



COUGAR NEWS

Combs Middle School

School Newsletter – April 2016

Gilder Lehman Institute Summer Seminar

Each summer, the Gilder Lehrman Institute offers academically rigorous Teacher Seminars for K–12 educators. These highly competitive one-week seminars are open exclusively to participants in Gilder Lehrman’s free Affiliate School Program. Combs Middle School is proud to announce that Ms. Emily Hubbard has been selected to attend the seminar titled, *The American Revolution*, which will take place at Columbia University on July 3–9. Ms. Hubbard currently serves as the Social Studies Department Chair and teaches 8th Grade Social Studies. She is also the moderator of the National Junior Honor Society chapter at CMS. At this seminar, participants will consider two different American revolutions: the struggle for American self-determination from 1763 to 1783 and the ongoing struggle for liberty and equality enunciated in the Declaration of Independence. The institute will cover the graduate credit, room accommodations, and travel expenses for Ms. Hubbard for earning this opportunity. “Congratulations” to Ms. Hubbard for being selected for this special honor!

Central Arizona College (CAC) - Promise for the Future

CMS 8th grade students will attend a presentation on Promise for the Future on April 13th. 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 sign a contract of commitment during the students’ eighth grade year. CMS students will receive their contract at their presentation on April 13th. Contracts must be signed and returned to Dr. Leslie Wiberg, CMS Counselor, by May 24th. 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 Monica Vogan, Promise for the Future Coordinator, at 520-494-5111 or send email to PromisefortheFuture@centralaz.edu if you have any questions.

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

7th Grade Sarah Hargis and Dimitri Franco

8th Grade Kaylee Jensen and Shawn McDougal

District “Character Counts” Program

Leann Day (8th grade) received this recognition at the board meeting for the pillar of responsibility.

Kiwanis Most Improved Student

Todd Turner received this recognition at the local Kiwanis for March.

CHS 8th Grade Information

There are a number of important items for the 8th graders as they continue their transition to CHS for their freshman year. The registration packet was due in January. If that has not yet been completed, please contact the high school. Those students pursuing open enrollment must return their forms by April 15th. 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.

Spring Pictures

CMS students will take spring pictures on Wednesday, April 6th. Pictures will take place throughout the day in the gymnasium. Students will take pictures through their Social Studies classes. Pictures are again being done by Inter-State Studio. Pictures may be ordered using the order form which students will receive in CSS on Friday (April 1st) or on line at www.inter-state.com/order.

Spring Book Fair

Combs Middle School hosted its spring book fair March 15th - 21st. Students, parents, grandparents, and community members took advantage of this special opportunity to purchase books at the spring fair. “Congratulations” to the following students who won a raffle prize for making a purchase at the fair: Cody Howell (3rd Place), Harley Hodge (2nd Place), Dylan Abrams (1st Place), and Joshua Keith (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.

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. This year’s yearbook is going to be a great edition. 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 \$35. 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.

PTO News

PTO will host its next fundraiser at our local McDonald’s (located on Ironwood) on Tuesday, April 5th. *McTeacher Night* will take place 5-7 pm. The CMS PTO will receive 20% of the lobby sales that evening. Make plans to park your car (no drive through) and interact with CMS faculty and staff in the lobby.

Community Health Fair

Combs High School will be hosting a Community Health Fair on Tuesday, April 5th. The health fair will take place at CHS (3:00-6:00 pm). Free physicals for sports and Boy Scouts, free blood pressure screenings, free ECG's, a bike rodeo to teach bike safety (all participants must have their own bike and helmet), and a mobile on-site mammography for breast cancer screening will be available at the fair. Please call 480-967-3767 to make an appointment prior to the event.

Food Service Reminder

As of April 15th, 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. In the near future, Food Service will be communicating with families that are carrying a negative balance to assist them with addressing this.

Open Enrollment Procedures

The parents of students who attend Combs Middle School on open enrollment need to complete an open enrollment form for the 2016-2017 school year. Forms must be completed and returned to the administration office by April 15th. Hard copies of the forms are available in the front office. The form is also on line.

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 and afternoon classes. Each class runs Monday-Thursday and is four hours in length. Applications are being taken for the 2016-2017 school year.

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 stimulating and 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 and encouraged such as goal setting, referrals, parent training, and volunteering in the classroom. Nutritious meals and snacks are served. Transportation is not provided.

Applications are being taken at San Tan Valley Head Start (301 E. Combs Road - room 505, San Tan Valley, AZ 85140). Offices hours are from 7:00 am-5:00 pm; appointments are strongly encouraged. 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, please call 480-987-1845.

Calendar

April	
5	CHS Health Fair (3-6 pm @ CHS)
5	McTeacher Night (5-7 pm)
6	Spring Pictures
13	Promise for the Future (9:00-10:15 am – cafeteria)
22	Spring Dance (6-8 pm)

May
9,10 Music Concerts (6 pm – cafeteria)
10-11 6th Grade Visitation (9-11 am)
23-24 Semester Exams - 1:00 pm Early Dismissal Schedule
24 Last Day of School

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: www.combsms.jocombs.org or www.jocombs.org