



COUGAR NEWS

Combs Middle School

School Newsletter – October 2016

Combs Middle School Celebrates Patriotism Activities

To remember those who lost their lives on 9-11 and emphasize the importance of citizenship, the middle school celebrated various activities with its students on September 9th-22nd. On September 9th, social studies classes interacted with students about the events of 9-11. Throughout the following week, CMS social studies classes focused on the different aspects of building patriotism - citizenship, Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the characteristics of being patriotic. To reinforce this learning, CMS reached out to its state representatives in District 16. Representative Doug Coleman interacted with various students in social studies classes on September 22nd. Representative Kelly Townsend is planning to visit with social studies students on October 20th. The middle school community is very appreciative of the willingness of the representatives to visit the campus and interact with students. The goal of these various activities was to help students understand what it means to be patriotic and to explore the people, documents, and ideals that created citizenship and established the foundation of our nation.

First Quarter Report Cards

The first quarter ends on October 7th. First quarter grades will be posted on JupiterGrades. If you have any questions about the grades your child receives, please contact the teacher for that class. You may locate teacher phone extension or e-mail information by going to the "Contact Us" area of the middle school section on the middle school website at www.combsms.jocombs.org. As our students continue to pursue their growth academically, please assist your child with reinforcing the CMS strategies for learning: have a well-organized backpack, take accurate notes, ask questions to clarify information, study regularly, and bring a positive attitude to class each day.

Mid-Term Exams

Students will take mid-term exams the week of October 3rd-7th. The mid-term exams will be 75 minutes in length. CMS would greatly appreciate anything you could do to assure that your child studies to prepare for these exams as well as assisting your child with getting to bed early each night and eating a good breakfast each morning throughout the week. If you have any questions about a particular exam in a certain class, please reach out to the teacher of that class.

Athletic Director's Update

"Congratulations" to the CMS baseball, softball, and flag-football teams for their efforts throughout their seasons. Our Cougar baseball team finished the regular season as the #1 seed. Tournament play began on September 29th with a 10-7 victory. The team now moves on to the championship game at CMS on October 4th.

As the fall season winds to a close, sign-ups are occurring for the next season. Our Cougars will participate in boys' soccer, and our Lady Cougars will participate in volleyball. Try-outs for both of these programs will begin when students return after fall break.

All participating students are required to have a physical, copy of their insurance card, permission slip, and emergency contact form completed in order to try out. Packets are available in the front office and on line at the middle school web site. Students will be required to pay the sports fee (\$75) once they are selected on a team. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Ridge, Athletic Director, by e-mail at lridge@jocombs.org or by phone at 480-882-3519. Go Cougars!

CMS Fall Book Fair

The middle school recently hosted its fall book fair. As a result of the great number of students and parents who made purchases, the fair generated sales in excess of \$1,000. "Congratulations" to Mrs. De Leon and her library staff for a very successful book fair. Plans are already underway for the next book fair which will be held in the spring of 2017.

Outstanding Cougars

The middle school is participating in three programs this year to recognize various students for their accomplishments. Students are chosen for a variety of reasons – academic excellence, exemplary behavior, community service, overall improvement, and serving as a role model for one of the pillars of character counts.

Middle School Program

Within the middle school, CMS recognizes one Cougar and one Lady Cougar each month from each grade level. Recipients receive a certificate of recognition, free quiz pass for each of their core subjects, and an invitation to enjoy treats during CSS at the end of the school year.

For the month of September, the following students were recognized:

7th Graders: Haley Schwabenbauer and Logan Jones

8th Graders: Aaliyah Valenzuela and Connor Elder

District Program

Throughout the district, one student is selected each month from each school to be recognized as Student of the Month (SOM) based on the six pillars of character counts (responsibility, trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, respect, and fairness). These students are recognized at the district's monthly school board meetings.

Naryah Lipford (8th grader) received this recognition for the month of September for the pillar of responsibility.

Kiwanis Club of Queen Creek Program

The Kiwanis Club of Queen Creek is a group of professionals from all industries dedicated to making their community better. The Queen Creek Kiwanis Club has been an integral part of the community for more than 20 years. One of the programs the clubs hosts is Student of the Month (SOM). Within this program, CMS honors one student as the most improved student each month.

Vincent Papano (7th grade) was recognized as the SOM for the month of September.

Student Council

Student Council has begun the process of having an active presence on the middle school campus for the 2016-2017 school year. Ms. Whitehead and Ms. Dawkins will be serving as the moderators for the council.

Recently, campaigning and elections took place for class officers. Students did an outstanding job of participating in this process. Listed below are this year's officers:

President - Syrine Castillo

Vice President - Isaac Schupp

Treasurer - Lisette De La Cruz

Secretary - Megan Guerrero

CMS would like to commend all of the candidates who had the courage to campaign for an office and wish the officers well as they prepare to do their work within the school community.

Student Council will be hosting their first all-school dance in the school cafeteria on Friday, October 28th. The dance will take place 6:00-8:00 pm. The dance is open for CMS 7th and 8th graders to attend. Because of the proximity of the dance to the date of Halloween, students may wear costumes to the dance.

Yearbooks

Ms. Foster and her students in the Yearbook class are working on this year's yearbook. This year's book 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 currently \$35. Please turn in your money (cash or check) to the front office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Foster by phone at 480-882-3510 (extension 1421).

Teacher/Parent Communication Tools

JupiterGrades allows you to monitor your child's grades, homework, missing assignments, test scores, report cards, and attendance. The program is updated automatically, so you always have access to the most current information. Students have their own password and are encouraged to monitor their own progress. All students were issued a student planner at the beginning of the school year. They use their planner for each class in order to write down daily assignments and keep track of upcoming project/quiz/test dates. Visiting with your child about what is recorded in the planner provides a great communication tool to stay abreast of the activities that are happening in class each day. If you have any questions about JupiterGrades please feel free to contact Ashley Gonzales at 480-882-3515.

District News

Congratulations to Iris Telfer, Ellsworth teacher, for receiving the Esperanza Latino Teacher Award from Chicanos Por La Causa. This annual award recognizes just four teachers across the state for their impact on future generations. We are proud of Mrs. Telfer and her dedication to Ellsworth students.

On October 17th, several colleges will visit Combs High School (12:15-1:15 pm) to share information with the community about advanced education degrees. If you are interested in learning more about Bachelors or Masters Education programs, please visit with school representatives. As a bonus, food trucks will be on-site ready to serve you and your family a great lunch.

Mark your calendar for October 22nd and plan on attending Parent University (9:00 am-12:00 pm) at Ranch Elementary. Parents can select from a wide-range of classes including STEAM in the Kitchen, Understanding the IEP process, Kindergarten Readiness, and Internet Safety. We hope to see you at this event.

Keep your children active while school is on fall break at Combs Kidz Fall Break Camp. Children ages 5-12 can spend time with friends, make new friends, and hang out in a safe environment. Campers can also go on fields trips to the movies and bowling. Check out the Community Education tab at www.jocombs.org under Camp Programs for details and registration.

Calendar

October

- 10-14 Fall Break (no school)
- 17 Professional Development (no school)
- 18 Second Quarter Begins
- 28 School Picture Retakes
- 28 Student Council Halloween Dance (6-8 pm)

Important Numbers and Information

Main Line: 480-882-3510

Attendance Line: 480-882-3510 ext.1402

Transportation: 480-987-5309

Web Address: www.jocombs.org

Fax: 480-888-8049

Food Service: 480-882-3514

Health Office: 480-882-3513