



COUGAR NEWS

Combs Middle School

School Newsletter – November 2016

Please Remember to Vote

The J.O. Combs Unified School District Governing Board has scheduled a special bond election for November 8, 2016 to address facility, transportation, and technology needs. All registered voters living in the J.O. Combs School District boundaries are eligible to vote either through early ballots or at polling sites.

CMS Wins Tournament Championship

“Congratulations” to the Combs Middle School baseball team for winning the Desert Middle School League Tournament Championship 2-0 defeating Cactus Canyon Junior High of Apache Junction. To reach the finals of the tournament, CMS overcame a 7-1 deficit to defeat Ben Franklin Queen Creek in their semi-final game by a score of 10-7 and advance to the finals. In addition to winning the tournament championship, the Cougars finished the regular season as the #1 seed with a 9-1 regular season record. The middle school community would like to congratulate Head Coach David Mills and his athletes for their tremendous success this season!



Back Row (L to R)

Mr. Thomas, D. J. Mathus, Tim Johnson, Levi Tuckfield, Parker Sigety, Christian Chavez, Isaiah Vozza, Arthur Vasquez, Mr. Mills

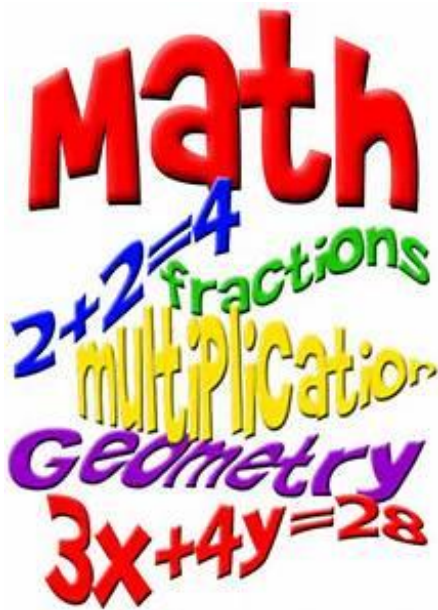
Front Row (L to R)

Luke Larson, Michael Davenport, Pierce Rogers, Brendan Mendoza, Camryn Gutierrez, Trip Rasmussen, Masyn Baker, Tyler Savage

Astronomy Night

The Third Annual CMS Astronomy Night will take place at Combs Middle School on November 10th. The event is taking place on the outdoor basketball courts, will occur 7:00-8:30 pm, and is being hosted by the East Valley Astronomy Club (EVAC) which is a group of more than 200 astronomy enthusiasts in the eastern part of the valley. The group began as a small band of amateur astronomers in the eastern suburbs of Phoenix in 1987 and became a nonprofit Arizona corporation in June of 1995. Their membership now includes people from all over the valley. The purpose of EVAC is to forge a network of friendly people with an interest in star-gazing and astronomical science. The organization strives to promote public awareness and education of astronomy by sponsoring viewing sessions for the general public and local area schools. Please make plans to come out and enjoy in this fun school community event on November 10th.

Math Textbook Online



All middle school families have the ability to access the math textbook online. To do this, enter www.my.hrw.com. Next, sign in using your child's username and password (which has been given to the student by the teacher). Once on the site, click on *Student Edition*. Within the *Student Edition*, there are two functions that assist students with their learning – *Personal Math Trainer* and *Math on the Spot*.

Upon clicking on the *Personal Math Trainer* box, there are a number of opportunities for students to practice problems. *View Example* allows for an example of a problem. *Video Tutor* shares a tutorial tied to the problem. *Textbook* shows where the information pertaining to the problem is located in the textbook. *Animated Math* displays multiple visual representations tied to the problem. When the *Math on the Spot* box is clicked, students have the opportunity to participate in a tutorial session over the information.

The CMS math teachers wish to encourage families to use these tools to reinforce the math information that students are learning in class.

Students of the Month



“Congratulations” to the following students for being recognized as Student of the Month!

Middle School “Outstanding Cougars” Program

The Cougars/Lady Cougars recognized for the month of October were:
7th Grade – Carly Antone and Matthew Ferris
8th Grade – Jayci Martz and Lucas Corriveau

District “Character Counts” Program

Kylee Wiles (pictured left) received this recognition at the board meeting in October for the pillar of trustworthiness.

Kiwanis of Queen Creek Most Improved Student

Justin Bottemiller (8th grader) received this recognition for the month of October.

Social Studies Abounds at CMS

Combs Middle School students are involved in a number of Social Studies related activities this school year. At the beginning of the year, students formed a Social Studies Club on campus. At each student-led meeting, discussion takes place on a particular aspect of history and a particular aspect of geography. The club is making plans to attend the American Heritage Festival in Queen Creek in November. In September, students participated in a number of activities in their Social Studies classes surrounding the Constitution and the election process which included a visit from Arizona Representative Doug Coleman.



Sasha McCain greeting Rep. Coleman

When asked if students were looking forward to the Representative's visit, Seth Fernandez (8th Grade Honors Student) responded, "I'm excited because I've never met a government official besides a cop." Students asked excellent questions to the Representative during his visit. Hayley Allen, 8th Grade Honors Student, asked: "Would you say that kids our age, such as middle school and high school, should really care about elections such as the presidential elections going on right now?" Representative Coleman encouraged students to study the issues now so that they are ahead of the learning curve when they are of age to vote and know what's going on at the capital." One student asked the Representative if he liked his job to which he smiled and replied, "I do!"

In addition to these great activities, CMS students are planning a number of activities to celebrate our veterans and participate in the election process in November as well as getting involved with the *We the People* program in December.

We the People is an American government program sponsored by the Center for Civics Education. The program focuses on the evolution and function of the national government. Within the program, mock Congressional hearings occur at the high school level. The middle school teams do not formally compete in these hearings; they showcase their work and growth over the year. CMS is currently planning to organize a team to showcase their work during the mock Congressional district hearing taking place in December.

Students Earn High School Credit



The first part of the mission for the J.O. Combs Unified School District states, "We are a community of learners collaborating to ensure maximum academic and social growth for all students." To support this mission, all schools within the district work to develop a variety of programs that allow students the opportunity to grow to their maximum potential. One such program the district has created is an opportunity for middle school eighth grade students to earn high school credit upon successful completion of Spanish I or Algebra I. Upon completion in a given class, students may receive high school credit. The ability to earn high school credit while in junior high provides students an opportunity to enroll in advanced courses such as AP Calculus or AP Spanish during their high school experience.

JupiterGrades

JupiterGrades is an online program which allows parents to monitor their child's grades, homework, missing assignments, test scores, report cards, and attendance. The program is updated automatically, so parents always have access to the most current information. Students have their own password and are encouraged to monitor their own progress.

Student Support Schedule

CMS offers support for students in the morning (8:15-8:45 am) before school. Listed below is the schedule:

Language Arts: Monday & Thursday

Math: Tuesday & Thursday

Science: Wednesday & Friday

Social Studies: Tuesday & Friday

District News

J.O. Combs currently has open positions for Paraprofessionals. Paraprofessionals work with certified teachers to support student instruction inside and outside of the classroom. Qualified applicants must have an Associate's degree or higher or have completed two years of study (equaling 60 or more credit hours) from an accredited institution of higher education or obtained a passing score on one of the Arizona Department of Education paraprofessional approved assessments required. Visit www.jocombs.org under Employment to apply today.

Don't forget to vote on November 8th. Several of our schools are polling sites including Ranch, Simonton, Harmon, and Combs Middle School. If you have an Early Ballot you haven't mailed yet, you can drop it off at any polling site in Pinal County. Exercise your right to Vote!

Join us November 12th for the Classics & Customs Car Show and Toy Drive at Combs High School (11am - 3pm). The toy drive, sponsored by the Combs Education Foundation, benefits Combs students and families during the holiday season. The event is free and is sure to be a fun family day.

Winter Camp is just around the corner and registration is now open. Students (ages 3-12) have fun with friends and enjoy a variety of activities like the new "Makers Space" and science projects. Register online at www.jocombs.org under the Community Education tab.

Fall Book Fair Prize Winners



“Congratulations” to the following students who received prizes for their purchases at the Fall Book Fair - 3rd Place/Taylor Mastin, 2nd Place/Ian Cardenas, 1st Place/Savannah Brees, and Grand Prize (basket of books and goodies)/Morgan Bodell (pictured left).

Calendar

November

- 10 Veteran's Day Celebration (9:00 am)
- 10 Astronomy Night (7:00-8:30 pm)
- 11 Veteran's Day (no school)
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Break (no school)

December

- 3 Winter Play (4:00 pm – matinee & 7:00 pm evening performances)
- 6, 13 Winter Music Concerts
- 16 Winter Dance (6-8 pm)
- 16-20 Semester Exams (1:00 pm dismissal)
- 21-30 Winter Break (no 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