



# COUGAR NEWS

## Combs Middle School

*School Newsletter – April 2017*

### ***Eagle Scout Project at Combs Middle School***



Combs Middle School community service projects are an important aspect of middle school life. Whether this occurs through all-school activities or on an individual basis, CMS regularly welcomes the opportunity to serve others. One aspect of community service that happens often at the middle school is that of an Eagle Scout project.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. The significance of a young man becoming an Eagle Scout has always carried a special honor not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business, and industry. The award is a performance-based achievement

whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every young man who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; approximately 5% of all Boy Scouts do. This represents more than 2 million Boy Scouts who have earned this special rank since 1912.

Combs Middle School is proud to share that Jameson Schmidt recently completed his Eagle Scout project building four beautiful benches that were installed on the middle school campus over spring break. Immediately, students began taking advantage of the opportunity to use them in various settings. Mrs. Laura Ridge, CMS Dean of Students, commented, “These benches are the perfect gift for our school community.” Jameson oversaw every aspect of the project from start-to-finish. He shared, “It’s exciting to come to school every day, see your fellow classmates enjoying the benches, and know that I was responsible for that.”

### ***CMS Girls’ Basketball Wins League Tournament***



An important aspect of the Combs Middle School community is the competitive sports program that is being developed. CMS belongs to the Desert Middle School Athletic League. Each quarter, student-athletes compete in a variety of competitive sports programs. League competition for the third quarter just concluded for the girls’ basketball program. CMS basketball player, Alexa Howland, commented, “I am very proud of the hard work of my teammates and am excited with how successful our season has been.” The Lady Cougars finished in first place in regular season play and were the #1 seed heading into the end-of-season tournament. Loreen Reaves, CMS Head Girls Basketball Coach, stated, “Our girls are young and inexperienced, but that doesn’t take away from their motivating and encouraging attitudes towards themselves and the game of basketball.” The Lady Cougars represented CMS proud in both their semi-final and championship games to win the overall league championship title. “Congratulations” to our Lady Cougars!

### ***Spring Book Fair***

Combs Middle School recently hosted its spring book fair. Students, parents, grandparents, and community members took advantage of this special opportunity to purchase books at the spring fair. CMS earned \$1,036! “Congratulations” to the following students who won a raffle prize for making a purchase at the fair: Angelica Garcia (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Ramon Pena III (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Jeht Black (1<sup>st</sup> Place), and Riley Harris (Grand Prize Winner of a Basket of Books). Mrs. De Leon would like to express her gratitude to all of the students and staff members who made the book fair a huge success.



### ***CHS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Information***

There are a number of important items for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders as they continue their transition to CHS for their freshman year. Their registration packet was due in January. Those students pursuing open enrollment must return their forms by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Those students interested in participating in sports, cheer, or marching band are required to get a physical. The physical can be acquired any time before August. Please watch for the “Weekly Update” from the high school with information for summer camps and other activities. It is important to attend summer bookstore days. Families will receive a summer mailer with all the necessary information (schedule information, bookstore information, dress code, school rules, and first day of school) the first week of July. If you will need financial assistance, make those arrangements before bookstore days. If you have any questions, please call 480-882-3540.

### ***Student of the Month Recognition***

The following Cougars and Lady Cougars earned the distinction as Student of the Month for March:

#### Middle School “Outstanding Cougars” Program

7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Angali Kok and Issac Barkman
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Victoria Cardenas and Kelvin Ta

#### District “Character Counts” Program

Taniela Taunima (pictured left with Mrs. Ridge, CMS Dean of Students) received this recognition at the board meeting for the pillar of responsibility.



### ***Open Enrollment Procedures***

The parents of students who attend Combs Middle School on open enrollment need to complete an open enrollment form for the 2017-2018 school year. Forms must be completed and returned to the administration office by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Hard copies of the forms are available in the front office. The form is also on line.

### ***Yearbooks***

Ms. Foster and the students in the Yearbook class have been diligently working to produce this year’s edition of the middle school yearbook. Students always enjoy looking at past yearbooks as a way to remember the experiences that took place during their middle school years. The cost of the yearbook is \$40. Please turn in money (cash/check) to the front office or pay online. Feel free to contact Ms. Foster at 480-882-3510 (extension 1421) if you have any questions about this year’s yearbook.





### ***Central Arizona College (CAC) - Promise for the Future***

CMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will attend a presentation on Promise for the Future on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Promise for the Future is a program designed to encourage students who reside in Pinal County to stay in high school, graduate with a 2.75 grade point average, and participate in 20 hours of community service. Students along with their parent/guardian complete a contract of commitment during the students' eighth grade year. Contracts must be completed by May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students graduating from a Pinal County high school who have fulfilled the requirements of the Promise for the Future contract will be eligible for the Promise for the Future Scholarship. This scholarship entitles them to free tuition to any Central Arizona College campus for up to four consecutive semesters.

To receive the Promise for the Future Scholarship, the student must:

- Complete the FASFA financial aid form and Promise for the Future Scholarship Acceptance Form
- Enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester
- Enroll in and complete CPD 101 (Orientation to Student Development)
- Declare an eligible degree or certificate program
- Begin by the fall semester after high school graduation

To renew the Promise for the Future Scholarship each semester the student must:

- Maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. (This includes ANY courses taken at CAC or through high school for college credit.)
- Complete a minimum of 9 credits each semester
- Maintain continuous enrollment each semester excluding summer term
- Allow the Financial Aid office to verify and ensure student meets eligibility requirements

The Promise for the Future Scholarship is limited to four (4) consecutive semesters of In-State tuition. If the student is unable to meet the scholarship requirements due to any circumstance, they will permanently lose this scholarship. Please contact the CAC Promise for the Future Coordinator, at 520-494-5111 or send email to [PromisefortheFuture@centralaz.edu](mailto:PromisefortheFuture@centralaz.edu) if you have any questions.

### ***Food Service Reminder***

Students will not be allowed to make a purchase using their district food service account that would result in the student carrying a negative balance on their account after August 28<sup>th</sup>. In the near future, Food Service will be communicating with families that are carrying a negative balance to assist them with addressing this.

### ***Preschool Head Start and Early Head Start***

The San Tan Valley Preschool Head Start and Early Head Start programs are now accepting applications. Preschool Head Start is a center based program for three and four year olds. Priority is given to low income families, homeless families, foster children, and families with children that have a disability. This program is a kindergarten readiness program and provides health/family services. This center based program offers morning/afternoon classes. Each class runs Monday-Thursday and is four hours in length.



Early Head Start is a home based program for families up to age three. Weekly home visits and educational plans are provided for children with health, nutrition, and family services. This is a quality program for teen parents. This is a year round program, and applications are continuously being taken.

San Tan Valley Preschool Head Start and Early Head Start programs are operated by Pinal Gila Community Child Services. Services are provided at no charge to families.



Programs offer a developmentally appropriate approach to encourage exploration and learning. Activities are geared toward Kindergarten readiness. Child progress reports are reviewed with parents/caregivers quarterly. Developmental assessments and health screenings are conducted. Parent involvement activities are offered such as goal setting, referrals, parent training, and volunteering in the classroom. Nutritious meals/snacks are served. Transportation is not provided.

Applications are being taken at San Tan Valley Head Start (301 E. Combs Road, San Tan Valley, AZ 85140). You will need to bring proof of guardianship and a current immunization record for the child. You will also need to provide proof of all household income for the past 12 months. For questions or to schedule an appointment, call 480-987-1845.

### ***Calendar***

#### April

- 3-12 AzMERIT Testing (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> ELA/Math)
- 13 AIMS Testing (8<sup>th</sup> Science)
- 14 Spring Holiday (no school)
- 25 8<sup>th</sup> Grade CAC Promise for the Future Assembly (9:00 am)
- 28 Spring Dance (6-8 pm)

#### May

- 2 NJHS Induction Ceremony (6pm – cafeteria)
- 6 Spring Drama Performances (4 & 7 pm)
- 8-9 Spring Music Concerts
- 15 Science Fair (6-7 pm – cafeteria)
- 17 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Signing Party
- 18 Awards Assembly
- 19 Eighth Grade Luncheon
- 19 Eighth Grade Formal Dance (6-8 pm)
- 22-23 Semester Exams (1:00 pm dismissal)

### ***Important Numbers and Information***

Main Line: 480-882-3510	Fax: 480-888-8049
Attendance Line: 480-882-3510 ext.1402	Food Service: 480-882-3514
Transportation: 480-987-5309	Health Office: 480-882-3513
Web Address: <a href="http://www.combsms.jocombs.org">www.combsms.jocombs.org</a> or <a href="http://www.jocombs.org">www.jocombs.org</a>	