

## Wickenburg Unified School District Transportation Department Focuses on Maintenance

By Cori Ferguson, Director of Transportation

In the state of Maryland a historic vehicle is defined as a vehicle that is “20 calendar years old or older and must not have been substantially altered, remodeled, or remanufactured from the manufacturers original design.” In Arizona, we define motor vehicles manufactured “at least 25 years prior to the current year,” as eligible for "antique" vehicle status. That means that 50% of WUSD kids have the privilege of riding around town in an historic or antique vehicle!

Seven of WUSD’s fleet of fourteen route buses will pass the two-decade mark this year, with three of those buses earning “antique” vehicle status! Kudos to the bus manufacturers for building durable products but, bigger thanks to WUSD’s talented mechanics, Mike and Billy, for keeping the fleet safe and on the road in spite of drastic cuts from the state to our school district’s capital funding! Although we deal with constant breakdowns, as many students, coaches and parents have experienced, it is the dedication and experience of our mechanics which currently keeps us afloat.

As we approach the end of the year, the district is busy preparing the bus fleet for the annual safety inspection. We’ve completed an initial pre-inspection and identified opportunities to get the buses in for maintenance prior to the safety inspection. With a lot of hard work, and a little bit of luck, our fleet will pass this year’s inspection so we can keep our kids safe and making it to school each and everyday!