

FEBRUARY

- 1 - Lunch on the Lawn
- 1 - CMS Open House 6pm
- 2 - Orchestra Club Meeting 3:15pm
- 2 - Ranch Academic Parent Teacher Team mtg (Grade 3-6) 6pm
- 3 - Lunch on the Lawn
- 3 - 3rd Qtr Mid Term Ends
- 7 - Math Masters 3:15pm
- 7 - Battle of Books study session 3:15pm
- 7 - Book Fair Workshop
- 7 - Kindergarten Roundup 6pm
- 8 - Bus Evacuation Drill 9:00 am K-6
- 8 - Lunch on the Lawn
- 8 - PTO Little Caesars Night
- 9 - Library Club 3:15pm
- 9 - Orchestra Club Meeting 3:15 pm
- 10 - Lunch on the Lawn
- 10 - PTO Movie Night 5:30pm
- 10 - Progress Notices on Jupiter
- 13 - Gifted Screening 3rd grade
- 14 - Math Masters 3:15pm
- 14 - Bus Evacuation Drill 9:15 am PK
- 14 - Bus Evacuation Drill 1:15 pm PK
- 15 - Lunch on the Lawn
- 15 - Bus Evacuation Drill Life Skills 8am
- 15 - Preschool Screening @ Simonton 8:30 - 11:30 am
- 16 - Library Club Meeting 3:15pm
- 16 - Orchestra Club Meeting 3:15pm
- 16 - PTO Meeting 5:00pm Media Ctr
- 16 - District Sci-Tech Festival at CHS 6pm
- 17 - Lunch on the Lawn
- 17 - 6th grade CMS Course Reg. Due
- 20 - NO SCHOOL PRESIDENT'S DAY
- 21-3/10 - Galileo Testing Grds 2-6
- 21 - Math Masters 3:15pm
- 21 - Student Council Meeting 3:15pm
- 21 - Battle of Books study session 3:15pm
- 22 - Lunch on Lawn
- 23 - 3/3 - Spring Book Fair
- 23 - Student Led Conferences 12:00-7:00p
- 23 - Early Release 11:15am
- 24 - Student Led Conferences 12:00-4:00p
- 24 - Early Release 11:15am
- 27 - 3/3 | Love to Read Week
- 27 - Student Council Play 1:30pm
- 27 - PTO Fundraiser Kickoff
Popcorn & Jelly Belly
- 28 - Math Masters 3:15pm

Ranch Elementary School
43521 N. Kenworthy Ave. San Tan Valley, AZ 85140
Ph: 480-882-3530 Fax: 480-655-6412
www.ranch.jocombs.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 - 4:00

February 2017

Student Of The Month



Kaila Solis

Kaila is new to our school district this year and has made friends very quickly. Academically, she has earned an almost perfect grade point average and is at the top of our class. Kaila always follows the rules and is a great role model to her peers when leading the class in daily routines. During class activities and recess, Kaila takes turns and shares with her peers. She can be quiet at times but is playful. Kaila is very responsible and reliable and I never hesitate to ask her to help with special tasks. She exemplifies fairness with her interactions with peers, teachers, and other staff members. Kaila shines as a student of character and has a very bright future ahead of her.

Mrs. Hopaczyllo



Fairness

PTO Movie Night



February 10th
5:30 - 7:00 pm



Snacks will be available

Kinder Prep



In February, our theme is "Earth and Sky." The children will be answering questions like: "What happens when day changes to night?" "What happens when weather changes?" "What changes in each season? And "How can we take care of the Earth?" Our color of the month is pink. Our shapes are heart and crescent. Our concept is long and short. Our letters are Vv, Ww, and Ff. Our numbers are 13,14 and 15 this month. Our math concept is Positional Words. Our author of the month is Dr. Seuss. We also will be doing our Valentine's Day Celebration on Tuesday, February 14th. Please look for more information about this event.

POPS



In POPS for the month of February look for fun activities involving the color pink and the shapes circle and crescent. We will also be practicing S blends during the day. Our POPS students will be exploring the unit Earth and Sky using hands on activities in our classrooms. This will include the concepts of top and bottom.



Kindergarten

Thank you to all of you who were able to join us for our Academic Parent Teacher Team meeting. This month in Foundations, students will continue to decode words as well as spell them. We will also retell stories by identifying the characters, setting, and main events. Please refer to your Foundations packets for specific information about activities. Don't forget to practice letter formation as well; we are still seeing some reversals! In Math Expressions, students will identify both 5 groups and ten groups. We will also talk about the partners of a number as we continue learning about simple addition and subtraction. As always, thank you for all you do to support your student's learning!



Functional Life Skills

During the month of January our class learned about the difference between Cold and Hot. Of course, we had to have Ice Cream to reinforce "Cold". We also learned about Penguins and Polar Bears and how they love to play in the snow. And, we had some perfect weather that helped explain "Cold".



First Grade

We are so proud of first grade and all the growth they have made thus far. This month in math, students will be working with data and learning how to use objects, drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent a problem. Students will also learn how to draw comparison bars or make matching drawings to represent comparison situations. In Foundations, students will learn the difference between a blend and a digraph blend and how to read and spell common blends. We will also be learning about R controlled vowels. Please make sure your child is reading 20 minutes every night as this will help with fluency.



Second Grade

Animal reports were sent home and are due on February 10th. Students are able to choose any Polar Animal and complete the tri-fold papers sent home. One student from each Second Grade Class will be selected to go to the Sci-Tech Fair to share their tri-folds. Please make sure your child uses the internet to find their information and then neatly completes their reports. Friendship Day Parties will be held on February 14th. All students who participate will need to bring a Valentines Day Card for each student. Please look out for more information from your child's teacher.



Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is learning so much during the second half of the school year. In reading we began our unit of study on the Gold Rush. Fractions, fractions and more FraCtIonS...OH MY! Don't forget to utilize the Math Power books to better help your child at home when they are struggling. In social studies we are studying the exploration and settlement of Arizona from the 1500's to the mid 1800's. Be on the lookout for information about a upcoming social studies project. Lastly, in science we are exploring the magnetic world of magnetism.



Third Grade

Third graders are in LOVE with our science unit all about light and sound. As we get closer to the Sci-Tech Festival date, we have been doing experiments and discovering more about how light works and why sound waves cannot be seen normally. In writing we have been composing narratives and now we are transitioning into informative text. The students will be using their science topic of light and sound to show their expertise in the subject area. Math we have been working on elapsed time and graphs, but now we will be headed into addition and subtraction of multi-digit numbers. Lastly, in reading we will be working with cause and effect, text features, and main idea and details to better understand the text/stories we read.



Sixth Grade

The sixth graders are working diligently in Math on inequalities and averages leading into mean, median and mode. ELA working on structure of literature and how to answer questions by citing evidence from the passage they have read. We completed the 700 word essays for the Gilbert Optimist Club essay contest and will soon be working on the Character Counts essay contest with the Pinal County Juvenile Court and Community Advisory Board. Science projects are in the works currently and final research report, presentation on tri-folds, and experiments due February 13th. Students created a proposal on having a dance for 6th grade and presented it to Mrs. McRae and Mrs. Kruse. They will be having a school dance on Feb. 14.



Fifth Grade

In February, 5th graders will be presenting their Science Exploration projects in class! We hope to see you at the Sci-Tech Festival on Thurs., Feb. 16th in the Combs High School gym for more science fun! Also, students will be learning about water conservation and participate in a presentation hosted by the Town of Queen Creek. They will come on Thurs., Feb. 9th to educate students about the importance of conservation! Feel free to join us in the library! We will also wrap up our Biz Town curriculum after returning from our field trip! We hope to see you at our APTT night on Thurs., Feb 2nd from 6:00-7:15 pm in the classroom! As always, thank you for all of our support from home!



P.E.

Wow, the holidays are over and its time to get back to fitness. Kinder through 2nd grade are wrapping up basketball fundamentals and beginning our jump rope unit. 3rd and 4th grades will continue to play various games with basketballs and also start our jump rope unit. 5th and 6th grade will start our basketball tournament and also be involved in our jump rope for heart fundraiser. Our fundraiser for the year is beginning, Jump Rope for Heart raises funds for the American Heart Association. Look for a packet to come home with your student. Have a wonderful heart month.

Music Department

Our kindergarten through second grade students are currently learning to keep a consistent steady beat. We are also working on singing familiar songs and correctly singing an echo through music games. Our third and fourth graders have begun learning how to play the ukulele, which is a small four string instrument shaped like a guitar. This allows students to apply music reading skills and steady beat skills to a fun instrument.

Orchestra: The orchestra students have been learning new ways to move their bows and how to play familiar songs in a musical round. We will begin focusing on some songs that have two or three different musical parts as we prepare for our upcoming April and May concerts.

Band: The fifth grade band students are continuing their journey of learning all the notes on their instruments. The sixth grade students will be receiving their music for the April and May concerts soon. Practice logs will be coming home during the week of January 30th.

Technology

Technology will be continuing in its exploration of Sketchup 3D computer modeling (K-2) and Stencyl (game coding). K-2 will be creating various shapes, eventually progressing into the creation of a house. 3-6 will be designing and coding a "Mario-style" platforming game.



Bookworms aren't people who love to read. They are people who treat books as treasures.

I LOVE TO READ WEEK ACTIVITIES

Monday, 2/27 - Read on the lawn & Student Council Character Play

Tuesday, 2/28 - Dress up as your favorite story book character

Wednesday, 3/1 - Dress western and Hoe Down 5-7 pm

Thursday, 3/2 - Guest readers day

Friday, 3/3 - Celebrate w/ Dr. Seuss



SAVE THE DATE...
RANCH HOEDOWN
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1
5-7PM



FREE ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN

J.O. Combs is excited to continue a Tuition Free All Day Kindergarten Program during the 2017-2018 school year. As our enrollment is on-going, any interested families may enroll at this time. A special "Kindergarten Experience" is scheduled on February 7th at 6:00pm at all the elementary schools. Bring your child and come check out our program!!

SOCIAL WORKER CORNER

Ranch Elementary students in grades 2-6 were able to meet and interview parents and community members with a variety of careers on Friday, January 20. Take a moment and ask your child about our Rocket Scientist, JO Combs High School Principal and Coach, professionals from the medical community, a deputy with PCSO, a corrections officer, Pinal County Health Dept. member, two former NFL players, a pilot, a chef, and a cake designer. We are so grateful to all of those who volunteered their time and came to share interesting information about their career choices and how the subjects we learn about in elementary school are the foundation for more education in the future. Thank you to all our participants.



Our sixth grade class traveled to Combs Middle School on Tuesday, January 24 for a fun and informative morning, learning about what to expect as they move on to the middle school next fall. There was a whip cream eating contest, a "shake it up" with ping pong balls contest, and a tug of war competition with other JO Combs elementary schools. Then students toured the campus, had the opportunity to peek into classrooms, and learn about lunch, sports, and clubs. The class was awesome, they will be a great asset to Combs Middle School next year.

The Parent/Student open house at CMS will be held on Wednesday, February 1 @ 6:00pm.



The following students were recognized on January 24 as the Students of the Month. They were selected because they exemplify the pillar of Respect. Each student was able to select a friend and have lunch on the stage. Congratulations!

Grace Palfreyman
Duke Verenski
Sarah Kirking
Hayden Atwell
Vanessa Bailey
Gracie Solis
Cruz Hernandez

Ava Hess
Bryant Martinez
Isaac Chavez
Dylan Clevenger
Kevin Martinez
Autumn Allred
Jonathan Graciano

Title I

Happy Valentine's Day from your Title I staff. Did you know that your child can build his/her vocabulary through reading? Children that love to read tend to have rich vocabularies. Here are some tips to help your child enrich his/her vocabulary through reading. Choose different kinds of books to read. For example, when reading books about animals, your child may come across words like nocturnal, migrate, and hibernate. Historical fiction or biographies may have words that describe occupations like blacksmith, carpenter or politician. Also, discuss unknown words with your child. Have him/her make a list of the words and find the meanings in the dictionary. Drawing pictures and using the words to retell the story will help your child understand and remember them. Also, reading these words in other books or hearing them in conversation will help to bring the meanings to life. Happy Reading! And remember, reading is a skill that needs to be practiced every day!

CONGRATULATIONS TO RANCH SPELLING BEE WINNERS!!



- 1st - Michael Fiermonti 6th Grade
- 2nd - Ada Sam 4th Grade
- 3rd - Jordan Smith 6th Grade

Ranch Staff Acknowledgement Form

Has a Ranch staff member gone above and beyond for you or your child? We would love to hear about it! Please share your appreciation for a Ranch staff member and turn it in to the front office.

I would like to recognize _____ for _____

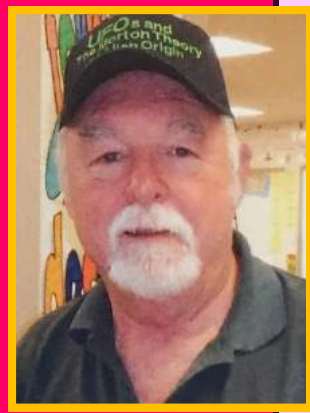
Employee of the Month



Tom Murray

Tom has been a dedicated Ranch employee longer than anyone here at Ranch in fact since before the school opened. He always goes above and beyond; he is trustworthy and well respected. I feel Tom deserves recognition for all his efforts here for the past 9 years.

Al Urso



Employee of the Month

Amy Alexander



Thank you Amy for always being around to help! You have given me so much of your time!

Amber Gaylord

DISTRICT NEWS

The 2nd Annual Combs SciTech Festival is February 16th from 6p-7p at Combs High School! Students from all schools will show off what they have learned about Science & Technology in Society. Attendees will have fun learning about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) with hands-on activities. Get your passport stamped at key locations on campus to receive your special treat! See the flyer for all the great businesses partnering with Combs.



We offer gifted blanket testing for 3rd grade students. We have scheduled testing at each elementary school the week of February 13th. 3rd grade families will receive additional details including information on how to opt out of this testing via email.

If you or someone you know is looking for a career in education, plan on joining us March 21st from 4pm -7pm at the Combs Job Fair. Open positions include cafeteria staff, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and classroom teachers. Please see the flyer for more details.

February is National CTE Month! Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes are a great way for high school students to get a jump on their future and learn marketable skills. New classes have been added for the 2017-2018 school year! Check out the CHS course catalog for more information.





Combs Middle School

“Home of the Cougars”

37611 N. Pecan Creek Drive
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140
(480) 882-3510
www.jocombs.org

January 30, 2017

Greetings Sixth Grade Families,

Welcome to Combs Middle School! The CMS staff is very excited about the opportunities that lie ahead to assist our future Cougars with their growth academically, socially, and personally.

Today, your child received course selection materials for the 2017-2018 school year. These materials include a course selection handbook and course selection sheet. The handbook provides you with course titles, prerequisites, and descriptions for each course broken down by content area. Please take time to review this information with your child as you assist with selecting the courses. The completed course selection form needs to be returned to your child's Language Arts teacher by Friday, February 17th.

Choosing electives is an important part of the planning of a student's schedule. For this year's planning, elective courses will be offered on both a full year and semester basis. Additionally, there are a number of new elective classes that are being offered. Many of these new courses will allow CMS students to develop a pathway to current courses offered at Combs High School.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Wiberg, School Counselor, at (480) 882-3518.

The staff at Combs Middle School is looking forward to building upon the many successes that are currently occurring while preparing for the rewarding challenges that lie ahead. My thoughts reflect a hope that our new families and middle school staff members will partner with an energized desire to help our future Cougars grow as much as possible.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Mauro, Principal

**J.O. Combs
Unified
School
District**

Job Fair

**Positions Available
July 2017**

- ◆ **Teachers**
- ◆ **Special Education Teachers**
- ◆ **Teacher Substitutes**
- ◆ **Classroom Aides/
Paraprofessionals**
- ◆ **Bus Drivers**
- ◆ **Custodians**
- ◆ **Food Service**
- ◆ **Support Staff
Substitutes**

**Walk-Ins
Welcome!**

March 21, 2017
4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Combs High School Library
2505 E. Germann Road
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

**Apply online by March 15
to be guaranteed an
interview**

www.jocombs.org

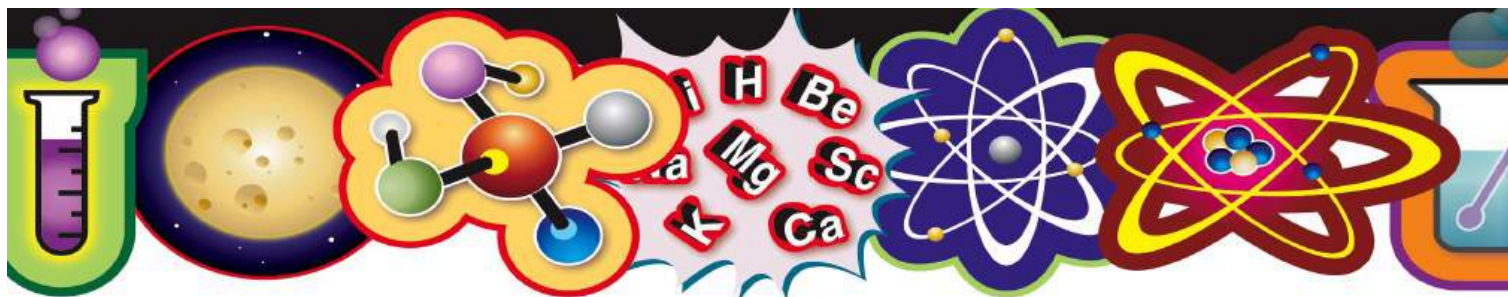


**Call 480-987-5305 for further
Career Fair Information**

Combs

J.O. Combs Unified School District

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow



JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL

Combs

J.O. Combs Unified School District

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SCITECH

FEBRUARY 16TH 6PM-7PM

AT COMBS HIGH SCHOOL

**STUDENTS FROM ALL SCHOOLS WILL DEMONSTRATE
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN SOCIETY**

COMPUTER TROUBLES? COMBS IT DEPARTMENT WILL BE THERE TO CHECK IT OUT!

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCES AND BOOTHS:

AZ SCITECH
BANNER IRONWOOD RADIOLOGY
AZ SCIENCE CENTER
MAD SCIENCE
AZ FARM BUREAU
STRATUM LASER TAG

CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE-
STEM & SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS
RADICAL REPTILES
GAME TRUCK
MESA UTILITIES
AND MORE!

