

PAGE PRIDE, FAR AND WIDE

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February 2016

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

A Common Thread: Unsung Heroes of the Road



The alarm clock rings at 3:00AM and Page Unified School District's Transportation Department is up and running. There's no emergency and nothing out of the ordinary to report; it's just another day at the office for our unsung heroes of the road. With daily routes covering about 2,800 miles to transport an average of 760 students to and from school, the department has employees up before dawn and closing down well after dark every school day. And those numbers only account for the daily bus

routes—one run in the morning and three runs after school (3:00PM, 4:30PM, and 6:00PM). The "yellow fleet" has 16 daily routes in addition to out-of-town activity trips and 19 drivers make it happen out on the road.

Transportation Director Bill Patterson describes his department by quoting their mission statement: Caring Professionals Driven By Safety. And professionals they are. His 25 total employees have over 260 years combined ex-

perience with at least two people who have been with PUSD for more than 30 years each. Beyond obtaining a CDL, our drivers have to get School Bus Driver certified which requires fourteen classroom and twenty behind-the-wheel hours along with six and a half hours of refresher training courses every 2 years. They successfully pass training, testing, physical performance tests, and drug screenings (continued on Page 2)



February 24th from 5-7:00PM
at Lake View Primary

PATTY LAUBHAN, a 30-year PUSD employee and long time Kindergarten teacher is battling cancer. We would like to honor her and assist her with her inevitable medical bills as she begins the next round of her treatment. Please join our Lake View Primary staff and community members for a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Wednesday, February 24th from 5-7:00PM. Dinner is \$7 per plate and there will be several raffles with tickets available for \$2 and \$5. All proceeds will benefit Mrs. Laubhan. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate to the cause, please feel free to contact Mrs. Lacy Harris by e-mail at lharris@pageud.k12.az.us or by phone at Lake View Primary (928) 608-4200.

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Find out FAST on Facebook!

- Lake View Primary School Eagles: 182 likes
- Desert View Intermediate Bobcats: 130 likes
- Page Middle School Panthers: 247 likes
- Page High School Sand Devils: 2,420 likes
- Manson Mesa High School Falcons: 26 likes
- Page Unified School District: 346 likes



Unsung Heroes of the Road (continued)



(continued from Page 1)

before they get on a bus with our students and excel at student management once on the bus, dovetailing with our school district PRIDE behavior program. Have you noticed how great our busses look both inside and out? Our drivers take great pride in cleaning and maintaining their busses and representing Page Unified School District well at all times.



Back at the Bus Barn, our four maintenance mechanics and two administrators make sure all the fleets—the yellow fleet of busses, the white fleet of vans and cars, and anything else with wheels, including lawnmowers—are well maintained and kept on schedule. Of the more than 500,000 miles driven annually, our busses cover almost 17,000 miles on dirt roads, increasing the wear and tear on our busses and keeping our mechanics on their toes. Sticking to a rigorous preventative maintenance schedule to increase both student safety and bus life is a priority for the department.

Of all the challenges facing our Transportation Department like weather, scheduling, road closures, and maintenance, the greatest challenge may be simply communication with parents. Parents and guardians are reminded to update their contact information with their child's school right away. That information goes into the computer sys-

"Please update your child's contact information with the school any time you have a change. That may be our biggest challenge and one that is easily solved!"

tem accessible to the Transportation Department so that they can contact parents, guardians, or other family members in case of an emergency or transportation change.

It is clear that PUSD and Mr. Patterson have put together a good team of caring people. When asked to describe his department, Patterson summarized, "We have an important and sometimes stressful job to do, but this team takes it seriously, does the best we can do, and has fun doing it." Certainly "Caring Professionals Driven By Safety." And certainly, our unsung heroes of the road.

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Governing Board Members:

Irene Jones, President
Robert Candelaria, Clerk
Sandra Kidman, Member
Delores McKerry, Member
Jocelyn Beard, Member

Superintendent:

Rob Varner

Story ideas and event calendar:

Cori Gagnon
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	01	02	03 College T-shirt Day—first Weds of the month PTO—DV 4:00PM Site Council—DV 5:00PM	04 Parent Night—DV 5-7PM	05	06
07	08 PTO—LV 3:30PM	09 2nd Grade Musical—LV 8:15AM and 2:00PM Superintendent’s Forum— District Office 4-5:00PM Board Meeting— District Office 5:00PM	10 Indian Education Council— PUSD Hogan 6:00PM	11	12 —NO SCHOOL— PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY	13
14	15 —NO SCHOOL— PRESIDENT’S DAY	16 Site Council—PMS 4:00PM Site Council—LV 6:00PM	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Site Council—PHS 4:15PM Superintendent’s Forum— District Office 4-5:00PM Board Study Session— District Office 5:00PM	24	25	26 PRIDE Assembly—LV	27
28	29	<p>Get your school event on this calendar! E-mail: PRcontact@pageud.k12.az.us Find our most up-to-date calendars online at www.pageschools.org</p>				

Campus Cruising

From last month: Where is this?



Found on Page Middle School's campus just off 9th Avenue, this dinosaur came to be in the early 2000's via an artist-in-residence grant. Roger Asay, a southwest artist from Mesa taught students about creating statues using concrete, chicken wire, and plaster. Students placed notes inside the dinosaur like a time capsule and have been painting and re-painting it each semester under the direction of Art teacher Sue Wilson using specific art styles, like that of Vincent Van Gogh. Just this school year, students were taught mosaic glass technique by another pair of artists-in-residence and added yet another dimension to the colorful dinosaur.

Where are we this month?



This access gate to an existing playground is new to PUSD this year. What is its purpose? Where is it?

Like and follow us on Facebook to continue the conversation.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Lauren Barnum (top photo) from the Page Unified School District Business Office and Patty Laubhan, a long-time Kindergarten teacher from Lake View Primary. Both were honored as the December PUSD employees of the month for Personal Recognition In District Education (PRIDE). Each month, PUSD selects a classified and certified staff member from nominations made by fellow employees.



Each school also recognizes those students who are succeeding in our Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) system by demonstrating PRIDE—Positive, Respectful, Involved, Determined, and Excellent—behaviors. For December, Myra Yazzie, Lauren Campbell, and Milinda Calnimpewa, as well as Ron Carter and Briana Tso (pictured below) were honored as Students of the Month.

