high school and beyond for these students. Kristen Martinez founded the alliance with her husband in honor of Foley, who worked with students in the inner city.

“I would be the first in my family to go to college,” said Jennifer Martinez.

August 31

English as a Second Language teacher Susan Serafin and four of her students are volunteering with Hands on Phoenix this semester. Serafin, along with students Ashley Morangi, Noelina Feza, Matayo Ngaruye and John Niyonzima volunteered at two shelters, reading books and playing with youngsters. In September, they’ll be going to Mesa to walk and visit with the dogs and cats at the Mesa County Animal Control & Care Puppy Pals.

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The Central Spirit line participated in the Arizona Diamondbacks Spiritline Day, August 27, performing in a pre-game performance. Every year, the DBacks welcome Spirit line teams from across the Phoenix area to participate in the pre-game performance the teams that wished to participate, learned a dance choreographed by Rudy Cardenas, the Basha High School Spiritline coach, and one of the AIA Spiritline Directors. Central Spiritline performed along with Basha High School, Arizona College Prep, Bourgade College Prep, Casteel High School, and others.

September 21

Students from Shude High School in Chengdu, China will be visiting Arizona and Central High School, beginning September 26. The visiting students and teacher-chaperones from one of Central’s sister schools will be invited to a welcome reception in their honor that day, joining Central host families, students, faculty and staff. The Central Global Studies magnet program students will visit Chengdu, as well as sister schools in Himeji, Japan, San Jose, Costa Rica and Grenoble, France during the spring. For more information on the Global Studies magnet program at Central, call (602) 764-7569.

September 28

The Central High School gym was filled with red, white and blue and over 200 eager teenagers on September 27, when the school was part of what was billed as the largest school district voter registration day in the country on National Voter Registration Day. Fifteen schools in Phoenix held similar events during the Advisory period. Central had a special guest, the actor James Edward Olmos, who is assisting Mi Familia Vota with registration and get-out-the-vote efforts. He has been active in voting efforts since 1978.

“I beg of you to understand how incredible this day is. Today will mark a historic day in your life. This will be the single most important thing you do,” Olmos said. “It is part of being a member of your community and your country. When you walk in to vote, you will feel like never before...you will have a vested interest in our democracy.”

He urged the students to vote, and then come over for photos and autographs with the man who has been in 300 movies, and is probably best known for his role as math teacher Jaime Escalante in Stand and Deliver, or as the film father of Selena, the late Tejano singer.

“I am so proud, I can’t believe it. This is an exciting moment for the District. Seeing this you realize how special this is. It is a model for civic engagement, and it starts in the schools, where students learn what it means to vote,” Governing Board member Stephanie Parra said.

The District’s student Civic engagement committee partnered with the non-partisan One Arizona organization in an effort to educate students about voting and voter registration. Fourteen other agencies volunteered across the District, helping students register. Students watched a video on voter registration days prior to the event, and received registration forms. Up to 2,200 students who are, or will be 18 by Election Day, November 8, were invited to the registration day activity.
“I have 30 students in my English Honors class, and I encouraged them all to come. Anyone not old enough can find someone who can register; a family member, for instance,” said teacher Jennifer Grbek.

“It feels good. I want to participate in the upcoming election, and choose a president,” student Jayson Montero said. “I thought it would take longer. I also signed up to get an early ballot in the mail.”

The goal of One Arizona was to register 75,000 new voters, and it has already surpassed 100,000, according to Ian Danley, the director of One Arizona, and a PUHSD Board member.

“This is a great example of what public schools are all about. This is a practical, hand-on civic engagement activity. This is what it means to be an American. “

October 5

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month and Phoenix Union is partnering with the Mayor’s office to create awareness through the Paint Phoenix Purple initiative for a third year. One of the activities is an art contest. Jannete Lim won an Honorable Mention for her piece, and was presented with her award October 5 in her class. Her work will be on display throughout the month at Paint Phoenix Purple events, including an event in the Atrium of City Hall.

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The Friday Night Football Patrol will be at Central High School, October 21, encouraging students to sign a pledge to stay off drugs and alcohol and not abuse prescription drugs. Sponsored by the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office and its Safe Teens AZ Initiative, this is the sixth year of this program. The Patrol will be handing out giveaways plus everyone who “takes the pledge” will be entered to win a prize.

Alhambra High School hosted the Friday Night Football Patrol, September 2, and Alhambra students signed 1,302 teen drug-free pledges. One student won $500 at half time.

October 12

The Friday Night Football Patrol will be at Central High School, October 21, encouraging students to sign a pledge to stay off drugs and alcohol and not abuse prescription drugs. Sponsored by the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office and its Safe Teens AZ Initiative, this is the sixth year of this program. The Patrol will be handing out giveaways plus everyone who “takes the pledge” will be entered to win a prize.

Alhambra High School hosted the Friday Night Football Patrol, September 2, and Alhambra students signed 1,302 teen drug-free pledges. One student won $500 at half time.
October 19

The Central High School Football field will be named after Ray Laing, who coached Central High School to its only football state championships. The Governing Board approved the naming at the October 13 in front of friends, family and former players, who were part of the facility naming committee. The school will officially commemorate the newly named field, at the October 28 home game. Laing led the Bobcats to undefeated 13-win seasons in 1969 and 1972. He coached at Central for 10 years as part of a 54-year coaching career that concluded last year at Brophy. He also coached at Phoenix College and Mesa Community College, and was a hockey referee and high school baseball umpire. Laing, who was one of the first class inducted into the Phoenix Union High School District Sports Hall of Fame last December, died January 26 at age 76.

“He had a visible persona on campus, ready to volunteer, attending every school, function. “He preached and modeled commitment, hardwork and tenacity,” former Central colleague Dave Silcox said.

“Ray did it right. If ever there is a more deserving person, it’s Ray Laing,” Byrl Lane said.

“Coach Laing was in my ear every day through 28 years as a teacher, coach, and athletic director. He made everybody feel important. He built a community, a positive tradition, a legacy,” said Bill Gahn who played for and coaches with Laing.

Andrew Scooter Molander, Brophy’s Head Football Coach, played under Laing at Phoenix College, when the Bears were nationally ranked. He remembers counting out the pre-game calisthenics in German, to keep us focused.

“He was firm, fair, tough, but his players revered and loved him. I was blessed to work with him for nine years at Brophy. He was in his seventies, came out an hour early, and bulled the blocking sled in and out, each day. This year, we have his name on our helmets at Brophy.”

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Aletris Neils, a Central High graduate (Class of 1999), and her husband Chris Bugbee are featured in this month's Smithsonian Magazine’s cover story "The Return of the Great American Jaguar; Tracking a legendary feline through the Arizona mountains."  
http://www.smithsonianmag.com/issue/october-2016/?no-ist

She's currently a professor in mammalogy at the University of Arizona and is finishing up her doctorate. According to a former teacher, Neils is one of the top three contenders for a position at Yale.

At Central, she was an AP/Honors student, graduating in the top 10 percent of her class, a cheerleader and president of the Care Club.

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The Friday Night Football Patrol will be at Central High School, October 21, encouraging students to sign a pledge to stay off drugs and alcohol and not abuse prescription drugs. Sponsored by the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office and its Safe Teens AZ Initiative, this is the sixth year of this program. The Patrol will be handing out giveaways plus everyone who “takes the pledge” will be entered to win a prize.

Alhambra High School hosted the Friday Night Football Patrol, September 2, and Alhambra students signed 1,302 teen drug-free pledges. One student won $500 at half time.

October 26

Central High School will commemorate the Ray Laing Football Field, Friday, November 28, when the Bobcats host Trevor Browne in their final game of the season. The halftime ceremony will include the Central band, comments by speakers, and the revealing of a new sign on the scoreboard, designating the field after the only Central football coach to win state championships. Laing led the Bobcats to undefeated 13-win seasons in 1969 and 1972. He coached at Central for 10 years as part of a 54-year coaching career that concluded last year at Brophy. Laing, who was one of the first class inducted into the Phoenix Union High School District Sports Hall of Fame last December, died January 26 at age 76.

Prior to game the school is hosting the Ray Laing family, committee and supporters for an end zone picnic of hot dogs, brats and burgers.

Laing would have been proud of this year’s Bobcat team. A win Friday would give them a 6-4 record for the second year in a row.

November 2

Central’s Aron Orar led his Bobcats to the Division I State Cross Country Championships. He finished third individually, in the Section III race and his team placed 3rd to qualify. A week earlier, he finished second in the Phoenix Union Cross Country Championship. In both races, he was seconds behind the winner, North’s Abdihamid Nur. Central’s Girls team didn’t make the State meet, but Kayla Eldred did, qualifying as an individual, finishing third in the sectionals. She and the Bobcat boys will run at State, November 5 at Cave Creek Golf course.

Keilen Costilla Martinez and Christina Olivas were recipients of the TODOS: Mathematics for All student award. They were selected because of their outstanding accomplishments and their ability to persevere in mathematics. Both students were awarded a TI-Nspire CX calculator along with a certificate of recognition. Math teacher Aric Bilas nominated the two students.

TODOS is an international professional organization that advocates for equity and excellence in mathematics education for ALL students – in particular, Latina/o students.
Central High had a successful golf season, finishing in second place at the Phoenix Union Tournament, behind Trevor Browne, October 25 at the Continental golf Course in Scottsdale. Other accolades included Keenan Hughes (All-PUHSD 1st Team); Antonio Medina (All-PUHSD 1st Team); Rafael Cedillos (All-PUHSD 2nd Team); Israel Elizalde (All-PUHSD Honorable Mention) and Nick Howard (All-PUHSD Academic Team).

The Central High Multicultural Committee is hosting monthly Bobcat Talks, the new speaker’s series where guests address topics related to the promotion of respect for all cultures, dignity for all communities and justice for all people. This school year the theme is Intersections and is dedicated to investigating and addressing the complex nexus of race, class, gender, culture, education, sexual orientation and self-determination. We are very proud of the speakers we have been able to confirm and bring to Central High School.

- In September Board Member Stephanie Parra spoke to students about culture, youth and civic engagement.

- In October Ms. Naelyn Pike, 17 year old national spokesperson for the Apache Stronghold, spoke about race, Native American history and student activism.

- On November 28, Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams will be speaking to students about the law and self-empowerment.

- Dr. Neal Lester, founding Director of ASU’s Project Humanities initiative and Arizona Humanities Council’s Distinguished Public Scholar, has accepted the invitation to give his lecture and workshop called “Anatomy of the N-Word” where he addresses issues of racism, linguistics and culture.

November 9

The top Phoenix Union runner in the Division I Girls Cross Country Championships, November 5 was Central’s Kayla Eldred, who ran as an individual, finishing 31st. Central did not qualify as a team, but Eldred’s finish was better than girls running for the Maryvale, North and Trevor Browne teams.

Several choral students representing Central, Alhambra and North High Schools attended the 2016 Boys to Men Choral festival at Camelback Bible Church, sponsored by the Phoenix Orpheus Men’s Choir, November 5.

They sang under the direction of Dr. Brooke Larson of the Phoenix Male Orpheus Choir and also under the direction of Grammy Winning Conductor of the Phoenix Chorale and Kansas City Chorale, Charles Bruffy.
The Students also attended an after concert learning session where they teamed with the Acapella Syndicate (A local Barbershop Choir) for pizza and barbershop singing.

“The students were enthusiastic about the event and afterward commented on the massive and overwhelming sound created by the 200 plus men singing at the event. Central Students were invited to sit in and sing with rehearsals from the Acapella Syndicate and Phoenix Chorale in the upcoming weeks,” said Ben Shafer, Central’s Director of Choirs.

On the first Saturday in November each year, participating male singers from schools across the state join male singers from local male choruses in an afternoon-long rehearsal session with guest clinicians, culminating in a concert consisting of selections by participating schools, performances by the participating local male choruses, and a few songs by all participants.

November 16

The Central Varsity Spirit line is competing in their first cheer competition in 10 years at the United Spirit Association Competition, November 19 at Estrella Foothills High School. They’ll also be competing on December 3 at the AIA Spirit line Competition in the Varsity Co-ed Division I at Gilbert High School.

Central High students took part in CodeDay Phoenix, a 24-hour “hack-a-thon” with 100 student competitors from around the state, November 12-13 in Chandler. The students worked in teams to plan, research, design, and code either an app or computer game using any software or programming language. Seniors Oscar J. Gomez Rodriguez and Anthony Leon went as mentors, assisting participants with their coding challenges. Bryan Cruz also went as a mentor but was asked to help out on a team, because of his contributions he won the judges Special Award for Teamwork. Other students from Central High competing were Jacob J. Mehlhop, Alexander Velazquez, Jesus Martinez Bello and Tyler Chambers.

The staff hosted its annual Veterans Breakfast, November 10, bringing U.S. military veterans from Central and the District office to a catered breakfast last Thursday. Attending were Central veterans, Principal John Beira, JROTC and Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson. English teacher Mark Williams created a beautiful video tribute to freedom, and the Central veterans.

Twenty-three culinary students and teacher Erin Sullivan played a big role in the 4th Annual Phoenix Suns Slam Dunk Charity Dinner, November 5 at Talking Stick Arena. The students were given the opportunity to do a very large-plated dinner service. They were put into groups of five and were each assigned a component of the dish. From the time the dinner service started to the end, all 800 plates were completed in 19 minutes. The dish for the night was Agave Roasted Chicken over a bed of quinoa with corn and black beans, an adobo sauce covered the chicken, topped with cotija cheese and pico de gallo.

“The kids worked hard to stay focused on just their dish while moving at a lightning speed. I am so proud of these kids and the way they represented Central and the Phoenix Suns,” Sullivan said.
Central High had a number of football players named to the All-Phoenix Union team from the offensive side of the ball. The quarterback was Rico Davis, running back Tommy Works; lineman Mica Venterpool; and wide receiver Terry Gardner. The All-PUHSD team was selected by the Phoenix Union coaches. Central finished the year 6-4, and scored 36 or more points five times.

**November 23**

New Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams will be the guest speaker at the next “Bobcat Talks,” November 28. Hosted by the Central High Multicultural Committee the monthly speaker’s series invite guests to address topics related to the promotion of respect for all cultures, dignity for all communities and justice for all people. Williams will share her story and to talk to students about what it’s like to be a pioneer African American woman in law enforcement and to give advice to the students on how to be successful and self-empowered. Williams is a graduate of Phoenix Union’s Maryvale High School.

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Central High Badminton won the Metro Region title and advanced to the Division I State Playoffs before losing to Desert Vista. Individually, sophomore EiEi Naing won the Region Player of the Year award and finished the season 13-1.

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Central placed 2nd in the Varsity Show Cheer Novice Division at the USA Regionals Cheer Competition at Estrella Foothills High School, November 19. They also placed first in the Game Time-Fight Song division.

“Unfortunately, we did not get a bid to the USA Spirit Nationals, but we’ll try again next year! Not bad for their first competition,” coach Cecily Frutos said.

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Central’s Academic Decathlon team finished sixth out of 11 teams in the Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon, November 18-19, and improved by over 5,000 points from last year’s District Competition. Medalists were Yarek Wojcik, a Bronze in Essay and the Silver in Speech and Luis Medina, who won the Silver medal in the Essay Competition

**November 30**

New Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams came back to her Phoenix Union roots yesterday, as the guest speaker for 700 Central students at “Bobcat Talks.” The Maryvale alum (1983) shared her success story and answered some tough questions from the students. She was asked about discrimination and how she dealt with it, sanctuary cities, her opinion of Donald Trump, how she feels about police killing African Americans, and what was the worst thing her sons did, growing up. The event was hosted by the Central High Multicultural Committee and Black Student Union. Bobcat Talks is a speaker series that invites guests to address topics related to the promotion of respect for all cultures, dignity for all communities and justice for all people.
January 11, 2017

Allison Astorga and Laura Igual applied, interviewed and were selected as delegates to the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy taking place at Camp Pine Rock in Prescott over the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday weekend.

Central High School’s Adopt-A-Bobcat program this past holiday season raised about $2,600 monetary donations from alumni and retired teachers. The program also received about $1,500 in grocery gift cards and food donations from staff on campus. In addition, 45 staff members adopted 41 students and their families during the holiday season. The donations received allowed the school to give the students a very special holiday party with food, snacks, drinks and treats. Students also each received an extra gift from alumni and retired teachers. Community Liaison Ciara Aguilar organized the campaign.

The Central High School Global Studies program will host students and teacher-chaperones from Colegio Santa Maria de Guadalupe, a sister school from Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica. Host students, their families and the school’s faculty and staff will welcome their guests, January 17 with a reception in their honor.

January 18

Central’s Aron Orar finished 10th in last Sunday’s Rock n Roll Marathon. At 19, he was also the youngest to place among the first 20 runners, and was the fifth-fastest Arizonan in the men’s division.

January 25

Music is the theme of Central’s multicultural assembly, January 27, featuring student performances in American rock, Civil Rights music, spoken word poetry, African Pop Dance; rap, Chinese Dragon Dance, Korean Fan Dance, Native American Jingle Dance, Lasso Floreo and Ballet Folklorico.

February 7

Central held a Letter of Intent signing party for five football players, February 1. The biggest signing was Central High’s All-state offensive lineman Micah Vanderpool, who is headed to the University of Hawaii. The 6-5, 285-pounder, who played more basketball than football in high school, was among the top five lineman recruits from Arizona. He turned down offers from UNLV, Boise State, Montana and Arizona, among others to become a Rainbow Warrior. He plans to study occupational therapy.

Phoenix College is getting Central running back Tommy Works and Xavier Hearns, a 6-7, 320-lb. offensive lineman. Quarterback Rico Davis is headed to Arizona Western in Yuma, where he will probably play defensive back. The Matadors were national junior college runners-up last year. Roger Hernandez, a cornerback, will play at Lewis Clark College in Oregon.

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Central High School
Central High School’s Global Studies Program was recently recognized by the Arizona State Senate. Visiting students and teacher-chaperones from Central’s sister school in San Jose, Costa Rica got an up-close and personal look at the American political system, courtesy of an invitation from Senator Katie Hobbs. Senator Hobbs hosted the group in her senate office, conducted a Q & A session with the students, and facilitated a behind-the-scenes tour of the Senate chambers. The afternoon culminated with a visit to the Senate gallery, and a formal introduction of the Costa Rican delegation while the Senate was in session.”

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Central’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members attended their Regional competition, February 4 and brought home some awards:
Business Graphics Team – 1st Place – Edward Arellano, Phutemba Sherpa, and Robson Jigayo
Marketing Team – 2nd Place – Edward Arellano, Phurtemba Sherpa, and Marlene Palacios
Word Processing – 2nd Place – Annabelle Brown
Sales Presentation – 2nd Place – Marlene Palacios

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The 18th Annual Bobcat Bonanza, hosted by Central High School Speech and Debate, is February 10-11. It promises to be the largest high-school based tournament in the state this year with 56 committed schools, including schools from California, Colorado, and Nevada, with over 800 individual students attending.

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Culinary Arts student Liliana Flores Hernandez competed in the C-CAP (Careers in Culinary Arts Program) Scholarship Competition, February 4. She had to make a French omelet and a cucumber/jicama salad in 50 minutes. Hernandez was competing as a junior with about 90 other juniors from across Arizona and she made the Top 10 Juniors. She will have the opportunity to cater an awards breakfast with chefs at the Valley Ho Hotel in Scottsdale. She will also earn a spot to compete next year as a senior to potentially earn a scholarship to culinary school.

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Abel Guillen and Oscar Pina advanced to the State Wrestling tournament, February 10-101 with strong showings in the sectionals. Guillen finished 2nd in sectionals and Pina finished 4th.

February 15

The Central High School Multicultural Committee Bobcat Talk series presented “The Anatomy Of the N-Word” by ASU professor Dr. Neal Lester, February 13. Lester provided a brief Overview of his research addressing issues of racism, linguistics and culture to the Central student Body. Lester traced the history of the word back to the 16th century, it’s negative Connotation and its use in literature, music and film, right up its almost colloquial presence in Today’s rap music and culture. His message to the students, “words do matter.”

Bobcat Talk, a monthly speakers’ series, addresses topics related to the promotion of respect for all cultures, dignity for all communities and justice for all people.

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The Bobcat Bonanza Speech and Debate tournament had a record turnout, February 10-11. There were a record-63 schools entered with nearly 750 students and 200 adult judges and coaches participating. Schools from Arizona, Colorado, California, and Nevada came to compete.

“We heard nothing but praise for our campus and how welcoming our faculty and staff was to everyone,” Speech and Debate coach Kevin Berlat said.

February 22

JROTC Cadet Amelia Bingochea is the number one ranked female high school archer in Arizona. She scored a 290 out of 300 possible points at the Arizona/New Mexico Regional Tournament in Wilcox, Arizona, January 21. Other Central HS JROTC team members include: Antonio Juarez with a score of 250/300; David Guzman with a score of 255/300; Christopher Damien with a score of 257/300 and Vy Lam with a score 260/300. All five Cadets will complete in the Arizona State Archery Championship in March.

March 8

Visiting students and their teacher-chaperone from Central’s sister school in Grenoble, France enjoyed an opportunity to meet with City of Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, February 23. Students from Lycée André Argouges had the chance to speak with the mayor about topics of mutual interest – water policy, international relations, and current political events in both the U.S. and France. Rick Gerrard, the Vice-President of Phoenix Sister Cities arranged the meeting.

March 22

The Central High School JROTC Archery team competed at the State Archery Tournament at Ben Avery Range, March 4, and the top-ranked female archer in Arizona, Cadet Amelia Bingochea, didn’t disappoint. She placed first, scoring 284 out of 300 possible points. Her teammate, Cadet Vy Lam placed fourth overall, scoring 280 of 300. Both girls qualified for the Nationals, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, May 11-13. Bingochea not only bested 85 high school girls, but she placed first among the 212 female competitors. Her coach, 1st Sergeant Ronnie Hurt is a competitive archer himself, and teaches archery at the annual JROTC Junior Leadership Camp each summer.

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Central High was the recipient of a $3,000 donation from the Arizona Cardinals and Wells Fargo, March 22. Big Red, the mascot, cheerleaders and members of the Cardinal front office and Wells Fargo representatives presented the check for the Wells Fargo Passing Touchdowns for Schools. Each year, Wells Fargo donates money for every touchdown pass the Arizona Cardinals complete. Central was one of five schools that was selected for this donation.
March 29

Eight Central students were awarded Students Inspiring Students Scholarships to Grand Canyon University. The students had to complete 100 hours of study time in the GCU Learning Lounge. These students will give back and be tutors to future high school students looking to earn a Students Inspiring Students scholarship. Other criteria for the scholarship were demonstration of financial need, university admissible, and demonstrate university preparedness. This is a neighborhood scholarship given to community schools in the GCU vicinity. The students are Angel Lopez, Kiara Greenfield, Christina Olivas, Edgar Arellano, Keilen Costilla, Marixa Hernandez, Edward Arellano and Adrian Dominguez. They were visited March 29 by GCU representatives.

April 26

Global Studies teacher John Gerace was selected as an Arizona Diamondbacks M.V.T. (Most Valuable Teacher). He will be honored at the Diamondbacks game, Friday, April 28.

May 10

Central culinary took seven students to do two live salsa demonstrations at schools in the Creighton School District, May 5. The “Be Kind People Project” helped these schools plant their own salsa gardens. For a fiesta on Cinco de Mayo, Central Culinary students turned the produce into delicious salsa for 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th graders.

“This experience was super beneficial to all parties. The culinary students took on the roles of mentor and were able to share their expertise that they have learned during their two years in culinary. And the elementary students got to see a thriving program that they can look forward to taking in high school,” Culinary teacher Erin Sullivan said.

The students who attended were Anthony Leon, Keana Nells, Emilio Markov, Cecilia Avelar, Anahi Lara, Dariem Pio Salazar and Maria Solano-Ferrer.
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 2016-2017
August 11, 2016

Chavez won a School of the Year award for Innovation, with its successful implementation of ProMod, which stands for project-based, modular learning. This year, ASU brought the program to Cesar Chavez, Metro Tech and Bioscience. The students worked across disciplines on real world projects, interacting with university faculty and students. Phoenix Union teachers teach the courses in a project-based format and students receive ASU credit upon successful completion of project criteria and enrollment at ASU directly after high school. Students and their families also receive mentoring from ASU students and the ASU Parents program.

ProMod classes were Biology, Sustainability, English/Communications and AVID taught by Rebecca Fanucci, Benjamin Pitts, Marvin Irwin and Yarazet Ocampo. Alesa Patterson coordinated the program. Twenty AVID students participated and earned 13 credits towards their freshman year at ASU. Of those, 18 students will attend ASU, over $500,000 in scholarships were earned, and first year grant money totaled $162,000.

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Senior football player Tavion Allen was named one of the top defensive backs in Arizona in a recent top ten ranking. The 6-foot, 165-pound safety was ranked third-best. He was on the All-Arizona team last year, and had a memorable playoff, with two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown. The Cesar Chavez Champions open their season, August 19, hosting Queen Creek.

August 18

Carlos Ritchie, the Cesar Chavez quarterback is actually a triple-threat. Besides passing and running, he is the team’s kicker. The junior recently was named to the top ten of kickers in the state, ranked 8th. Last year, he kicked a 51-yard field goal.

September 8

Junior dance student Giselle Aburto was awarded a $150 stipend/scholarship to take a master class with a visiting dance professional and she will get to visit with him one-on-one to ask him questions about a professional dance career. Aburto is in her third year of dance study and is considering a career in dance. The mentorship program is supported by Movement Source, through the Arizona Dance Educators Organization.

Aburto will be mentored by Chad Michael Hall, a dance educator, choreographer, and performer of both dance and music currently on faculty at UC Irvine. He also teaches regularly as guest faculty at various colleges and universities across the country. The session will take place September 12 at Dance Theatre West and Aburto’s dance teacher Candy Jimenez will accompany her.

The mission of this 30-year mentorship program is to connect young high school dance artists with working dance professionals.
October 5

Cesar Chavez was one of two Phoenix Union schools that competed in the Arizona Interscholastic Association Individual Invitational Chess Tournament, September 23-24 at Catalina Foothills High School.  Chavez had three Under 500 placers--J.C. Santos took 5th, Jose Cabral was 7th and Jennifer Kelly, 8th. The Under 500 section had 63 players.  The Over/Under 500 designates a player’s AIA rating, similar to the United States Chess Federation’s rating system.  At the high school level, teams often refer to the Over 500 as Varsity and the Under 500 as Junior Varsity, or alternates.

October 26

The Cesar Chavez football team has won five straight games, is undefeated in region play, and is a win away from clinching a playoff spot in Class 6A.  The Champions host Alhambra, which is one game behind in the Metro Region in the season finale, October 28.  The winner will take the Metro title.

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The Phoenix Union Marching Band Exposition will be held at the Cesar Chavez Football Stadium, November 2, from 6 to 8:30.  Ten school bands will perform their season routines, in preparation for state competition.  The event is free.

November 2

Cesar Chavez won its sixth consecutive game, and won the Metro Region championship with a 54-25 victory over Alhambra, October 28.  Now the 6-4 Champions head to the playoffs with a daunting task- playing at #1 and undefeated Mountain Pointe in the first round of the 6A football playoffs.

November 16

Travion Allen was named Player of the Year and running back Mike Rogers, Offensive Player of the Year for the All-Phoenix Union Football Team.  Other Champions named to the team were Taylor Skaff-center; Javier Meza-offensive line; Carlos Richie-defensive secondary; Kavarry Burns-defensive end and Brandon Thomas-linebacker.  The All PUHSD team was selected by the ten school football coaches.

November 23

The Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon was held this past Friday and Saturday at Maryvale High School, featuring 14 teams, including 11 PUHSD schools.  Cesar Chavez came in first, Maryvale, second and Alhambra, third.  Chavez decathletes were ten-event (overall) champions in each of the three divisions-Varsity, Scholastic and Honors.  In fact, they held seven of the nine medals in overall scoring.  Rodrigo Terrazas Davila, competing in the Scholastic division, was the event’s high scorer, with 7,997 points.  He medaled in nine of the ten events, including three gold medals.  Alyssa Turner was the ten-event overall winner in the Honors division, and Karrecia Crawley won gold for the ten-events in the Varsity division.
Chavez swept the Honors division, with Benjamin Kibler earning a silver medal, and Samuel Porter, the bronze. In the Scholastic division, Jennifer Gonzalez was a bronze medalist, while Claudio Corrales won bronze in the Varsity ten-event competition. Because it was a scrimmage, the Champions competed with more than the nine-person team, and 14 individuals won medals.

The next competition will be an invitational over Christmas break followed by a regional competition at Boulder Creek High School in Anthem, February 3-4 where Chavez is the defending Region II champion. That decathlon determines which teams qualify for the State Decathlon in March.

**November 30**

The Cesar Chavez Drumline is in demand this holiday season. The Champions brought in Santa in flash mob-style, November 26, downtown at the Cityscape ice skating rink. They were also part of a showcase that included the Phoenix Symphony, Valley Youth Theatre, Arizona Opera, Herberger Theatre and the Great Arizona Puppet Theatre. The Chavez Drumline will also participate in the Electric Light Parade, Saturday, December 3.

**December 7**

Science teacher Shawn Rutan has won a $5,000 Fiesta Bowl Wishes for Teachers award, in partnership with College Football Playoff Foundation Extra Yard for Teachers. Over 2,400 teachers from Arizona submitted applications, and Rutan’s wish was randomly selected to be granted. Rutan’s wish is for a classroom set of tablets for the students to access environmental science information. Each winning teacher is also invited to attend the Motel 6 Caxtus Bowl at Chase Field, December 27, where they will be honored on field with 99 fellow Wishes for Teachers recipients. The Extra Yard for Teachers program is distributing $500,000 in Fiesta Bowl Wishes to 100 Arizona teachers.

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Daniel Rubio has gone full circle in his educational and athletic career. The new varsity wrestling coach is a Chavez alumnus, and wrestled for the Champions from 2001-2005. He went on to Grand Canyon where he wrestled from 2007-2011. Rubio started volunteer coaching at his alma mater in 2010 and has worked his way up to head coach. He is also an Exceptional Student teacher at the school. His squad is off to a good start, with a 3-0 record against East Valley schools and the Champions finished 2nd out of 28 teams at the Jerry Benson Wrestling Tournament at Buckeye Union High School, December 2-3. Six athletes placed, including first place winners Davon Galindo and Jacob Lambert. Robert Dominguez and Erik Orozco placed third.

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Former Cesar Chavez basketball player Pablo Rivas is playing for North Carolina Central University in Fayetteville, NC where he is leading NCAA Division I schools in field goal percentage, making 83% of his shots. Rivas is in his first year with the Eagles, after two years at Sheridan College in Wyoming. Rivas, who was born in Panama, was the third leading scorer in Chavez’ history. A first-team All-State player in 2013, he helped lead the Champions to a 29-3 record and the state semi-finals.
December 14
Four Phoenix Union football players made All-State teams, and two are from Cesar Chavez. In the 6A Division, Cesar Chavez running back Michael Rogers made the All-State offense, and Chavez defensive back Tavion Allen was a first team All-State on defense. In 5A, Betty Fairfax punt returner Shamar Moreland made All-State.

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Cesar Chavez won the 20-team Metro Invitational Wrestling Tournament, December 9-10, edging host and runner-up Maryvale, and third place Chaparral. Chavez first place finishers were Davon Galindo, 195 lbs. and Jacob Lambert, 220 lbs.

December 21
The Cesar Chavez Drumline will be performing in the Fiesta Bowl Parade, December 31. They have already marched in the Electric Light Parade, and performed at the Holiday kickoff at the Cityscape ice rink, downtown, November 26.

January 11, 2017
Cesar Chavez won the 16-team Phoenix Union Boys Basketball Holiday Classic, December 21-23, beating Central at the buzzer in the championship game. The tournament’s Most Valuable Player was Chavez’ Malik Porter. Teammates Donald Carter and Kaleb Martin were also on the All-Tournament team.

The Chavez Girls won the Cactus Jam Phoenix Hoop Classic, played at Maryvale, December 26-31, competing with teams coming from as far away as New York and British Columbia, CA. Brittany Hardeman of Chavez was the MVP of the Champions’ division, Chavez’ Trinity Valdez and Carla Vargas made the All-Tournament team.

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The Cesar Chavez drumline participated in the Electric Light Parade last month and was awarded 1st place for “Best Marching Band.” An awards ceremony and dinner took place, January 10, but the drumline had a performance, so three alumni represented Chavez and accepted the award, which included a $500 donation.

The drumline also performed in the Fiesta Bowl Parade, and will be at the Rock and Roll Marathon, January 15, performing at the Thomas and 7th Ave. location.

January 18
The Cesar Chavez Drumline performed in the Phoenix Rock and Roll Marathon, January 15 at Tempe Beach Park.
February 07, 2017

It was a repeat performance for the Cesar Chavez Academic Decathlon team, which defended its Region II Decathlon title, February 3-4 at Boulder Creek High School. Chavez and five other Phoenix Union schools will advance to the State Decathlon, March 10-11 at ASU West.

Five Chavez decathletes had among the top scores in their divisions. Rodrigo Terrazas was the overall high scorer in the competition, while Karrecia Crawley was a gold medalist for overall scoring in the varsity division. Gerardo Nino Pozos was also a silver overall medalist. Benjamin Kibler, an honors silver medalist overall, also won the best speech award. Samuel Porter had a bronze in honors overall scores. All nine team members won individual medals.

Chavez, which also won the Super Quiz Relay, is ranked second in state, behind Canyon del Oro, based on their score of 43,549 at the regionals. Last year, the Champions finished fourth in state. They have been to the state competition 11 straight years.

February 15

Cesar Chavez’ Boys Basketball team is in a familiar position- winning the 6A Metro Conference, earning a bye into the state tournament, and hosting a first round game, February 15 vs. Chandler High School. Chavez comes into the 16-team tournament seeded 4th.

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Chavez had two wrestlers advance to the consolation match and take third place medals in the 6A state wrestling championships, February 11, at Prescott Valley. Davon Galindo won his last three matches, going 4-1 in the tournament in the 195 lb. weight class to capture 3rd place. In the 220-lb. class, Jacob Lambert finished third with a win in the consolation match. Chavez was the highest scoring PUHSD team with 36 points, finishing 16th in the 39-team tournament.

February 22

The Boys Basketball team reached the Final Four of the 6A State Championship tournament. The Champions beat Chandler 87-80 in the first round, February 15, and defeated Pinnacle, 74-61, February 28. That moved #4 Chavez into a semifinal game against top-seeded Corona del Sol, February 23 at the Gila River Arena in Glendale. The two teams met December 8 and Corona edged Chavez, 90-89. In the other semi-final game, #2 Basha meets #3 Desert Vista. The championship game is February 28.
March 8

Four female wrestlers from Cesar Chavez competed in the 8th annual All-girls wrestling state tournament in Camp Verde, March 4. They wrestled as unattached, since this was not a AIA sanctioned event. Yaniva Carrillo put together a late comeback and rallied down by four points with a pin in the third making her a state champion at 130-lbs. Mkayla Black dominated her way to the finals at 135-lbs. and captured the second state title of the day. Lorna Baker advanced to the final match but fell short and was the runner-up at 140-lbs. Heidi Reyes (145lbs) wrestled tough competition including a junior Olympian and finished 3rd. All four girls started during fall and made it through the regular season practicing and competed with boys all year. All four wrestlers return next year, according to their coach, Daniel Rubio.

Cesar Chavez participated in Moot Court for the first time ever. It is similar to mock trial but operating at an appellate level. The team of six students have been practicing Wednesday mornings since December, and performed brilliantly in their first completion. Of the five awards possible for the competition, Cesar Chavez won five. Mimi Bitangacha won best petitioner advocate, best petitioner team and Overall Winner. Alyssa Turner won best respondent team. Zabdiel Dominguez won best respondent advocate.

“The attorneys and judges present were all terribly impressed with how professional, how researched, and how articulate our students are, coach William Kibler said.

March 22

Cesar Chavez finished 4th for the second year in a row in the 40-school State Academic Decathlon, March 10-11 at ASU West. Six Phoenix Union teams qualified for state. Canyon Del Oro won the title for the fourth consecutive year, followed by Hamilton and Westwood.

Chavez, ranked 2nd in the state after winning Region II, won seven medals, led by Rodrigo Terrazas, who had the second highest overall score in the Scholastic division. Terrazas also tied for gold in Economics, tied for gold in Science, and had bronze in Social Science and bronze (tied) in Literature. Other medalists for the Champions were Gerardo Nino Pozos, gold in Varsity Social Studies and bronze (tie) in Varsity Economics. Victor Hernandez, bronze (tied) in Scholastic Economics.

Pino was 7th and Karrecia Crawley was 8th in overall scoring in the Varsity division, and Alyssa Turner was the top PUHSD Honors scorer, finishing 14th best in that division.

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.
March 29

**Manuel Alcantar** has been named the new football coach for Cesar Chavez. He comes to the Champions from Dysart, where he was the head coach for four years. He took the Demons to the state playoffs for the first time in 21 years in 2015, and in the past two years his teams went 7-4 and 9-2. He replaces **Jim Rattay** who was at the school for nine seasons. Chavez was 6-4 last year in the regular season, winning six consecutive games and the Metro Region and, before losing in the first round of the playoffs.

April 26

The 13th annual Senior Portfolio Night will be held at the Talking Stick Resort Arena, May 3 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and for the first time, South Mountain High School will join Chavez for the South Phoenix High Schools Senior Portfolio Night. All seniors will exhibit their best work from their high school career in the areas of academics, extracurricular activities, and community service. Admission is free. **Susan Soto**, who spearheaded Portfolio Night at Cesar Chavez, moved to South Mountain this year as its Professional Development Specialist, and brought the Jaguars on board. She is expecting 10,000 attendees for the event.

May 3

The Cesar Chavez Percussion Ensemble was invited to play at NAU’s percussion ensemble concert, April 28 in Flagstaff. They were the only high school performing. The piece they performed was something the ensemble played at the Arizona Percussive Arts Society Spring Festival at ASU, where they scored a “Superior,” and were selected for the showcase concert performing alongside ASU and NAU. “This is a big honor and we were honored to have been invited to be special guests on their concert. I am very excited for them to see college level playing and for the students to meet the Director of Percussion Studies at NAU. These kids work hard and represent our school passionately through music,” **Alison Brightwell-Balot**, Chavez’ Director of Percussion and Piano said.

The Chavez Ensemble will also be performing in front of the Herberger Friday evening for their Cinco de Mayo celebration 6-9 p.m. It is free to the public.
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 2016-2017
August 11, 2016

Franklin won the Phoenix Union School of the Year award for Student Achievement as it saw gains in all six AZ Merit assessments from the previous year. Franklin had 57% gains in Geometry, 27% in English 9 or 19% in English 11 or 26% gains in Algebra 1. These are some of the highest gains in the state.

September 8

Franklin’s 2nd Annual Community Event will be held on campus, Saturday, September 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The purpose of this event is to provide the community a variety of different educational and community resources and services. Last year, over 500 people attended. Among the free resources are vaccinations, blood pressure and diabetes checks, child safety ID kits, car seat safety checks, dental screenings, free haircuts the event also serves as an open house for Franklin parents. There will be free food and over $500 in door prizes. Community partners include Phoenix Fire and Police departments, the City of Phoenix, Valley Hispanic Bomberos and the Boys and Girls Club.

September 15

Franklin hosted Governor Doug Ducey and a statewide media event introducing Achieve60AZ, a community-based college and workforce attainment initiative for the state, September 16. More than 60 leaders from community, business, philanthropic and education organizations have formed an alliance to increase the number of Arizonans earning a job certification or college degree by age 25 from 42 percent to 60 percent by 2030. A more highly educated population means higher earning, employment gains, economic growth and more community and civic engagement. If 60 percent of adults have a professional certificate or college degree by 2030, $3.5 billion in personal income and tax revenue will be pumped into Arizona annually. The Governor was joined by the Arizona Board of Regents President Eileen Klein, the Maricopa Community College Chancellor Maria Harper-Marinick and other dignitaries. Four students will be spotlighted, from high school, to non-traditional student re-starting college, including a Franklin student, Brenda Sotelo, who led the 130 attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Franklin Police & Fire High School
Professional Development Specialist Heidi Bonfante and Franklin Police and Fire hosted State Representative Ken Clark, September 15 for Take Your Legislator to School. Clark taught two classes on state legislature (roles, procedures, etc). He answered students’ questions and challenged them to get involved at a local level.

“He cited Franklin's very existence as a reason local involvement is so critical, Bonfante said. “He will be joining us for our third annual round table discussion at the Capitol building, October 24. The theme for this year is “One Person, One Vote: Voter Suppression and the 14th Amendment.”

**September 28**

When Governor Doug Ducey came to Franklin Police and Fire high School for a media event, September 16, he wasn’t the biggest celebrity at the school that day. For the current students, it was the return of Department of Public Safety Trooper Nick Nance, who accompanied the Governor’s entourage. Nance is a 2012 graduate of Franklin, and the first Franklin alum from the law enforcement program to be hired by DPS.

Franklin law enforcement instructor Andrew Vidaure was with DPS for 32 years and for a period of time he was assigned to Governor’s Protection Detail (GPD) protecting Governors Rose Mofford, Fife Symington, Jane Hull, Janet Napolitano and Jan Brewer.

**November 9**

Franklin participated in KidsVoteAZ on Election Day, November 8. All the students cast their ballots in classroom polling booths.

**December 21**

Leadership Exploration and Development (LEAD) is a team of student leaders at Franklin Police & Fire High School. As part of their mission to improve life for everyone at Franklin they decided to host a food drive. This quickly turned into much more. When they found out that the Alhambra High School food pantry was nearly empty, they knew they had to help. LEAD worked with Student Government to obtain donations, they canvased the neighborhoods surrounding Franklin, and some students canvased their own neighborhoods. Word began to spread. Teachers used social media to spread the word and Art Club did a fundraiser to help with donations.

As the momentum built, Principal Lorenzo Cabrera worked to find space to create Franklin’s own food pantry. LEAD has stocked and organized the shelves to prepare for our opening day. Students can come to the pantry Fridays after school to obtain food. Teachers and staff can recommend students to the pantry, as well.

On December 15, English teacher Gayle Deaver delivered four large boxes of food and toiletries to Alhambra High School. Community liaison Oscar Adame is working to rebuild their food pantry, and now he has a jump start. The food drive has turned into an ongoing relationship between Alhambra and Franklin, as they will continue to work together to end hunger and food insecurity for our students.
January 11, 2017
Franklin will hold an Open House for prospective students, Saturday, January 28. It is an opportunity to see the school, its programs and meet the teachers and students that make Franklin a unique and successful small school that earned a National Blue Ribbon School designation a couple years ago. The school specializes in preparing students for careers in public safety, including law enforcement and firefighting. For more information, contact the school at (602) 764-0200.

January 18
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In the early morning darkness, January 13, a dedicated group of eight Franklin Police and Fire Thunderbirds participated in a three-mile run in downtown Phoenix in recognition of the late Dr. Martin Luther King. The students along with a few students from Edison Elementary carried the “Torch of Hope” along the run. The torch was delivered to Phoenix Civic Center where nearly 1000 people gathered for a breakfast to kick-off the MLK weekend.

“Our students shined as they entered the room to start the ceremony,” law enforcement instructor Andrew Vidaure said.

Students Kate Salazar and Kevin Perez stepped up for a live interview with Channel 12.

Other Franklin runners were David Gamboa; Bryan Loya; Viviana Gonzales; John Paul Archuleta; Andres Paez and Filemon Ambriz.

Franklin has been invited to participate in a National School Choice Week at the state capital, January 26. The event includes a legislative luncheon with Governor Doug Ducey and state lawmakers. Students and teachers will also be at the capital rose garden to showcase the unique and successful public safety high school. The emphasis is on Arizona’s highest performing low-income public schools, who are making the fastest educational gains in the country. Franklin is a National Blue Ribbon School and a Beat the Odds Gold School. Besides its unique career-related programming in law enforcement and firefighting, it has been an “A” School since the state began assigning letter grades to schools.
January 25

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March 22, 2017

The Franklin Police & Fire Thunderbirds of Charity Club have volunteered for the Mountain Park Health Center in two different occasions. The students were recognized as the Outstanding Volunteers at the inaugural Tempe Run/Walk last fall, and will be there again in April, and the club volunteered at the Chris Town Bike Safety Rodeo & resource fair, March 4.

March 29

Students from Franklin Police and Fire High School earned their Basic Wildland Firefighting Certification by completing their wildland field day training, March 24. The students completed 8 weeks of intense classroom and field work to earn their certification. They are now one step closer to becoming employed as firefighters. A diploma ceremony will take place at Franklin, March 30. From 5-7 p.m. to honor the students for their hard work and accomplishments.

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April 19

Franklin Police and Fire will defend both the boys and girls division championships at the 14th Annual High School Fire Science Muster, April 22 in Glendale. Last year, the one of Franklin’s girls won for the fourth year in the row, and a boys’ team took the title for the first time. In fact, the boys and girls each had first, second and third place finishes, among the 12 schools, and 40 teams competing. The fire muster competition simulates 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, and performing a rescue drag of a 165-pound mannequin.

April 26

Franklin Police and Fire High School has repeated as champions in the 14th annual Arizona State High School Fire Science Muster in the girl’s competition and the overall championship, April 22. It was the fifth championship in a row for the girl’s team and second straight for the boys. Franklin’s senior boys’ team recorded the first and second-best times among the 12 schools and 40 teams competing.

The winning boys’ team is Jacob Sierra; Alex Ramsey; Manuel Valadez; Jesus Lara; Miguel Mancera. The winning girls are Alexy Perez; Karla Ruelas; Alexis Quezada; Jasmine Flores; Yesenia Salas

The teams are coached by fire instructors Richard Verduzco and Gabriel Medrano.

“Our motto this year was "One Perfect Run" and that's what it took for us to repeat as champs,” Verduzco said.

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May 10

Heidi Bonfante, Franklin’s Professional Development Specialist, will travel to Washington, D.C. this June to attend the prestigious Supreme Court Summer Institute. After a highly competitive application process, 60 teachers were selected to participate this year. The Institute, open to teachers in the fields of law-related and civic education, is co-sponsored by Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society.

The Institute offers teachers the opportunity to study recent Supreme Court cases in detail and learn innovative teaching methods for conveying this information to students. Well-known Supreme Court lawyers, reporters, scholars, and educators will be among the speakers and instructors for the Institute. Teachers will visit the Court to attend decisions and a reception.

Upon returning home, teachers will be available to present workshops on teaching about the U.S. Supreme Court, and to meet with media to discuss how the new skills and information will apply in their classrooms.
August 11, 2016

Maryvale was named the School of the Year for the Arts - Performing and Visual Arts at the Opening of Schools Convocation, August 2. This school has 1200 Performing Arts students, which is 40% of the school population. This school has 700 Visual Arts student, representing a quarter of the school’s enrollment. Students have a wide range of choices including: Band; Orchestra; Mariachi Choir; the world-traveling Guitar program; Piano; AP Music Theory; Dance; Theatre; Technical Theatre; Art; Drawing and Painting; Ceramics; Digital Photography. Many of the teachers are leaders in their district-wide Professional Learning Communities and take part in curriculum writing. The school receives students from Cartwright, Alhambra, and Isaac – three of Phoenix Union’s strongest partner districts for the arts.

August 25

Maryvale does it right when the school throws an Open House. This year’s event is Thursday, September 1. After a welcome in the auditorium at 5 p.m., dinner is served to students and parents in the cafeteria. A Panther Showcase is campus-wide with community resources and student organizations, and student performances in the quad area featuring the band, piano classes, dance, Mariachi and choir, and parents can meet their student’s teachers. If that isn’t enough, there are volleyball games for freshmen, JV and varsity in the gym.

October 5

Maryvale competed in the Arizona Interscholastic Association Individual Invitational Chess Tournament, September 23-24 at Catalina Foothills High School. Maryvale took 3rd as a team, despite only playing three rounds (of five), in the Over 500 section, which had a field of 53. The Panthers had varsity players who finished 13th - Jeremy Guiselman, and 14th - Axel Alvarado in that section.

The Over 500 designates a player’s AIA rating, similar to the United States Chess Federation’s rating system. At the high school level, teams often refer to the Over 500 as Varsity and the Under 500 as Junior Varsity, or alternates.

October 12

When new Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams officially took office this month, Phoenix became the largest city in the nation to have both female police and fire chiefs. Kara Kalkbrenner has led the fire department since 2014. Even more remarkable, both Williams and Kalkbrenner are Maryvale High School alumni, both graduated in 1983 and both were the first women to hold those posts in the sixth-largest city in the nation.

Williams was named the Chief of Police in July. She spent 22 years with the department before becoming the Oxnard, CA Police Chief in 2011. Kalkbrenner joined the Fire Department in 1984, and is one of only six female fire chiefs among large metropolitan fire departments in the country.

Williams’ entire family has Phoenix Union roots. Husband Cody Williams, a former city councilman, graduated from East High, and their sons Cody, Jr. and Alan, are North High graduates. Alan was a member of two state champion basketball teams, and is now playing for the Phoenix Suns.
The Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon scrimmage will be November 18-19 at Maryvale High School. It is the first competition of the season for most of the schools. The organizers are looking for volunteers to score essays, November 9 from 4:30 to 7 p.m., speeches and interviews, November 18 from 4-8:30 p.m.; test proctors November 19 from 7 a.m. to noon, and super quiz proctors, November 19 from 12:50-3 p.m. Parents and community members are welcome. If you are interested in helping the Academic Decathlon, contact Maryvale Assistant Principal Sharon Bernero at 602 764-2013, or bernero@phoenixunion.org. All events will be at Maryvale High School located at 3415 N. 59th Avenue.

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October 26

The Section II Individual Chess Qualifying Tournament was held October 21-22 at Glendale High School. The Panthers had three players medal in the top 30 of 140 students from 18 schools. **Israel Hernandez** placed fourth and **Jeremy Guiselmann**, 11th place, will advance to the State Individual Tournament, November 18-19. **Axel Alvarado**’s 25th place earned him a medal. Maryvale has also qualified for the State Team Tournament, November 4-5, coming in as the second place team from Region II.

November 2

The Maryvale Bella Voce Women’s Choir performed at the Swearing in Ceremony for new Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams, October 28. It was fitting, since Williams is a Maryvale High School graduate, Class of 1983.

“This was an incredible honor for my students and the students performed beautifully,” Choir Director **Amanda Taylor** said.

The Maryvale Girls won the Phoenix Union Girls Cross Country Championship, October 20 at Central High, finishing all five scoring runners in the top 12 places. Maryvale’s 31 points bested North’s 50 and Trevor Browne was third at 80 points. **Ariz Duarte** finished 3rd, followed by **Janet Chavez** in 4th, **Anette Carrasco** in 6th, **Michelle Rodrigues** in 9th and **Lizbeth Guerrero Oliveres** in 12th. Sixty-one girls ran the 5,000 meters in preparation for sectional events.

In the Division I sectionals, October 28 it was more of the same. The Maryvale girls finished 2nd in the 14-team field, to qualify for State, November 5 at Cave Creek Golf Course. Duarte finished 6th, Chavez was 8th.

November 23

Maryvale finished second behind Cesar Chavez in the Phoenix Union Academic Decathlon, November 18-19. **Julian Contreras** won a silver medal in the Varsity ten-event competition, as the second-highest overall scorer, and the team won the Super Quiz Relay. Gold medals were won by Contreras in Science, Language & Literature and Art; **Arlenys Gonzalez** in Honors Social Studies, and **Diana Flores** took gold in Honors Art.

November 30

The Maryvale High School Advanced and Production Theatre students visited two Cartwright Elementary Schools, November 21, to perform their adapted children’s stories “Pigsty” and “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” The students then led some theatre games that related to the story. Both plays were interactive and gave the elementary students a chance to get up on stage with the high school students and perform. According to theatre teacher **Patrick Shanahan**, the young and old students seemed to get a lot out of it and had some fun.
December 14

World history teacher Suzanne Vogt is going to Bosnia and Albania this summer. She was selected to participate in the Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad “Balkan Borderlands” curriculum development program. The program is with the University of Arizona Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Vogt will be one of 16 educators on the trip, including seven high school teachers and seven community college faculty. The abroad program will be May 28-June 26. The group will go to 12 different cities in Bosnia and Albania. Vogt will be asked to create an extended lesson plan or curriculum materials based on her learning during the program, and to incorporate material on the Bosnian language into the curriculum.

Vogt is an Advanced Placement teacher, National Board Certified and an Arizona Master teacher.

January 11, 2017

The Maryvale Advanced Guitar Ensembles have lined up an extensive travel schedule this spring semester. They will be in New Mexico this month, Hawaii in February, the Chicago area during Spring Break, and in Boston later in March. Led by James Yancey, there are 12 guitarists in the Illuminati Ensemble and 14 in the Carpe Diem Ensemble. Much of their touring funding comes from holiday concerts they do throughout the city.

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Senior George Campos will be playing in the Blue / Grey Football All-American Bowl game January 21 in the Oakland Raiders Stadium. He was selected after attending Blue / Grey Football Combines the past two years. He will play offensive line for the Pacific Coast Team playing the Atlantic Coast Team. The 6-2 1/2, 260 pounder has had some interest from small colleges, but this game could be a showcase for him, according to Maryvale coach George Martinez. He has a 3.0 GPA and “is the best lineman I’ve coached in 23 years of High School Football,” Martinez said.

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Seniors Marcos Ayala and Gissell Avila recently had the chance to spend a week in London, England with the Universal Cheer Association (UCA) group. In order to qualify for this trip, the two had to try out to be UCA All-American cheerleaders at their summer camp. This tryout involved Avila performing a dance, a cheer, and jumps. Ayala had to do cheer, jumps and a single based stunt. While they were in London, they were able to see many sights as well as perform in the New Year’s Day parade. This trip involved much fundraising on the parts of these two students and their families to represent Maryvale in London.

January 18

The Maryvale Spiritline competed in the AIA Championship, Saturday in Gilbert. Anthony Pineda (who attends Linda Abril) and Yuvia Lopez placed sixth in the state in the stunting competition.
January 25

Maryvale have two student artists, Jasson Adame and Mariela Medina, displaying artwork at the Shemer Art Center New Horizons High School Student Art Exhibition. Adame won a Shemer Family Award and cash at the awards ceremony, January 21. Each school that participated was able to submit two pieces of art. Over 80 student art pieces are on display through February 2. Adame’s teacher is Gabriel Ramirez and Medina’s art teacher is Doniphan Sanchez.

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The Panther Wrestling team finished fifth in the 23-team Brad Jones Pack Invitational at Centennial High School. The tournament is named after former Centennial wrestler and Peoria Police officer who was killed in the line of duty. Senior Antonio Perez received the Brad Jones Sportsmanship Award from the Jones family, which each year chooses one wrestler in the tournament to receive the honor.

Four Maryvale wrestlers placed: Omar Alvarado, 2nd at 220 pounds, Francisco Moreno, 4th at 182, Christian Alvarado, 5th at 160 and Tony Cobian, 6th at 170 pounds.

February 7

Maryvale finished fifth in the 24-team Region II Academic Decathlon February 3-4 at Boulder Creek High School, and qualified, along with five other Phoenix Union schools for the 40-school State Decathlon, March 10-11 at ASU West. Cesar Chavez won the regional. The Panthers were led by Julian Contreras who won the bronze medalist for overall top varsity division students. Maryvale will enter the State Decathlon ranked 12th in Arizona.

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In recognition of Black History Month, the Mobile Black History 101 Museum came to Maryvale High School, February 7. Classes visited the library throughout the day for presentations and it was open to the school community after school.

March 22

The art department is excited to announce the 2nd annual Laundry Line Art Show located at The Vig Fillmore at 4th avenue and Fillmore in downtown Phoenix. The show will feature over 100 original artworks by Maryvale art students and will take place during the First Friday Art Walk, April 7. In addition, the Maryvale Mariachi will be preforming from 5-6 p.m.

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Former Maryvale student and Olympic Wrestling Gold medalist Henry Cejudo had the honor of driving the pace car at the NASCAR race at Phoenix International Raceway, March 19.
April 5

Maryvale musicians came off a cold but successful trip to Boston for the World Strides Music Festival, April 1. In the Guitar category, the Illuminati Ensemble placed first, the Combined Ensemble placed second, and the Carpe Diem Ensemble was third. Illuminati and the Combined also won the Outstanding Ensemble Award. The Maryvale Choir won a first place gold in the 3A Chamber Choir category.

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The Phoenix Union Gifted and Talented Academy will debut as a “school-within-a-school” at Maryvale High School in August. Applications for incoming ninth-graders are available at www.phoenixunion.org/newschools. There will be opportunity to apply and interview with staff at Maryvale (3415 N. 59th Avenue) on Saturdays, April 8, 15 and 22 from 8 a.m. to noon. Wednesday, April 26 is the Maryvale Expo, where parents and students can also interview. The school will be accepting approximately 40 ninth-grade students. For more information, contact Dr. Renu Singh at (602) 764-2016 or rsingh@phoenixunion.org.

April 12

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April 19

Future freshmen and their parents are invited to a Maryvale Open House, April 26, from 4-8 p.m. to learn more about the school’s programs, sports and activities, and register for the 2017-18 school year. Dinner will be served.

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April 26

Maryvale Coding Innovators attended competition at ASU Skysong, April 22. Teams of students from schools all over the Valley displayed their apps through a gallery walk and other teams presented a pitch for their product. One of Maryvale’s teams, Jennifer Gonzalez and Catia Flores Gomez, won second place in the pitch completion. The second place win was for an app called Reality Check to help with double standards.

Maryvale Coding Innovators is funded through a grant from ASU and Verizon. Students learn coding, find a business partner, and design an app to fill a need.

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May 10

Cinco de Mayo weekend was a busy time for the Maryvale Mariachi Panteros de Oro. They were invited to perform at North High School’s Cinco de Mayo assembly. On Saturday, they were asked to perform at the Maricopa Community College Hispanic Convocation at the Phoenix Convention Center where they escorted the graduates into the ceremony while playing the famous Mexican march, La Marcha Zacatecas. On Sunday, they performed at the Phoenix Cinco de Mayo Festival in downtown Phoenix.
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 2016-2017
August 25, 2016

Metro Tech’s Spanish for Spanish Speakers 3-4 class took the Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Language exam results last spring, and despite not taking an AP Spanish Language class, 26 students scored a passing 3, eight scored a 4 and four scored a top score of 5. **Roberta Roman** is their teacher.

An athletic milestone takes place at the end of August when Metro Tech competes in its first Arizona Interscholastic Athletics (AIA) events. Girls Volleyball opens play at Scottsdale Saguaro on August 30, the Boys Golf team plays on the same day, and Boys and Girls Cross Country will run August 31. Girls Golf starts September 7. For many years, Metro Tech did not have athletic teams, and recently, they were part of the Canyon Athletic Association, competing mostly against charter schools. This is the Knights’ first year in AIA, competing in these fall sports, basketball and soccer in the winter, and baseball, softball and tennis in the spring.

**September 8**

Metro Tech Weightlifting has become the only high school certified by USA Weightlifting in the State of Arizona. Currently, the Weightlifting Club supports 70 athletes at Metro Tech.

“This a great honor for the Club and this due to the Hard Work of many athletes and Sponsors,” said founder, teacher and coach **Mario Malaby** said. “We are humbled to be supported by USA Weightlifting and hope that we can have long relationship and possibly produce future Olympians.”

**September 21**

**Jaziel Olmeda**, a senior at Metro Tech High School has been selected as the United Blood Services spokesperson for 2016. A three-time cancer survivor, he wants to be a pediatric oncology nurse.

“He is a phenomenal young man. It is my personal mission that he does not pay a penny for school,” counselor **Sue Weiner** said.

Metro Tech may not have football games on Friday nights, but that doesn’t stop the school from having a safe social event for students. The school has created Metro Tech Friday KNIGHT Fun Nights. The first one was September 16. It featured a Car Show, Movie Night, Performances by our Knight Dancers, interactive games like a Dunk Tank, and sales by many of our clubs and organizations. The event ran from 3:30pm – 5:30pm and was capped off by Student Government’s Back to School Dance from 5:30pm -7:30pm. Metro’s next Friday KNIGHT Fun Night is scheduled for Friday November 4th and will be in conjunction with a Dia De Los Muertos cultural celebration.
September 28
Members of the Educators rising club at Metro Tech High School have been learning at professional conferences sponsored by Maricopa Community Colleges. Several students attended the Fifth Annual Arizona’s Multicultural Education Conference at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, September 17. Forty students attended The 15th Annual Future Educators’ Conference. The students are in the Education Professions program, September 23.

October 5
Metro Tech collaborated with the Mexican Consulate as part of their Domestic Violence Awareness campaign. They presented to a group of Metro Tech students, October 5 on teen dating violence.

October 19
Metro Tech’s Digital Media Arts program won two Rocky Mountain Emmy Student Production Awards at the Awards Gala, October 6 Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale. Two other nominations were recognized. The winners were:

*High School Commercial:*
‘Workplace Etiquette’- Natalie Torres, Cande Duran, Ashley Salazar, Metro Tech

*High School Student Production Craft-Director*
‘Workplace Etiquette’ – Natalie Torres, Metro

November 2
The Metro Tech Weightlifting Club held a fundraiser October 27 called Kilos for a Cure, raising money for the American Cancer Society. This year’s event was extra special, as one of the athletes is a cancer survivor. Jaziel Olmeda, a senior at Metro Tech, who is a United Blood Services spokesperson for 2016. Olmeda had leukemia during ages 7 and 10 and then he battled Bone Marrow Cancer from the ages 12 to 15. Olmeda was even declared dead by doctors for two minutes when he was 13 and spent a year living at the Ronald McDonald House. He has shared his story and inspired many, on and off campus.

The Metro Tech Weightlifting Club was formed 10 years ago to help fight against the high rate of obesity and juvenile diabetes. Under the direction of Mario Malaby, it has grown to over 70 members who meet every school day. They teach the fundamentals of: Powerlifting, Body Building and Olympic Weightlifting. It is also the only high school in Arizona certified by USA Weightlifting. For more on the Kilos for a Cure, go to [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=77643&pg=team&team_id=2078100](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=77643&pg=team&team_id=2078100)
November 9

There was a Grand Opening for “The Shop” at Metro Tech in the floral department, October 27. Students applied and interviewed for positions within “The Shop”. The Shop will allow all groups and classes on campus to sell items in a gift shop environment. The Shop is run and operated by the students in Jen Colvin’s Small Business Operations & Floral Design classes. The Shop is selling balloons, stuffed animals, gift items, plants from the Horticulture department, and the staff will start selling any other items from clubs/classes on campus. For example, Fashion makes hair clips/bows. Welding and Construction is also excited about the opportunity to sell some of their items made by students on campus, too.

November 16

For the 20th consecutive year, Metro Tech students involved with Future Business Leaders of America and the Student Government have gone to the Arizona Veterans’ Home to help celebrate their special day with the two hundred patients. Because the home is short staffed, the students start early in the morning blowing up balloons, setting up tables, and decorating the outdoor facility. As the band sets up and the food is prepared, the students bring the veterans from their rooms, serve them lunch, and then wheel them to the parade. The students make sure the vets are hydrated and attended to. They then bring them back to their rooms when the parade is over. According to teacher and FBLA advisor Debbie Cross, the students are exhausted at the end of the day, but they love hearing the stories and feeling like they have served these veterans. Approximately 158 vets witnessed the parade. Without the 115 Metro Tech students, only about fifty vets would have been able to celebrate the day.

November 23

Metro Tech has won two $5,000 Arizona Diamondbacks and University of Phoenix School Challenge grants as part of the Dbacks $100,000 School Challenge initiative. The Floral Design Small Business Operations project will use the funds to purchase a sliding glass door floral display cooler, allowing the students to showcase their work in the shop, and boast sales. Remaining funds will purchase other displays, signage and menu boards. The grant application was submitted by Jennifer Colvin, Floral Design-Small Business Operations teacher.

Another grant went to Metro’s new program, Exploring Computer Science, which encourages urban students to either major in computer science, or become more computer literate. The funds will be used to purchase 20 of the latest laptops for the class. Students recommended a laptop that can handle podcasts, digital media projects and other innovative creations that would be accessible for students. Teacher Maria Piazza-Palotto submitted the application.

In addition to the funding, the Diamondbacks will invite the school to be honored prior to a 2017 Arizona Diamondbacks game at Chase Field, receiving up to 450 complimentary tickets for students, teachers, families and supporters to attend this presentation.
The annual Metro Tech Fall Garden Festival and Community Celebration was held at Metro Tech High School, October 29. The Annual Fall Garden Festival and Community Celebration is geared towards local community and garden lovers who are interested in learning new techniques for gardening, and to have a fun family-oriented time. This community celebration is held in conjunction with Masters Gardeners. Approximately 1500 people were on campus for activities ranging from local vendors to question/answer sessions with master gardeners. The festival included over 20 local vendors and 18 Metro Tech clubs that sold student made items, cultural food, flowers, baked goods, and provided activities for children and assistance to the attendees with their purchases. There were also rummage sales and a silent auction along with community service opportunities.

November 30

The Metro Tech Boys Soccer team played its first AIA game ever, on its new soccer field, and the Knights beat Apache Junction, 6-3, November 29. Metro Tech is in the 4A Division, West Valley Section where they will play Cactus, Greenway, Moon Valley, Peoria and Sunrise Mountain. Metro Tech does not have any Phoenix Union sister schools on its schedule.

December 7

The Metro Tech Native American Club, invited tribal elder Tim Terry, Jr. to Metro Tech to bless the new athletic fields, November 29. President Chebon Werito, Vice-President Shylla Dan, and Secretary Savanna Gastelo participated in the ceremony along with Principal Bryan Reynoso, and assistant principals Julio Rubio and Dan Dodge. The blessing occurred on the morning of the first AIA boy’s junior varsity and varsity games. Both teams won their first games that evening and have not lost since.

December 14

The Metro Tech student-run branch of Canyon State Credit Union participated in a diaper drive that was promoted on KTAR 92.3 Radio and the students had the highest percentage over their goal of any branch in the state. The students did 220% over their goal, collecting 6,416 diapers, and they will enjoy a suite at a Phoenix Suns game for their winning efforts. The students also participated in the Canyon State/KTAR Radio “Mac & Gaydos” Caring for Kids finale at Kohl’s December 9 to celebrate.

Metro Tech is hosting a community forum, Monday, December 19 at 6 p.m. in the Culinary Banquet Room. The Mexican Consulate and America Dream Act Coalition (ADAC) to inform the community about DACA, consular services and recent topics on immigration.

December 21

Nursing instructor Dena Cady has won a $5,000 Fiesta Bowl Wishes for Teachers award, in partnership with College Football Playoff Foundation Extra Yard for Teachers. She will use the funds for new mannequins for the nursing lab. Over 2,400 teachers from Arizona submitted applications, and Rutan’s wish was randomly selected to be granted. Each winning teacher is also invited to attend the Motel 6 Cactus Bowl at Chase Field, December 27, where they will be honored on field with fellow Wishes for Teachers recipients. The Extra Yard for Teachers program is distributing $500,000 in Fiesta Bowl Wishes to 100 Arizona teachers in December.
February 7, 2017

The Metro Tech International Thespian Society and the Performing Arts Department is performing the school’s first musical ever. The school has been building its department with dance, music and theatre, and they come together for “Grease.” The show will take place in the “black box” theatre, and there will be eight performances, from February 1-3 and February 8-10. Reportedly, Assistant Principal Julio Rubio has a singing (or lip-syncing) part, and science teacher Erin Strong is leading some of the singers. English teacher Mark Agnew doubles as the drama teacher.

The magnet school has been known for its academics and career and technical education programs, but as it evolves into a larger high school, interscholastic sports, performing arts and other activities have been introduced.

February 15

Metro Tech will host the Arizona Construction Championship, February 17. Some 120 students from 12 schools throughout the state will showcase their construction skills in electrical, carpentry and masonry projects while industry judges look on.

February 22

Metro Tech hosted the Arizona Construction Championship, February 17. Some 120 students from 12 schools throughout the state showcased their construction skills in electrical, carpentry and masonry projects while industry judges look on. Metro Tech winners were Jesus Dorme took 1st in carpentry; Briana Contreras took 2nd in electrical wiring; Ana Dominguez took 3rd in masonry, and Irvin Huerta and Cristian Rueda took 2nd in Construction Tech. Students and staff also participated in a nailing contest, hammering as many nails into a block of wood in 30 seconds.

March 8

Metro Tech marketing students are taking the ultimate test, pitching their business idea to a panel of professionals in the school’s version of the TV show “Shark Tank.” Developed by sports marketing teacher Jeffrey Howard, four teams made their pitch March 1 in front of representatives from Washington Federal and EverFi, an online financial literacy program for students. The concept was food trucks. There was Papa Paul’s Pizza, Exotic Scoops Ice Cream, JV’s Super Tacos, and Beefish. Adding to the pressure, Channel 3 came in to do a live report, interviewing Erick Valenzuela, Christian Bocardo and Yamely Martinez of Beefish. Beefish combines two of the most popular food truck items- fish and tacos. An added twist was an app, called “Mobile Munchies,” where “foodies” could track the location of their favorite food truck. After asking for $180,000 and 15% share in the business, the Beefish team watched the judge investors battle each other, until two came together to offer $250,000 for two trucks, and 30% share of the business. Eight teams were trimmed to four teams, and one team will be declared the winner. It might not be real money, but the experience is real world.
Metro Tech High School

Around Our Schools
Metro Tech
2016-2017

March 29
Metro Tech weightlifting coach and math teacher Dina Medina spent her spring break winning the United States American Open National Championship, division. Medina placed first in the Masters Age 40-44 69-kilogram division. She had a 139 kg total (307 lbs.), 62 kg snatch (136 lbs.)/77 clean & jerk (170 lbs.)

“Dina is officially one of the strongest women America and a true role model to our students,” said Metro teacher and weightlifting coach Mario Malaby.
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Culinary Arts student Daylon Bennett shined in the Careers in Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP), last month, winning a cash award from C-CAP as well an industry award, which means he has a job upon graduation. His teacher is Chef Dean Wilberscheid.

April 5
Chemistry teacher Gerardo Lopez was the Phoenix Suns-Northern Arizona University Educator of the Month for April. He attended the April 2 Suns-Houston game, receiving four tickets, and complementary food and beverages, and a $50 team shop gift card. The student who nominated him, Ailyn Melendrez was also invited to the game. The two were introduced on the court prior to the game.

“I am definitely excited and humbled. Honestly, I am a little shocked,” Lopez said.

If you were wondering, Lopez earned his undergraduate degree at NAU, his Masters at ASU, and is currently in the Educational Leadership program at NAU. He also was able to see his former student, Alan Williams of North High, play in-person. Lopez was his chemistry tutor.

April 19
Yadira Mins Reyes Garcia, was honored at the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Aspirations in Computing Awards Banquet, April 18. The banquet featured keynote speakers such as Indu Khosla, Director of Software Development at Go Daddy. NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing honors high school women who are active and interested in computing and technology, and encourages them to pursue their passions. The award comes with a $4,000 scholarship to Arizona State University Ira Fulton School of Engineering.
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Twenty-five students from Metro Tech travelled to Tucson, April 12-14 to participate in the 2017 Educators Rising State Conference. Our students competed in nine events, ranging from Children’s Literature to Service Project. Eighteen students placed in the top ten for their particular event. Of those 18 students, 11 placed in the top five for nationally or state recognized events. Students who placed in the top five for national competitions will be attending and competing at the 2017 Educators Rising Conference in Phoenix on June 23-26.
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Former Metro Tech Basketball player and student, as well as Alhambra baseball standout and current Phoenix College pitcher **Sam Romero** signed a National Letter of Intent with Arizona State University, April 12. Romero, who graduated in 2015, was honor roll student at Metro Tech as well as basketball captain. He currently has a 3.3 grade point average at Phoenix College.

**April 26**

Metro Tech is one of the stops for Future Sun Devil Signing Day, Thursday, April 27, welcoming seniors who have chosen Arizona State University. ASU will arrive at 8:30 a.m. on a double decker-wrapped bus with ASU Admission Services staff, other ASU personnel, ASU media, Sparky, spirit squad, music, and lots of ASU giveaway items. There will have posters for students to sign showing their commitment to ASU and a photo booth items for students to take pictures and post on social media. April 27 is National College Signing Day this year.

**May 3**

Metro Tech was one of the stops for Future Sun Devil Signing Day, Thursday, April 27, welcoming seniors who have chosen Arizona State University. ASU arrived in a double decker-wrapped bus with ASU Admission Services staff, other ASU personnel, ASU media, Sparky, music, and lots of ASU paraphernalia. Students signed posters showing their commitment to ASU and took pictures to post on social media. Metro Tech had 45 students officially committed to ASU. Metro also had the highest FAFSA completion rate among PUHSD schools, at 55%, Metro students applied for the most colleges and universities in last fall’s College Application Campaign. The best news is that most of the students were getting full rides thanks to College Attainment Grants, in which students can qualify for ASU with a 3.0 or 22 ACT score if their families earn less than $42,400 per year. Some of the students are also participating in ASU’s Pro-Mod program, which stands for project-based, modular learning. The students work across disciplines on real world projects, interacting with university faculty and students. Phoenix Union teachers teach the courses in a project-based format and students receive 13 ASU credits upon successful completion of project criteria and enrollment at ASU directly after high school.

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Career and Technical Education held its first Interview Fair, March 30, and it was a huge success. The Metro Tech gym was filled with tables and chairs, as 307 seniors were interviewed by 114 volunteers. Students were interviewed twice, and received feedback after each interview. The students represented 20 CTE programs at Metro Tech.

The all-day event was co-sponsored by the Valley of the Sun United Way and the Department of Economic Security. The event was led by Vocational Program Facilitator Victoria Petit and a team of CTE staff.

“It is an important event to help our students with the soft skills necessary in the most important activity- a job interview.”
May 10

Several students competed in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Conference, April 17. Metro Tech qualified 34 students for Nationals, based on finishing 1st through 4th. First place wins included Hospitality Management, Presentation and Partnership with Business.

There were several other awards for Metro Tech. The FBLA Chapter was named a Gold Chapter, and is the fourth largest chapter in the country. Ahmed Stanikzai was awarded first place in the most prestigious competitive event, the Future Business Leader competition. He is an FBLA State officer, the DECA Chapter president and has served hundreds of hours of community service. He will be attending ASU’s W.B. Carey Business School next year. Metro Tech’s principal Bryan Reynoso was awarded the Administrator of the Year; Debbie Cross, Banking and Finance teacher at Metro, was award the Honorary Lifetime membership award, recognizing her 30-plus years serving FBLA. Jane Dobbs, the President and CEO of Canyon State Credit Union, was awarded the Business Person of the Year. She has been active with Metro Tech CTE programs, including an on-campus credit union.

May 24

PUHSD, Goodwill and Metro Tech Future Business Leaders of America’s (FBLA) first District-wide job fair was a success. Three hundred thirty-four students attended during the three-hour event, May 20. According to FBLA advisor Debbie Cross, the employers said it was the best one at a high school, they have been to all year. There were 35 employers, including General Dynamics, Cox Communications, and McDonalds. Goodwill will collect information on how many students were hired. Many of the students said they were excited about their job prospects.
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 2016-2017
August 25, 2016

Freshman Crystal Diaz is a recipient of a Phoenix Foley Alliance scholarship. James Foley was a journalist killed by ISIS two years ago. Prior to that he was a teacher at Lowell Elementary School in central Phoenix from 1996-1999. Last year there were two scholars selected; this year, six. The goal is to give financial help and mentorship throughout high school and beyond for these students. Kristen Martinez founded the alliance with her husband in honor of Foley, who worked with students in the inner city.

“I’m thinking of being a pediatric counselor and a writer,” said Diaz, who just started her first year at North High School.

We hope to be that same Foley for these kids,” said Martinez. “We know they’re in that same environment and that same community but that it doesn’t have to stay that way.”

September 21

Art teacher Julie Peters has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Secondary Art Educator Award, an honor presented by the Arizona Art Education Association. Her notification letter said, “This accolade is testament to your dedication to quality art education in the state.”

It is the second year in a row that a Phoenix Union teacher has won this award. Roxanna May-Thayer of Central High was last year’s Outstanding Secondary Art Educator.

Peters has been teaching drawing, painting and advanced art for IB for 11 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.

Last year, Peters was selected by the National Art Education Association to be a part of the Secondary Model Cornerstone Assessment Piloting Team.

She will be honored at the Arizona Art Education Association Conference Banquet and Awards Ceremony in Tucson, November 11.

September 28

Jackson Carpenter and Hugo Crick Furman were named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program, and Cordell Michaud was a National Merit Scholarship Commended student.

Magda Rodriguez and Eli Carreon were named College Board National Hispanic Recognition Scholars. These academic awards were based on results from the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). All are seniors in the International Baccalaureate program at North.
Around Our Schools
North
2016-2017

National Merit semifinalists qualify by being among the highest-scoring entrants in each state in the 2015 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.

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.

About 90% of National Merit Scholarship semifinalists become finalists, according to the NMSC. Since 1990, North High has had 96 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists and finalists and 123 Commended students.

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

**Jackson Carpenter** helped his chances as a National Merit semifinalist by scoring a perfect 800 on the PSAT math exam last fall. His favorite subjects are math, “a language consistent across the globe,” and physics, because it connects with his love of math. He also enjoys playing clarinet in the North Marching Band and Symphonic Band, and has been a member of the District and Regional Honor Band the last two years. He is a member of the North Film Society, National Honors Society and competes in math competitions. Carpenter volunteers at Longview Neighborhood Recreation Center in the summers. He has six colleges he is considering, with ASU, MIT and Princeton among his top picks. He wants to major in math, and become a mathematician, a math teacher, or have a career focusing on physics and engineering. His father, Jack Carpenter, is a World History teacher at North High.

**Hugo Crick Furman** is one of just three seniors in International Baccalaureate High Level Math at North, but his interests are wide and varied. He has performed in 13 plays for North Drama, and Valley Youth Theatre. He will star in “War of the Worlds,” North’s fall production. He is an expert in origami, a juggler, throws playing cards and owns 1,373 yo-yos. His mother is British, and he lived in England for eight years before coming to Phoenix, where he attended Loma Linda School in the Creighton District. He wants to major in theatre, and minor in linguistics, and either attend a theatre school in London or New York. A French student for four years, he can also speak Welsh and is learning Polish.
Cordell Michaud is ranked #2 in the senior class. He has been the president of the North Cyborgs Robotics club for two years and was the lead programmer as a sophomore. His favorite class was a robotics seminar, where he learned the fundamentals of robotics, such as design, mechanical and electrical skills, and has taught his classmates and other teenagers programming on Saturdays. He created and led a summer program teaching robotics fundamentals at Burton Barr Library. He also taught his pre-calculus class when his teacher was absent for two weeks. “I made sure everyone became comfortable with the content and were progressing.” Robotics will remain his field of study and career. Michaud wants to play a developmental role in artificial intelligence and machine learning. His career interests also include software development, data scientist and analyst, and machine learning engineer. He is considering Stanford, Cal-Berkeley, Harvey Mudd, Caltech, Washington and Carnegie Mellon and will be the first in his family to attend college, along with his twin brother, an IB student who wants to go to Emery Riddle.

Magda Rodriguez loves the arts and theatre, not only to express herself, but as a de-stressor. She has been an actress and a crew member for several school plays. She has also helped girls in her community stay out of trouble by helping with an after-school theatre program. The four-year French student who medaled in the National French Exam, is also the French Club president. She is the Spanish Club vice president, Drama Club treasurer and a member of the International Thespian Society. She says she wants to work in the fast-paced corporate world, and is interested in international business, or law. A first generation college-goer who began learning English at 5 years old, she is considering Yale, Columbia, Wellesley, New York Univ., Barnard, Tulane, ASU and Arizona.

Eli Carreon learned as a wrestler to cope with failure and that there is always someone better than you at something. He is quite good at a lot of things. His favorite course is pre-calculus, and then physics. He is also taking High Level IB math. He is involved in North Robotics and drama, and he wants to become an engineer or physicist, “something heavy in science and math.” Carreon volunteers at Longview Recreation Center during the summer, working with kids, 6-12 years old. He says he wants to continue his mother’s legacy of going to college, and do important humanitarian deeds when he gets older. Carreon wants to study aerospace or mechanical engineering in college, which could be Caltech, MIT, Stanford, Cal-Berkeley, Georgia Tech, Emory Riddle or ASU.

The North Mustang Marching Band had two back-to-back competitions, September 24. The Percussion section received an “Excellent” rating and an Outstanding Bass Drum Caption at the Arizona Percussion Arts Society Festival at Carl Hayden High School. The full Marching Band received a “Good” rating and four Outstanding Captions in Music Performance, Visual Performance, General Effect, and Percussion Performance at the Verrado High School Invitational.

“Caption awards essentially mean that we placed in the top 2-3 bands in our division for that category; so this is awesome recognition for us,” Band Director Daniel Eaton said.
October 5

Senior Jennifer Ortega Lara received a $1500 scholarship from the Hispanic Women Corporation event held September 30 at the Phoenix Convention Center. Lara is a Business student and is currently North’s Future Business Leaders of America Chapter President. Additional guests that were at this event were Senator John McCain and Phoenix Councilwoman Laura Pastor.

Jocelyn Guzman, a senior, was selected to serve this school year on the Youth Advisory Board to the Center for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (College of Nursing and Health Innovation) at ASU. This is a description of their work:

According to the center, the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a scientific advisory, service-learning, and leadership development program where youth, between the ages of 14 and 17, serve as advisors and ambassadors to the Center’s faculty, mentees, and staff.

“We aim to mobilize the next generation of scientists and community leaders!”

North High hosted the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI), October 4. USHLI presented to 900 students, grades 9th-12th. Since 1982, USHLI has worked to empower the Latino community and similarly disenfranchised groups by promoting education, leadership development, unity, and non-partisan civic participation. The featured “empowerment speaker” was Ingrid Centurion, a retired Lieutenant Colonel and Founder of Centurion Technologies Consultants, as well as a Dobson High School and ASU graduate in Aeronautical Technology. The focus of the presentation was that despite any obstacles in your life you can achieve your dreams. Your circumstances do not define what you are able to achieve. Make a conscious effort to dream big and make the choice to pursue your goals because hard work and education will change your life. The program was brought to North by the GM Foundation.

October 26

Senior Rita Anane-Wae is one of ten finalists for the Brilliant, Beautiful and Bold Role Model Awards, a program of the Girls Rule Foundation. The foundation offers empowerment, leadership and educational programs for girls 12-18, to help them become the next generation of leaders. Four award recipients will be announced at the Shine Brightly Summit, October 29 at ASU.

The summit is designed for teen girls and the moms (or women/guardian/mentee/aunt) who support them. The girls hear from inspirational key-note speakers and breakout sessions about building confidence, setting goals, STEM, getting to college and achieving their dreams.

The North Volleyball team won the 6A Metro Region with a 9-1 record, and 13-4 overall, edging Trevor Browne by one game. But the Mustangs had to play Scottsdale Chaparral in the play-in game, October 27. Camelback was ranked #24 and Chaparral was #9. The winner advanced to the 16-team state tournament.
November 2

North had the fastest boy and girl in the Phoenix Union Cross Country Championships, October 20. Senior Abhihamid Nur ran the 5000 meters in 16 minutes even, besting second place Aron Orar of Central by seven seconds. The Boys finished third in the team standings. Reid Belanger placed first in the Girls division, and led the Mustangs to a second place finish, behind Maryvale.

Both Mustang teams qualified for the Division I State Championships with strong showings at the Section 3 race, October 28 at Cesar Chavez Park. Led by Nur’s first place finish, by one second, the North Boys finished 5th. The North girls, paced by Belanger’s 4th place individual finish, placed 3rd. The State Championships are November 5 at the Cave Creek Golf Course.

North’s National Art Honor Society has an art exhibit at the Burton Barr Library, 4th floor Teen Center, for the month of November. The opening reception is November 4. The “Exhibit is called “Monochromatic Moments,” with art in one color plus its tints and shades. The students who created the exhibit are Jennifer Falcon Cruz, Salma Rojas, Luis Alvarado, Jasmin Menjivar, and Yesenia Barrera.

November 9

North High School’s Abdihamid Nur is the Division I State Cross Country Champion, placing first in the 164-runner championship race, Saturday at Cave Creek Golf Course, November 5. His time of 15:49 edged two Brophy runners over the 5,000 meter course. The North Boys were 17th in the team results, just ahead of Central, 19th and Alhambra 20th.

November 30

Deborah Woldemariam and Giselle Quintero, student leaders on campus decided to launch a project designed to harness the students’ energy and focus it towards making a difference for our communities. Inspired by the protests surrounding the National Elections, these two students have researched and planned a series of drives to support various community organizations. This month’s drive will support the District’s community liaisons and the Friendly House, an organization that supports families in need. Other student leaders across campus will be assisting them to monitor and work the drive. They are collecting diapers, baby wipes, and baby clothing for the Friendly House and new or gently used, clean winter wear of all sizes for the District.

December 7

Former North High basketball star Alan Williams, now with the Phoenix Suns, came to a Mustangs game, December 1. Williams played on back-to-back state championship teams with North, before going to UC Santa Barbara. The Mustangs were taking on 2nd ranked Corona del Sol. Williams talked to the players during halftime. According to Coach Joe Bustos, he told the players to never stop playing their best effort, shoot the ball with confidence no matter what the score is and keep playing with intensity throughout the basketball season. The team listened and made a comeback in the second half. After being down by 28 points, the Mustangs cut the lead to 12 points with three minutes to go in the game.
January 18, 2017

North’s Ashante Etsitty Cunningham sang at the MLK Festival on Monday, at Margaret Hance Park. Cunningham performed Billie Holiday's *All of Me*.

January 25

Art students Jacob Derbyshire and Joan Huai have art displayed at New Horizons High School student art exhibition sponsored by the Shemer Art Center. Over 80 student art pieces are on display through February 2. Derbyshire won a Shemer Family Award at the awards ceremony, January 21. Julie Peters is their art teacher. The exhibit continues through February 2.

February 7

North music students auditioned successfully to participate in the West Region Honor Music Festival coming up later in February. The festival is sponsored by the Arizona Music Educators Association. Tenor vocalist Michael Serna made the choir, while five students were selected into the band and orchestra ensembles, the most of any other school in the District. Kenia Ramirez - Flute II and Piccolo Alternate; Jackson Carpenter - Clarinet I; Isaiah Herrera - Bassoon I; Elizabeth Garcia - Percussion 2; Samuel McTier – Bass.

February 15

Sixteen members of the North High Encore Honor Choir earned a “Superior” rating at the Jazz Madrigal Festival at NAU February 11. It is the highest score possible. The Choir sang two songs *a cappella*: an English Madrigal and a Medieval-era Old English Round.

March 22, 2017

North High School had the AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) team visit the campus Tuesday, and when the day ended, North became an AVID Demonstration School, the first in the Phoenix Union High School District, and only the fourth high school in Arizona.

AVID is a college readiness system designed to provide students in the academic middle with structure and support, access to rigorous curriculum and preparation for entrance into a four-year university. AVID Demonstration Schools are exemplary models of the AVID College Readiness System. They undergo a rigorous validation process to ensure high levels of implementation of AVID strategies school wide. AVID Demonstration Schools serve as models for schools that wish to see want to see highly successful AVID systems in action.

The AVID Validation team visited classrooms, meet with the superintendent, board members, AVID students, tutors and teachers, to determine if North met the criteria.

“North knocked it out of the park,” State AVID Director Denise Campbell said. “There 6,000 schools with AVID nationwide, but only 175 Demonstration schools. North earned a three-year label which is the most you can get, and it means they are outstanding. If you get two-years, we come back and re-validate.”
North started AVID in 2007 with two classes, two teachers and a counselor. It has grown to 11 sections, 10 teachers and two counselors. This year, North will have 43 AVID students graduate from North, the largest class ever. Collectively, so far North’s AVID senior classes have amassed over $500,000 dollars in scholarship money. Every AVID student will graduate, 100% of the AVID students have taken both the PSAT and ACT, and many have taken the SAT. There are 10 AVID tutors, all college students. All 10 are North High graduates, and six went through the AVID program.

There are 285 students school-wide in AVID elective classes, and 50 percent of the staff are AVID-trained, according to North AVID Coordinator Anna Ruiz. There will be 75 AVID seniors for 2017-18.

“Being a National Demonstration School means that North has made a commitment to utilize AVID methodologies school-wide, provide professional development to our certified staff in the use of AVID strategies/methodologies, provide access to more rigorous curriculum for all students, and at North we have made AVID a central part of our School Improvement Plan,” Ruiz said.

AVID seniors outpace the national average of enrolling in either a two or four-year college the first fall term after high school, and persist at a higher rate than U.S. students overall, into year two of college. Three of every four AVID students nationally are of low socio-economic status, and are often the first in their family to attend college.

AVID comes from the Latin word avidus, which means: eager for knowledge.

The other AVID Demonstration high schools are Mesa, Westwood and North Canyon.

Several students in Julie Peter’s Advanced Art classes submitted artwork to the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing competition. The four Gold Key regional winners went on to compete at the National Level where Christian Lopez earned a Silver Medal for his painting “The End”.

Jacob Derbyshire, Joan Huai and Andres Varela also were Gold Key regional winners. Derbyshire also won a Silver Key and Honorable Mention. Huai won a Silver Key. Mia Ledesma took three Honorable Mentions. In all, there were eight Silver Key winners and nine Honorable mention.
March 29

It’s not an AIA sport, but two Phoenix Union schools raced in the 14th Annual Dragon Boat Festival at Tempe Town Lake, March 25. North, under the direction of teacher Rita Lopez has been doing this for seven years. Maryvale, coached by science teacher Jennifer Cho, joined in the fun this year in the first-ever high school division. Battling a strong headwind and current, Maryvale came in second, a half second ahead of North. Both teams practiced two times prior to racing, and lost to a California team that trains year-round.

In dragon boat racing, you can have up to 20 rowers, 10 on each side, a drummer and a steersman.

“The drummer is at the front of the boat and keeps the pace/beat similar to the heart of the dragon and the steer is in the rear,” Cho said.

The Arizona Dragon Boat Association waived the race fee of $300 to help promote the high school division.

“We are hopeful that the division will grow with PUHSD spearheading,” Lopez said.

April 5

Dr. Dani Portillo-Verduzco will be recommended for the Carl Hayden Community High School Principal position for 2017-18 by Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson at the April 6 Governing Board Meeting.

Portillo-Verduzco, currently the Assistant Principal for Instruction at North High School, would become the first female principal in the 60-year history of the school, and the 12th principal overall. She would take over for Ricardo Cordova, who resigned earlier this year. Jose Arenas is serving as interim principal for the duration of this school year.

Portillo-Verduzco joined the District in 2015 as an administrator, following administrative positions at Isaac Elementary School District; Adams County, Colorado, and Pendergast Elementary School District. She was a principal in Adams County in 2015, and a principal and assistant principal at Pendergast Elementary School district from 2006-2015.

Portillo-Verduzco was a teacher in the Glendale Elementary District from 2000-2006, adding language acquisition trainer in 2005-06. She began her teaching career at the Creighton Elementary District from 1998-2000.

She has a Bachelor of Bilingual Education, a Master of Education and an Education Doctorate from Arizona State University. Portillo-Verduzco is a product of Phoenix Union High School District, having graduated from North High School. Her husband, Richard Verduzco, is a firefighting instructor at Franklin Police & Fire High School.

Upon Governing Board approval, Portillo-Verduzco would begin her principal duties, July 1.

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North High School
North High is calling all incoming International Baccalaureate students with Registration Rallies, Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Thursday, May 11 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Rallies, which will be held in the North Library, are for students who still need to turn in registration packets, become enrolled, and avoid getting registered in the summer or at the start of school. The IB magnet program is one of the longest and most successful programs in Arizona. For more information, call (602) 764-6500.

April 12

North High is calling all incoming International Baccalaureate students with Registration Rallies, Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Thursday, May 11 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Rallies, which will be held in the North Library, are for students who still need to turn in registration packets, become enrolled, and avoid getting registered in the summer or at the start of school. The IB magnet program is one of the longest and most successful programs in Arizona. For more information, call (602) 764-6500.

April 19

The public will have input on who the next North High principal will be. A principal candidate forum for the finalists will be held Tuesday, April 18 from 4-6 p.m. at the North Auditorium. Finalists will answer questions submitted by the audience, and those in attendance will also be able to provide written feedback to the superintendent. Students, parents, staff and community members are invited.

April 26

Vanessa Casillas will be recommended to the Governing Board, May 3, as the North High School Principal, beginning in July of 2017.

Casillas returns to the District where she went to school, and where she began her educational career. A Carl Hayden graduate, she began her career at the school in 2003 as an English teacher. Casillas is currently an assistant principal at Mesa High School, a post she has held for four years. Her first administrative assignment was as an assistant principal at Pueblo Magnet High School in the Tucson Unified School District, from 2010-2012.
Around Our Schools
North
2016-2017

Casillas was the District’s first Chicanos Por la Causa Esperanza Award winner in 2009, honoring Latino teachers who inspire students of all backgrounds, play an active role in the school, and demonstrate a true commitment to the community. Then Vanessa Valenzuela, she served as the Student Government advisor, rose to English Department Instructional Leader, and was an administrative intern in her final year at Carl Hayden.

Casillas has a B.S. in Secondary Education, and two Masters- Bilingual Multicultural Education, and Educational Leadership, all from Northern Arizona University.

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North High is calling all incoming International Baccalaureate students with a Registration Rally, Thursday, May 11 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The rally, which will be held in the North Library, is for students who still need to turn in registration packets, become enrolled, and avoid getting registered in the summer or at the start of school. The IB magnet program is one of the longest and most successful programs in Arizona. For more information, call (602) 764-6500.

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This year, North High and Cesar Chavez High School piloted a new curriculum called SEED SPOT NEXT. After years of success working with adult entrepreneurs, SEED SPOT launched the NEXT program to empower students to create change through entrepreneurship, providing curriculum, training and resources to teach entrepreneurship. The students’ objective was to create a social venture team solving a problem from topics related to home, school, local and state, or national and global.

North High School had its first ever Demo Day, April 21. Thirty venture teams from Rita Lopez’ Business 1-2 classes pitched their venture to judges. Four teams were selected to continue to pitch their venture at SEED SPOT NEXT National Demo Day on Saturday, May 6 at Camelback High School, with the winning team receiving $5000 towards their venture. North winning presenters were Ruryck Adame; Mercedes Devian, the team of Yessy Garcia, Ivan Loza Morales, and Josue Fabela Martinez and the team of Marco Bustos and Chiara Castiglione, an exchange student from Italy.

Student ventures ranged from solving domestic violence, health and environment, to academics.

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To honor the work of former North High School International Baccalaureate Director Julie Pallissard, two families of former students are offering four $500 scholarships to IB Diploma candidates this year. The school is hoping to expand the scholarship by raising more money. Every dollar raised for this fund will go directly to supporting students in the North High IB program in their efforts to attend higher learning institutions. Pallissard worked diligently to provide an exceptional education to highly motivated students in the community. Her goal was to give access to all students (first generation, underrepresented, undocumented, etc.) to a free, rigorous education to prepare them for success in college, career and life.
May 3

The North High Symphonic Band earned a “Superior” rating at the 2017 State Concert Festival, April 29. Their last “Superior” rating during the concert season was at the 2006 Area Concert Festival. The North musicians followed that up with an encore performance at school, May 2, along with special guest bands from Isaac Middle School and Pueblo del Sol.

“So proud of this group of young men and women. They were focused, intelligent, and ready to rock the house. Bravo,” Director of Bands, Orchestras and Percussion Daniel Eaton said.

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May 10

Art teacher Julie Peters was accepted into the School for Art Leaders 2017 class, sponsored by the National Art Education Association and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. The Program runs from June through January 2018 and includes a week at the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, Arkansas in July.

“Ms. Peter’s enthusiasm and commitment to personal leadership development is applauded and appreciated. There is much work to be done to advance the field of visual arts education and creative leaders who are committed to advancing art education are needed,” Deborah Reeve, Executive Director said.

Peters is a former Arizona Secondary Art Teacher of the Year, a National Board Certified Teacher and the Instructional Leader for the North Art department.

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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

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

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
Linda Abril Educational Academy

August 11, 2016

Three days before students arrive, and 16 years after the small alternative school began, the Linda Abril Educational Academy has a permanent home. A ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for its newly-constructed building was held Friday, August 5. Over 200 students showed up on the first day of classes, August 8.

Named after Phoenix Union Governing Board member Linda Abril who has served 22 years, the school was formally known as Suns-Diamondbacks Education Academy. It has helped students at risk of dropping out earn high school diplomas through credit recovery in a personalized, flexible environment. The school has graduated over 1500 students and another 500 who were able to graduate from their home schools.

The school had been housed in three different locations, but continually outgrew those locations. The new two-story building, at 3000 N. 19th Ave. adjacent to the Metro Tech campus, will accommodate up to 400 students.

Principal Rick Beck who has been with the school 14 of the 16 years joined Dr. Chad Gestson, Linda Abril and other dignitaries, staff and students, and construction partners CORE and ADM Group to celebrate the occasion.

“How a little Latina girl from the Grant Park Barrio, who didn’t finish high school, could have her name on a school that now enables others to earn their diplomas, is surreal,” Abril said. “And now, my educational struggles symbolize the hope for many, many other young people.”

Built with funds from a 2011 Construction Bond, Linda Abril is the second small school opening this school year. The Phoenix Coding Academy welcomed students, August 8.
Around Our Schools
2016-2017

August 18

Linda Abril Academy will host an event called ‘Graduation Highway,’ where Mayor Greg Stanton and others will take to the streets with Phoenix Union Student and Community Liaisons, making home visits to students who have not returned to school this year. The August 23 event comes two days after the “drop date” in which students previously enrolled are taken off the attendance rolls. Six teams of politicians, community leaders and celebrities will deploy to six school neighborhoods and targeted homes around Betty Fairfax in Laveen, Camelback, Central, Carl Hayden, Maryvale and North. The home visits have been going on for years as part of PUHSD’s Dropout Prevention program, and it has proved successful. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson will explain how the annual dropout rate has fallen from double digits 15 years ago, to 3 percent, while the graduation rate has gone from 55% in 2001 to 80% last year. A student panel will also share their educational challenges and how they overcame obstacles. Students who have fallen behind in credits have numerous opportunities to recover, including attending the Linda Abril Educational Academy, where on-line courses and six-week terms accelerate and personalize learning. The District also provides free Evening School at most campuses. Linda Abril, formerly named Suns-Diamondbacks, has graduated 2000 students who might otherwise have fallen through the cracks.

August 25

Phoenix Union and Linda Abril Educational Academy hosted an event called ‘Graduation Highway,’ where Mayor Greg Stanton and others took to the streets with Phoenix Union Student and Community Liaisons, making home visits to students who have not returned to school this year. The August 23 event came two days after the “drop date” in which students previously enrolled are taken off the attendance rolls. Six teams of politicians, community leaders and celebrities deployed to six school neighborhoods and targeted homes around Betty Fairfax in Laveen, Camelback, Central, Carl Hayden, Maryvale and North. Among the door-knockers, were City Manager Ed Zuercher, Police Chief Joseph Yahner; Fire Chief Kara Kalkbrenner, Phoenix Suns alum Steven Hunter, Phoenix Mercury’s Adrian Williams-Strong, Phoenix Mercury and City Councilwoman Laura Pastor. The home visits have been going on for years as part of PUHSD’s Dropout Prevention program, and it has proved successful. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson explained how the annual dropout rate has fallen from double digits 15 years ago, to 3.4 percent, while the graduation rate has gone from 55% in 2001 to 80% last year. Student Liaisons Norma Lopez of North and Noemi Herrera of Maryvale joined Linda Abril students Magaly Rodriguez Santillan and Saul Palanco Salazar on a panel. The students shared their educational challenges and how they overcame obstacles. Students who have fallen behind in credits have numerous opportunities to recover, including attending the Linda Abril Educational Academy, where on-line courses and six-week terms accelerate and personalize learning. The District also provides free Evening School at most campuses. Linda Abril, formerly named Suns-Diamondbacks, has graduated 2000 students who might otherwise have fallen through the cracks.
December 7

Louie Kireopoulos has won a $5,000 Fiesta Bowl Wishes for Teachers award, in partnership with College Football Playoff Foundation Extra Yard for Teachers. Over 2,400 teachers from Arizona submitted applications, and his wish was randomly selected to be granted. He wants to provide e-readers for his classroom, so that students can use the tablets to download books and magazine articles. His class incorporates Silent Sustained Reading at the school, and many of the books that pertain to business are only available via download. Kireopoulos is also invited to attend the Motel 6 Caxtus Bowl at Chase Field, December 27, where he will be honored on field with 99 fellow Wishes for Teachers recipients. The Extra Yard for Teachers program is distributing $500,000 in Fiesta Bowl Wishes to 100 Arizona teachers.

December 14

Linda Abril will hold its December graduation ceremony, Wednesday, December 21 at the Central High School Auditorium at 7 p.m. There will be 61 students graduating mid-year. The school’s namesake, Governing Board member Linda Abril will be the special guest speaker.

December 21

The first class to graduate from what is now Linda Abril Educational Academy was the largest December class ever. Sixty students received their diplomas December 21 at a ceremony at Central High School. The school, formally known as Suns-Diamondbacks Education Academy has graduated almost 2,000 students who were at risk of dropping out. The accelerated credit recovery program is now in its 16th year. This year in its new building at 3000 N. 19th Avenue, next to Metro Tech High School, the school enjoyed its largest enrollment, topping 300 students at one point. The school’s namesake, Linda Abril, a longtime governing board member, was a guest speaker at the graduation ceremony.
**September 8, 2016**

Bostrom High School opened its new Student Union, September 7, and seconds after Principal **Alvin Watson** and **Lela Alston** cut ribbon, the place was packed with students during their lunch hour. The converted vacant classroom has a pool table, ping pong table, video game console, darts, sound system, table games and more. Watson envisioned a place where students were welcome before and after school, and by invitation during lunch as part of the school’s Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS). Students painted a Bostrom Bulldog on the wall, and social worker **Carlos Luna**, who donated the pool table, replaced the felt to match the school’s color-red. Luna also sees it as a place to use during Advisory period, where students can interact with student services personnel in a relaxed atmosphere.

**March 29, 2017**

**Marquis Bundy**, a member of the Arizona Cardinals active roster and son of Bostrom Assistant Principal Lisa Bundy, visited the school, March 27 to donate $1500 to the school’s student government. Bundy began his high school career at Cesar Chavez, then transferred to Boulder Creek, and played at the Univ. of New Mexico. He started on the Cardinals practice squad last year, but was placed on the active roster for the final seven games, and suited up for one game. The 6-4, 215 lb. wide receiver remains on the roster this year, and will be participating in the team’s off-season workouts, (OTAs-organized team activities) this spring. The funds will help Bostrom STUGO pay for prom and a senior field day.

**Desiderata**

**November 18**

The staff at Desiderata hope that Friday the 13th is good luck for one of their colleagues. The entire faculty and staff wore “pink,” November 13, as a show of support for teacher **Pamela Frye**, who has been battling cancer. They took a group photograph, created a poster and delivered it to Ms. Frye, who was quite appreciative of the gesture. The idea started when one teacher decided to wear a pink shirt once a week to show his support for Frye. Principal **Manuel Calderon** took it a step further, with the idea of a team photo.

**March 2**

Members of the Desiderata faculty and staff, recently participated in Brest Cancer Climb at South Mountain, on behalf of the cause for a cure and their colleague, Pam Frye. The Desi team raised over $800.
August 31, 2016

Jamie Casap, Google’s Education Evangelist, gave a short presentation to the 9th grade students August 25. Connecting with the students’ first interdisciplinary investigation, music, Casap talked about hip hop, storytelling, and the U.S. founding fathers. He then showed a clip of Lin Manuel Miranda rapping about Alexander Hamilton at the White House. The presentation also included a “rap battle” between George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton from Miranda’s hit show, Hamilton. Music is the first investigation in working through the ninth-grade theme of Identity. Investigation 1 is: From playlist to soundtrack. Answering questions: How do I experience music? How does music exist in my universe? What does the music I like reveal about me?

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Kaitlyn Martinez, a ninth-grader at Coding Academy won best overall pitch at the Co-Hoots Youth Startup weekend, August 27-28 at the Co+Hoots Midtown Co-working Space in Phoenix. She and other Coding Academy students participated at the event. Students pitch ideas to industry professionals, get feedback and gain confidence. Martinez and her group were able to earn the best overall project by using MIT Scratch in an innovative way to pitch their idea to industry professionals. They designed an app called “Munchie Mobiles” for food truck vendors to advertise their locations as well as for their customers to receive notifications on the food truck stops. Martinez and her team members each received a $250 grant and trophy for their award.

November 16

Twelve students from the Phoenix Coding Academy participated in CodeDay Phoenix, November 12-13 in Chandler and there were two winners from the new school. Adrian Dragos won Best Website Design and a team of students won Best Game: JJ Holderman, Morgan Whitworth, Steven Diederich, and Daniel Prather.

Additional PCA students who participated were Kaitlyn Martinez, Harrison Kerkhoff, Elizabeth Dill, Cesar Jimenez, Steaphean Williams, Edgar Armenta, Manny Rendon.

CodeDay Phoenix was one of 38 24-hour events nationwide, held simultaneously. CodeDay sparks an interest in computer science by showing high school and college students how creative and empowering coding can be. The students worked in teams to plan, research, design, and code either an app or computer game using any software or programming language.

December 14

Phoenix Coding Academy celebrated Computer Science Education Week by inviting parents to join their students and the teachers for an Hour of Code on Friday, Dec. 9. Many other teachers and schools around the district also participate in an Hour of Code. Phoenix Union is the only high school district in Arizona with a formal partnership with Code.org.
Phoenix Coding Academy will hold an Open House, Thursday, January 26, from 5-7 p.m. for prospective students and their parents. The event is for current 8th and 9th graders interested in coding and technology. The innovative small school opened this year to 9th graders, and will grow by one class each year, with a capacity of 400 students in four years. Attendees can tour the school, meet the teachers and learn more about the application and enrollment process. For more information, call 602 764-5700. For an application for the 2017-18 school year, go to www.phoenixunion.org/coding

February 7

It is recruiting season, and the Phoenix Coding Academy held its second ‘Girls’ Night Out,’ to introduce girls to the educational and career opportunities in coding and technology, February 7. The girls and parents engaged in computer games, wrote code, participated in science activities, met the school staff and applied for the unique small school, which opened last fall. The Phoenix Coding Academy will be enrolling 9th and 10th graders for its second school year, 2017-18.

April 5

Not only is the Phoenix Coding Academy the first LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Certified School in the District, but according to state fire marshal Brad Bulgrin, the new school received the first-ever perfect fire inspection in PUHSD.

“He didn’t even have any suggestions for improvements. Another school (in the District) received an inspection with no violations but did include suggestions for improvements. The fire marshal was excited and gave everyone high fives on his way out from our inspection,” Principal Seth Beute said.

April 19

Mignon L. Clyburn of the Federal Communications Commission visited the Phoenix Coding Academy, April 18. She was in town for a digital broadband conference. She was interested in seeing a public school that offered STEM programming, that provided opportunities for minorities and women and she wanted to see how e-rate funding is supporting low income students. E-rate is a program provides discounts to assist schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access, administered by the FCC. Clyburn also wanted to see a school with a unique approach to education, and “this school checked all the boxes,” she said. Her chief of staff said they learned about the Coding Academy from a Google search, and the commissioner tries to see schools, libraries and other government facilities whenever she travels. Principal Seth Beute, Innovation and Technology Executive Director Thea Andrade and IT Director Amy Remfrey toured with Clyburn. Clyburn has served on the FCC since 2009.

April 26

The U.S. Green Building Council of Arizona is touring the Phoenix Coding Academy, a LEED Gold-certified school, April 27. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Design. Coding
Academy is the first LEED-certified school in Phoenix Union, which opened this school year. Visitors will learn how architects and engineers developed solutions for energy management, energy and water efficiency, and indoor air quality to achieve LEED Gold certification. Features such as a real-time sustainability kiosk were implemented to invite personnel to interact and analyze the sustainability practices of the building.

May 3

Phoenix Coding Academy was selected as the winner of the 2017 Arizona Leader Award for Green Schools by the U.S. Green Building Council. Opened this year, Coding Academy is the District’s first LEED Gold-certified school. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Design.

"In a year with many qualified candidates, the judges were impressed with the project’s combination of sustainability and curriculum objectives, and felt it was a great fit for the Green Schools award,” Cindy Zork, USGBC Manager, Community Advancement said.

U.S. Green Building Council. PUHSD’s Jared Reynolds was on hand to accept the award with ADM lead architect Jennifer Weskalnies.

In addition, the Green Schools Committee chose the Phoenix Coding Academy for the Green Schools Earth Week Tour to showcase a local educational project that exemplifies the reduction of environmental impact, enhances of occupant health and well-being and provides education to a generation of sustainability natives. The April 27 tour was attended by design professionals and educational leaders from around the state and was led by project architect Jennifer Weskalnies and Principal Seth Beute. Assisting with the tour were teachers Susana Masamery and Gina Vullo and four Coding Academy students with discussion about the details of sustainability, efforts in design, construction and education at the school.

May 24

Kaitlyn Martinez was appointed to the Phoenix Youth and Education Commission, officially beginning her term on May 31. She thanked counselor Maria Enrique who helped her with the application.
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 2016-2017
August 11, 2016

South Mountain High School is experiencing record freshman enrollment this year. The school welcomed 548 new Jaguars on the first day of school, August 8, with many more continuing to enroll. This was an increase of over 180 students from a year ago.

“Students, parents and staff are thrilled about the brand new Freshman Houses beginning this year, and the upcoming "Academies at South Mountain,” said Assistant Principal Nick Oviedo.

South Mountain High School is introducing four schools-within-a-school focusing on Sciences & Technology, Public & Social Services, Technical Engineering and Arts & Design, while incorporating its five magnet programs and adding more Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

Spanish teacher Dr. Angela Palacios was featured on the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics social media last month.

A video that included South Mountain students and colleagues acknowledging her doctoral degree caught the attention of the organization.

Palacios has spent 10 years teaching Spanish with Phoenix Union High School District, where she began her teaching career at Cesar Chavez High School. Palacios was recently selected to participate in the year three pilot of the Teacher Leadership Initiative (TLI), a joint endeavor of the National Education Association (NEA), the Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ), and The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (National Board). She also participates as part of the President’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative which convenes leaders and stakeholders from around the country to work together to form integrated strategies to help every young person find their way to class every day.

Palacios most recently completed her Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration also from Arizona State University where she conducted a study highlighting the challenges of five DREAMers and strategies they used to overcome those challenges. As the daughter of immigrants, Palacios is aware of the sacrifices and contributions of immigrants. She can also relate very well to challenges of obtaining a higher education on many levels.

“I made it against all odds. I am now part of the 1% of the world with a doctorate degree. I am part of the .5% because I am Mexican, a woman, and also a single mom. In addition, I am proud to be part of the 8% of Latina teachers that many articles talk about.”

South Mountain took home two School of the Year awards from the Opening of Schools Convocation, August 2 at the Celebrity Theatre- one for Athletics and one for Marketing. The Jaguars won two team state championships in one month. In February, the Boys Soccer Team won the first AIA soccer title ever for a Phoenix Union team…and two weeks later, the Girls Basketball team upset the top-ranked team to claim the championship, its second girls’ basketball title in eight years. If you count the Girls Track and Field title in the Spring of 2015, the Jaguars
South Mountain High School

August 31

South Mountain’s Multimedia Communications magnet was once again nominated for Student Production Emmy Awards. This year the program earned six nominations, the most ever. The nominations are:

High School Student – Newscast:
Jaguar News Holiday Edition; Merce Mijares, Florence Kivalu, Christian Guzman, Justin Crenshaw, Amanda Salameh

High School Student Arts and Entertainment/Cultural Affairs:
‘Gender Fluency at School’ - Christian Guzman

High School Student Sports:
‘Fall Sports and Step Team’- Florence Kivalu; SMHS Girls Basketball- Merce Mijares

High School Commercial:
‘Support My Club’- Christian Guzman

High School Student Craft Editor: Editing By Amanda Salameh

High School Student Production Craft Video Essay (single camera only):
‘Females in Aerospace’- Amanda Salameh

For the first time ever, South Mountain has made the “Best of the High School Press” book, published by the National Scholastic Press Association. Instructor Heather Jancoski said the school made the book because of a NSPA Pacemaker award won last year by Jaguar News, the magnet’s television production.

South Mountain held its Teen Court swearing in ceremony for 33 students, September 1 in the Law magnet courtroom. Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Lisa VandenBerg will preside, while Juvenile Probation Officer Mike Garcia, and Pamela Neal from Safe Schools, LLC will be in attendance. Students were encouraged to invite the family members to witness this culmination of their training.

The students are in Law Magnet teacher Andrea Sargent-Bartlett’s sophomore Trial Procedures class, and they have been training for their first cases, practicing the different roles, and writing opening and closing statements. The students take on the duty of judge, bailiff, clerk, attorneys (three defenders, three prosecutors), victim advocate and jury, trying real juvenile misdemeanors.
Each month, probation officer Garcia brings cases to a court of peers that determines penalties ranging from educational programs to community service and restitution. The cases involve children from ages 8-18 involved in infractions such as shoplifting, trespassing, theft or assault. Sargent says these teen offenders come to Teen Court, instead of the courts system, and can have the misdemeanor wiped from their record.

September 21

Dance Teacher Kristen Mast is participating in a collaborative initiative called “Take Your Legislator to School.” She will be hosting Senator Catherine Miranda on September 26. Miranda represents the district that includes South Mountain High School, is an educator, and her late husband, Ben Miranda, served on the Phoenix Union Governing Board. The initiative is inviting all 90 state legislators into the classroom of some of Arizona’s finest teachers during the month of September. The goals of the program are that: Legislators will experience a positive but realistic day in one of their public schools, and will build a personal and respectful relationship with their teacher so that when an education bill is being considered in the future, they might call that teacher for advice and direction. Senator Miranda’s visit will include a school tour and meeting various staff and faculty members, observe a classroom lesson and provide a civics lesson to students. She will also have a school lunch with Superintendent Chad Gestson, Board member Stanford Prescott, Principal Brian Guliford and Mast.

October 19

South Mountain’s Multimedia Communications magnet won four Rocky Mountain Emmy Student Production Awards at the Awards Gala, October 6 Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale. Two other nominations were recognized. The winners were:

High School Student – Newscast: Jaguar News Holiday Edition; Merce Mijares, Florence Kivalu, Christian Guzman, Justin Crenshaw, Amanda Salameh

High School Student Sports: ‘Fall Sports and Step Team’ - Florence Kivalu

High School Student Craft Editor: Editing By Amanda Salameh

High School Student Production Craft Video Essay (single camera only): ‘Females in Aerospace’ - Amanda Salameh
October 26

The South Mountain High School Drama Magnet Class performed at the BET-C (Behavior Education Technology Conference) in Phoenix, on October 25. The BET-C is a National Conference for Educators on new and progressive ways to promote student success. The students showcased the play, "Slut: A New Play about a Destructive Word" written by Katie Cappiello and directed by Bronwyn Lyons, South’s drama teacher. The session featured the performance followed by a question and answer session facilitated by South’s Social Worker Deborah Lindley.

“The students helped conference attendees see theater as a conversation starter, an instrument for school culture change, and a prevention tool. Conference attendees complimented the students on their amazing performance, the bravery of tackling such difficult subject matter, and asked how they could request a performance in the future,” Lyons said.

November 2

South Mountain won the Boys Phoenix Union Cross Country Championship, October 20 at Central High School. Sophomore Gustavo Arias Ramos was the top Jaguar finisher in 3rd place, but the Jags had a 5th Bryan Aceves; 10th Jesus Samaniego, 11th Alberto Gonzalez and 12th place Alex Guillen. South’s 37 points topped Carl Hayden’s 63, and North had 90 points.

The Jaguars followed with a first place showing at the Division II Section 3 race, October 28 at Cesar Chavez Park, easily qualifying for state with five runners among the top 17, paced by Ramos (3rd) and Aceves (4th) again. The State meet is at Cave Creek Golf course, November 5.

Last year, South finished 4th in the 34-team State Championships in Division II, with most of the same runners.

November 9

South Mountain placed 4th in the Boys Division II Cross Country Championship for the second year in a row, paced by sophomore Gustavo Arias Ramos, who was 5th overall. The 5,000 meter race was held November 5 at the Cave Creek Golf Course in Phoenix. Byran Aceves placed 20th. Jesus Samaniego was 39th for the Jags in the 228-runner field.

December 7

Members of the South Mountain Multimedia program made the front cover of this month’s School Video News, an online e-magazine for K-12 TV/video production.

December 14

The Step Team is selling Phoenix Suns vs. Chicago Bulls Basketball tickets for the February 10 game as a fundraiser, and the “Ice Cold Souljas will be performing during pre-game. The tickets are $41 per person for upper level seating. Attendees can get early entry into the arena to see team warm-ups, and a free Suns group gift. If you show your ticket, you also get free light rail to and from the Talking Stick Resort Arena. The tip-off is 8:30 p.m. that night. For more information, contact Safiyyah Johnson at South Mountain High School: sjohnson2@phoenixunion.org
January 11, 2017

South Mountain High School will host an NAACP “Meet the Chief,” community event for new Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams and other officers, Saturday, January 14, from 10 a.m. to noon. It will be held at the Jag Café, which is the name of the new school cafeteria. The public is invited to attend for an opportunity to ask questions and discuss mutual goals for enhancing community and law enforcement relations.

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South Mountain High School is calling it Academies Saturday, when the school will show off its Academies at South concept to incoming freshmen and their parents, Saturday, February 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The academies are schools-within-a-school that will provide students with different academic and career paths, anchored by the school’s magnet programs—Law, Aerospace and Aviation, Multimedia communications, Performing and Visual Arts, as well as Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to meet the career opportunities of the future. For more information on Academies Saturday, call 602 764-5000.

January 18

School Newspapers Online, which hosts over 2000 high school publications, recently honored South Mountain High School junior Maria Landa for her story titled “Band teacher experiences the life of a Marine.” The feature article chronicled music teacher Stuart Bailey’s week long boot camp training at the Recruit Depot in San Diego. Landa has been a reporter on the Southwinds newspaper staff for two years.

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January 25

Andres Avelar is the first South Mountain wrestler to win the Bourgade Last Chance Wrestling Tournament in over a decade. The 106-pound freshman improved his record to 35-4 and was voted Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament. His championship run included wins over wrestlers from San Carlos, Perry, Mountain Pointe, and ultimately, Show Low in the finals.

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South Mountain High School will hold “Academies Saturday,” February 11 to present its instructional programs, extracurricular activities and plans for re-designing the school into The Academies at South Mountain. All interested future Jaguars and families are invited to the campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact the school at 602 764-5000.
February 7

South Mountain High School will hold “Academies Saturday,” February 11 to present its instructional programs, extracurricular activities and plans for re-designing the school into The Academies at South Mountain. As a special feature, South Mountain is hosting the Roosevelt School District Basketball tournament that day, as well. All interested future Jaguars and families are invited to the campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact the school at 602-764-5000.

February 15

South Mountain’s Andres Avelar placed second in the 5A State Wrestling Championships, February 11 at Prescott Valley. The 106-pounder advanced to the championship match, before losing to an opponent from Deer Valley. Avelar finished with a 47-6 mark this year.

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South’s step team, the “Ice Cold Souljahs” performed at the Phoenix Suns-Chicago Bulls game February 10. The students received compliments before and after their performance on their awesome costumes and their behavior.

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Six months of South Mountain Art magnet student visual arts and reflective writings were showcased and celebrated during a reception, February 10 at the Fletcher Library on the campus of ASU West. One hundred-eighty South Mountain art students, teachers and professional artists were in attendance. The community collaboration was developed by the Cultural Arts Coalition. Eight of the students had their stories recorded for an upcoming documentary on this partnership. Art teachers Jeff Kunes and Erik Erspamer organized the student projects and the trip to the exhibit.

February 22

The PUHSD JROTC Brigade conducted its annual Cadet Brigade Drill Championships hosted by the Carl Hayden JROTC at Carl Hayden High School, February 11. All 11 of the PUHSD JROTC programs plus Skyline JROTC participated. The overall Grand Champion was South Mountain JROTC. South Mountain also won the Overall Unarmed Sweepstakes, winning three unarmed events, and the Overall Armed Sweepstakes, winning three armed events

March 8

Fifteen JROTC cadets began their South Mountain Army JROTC Continuous Improvement Project (CIP) at the Heard Pueblo Boy Scout Camp in the South Mountains to assist the Camp Ranger in repairing, cleaning and improving his facilities, March 6. They helped to repair a part of the archery wall; brush removal; moved several items to include a "Whale Walk" board, and repaired numerous trails and pathways damaged by recent rains.
March 22

The Southern Poverty Law Center’s Teaching Tolerance program has named South Mountain High School as a “Mix It Up” Model School for its exemplary efforts to foster respect and understanding among its students and throughout its campus during the 2016-17 school year.

South Mountain High School is among 76 schools to receive the honor, and it is the third year they have been recognized.

“We commend South Mountain High School for finding innovative ways to create environments where respect and inclusiveness are core values,” said Teaching Tolerance Director Maureen Costello. “Though Model Schools vary in size and demographics, they all serve as great examples of how a school—any school—can cultivate these values among their students, faculty and staff.”

The Mix It Up Model Schools met five criteria: They each hosted a Mix it Up at Lunch Day during the 2016-17 school year; they included different members of the school’s community—cafeteria staff, aides, administrators, teachers and students—in organizing the event; they followed up with at least two additional Mix It Up-related programs or events on campus; they publicized Mix It Up at Lunch Day or celebrated inclusiveness with posters, announcements and other media; and their event was seen by students and school officials as a success.

Mix It Up at Lunch Day is a simple call to action. By asking students to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch, the event encourages students to identify, question and cross social boundaries. Many schools plan activities for the entire day, and some use the event to kick off yearlong explorations of social divisions.

April 5

The South Mountain JROTC Jaguar Battalion and South Mountain HS hosted the 31st annual Gallegos Drill Meet, April 1. Eighteen Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps JROTC programs from all over Arizona participated. The South Cadets planned, organized and executed the drill meet with assistance from student government and National Honors Society. The overall winner was Thunderbird Navy JROTC and Trevor Browne’s Army JROTC took 6th place overall for the best District school showing.

April 12

South Mountain Spanish teacher Dr. Angela Palacios participated in a contest and was selected to attend the Recommit to Kids: the Summit for America's Future in New York, April 18. Presented by America’s Promise Alliance, founded by Colin Powell, the summit will honor progress that has been made in delivering the Five Promises, and salute the champions who have been at the forefront of seeing that underserved children are a priority. The Five Promises are Caring Adults, Safe Places, A Healthy Start, Effective Education, and Opportunities to Help Others. Five past presidents will be honorary co-hosts, as well as Soledad O’Brien, and filmmaker and immigration activist Jose Antonio Vargas.
April 19

Every year, South Mountain’s Law Magnet competes in a number of regional, state and national competitions. The competitions run year round in terms of preparation and qualifying events and conclude typically in March/April.

Moot Court is a competition that all students enrolled in Matthew Smith’s Government and the Law classes, where two opposing attorneys argue about what the law should be regarding a Constitutional question. They must use previous decisions made by actual courts. The local competition, held in November is used to choose the competitors who will represent South Mountain and ASU Law School in the Marshall-Brennan National Competition. Over 500 urban 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. This year’s National Competition was held in late March at Suffolk Law School in Boston Massachusetts.

Five students, Alexis Rosales, Andrea Gomez, Michael Kulitea, A’Lira Underwood and Mariah Quintero competed nationally. South Mountain continued its streak of advancing to the National semi-finals for the ninth year, the only high school in the country to have a competitor in every semi-final in the program’s history. This year South was the only high school to have three competitors advance to the semis, with Underwood, Kulitea and Quintero advancing. Quintero advanced to the finals and finished as the National Runner-Up. She is the fourth South Mountain student to advance to the finals in our history.

South Mountain has been partnered with ASU’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law over the past nine years – one of the most successful partnerships in the country. This year, eight Marshall-Brennan Fellows from ASU worked with South Mountain’s students. In addition, the program has been coordinated the past two years by Marshall Brennan Fellow Casey Clowes. In addition, ASU Assistant Dean Ray English provided administrative support for this program as he works to build a mentor program called High School Inns of Court, which will provide more Moot Court opportunities for South in the future, according to Law Magnet program manager Matthew Smith.

South Mountain's Moot Court Program has produced two National Champions- Eugenia Anane-Wae in 2014 and Ambra Jordan in 2009.

Mock Trial is a program where students play the roles of attorneys and witnesses in representing both sides of a hypothetical case.

This year, South Mountain sent three teams to the two Maricopa County regionals, the most difficult region in the state. Team Purple consisting of Mariah Quintero, Alexis Rosales, A’Lira Underwood, Gabriel Montes, Miranda Robles, Michael Kulitea and timekeeper Christina Juarez proved to be one of the best teams in the state. They went 3-1, defeating a state qualifier Xavier team and losing a heartbreaker to the Academy of the Arts team that ultimately finished as State Runner-Up. Team Purple lost out on final round of qualifying for a state tournament bid on a tiebreaker. Gabriel Montes was named to the All Region Team.
The mock trial students represent the plaintiff in some rounds and the defendant in other rounds. In every competition phase, the students presented an opening statement, examine three witnesses (portrayed by their teammates), cross-examine the other team’s witnesses and present a closing argument. Each student plays the role of an attorney on one side of the case and a witness on the other. Each round is presented in front of a real judge who rules on objections and court matters. The jury is a panel of three practicing attorneys or judges. The team that captures the best of three judges scoring wins the round.

The South Mountain Mock Trial teams are coached by Matthew Smith and Andrea Bartlett-Sargent from the Law Magnet. In addition, attorney Jason Gellman and Commissioner Lisa VandenBerg provide legal advice, coaching and support to the South Mountain teams.

April 26

South Mountain is joining Cesar Chavez for the South Phoenix High Schools Senior Portfolio Night at the Talking Stick Resort Arena, May 3 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Chavez has held this event the past 12 years, and for the first time, South Mountain High School will join Chavez the event. All seniors will exhibit their best work from their high school career in the areas of academics, extracurricular activities, and community service. Admission is free. Susan Soto, who spearheaded Portfolio Night at Cesar Chavez, moved to South Mountain this year and brought the Jaguars on board. She is expecting 10,000 attendees for the event.

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Social Studies teacher Charlie Diaz has been invited to his second National Institute for the Humanities Summer Institute in three years. There are only 25 teachers selected from a nationwide pool of applicants. Diaz will spend four weeks in Chicago learning about the Gilded Age and Progressive Era.

May 3

South Mountain will play a role in the 12th Annual Kids at Hope Masters Institute taking place May 1-5 in Phoenix. Besides the administrative team and some teachers attending the institute, south will play host to over 150 attendees from around the state and nation for a site visit. The visitors will visit Angelee Bilbao’s English class, the south gym and the Jag Café (cafeteria) for a closure panel, and entertainment by the school’s step team.

Kids at Hope is a Phoenix-based organization that provides professional development to individuals and organizations in 18 states and Canada in the fields of youth development, education, law enforcement, juvenile justice, child welfare and health. The Annual Youth Development Master’s Institute co-sponsored by Arizona State University’s School of Social and Family Dynamics.
May 10

Fourteen of South Mountain’s Visual Arts Magnet students completed the Visions program at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA). SMoCA’s Visions program brings together approximately 40 high school art students from diverse Phoenix metropolitan-area schools for a year-long series of activities with local and national artists, designed to cultivate artistic skills, collaboration and civic engagement. The program was founded in 1999 and is based on a strong community partnership between the Museum and participating schools, which represent economically, ethnically and culturally diverse communities.

The following students on successfully completing the Visions 2017 Teen Art program at SMoCA:

Photography: Alexis Moreno; Jessica Almanza; Erick Arteaga; Brianna Belnavis; Maria Pozos; Ayoneceli Rodriguez; Victoria Valdez. 3D Design and Sculpture: Andriana Jordon; Selene Corrales Portillo; Jackie Manson; Sarah Cordova; Viviana Flores; Kathya Garcia; Jennifer Gomez Garcia.

Ayoneceli Rodriguez and Selene Corrales Portillo earned the SMoCA’s Awards for Excellence in Photography and Sculpture. Each received $150 gift certificate at Arizona Art Supply.

The Visions ’17 Student Exhibition at the Young@Art Gallery at SMoCA is on display from May 2 to September 17.

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South Mountain High School’s Jaguar News was recognized in the National School Press Association’s Best of the High School Press Yearbook for the second year in a row. Jaguar News was mentioned under Broadcast News for a television story that Christian Guzman did last school year on gender equality.

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The South Mountain Girls were the 4 x 100 meter champions in the Division II State Track and Field Championships, May 6 at Mesa Community College, with a 48.19 time. Other Jaguars placing included Robert Williams, 4th in the 200 meters and 5th in the 400 meters; Autumn Boyd had a 4th place in the 100 meters, and a 5th in the 200 meters. Alaijah Huckaby was 8th in the 200 meters. The South girls also had an 8th place finish in the 4 x 400 relay.

The South Girls finished ninth in the team standings, tied with PUHSD rival, Betty Fairfax. There were 33 teams that scored in the meet.
The South Mountain step team did it again, winning another national competition. The squad, known as the Ice Cold Souljah’s, placed 1st, May 6, at the National Step Up or Step Aside show in Corona, California. It is the step team’s fourth national title.

There are 24 members, seven of whom are graduating seniors-- Isaiah Pitts, Jazmin Rodriguez, Ricardo Perez, Montell Lewis, Jasmin Duran, Keylondrian Allen and Teviyah Goodwyn Walker. The step team started at South Mountain in August, 2007 under the direction of head coach Marvlyn Jones, community liaison and assistant coach Denesha Hardson, student liaison. Safiyyah Johnson, an ESS teacher, is the sponsor.

May 24

South’s Multi-media instructor Heather Jancoski won the Arizona Interscholastic Press Association’s Freeman Hover Award, May 20. The award is for Excellence in Journalism for advisers with less than five years’ experience.
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 2016-2017
August 11, 2016

This year at the Opening of Schools Convocation, two Students of the Year were honored. The male student was Octavio Orozco Ibarra. As a senior last year, he brought in millions in scholarship offers, including a Questbridge Scholar and the Gates Millennium Scholarship. He was accepted at 10 prestigious universities. He had a 4.5 GPA, was Student Government President, in the marching band, Hip Hop squad, Honors societies, and logged over 300 hours of community service with several clubs and organizations, including educating high school students about college preparation, voting, politics and leadership. Ibarra is going all the way to the state of Maine, to attend Bowdoin College, to study engineering. He already has his sights on graduate school at Stanford or Columbia.

August 31

A student and staff are being recognized at the September Governing Board meeting for responding to a medical emergency. On Monday, August 22, a student, in class, passed out in his chair. The teacher put him on the ground, and one of the students, Yesenia Delgado, came to him, and said she knew CPR and started prompting the teacher on what to do. She took the student’s pulse, and checked for breathing, “She did all the right things,” said her teacher. Quick to the scene was security personnel Sabrina Cabrera, who was supportive and calming for the teacher and other students. Trevor Browne Athletic Trainer Jennifer Waltrip performed “rescue breaths” on the student, who was in “respiratory distress.” New assistant principal Martin Diaz called 911. The student was revived, and taken to the hospital by paramedics. He is okay.

Her teacher said of the senior, “It was amazing. She’s the quietest, most unassuming kid ever, but it was a cool reminder of what’s possible.”

Delgado wants to go to college, and eventually become a pediatrician.

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Former Trevor Browne Principal Dr. Gabriel Trujillo is leaving Phoenix Union to become Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at Tucson Unified School District. Trujillo was the principal for seven years at Trevor Browne, and an assistant principal for three years prior. He was named a Director of Talent this summer. During his tenure at Browne, he was named a PUHSD Administrator of the Year, a Rodel Exemplary Principal Finalist and served as the Administrators’ Association president.

September 15

Trevor Browne will host a naturalization ceremony, Monday, September 19, as 140 new U.S. citizens take the Oath of Allegiance to America, administered by a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer. It is the second year Phoenix Union has held a naturalization ceremony at a school, in conjunction with the District’s Civics Week. Joining the new citizens will be family and community members, 350 Trevor Browne U.S. History students, and social studies students from other campuses. Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson will be the keynote speaker. The event, which begins at 11 a.m. in the auditorium, is the flagship event for the Phoenix USCIS office this year.
The naturalization ceremony coincides with National Citizenship Week, and Constitution Day, September 17. In keeping with the civics theme, Phoenix Union will also celebrate Voter Registration Day, with a District-wide registration day, Tuesday, September 27 for eligible students to register, before the October 10 deadline for the general election. It is believed to be the largest school voter registration event in the country.

Exceptional Student teacher Patricia Carillo was selected as an Arizona Cardinals MVP in the Classroom, presented by the University of Phoenix for the Cardinals-New England game, September 11, and received tickets, parking, pre-game sideline passes, a Cardinals jersey and a $500 gift card. Her selection was based on nominations the Cardinals received.

"Patricia treats her students like family, and has literally celebrated Thanksgiving with her students to give them a reason to come to school. I couldn't think of anyone else winning this award."

Another Trevor Browne teacher, Jenita Harris is a Cardinals MVP in the Classroom for the September 18 game with Tampa Bay. This is Harris’s 24th year teaching English in the Phoenix Union High School District, and her 12th year at Trevor G. Browne. Her former student, senior, Andrea Gonzalez, said, “I nominated Ms. Harris because she has helped me when I needed help. Some problems were personal, others were of school (and I still felt comfortable telling her). I’ve had her as a teacher for two years, and although I don’t have her as my English teacher this year, I feel as if she’s still my teacher.”

In addition to teaching English and AVID, Ms. Harris revitalized the African American Club and served as its sponsor for many years. Ms. Harris remains a challenging force in her classroom, never settling for less from her students. She is interactive, engaged, and maintains a sense of humor with her students.

Nominations for Cardinals MVP’s in the Classroom can be made at the following link through December 1.

September 21

Trevor Browne High School hosted the largest Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Naturalization Ceremony in Arizona, as 132 citizenship candidates from 33 countries became U.S. citizens this morning. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Phoenix Director John M. Ramirez administered the Oath of Allegiance. The full auditorium included family members, 18 classes and over 500 Trevor Browne students. Principal Tony Camp gave opening remarks, and Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson gave the keynote address. The TGB Color Guard presented the colors, Efrain Parra performed the National Anthem on his saxophone, and Student Body President Kevin Rios led the Pledge of Allegiance with the new citizens.

The ceremony was one of 240 across the country during this annual celebration, for 38,000 new citizens. Many of the ceremonies take place at museums, libraries and national parks, commemorating Constitution Day, when the document was signed, September 17, 1787.

This is the second year in a row that Social Studies Curriculum Specialist Katie Hansen-Parod has arranged a PUHSD school to host the ceremony, as a culmination of the District’s Civics Week. The event has grown exponentially, as last year at Camelback, 14 new citizens took the Oath.

September 28

Trevor Browne’s JORTC Rifle teams did well at the Cesar Chavez High School 9th Annual Carver Mountain Air Rifle Tournament, September 23-24. One of the Trevor Browne teams finished second, and another was 5th in the 12-team competition. Cadet Angel Nunez also set a new tournament record with an almost-perfect score of 99 in the prone shooting position. Fifty-four cadets participated in the tournament from Army, Navy, and Air Force JROTC programs.

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Choir Director Nick Halonen is an Arizona Cardinal MVP in the Classroom, presented by the University of Phoenix. He will be a special guest at the Cardinals-Rams game, October 2, receive sideline passes and recognition, a Cardinals jersey and a $500 gift card. He was nominated by TGB Choir President Pilar Ribera.

October 5

The State JROTC 2016 Adventure Team competition is at the half-way mark and Trevor Browne is in the lead. The two-part competition includes a Physical Fitness Challenge and a Wilderness Adventure Challenge. Thirteen schools from around the state year competed in land navigation, leadership reaction course, one-rope Bridge, fitness challenge and recovery operations events at Camp Raymond, Flagstaff, and October 1. Chasing the Bruins are North in second place and Flowing Wells in third place.

The Phase Two Fitness Challenge, consisting of push-ups, sit-ups, sprint relay, pull-ups and the canal run will be held at Maryvale, October 22.

Trevor Browne has won six State Adventure team titles in the previous seven years, and the Bruins are in position to take another title this year.

Trevor Browne High School

October 12
The Girls Volleyball team is battling for the Metro Region title with North again this season, with the Bruins leading the region by virtue of a win against North, October 4. Both teams are 4-1 in league play, and are off during fall break, October 10-14. The two teams meet again, October 20 in a match that could decide the Metro Champion. TGB is 8-5 overall, while North is 8-4. Trevor Browne’s only region loss was to Cesar Chavez, a team it must play in the regular season finale, October 25.

October 19
The Trevor Browne National Honors Society club volunteered at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, October 9. NHS sponsor Carol Kost said the students had to be downtown at five o’clock in the morning.

October 26
Trevor Browne won the State Army Junior ROTC Adventure Team competition, October 22 for the eighth time in ten years.

The Rattlers team won three of five events in Phase II of the Physical Fitness Challenge at Maryvale High School, placing first in push-ups, relay and canal run. They also finished 2nd in pull-ups and sit-ups. Browne beat Flowing Wells, North was third followed by Maryvale, Alhambra and South Mountain.

Thirteen teams took part, including non-district schools Flowing Wells and Marcos de Niza. Each team is allowed 14 Cadets on a team, but only 10, at least two females and eight males can compete in each event.

Browne had come into the second phase in first place, following the Wilderness Adventure Challenge in Flagstaff, October 1. Those five events were land navigation, leadership reaction course, one-rope Bridge, fitness challenge and recovery operations.

Among TGB’s highlights: Bulmaro Pasaye had 23 pull-ups, the most of any competitor, and Michael Santana had the most sit-ups, 59 in 60 seconds. He also had 84 push-ups in two minutes to lead his team, but Roger Granillo (81) and Vanessa Ramirez (80) were close behind.

Carl Hayden’s Ely Valentin had a high of 92 push-ups, Maryvale’s Juan Alva had 90.

The Trevor Browne Adventure team is coached by Sergeant First Class Tommie Harden.
Around Our Schools
Trevor Browne
2016-2017

The Trevor Browne Chess team wrapped up the Arizona Regional Chess Team and Individual Competitions held at Cesar Chavez and Glendale High Schools, respectively. The Bruins are ranked 3rd in Region 2 among 18 schools. Four members of the TGB Chess varsity team earned individual medals for placing in the Top 20, as well. They are Annette Fortineaux (First Board), Hoang Nguyen (2nd Board), Ramon Zozaya (3rd Board), and Jeben Morales (5th Board). Fortineaux is ranked Number Two in Region 2 and is currently the Top Chess Player of Phoenix Union High School District. Zozaya who is 13th in the Region also won “Most Improved Junior Award” while Jeben Morales, 11th in the Region, won the “Best 5th Board Award” going undefeated during the entire season. Nguyen, on 2nd Board, finished 18th in the Region.

The Arizona Chess State Team Championships to be held November 4-5 in Flagstaff, and three Trevor Browne varsity players will compete in the State Individual Championships at Brophy College Preparatory on November 18-19.

November 2

Trevor Browne had the top two golfers and the Bruins won the Phoenix Union Boys Golf Championship, October 25 at the Continental Golf Course in Scottsdale. Ivan Valencia was the individual champion, and Adrian Gallegos placed second.

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Trevor Browne’s Girls Cross Country team qualified for the Division I State Championships, thanks to a fourth place finish in the Section III race, October 28 at Cesar Chavez Park. Maritza Ordonez paced the Bruins with a 5th place individual finish. The State Championships are November 5 at Cave Creek Golf course.

November 9

The MeChA Club, Spanish classes, the Spanish Club and Trevor Browne Folklorico collaborated to celebrate El Dia de los Muertos- the Day of the Dead, November 2. Although recognized throughout Latin America, Dia de los Muertos is most strongly associated with Mexico, where the tradition originated. The students created a wax museum, dressing as celebrities that have passed away. There were displays of altars, skeletons, hand sculptures, Coloring calcoas, face painting, Alfeñiques (candy skulls) and Pan de muerto.

Dia de los Muertos celebrates the lives of the deceased with food and activities the dead enjoyed in life. It recognizes death as a natural part of the human experience, a continuum with birth, childhood, and growing up to become a contributing member of the community. On Dia de los Muertos, the dead are also a part of the community, awakened from their eternal sleep to share celebrations with their loved ones.

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Horacio Martinez is a contestant and finalist in a television show called Tengo Talento Mucho Talento. The show airs on EstrellaTV. His mother says he has been singing since he was four and started playing guitar at 10.

Trevor Browne High School
Around Our Schools
Trevor Browne
2016-2017

November 16
Trevor Browne’s JROTC took the championship sweepstakes award at the Second Annual Latino Veteran’s JROTC Competition held at the American Legion Post #41 November 12. The competition consisted of Armed and Unarmed Exhibition Drill, a Physical Fitness Event and a written civics test. Along with the 1st place sweepstakes trophy, TGB JROTC received a $1,500 donation prize. Second place and a $1,000 donation prize went to South Mountain JROTC and Central JROTC took third with a $500 donation prize.

November 23
Former Trevor Browne student Alejandro Ramirez (Class of 2011) is a graduate student at the University of California-Berkeley. His research is about how the immune system responds to the zika virus. He got a special mention in a paper published in Cell and Host Microbe and he is the third author on a paper that will be published soon.

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Karina Martinez, a 2016 Trevor Browne graduate, finished a memorable first collegiate soccer season at Paradise Valley Community College. PVCC was undefeated, and won the Junior College National Championship with a 3-1 victory over Tyler College, Texas, November 19 at Eckerd College in Florida. The midfielder was also named Offensive MVP after tallying three goals and an assist during the championship tournament.

Martinez was Section Player of the Year last year as a senior at Trevor Browne.

November 30
Trevor Browne alumnus and country singer Frank Ortega is touring with Dwight Yoakam in December. He will be Yoakam’s special guest in Texas and Oklahoma. Ortega was in the band, orchestra and sang in the choir for his high school, graduating in 1984. He came back to visit the music classes three years ago.

December 7
The Trevor Browne Choir program will hold its Winter Concert on Friday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the TGB Auditorium. The night will be filled with the traditional sounds of the season as well as some new music including a world premiere commission written for the TGB Concert Choir. They will also welcome guest performers from Estrella Middle School Choir.

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For the fourth year in a row, the Theatre Department was awarded a Phoenix Union Foundation for Education Innovation Grant. This grant is the tenth donation/grant received in the last four years. Each year TGB Theatre puts on performances for the goal of teaching a lesson to our audiences.

“This year, we are putting on Shrek the Musical to teach the lesson of "loving yourself for who you are.” Not only that, but we are taking the challenge of performing the full version of Shrek the Musical, which includes live student-performed music from our very own TGB Orchestra and Band students!” Performances will be February 22-24,” Theatre instructor Megan Dallas said.
December 14

Cadet Sergeant Vanessa Ramirez, a member of the Trevor G. Browne Bruin Battalion had the opportunity to put her newly acquired first aid skills to work while shopping with her family at the local Sam’s Club store recently. While at the check-out register, Ramirez observed a young girl apparently choking on something while standing next to a candy machine. The girl’s father was attempting to dislodge the object by pounding her in the back. Recently, Ramirez learned the Heimlich Manuever in her JROTC first aid. Without hesitation she rushed to the girl’s aid and performed the Heimlich Manuever which dislodged a large jaw breaker from her throat.

January 11, 2017

Choir students at Trevor G. Browne teamed up with composers Dr. J. Edmund Hughes and Mary Ellen Loose to perform the world premiere of Lullaby for a King at the school’s winter concert, December 9.

Hughes first approached choir directors Nick Halonen and Troy Meeker in July to discuss the project. Hughes wrote the original melody of Lullaby for a King to honor the birth of his first grandchild, Caleb, in February. He later discovered a way for the melody to intertwine with the Silent Night melody.

Hughes then collaborated with his longtime accompanist and Chandler-Gilbert Community College music faculty member Mary Ellen Loose to compose the piano accompaniment. The TGB Concert Choir worked directly with Hughes via Facetime before the concert. They performed with co-composer Mary Ellen Loose accompanying them on piano.

Hughes informed the choir during rehearsal that his daughter battled cancer. They were uncertain if she would ever be able to have children. Hughes stated that Caleb is truly a gift that their family treasures.

Choir officer Eddie Armenta said, “Lullaby for a King is an astounding musical piece that shows great emotion towards people who know the actual meaning of why it was written. Just amazing!”

“We are thankful Dr. Hughes chose our students to premiere this astounding piece. We have incredible students who are deserving of opportunities like this.” Meeker said,

“We do not teach music. We teach them how to be people. We do it through the power of music. The emotional expression in Lullaby for a King is a perfect catalyst to inspire this growth.” Halonen said
January 25

Ruben Gameros (Class of 2008) was a guest speaker in the Trevor Browne Advanced Placement (AP) French class, January 20. He earned his B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from ASU in 2012 and is currently working towards his Ph.D. in Exploration Systems Engineering with an emphasis in Robotics. He anticipates finishing in December 2018. He said that because of his educational pursuits, he has been to 26 different countries in his 26 years of life. He has extensive knowledge in technology and that is why he was invited to speak to the class. The class is currently in a Science and Technology unit with a focus on the future of technology. During his presentation today, he addressed the future of technology in three areas: manufacturing methods, maker movement and advances in robotics. Additionally, he discussed the potential positive and negative implications of these advancements in the world society.

"Shrek the Musical" is coming to Trevor Browne for the first time. The TGB Theatre Department is performing its spring musical with live music, in collaboration with the school’s band and orchestra. The department was awarded $500 by Social Venture Partners of Arizona, which enabled instructor Megan Dallas to purchase sheet music for the challenging show, as well as to pay for a few professional instrumentalists to make up for the missing instrumental parts. “Shrek the Musical” will be February 22, 23, and 24. Tickets are $7 at the door.

February 15

The TGB Concert Choir participated in the Northern Arizona University Jazz & Madrigal Festival this weekend. The top choral festival in Arizona attracted 129 schools from Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico. The Concert Choir received the Highest Possible Score: “Superior with Distinction.” This means that not only did they receive a “Superior” for their overall score, but they earned a “Superior” in all judging categories.

Concert Choir sang a set of three songs-- a secular villanelle, All Ye Who Music Love, written in Italy in the mid-1500s; a sacred motet, Ave Maria by Jacobus Handl-Gallus, written in the late 1500s; and they closed with a Cuban folk song for which band director Mike Rebb performed percussion.

The TGB Concert Choir also worked with Dr. Angela Broeker from the University of St. Thomas following their performance. She praised the Concert Choir members for their diligent work, artistic expression, and overall performance.

The successful program is supported by 24 TGB staff members who donated a portion of their 2016 Arizona Education Tax Credit to support these 50 students.
The Trevor Browne JROTC Rifle Team competed in the JROTC Regional Rifle Match held in Las Vegas, February 10-11, and based on their performance the team is currently ranked 10th in the United States. Cadet Angel Nunez took second overall, out of 175 shooters. He is ranked second in the nation and will represent Trevor Browne at the National Competition, March 22-26 in Anniston Alabama. Nunez also received the nation’s highest marksmanship award, the Civilian Marksmanship Program’s Distinguished Shooting Medal. He is the second Trevor Browne student to ever win this medal. He plans to continue his shooting career in college.

Trevor Browne took three teams of two students each to an Automotive Technologies competition held at Universal Technical Institute in Avondale, February 11. The contest included four hands-on stations (Brakes, Diagnostic Scan Tools, Electrical, Parts Identification) followed by a 50-question test on all areas of Automotive Technologies. A total of 26 teams competed from various automotive programs in Arizona. The top ten teams were awarded scholarships. The team of Kevin Hernandez and Sergio Valdez finished 9th and received $1,000 scholarships.

March 22
Choir Student Ariana Gonzalez was recently invited to sing the National Anthem for the Phoenix Suns. She said "it was one of the scariest performances" she has ever done. In spite of that, she said she "had a great time and would love to do it again". She and the TGB Choirs will perform at their Pops Concert, May 11.

April 5
Giovanni Rogel, who has been in STEP (Student Expedition Program) has just been accepted to Stanford. She had also been accepted to Harvey Mudd, Williams, Amherst, Swarthmore, Bowdoin and Pomona.

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.

Trevor Browne soccer player Danny Coronado recently received a number of honors from the AIA for his performance over this past season. Honors include All Metro Region First team defender; Metro Region Defensive Player of the Year; Metro Region Player of the Year; All 6A Conference Second Team defender. Coronado was the only Phoenix Union player to be named to the 6A All Conference team. Only a junior, he will return to lead the Bruins next year when they attempt to win their third Metro Region championship in a row.

Trevor Browne High School
The African American Club spent their Saturday April 1, turning hunger into hope with their own hands by packing and boxing food for Feed My Starving Children. The meals they packed will save lives and advance a desperate community in the Philippines. All progress starts with food.

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**April 19**

The Trevor Browne Band and Orchestra represented Trevor Browne well with a rating of "Excellent" for both groups at the Eastern Arizona College competition, Wednesday, April 12.

The TGB Jazz Band qualified for State and will compete April 27 at Mesa Community College.

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**May 03, 2017**

Co-Choir Director **Troy Meeker** was selected by the Arizona Choral Director's Association to guest conduct the Nation Anthem for the Arizona Diamondbacks on Friday April 28th. The choir consisted of over 150 students from around the state combined to sing for this performance which Mr. Meeker rehearsed for 30 minutes prior to taking the field.

"It is an honor to get to perform the Nation Anthem with so many hard-working students for nearly 20,000 fans of America's Game. I am grateful for the opportunity.

Trevor Browne High School
Trevor Browne has a tradition of securing prestigious scholarships for its students, and 2017 is no different. **Giovanni Rogel** was offered scholarships from Amherst, Swarthmore, Harvey Mudd, Bowdoin, Williams and Pomona, all near a quarter million dollars each, before deciding on Stanford, worth $239,000. **Kevin Lopez Guevara** accepted an offer from Pomona worth $236,000; after being offered $1 million in scholarships from six other schools. **Chntzia Serran Najera** is headed to Wellesley at $248,000, but had six other offers totaling over $1 million. **Edgardo Felix** will attend Carlton in Minnesota with a $208,000 package. **Fernando Carbajal Perez** is going to Colgate, ($282,600). **Erica Ramirez** received the Dorrance Scholarship and more from the University of Arizona, for over $100,000. Other top seniors include **Jesse Terrazas**, $32,000 from ASU; **Zinnia Figueroa**, $66,000 from Grand Canyon University and **Diane Lopez Teran**, $25,000 for Dream US Scholarships at Phoenix College and ASU.

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Trevor Browne Physical Education Department, the PEOPEL (Physical Education Opportunities Program for Exceptional Learners) Club, and the Trevor Browne Track Team hosted the torch as it moved its way for the opening of the Special Olympics Summer Games, May 5.

Over 1600 Special Olympics Athletes from across the state competed in sports ranging from traditional Special Olympics events to Unified® activities at Raymond S. Kellis High School in Glendale.

The TGB Track Team, accompanied by Coach **Robert Mika**, joined law enforcement officers from across the state met at Desert Sky Mall and ran north up 75th Avenue to Trevor Browne. Once on campus, the runners and torch came to the gym for a presentation by Special Olympic athlete **Roxanne Johnson**.

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The Trevor Browne Theatre program and Phoenix College's Theatre Program have collaborated in a project this semester. Students of the TGB Theatre program attended Phoenix College's Musical performance of "Urinetown," April 28. Multiple students in the TGB Tech Department had the opportunity to help build the set and hang lights for the show, and the acting students had the opportunity to learn from the actors in the show and even learn a short number from one of the dances. Drama Teacher **Megan Dallas** even auditioned for the show. Students were able to see their teacher perform the subject that they are learning about every day in class.

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Trevor Browne’s Auto Tech program students earned ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certifications this year. This is the most in many years at Trevor Browne that students took the exams and earned certification, under the direction of first year instructor **William Medina**. Five students earned 11 certificates in six of the nine ASE auto areas. **Donald Wichner** in Auto Tech 3-4 earned certificates in Steering and Suspension; Engine Repair; Engine Performance and Manual Drive Train and Axles. **Ignacio Barrantes** in Auto Tech 1-2 was certified in Electrical; Engine Repair; Engine Performance; Maintenance and Light Repair. Others earning certification
were Ernesto Medina, Auto 3-4: Engine Repair; Kael Tolbert, Auto 1-2: Electrical; Juan Garcia. Auto 3-4: Steering and Suspension.

“This is a huge step forward and can’t wait until one of our kids gets all nine next year, technically making them Student ASE Master Certified,” Medina said.

Next year, Browne will have two auto tech instructors, responding to the student demand for the program. For students, ASE Student Certification can be thought of as the first step in building a career as a service professional by providing them with their first industry-recognized certification through ASE.