



COMBS TRADITIONAL ACADEMY

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that we're already midway through the first quarter of the school year! It's been a great start to the school year with many new faces that are quickly becoming part of the Combs Traditional Academy family along with some exciting additions to our program.

I hope you have been able to meet some of our new faces over the last month. If not, we have many events coming up that I'm sure will provide you with an opportunity to get to know our new staff. We have a few semi-new faces on the support staff side of the campus, including Ms. Dana Jewell, our Night Custodian, Ms. Samantha Fraser, our Health Assistant, and Ms. Laila Ghubril, our Noon Aide. All started with us towards the end of the school year last year and we are excited to have them continue with us as we start the new one. We are also fortunate to have some wonderful teachers join our staff. Mrs. Cecilia Galvan worked with our Kindergartners for much of the year as the Kindergarten Aide and has now moved up to be the Kindergarten Lead Paraprofessional. In 3rd grade, we have Ms. Jordan Dahl joining us from Anchorage, AK and Mrs. Jennifer Herrick, who student taught with Mrs. Lemons last year. In 4th grade, Mrs. Rebekah Snyder joins us from Apache Junction and in 5th grade, we have Mrs. Aileen Allen and Mrs. Heather Zertuche coming to us from Anthem K-8 in Florence. Rounding out our new teaching staff is Mrs. Leonor Hathaway who joins us from Roosevelt School District in Phoenix. Additionally, Mrs. Jette Thompson, our counselor, is now with us four days per week, spending Mondays at Combs High School and the remainder of the week working with our students.

In addition, we are working hard to ensure that we are true to our Mission of providing a rigorous academic focus for all students in a collaborative environment that emphasizes responsibility and respect. Curriculum Night in August was one way we are trying to ensure the academic focus through our collective collaboration and commitments with our parent community to ensure that we have rigorous goals for our children and we have the resources necessary to achieve those goals together. You will get to continue that collaboration during Parent Teacher Conferences coming up this month, reviewing your child's goal and what needs to be done to help them achieve those goals.

During Curriculum Night, teachers shared with our parent community our students academic achievement on AzMERIT this past spring. We are all proud of how well our students performed, with an average of 70% of our 3rd-6th graders passing AzMERIT in ELA and Math and 94% of our 4th graders passing AIMS Science! Great Schools has us as the highest rated school in San Tan Valley and our students, staff, and community continue to show why! If you haven't already, we encourage you to share on social media why Combs Traditional Academy is the School of Choice for you and hashtag it with #rigorresponsibilityrespect!

Thank you!

Marcus Berkshire
Principal

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Parent Reminders:

September

- ♦ 8/31- *Cookie Dough Fundraiser due*
- ♦ 9/5 - *Labor Day- **No School***
- ♦ 9/8-13- *Grandparent Reading Celebration*
- ♦ 9/9-CHS Family Football Night
- ♦ 9/12 - *Flag Ceremony @ 8:30am*
- ♦ 9/12-*Book Fair Setup*
- ♦ 9/13-16 - *Fall Book Fair*
- ♦ 9/14- *Donuts w/Dad & Grandparents*
-*Governing Board Meeting at CMS @ 6pm*
- ♦ 9/15-*Menchie's Fundraiser*
- ♦ 9/15-16 - *Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Release*
- ♦ 9/23 - *Family Movie Night @ 6pm*

PTO News

Welcome back to school CTA families! Thank you to all the parents that attended our first PTO meeting. We had a great turn out. PTO is very excited about the year we have planned! Packets for our fundraiser were due August 31st. All fundraiser items will be delivered toward the end of September or early October. More information will be sent home as the dates get closer.

Would you like to help PTO? If you can assist at an event for 30 minutes, make copies, or count box tops...we can use you! Please contact us at combstraditionalpto@gmail.com if you would like information on what volunteer opportunities are available. If you filled out a yellow Volunteer Form for events, we sent an email signup sheet. Please check your spam folder if you submitted the form but did not receive the email.

Here's what's going on in September:

- Book Fair – September 12th – 16th
- Donuts w/Dad & Grandparents– September 14th , 7am
- Menchies Fundraiser-September 15th, 4-8pm
- Movie Night - September 23rd , 6-8pm

- Keep up to date on PTO events by following us on Facebook at Combs Traditional Academy PTO!



**Help support our Students!
Participate in PTO Events**

Patriot Day Flag Ceremony



We will have our first school-wide Flag Ceremony on

**Monday, September 12th at
8:30am.**

Members of the community are invited as we gather to raise the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and hear some brief words on the importance of Patriot Day.

Cafeteria News

Are you looking for a way to track and monitor your child's lunch account? Our Food Services department makes this process simple and easy by providing you with a website where you can do just that. Contact our Food Services Department at 480-987-5312 and they will walk you through setting up an account on www.ezschoollpay.com. Making payments online is easy to do and accounts are run every day at 10am. If you are sending payments to school with your child, please be sure to ask them to stop by the office prior to going to class.

Free & Reduced Lunch Applications

Please remember that these must be renewed yearly. More information can be found at www.combsnutrition.com. If you have any questions, you can contact our front office or our kitchen manager,



Lunch payments must be made **prior to 9am** to be added to your child's account the same day

~District News~



Combs has a variety of job openings to match your skills and schedules. Openings include food service, custodians, paraprofessionals, and high school coaches to name a few. All job positions can be viewed online at www.jocombs.org under the Employment tab.

Join us for the Community Health Fair on September 20th from 6pm - 8pm at Combs High School. Many health related organizations will be present including Hearsh-Savers CPR, free blood pressure screenings and AirEvac emergency response. Students who participate in the bike rodeo will be entered into a drawing for a free bike!
*participants must have their own bike and helmet. We hope to see you there!



Mark your calendars for the 1st Annual Parent University. Held October 22nd from 9am - 12pm at Ranch Elementary, parents can select from conference style sessions ranging from Understanding the IEP process to Drug Prevention in Youth or Navigating Puberty. Free child care will be provided. Look for more information coming home at Parent Teacher Conferences!

Student Council

Congratulations to all of our students who are running for a student council position! This is a great opportunity for students to learn leadership skills and be an active part of Combs Traditional Academy school community! We are very proud to have such a great interest in student council this year. Good luck to you all!

Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade will be able to display 1 election poster in their classrooms and 6th grade students are encouraged to campaign using the school halls to display their posters.

3rd - 6th grade will have grade representative positions available

6th grade only for office positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian)

Election campaign begins Monday August 29th - Thursday September 2nd

Election Vote - Friday September 2nd



Student council meetings will be held each Monday from 3:05-4:05 for those who were voted to represent their class/school. If you have any questions please email Ms. Lord at alord@jocomb.org or Mrs. Herrick at jherrick@jocombs.org

Transportation Changes

If you need to make a change to your child's afternoon transportation, please be sure to contact our office prior to 1pm to give us adequate time to notify your child's teacher. If you must call after 1pm and are unable to get through, *please be sure to leave a message.* The end of the day has the tendency to become very busy; however, Ms. Lisa will always check the messages prior to the final bell of the day so she is able to contact teachers regarding changes in transportation. Thanks for your cooperation and assistance in this matter .



Chess Club



All ages, grades, and skill levels welcome! Develop skills including visualization, concentration, problem-solving, self-confidence, discipline and insight.

Aug. 23rd-Nov. 15th Tuesdays 3:10-4:10 pm

Tuition: \$149

Register: chessemporium.com/clubs
Questions? Call 602-482-4867 or email kids@chessemporium.com

Karate Classes

Karate will be held at CTA on Mondays from 3:10-4:10pm.
Sessions below:

Session 1– 08/22-10/03

Session 2– 10/31-12/5



A fun and exciting class to learn Karate. Students will improve flexibility, muscle tone, speed, and strength. Students will also develop additional skills such as courtesy, respect, self-esteem, conflict resolution, discipline, goal setting, and leadership skills.

The cost for the 6 week course is \$90 per student. Registration must be submitted online or by mail. Additional forms are available in the front office.

Counselor's Corner

We have had a great start to the year at CTA! Students have been eager to participate in classroom learning and activities. The classroom guidance lesson focus for the month of August was what it means to be a CTA KNIGHT. Younger grade levels discussed how students are alike and different. We then went into how we all want to show rigor, responsibility and respect. Older grade levels took the meaning of rigor, responsibility and respect further by discussing the CTA school mission. Each student was then asked to create an individual mission they want to accomplish this school year. Feel free to look in your student's agenda book to see what he/she wrote as his/her mission!

My goal at CTA this year is to support your student in developing the social and emotional skills needed for a successful school career!

Jette Thompson
Counselor



Jupiter Grades

Parents should be able to check their child's grades weekly on Jupiter Grades. If you have not received information on how to set up your account, please contact your child's teacher and they can send home the information. This is a great way to track your child's progress throughout the school year!



Accelerated Reader Email Set-up

*Go to www.combstraditional.jocombs.org and visit **Parent Links**, click on **Accelerated Reader**

*Type in student's user name and password

*View student's AR Quiz results and setup email messages (visit link at upper right-Email Setup)

*Enter all areas to receive emails and click "Add" (an email will be sent to the email address provided)

*Individual should receive email with the following information and click to accept invitation

*After accepting invitation, person should be taken to a link that shows it went through properly

Combs Traditional Academy Staff Acknowledgement

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

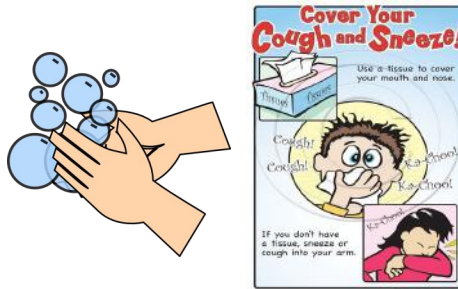
I would like to recognize: _____ For: _____

I would like to recognize: _____ For: _____

CTA Health Corner

Mrs. Keeli and Ms. Sam

Hello from the Nurse's office! The new school year is well under way and we have already seen many students with fever, strep throat and pink eye. We want all our students to be healthy and able to attend school. Below are a few tips and reminders for everyone to follow and practice now before cold and flu season really hits.



1. Wash your hands! Soap and water are the best!
2. Cover your coughs and sneezes! Use a tissue or the crook of your arm.
3. Eat healthy foods!
4. Get plenty of rest!

We understand as hard as we try to prevent it, kids will still get sick. School policy states they may return to school only after being:

1. 12 hours free of vomiting
2. 24 hours free of fever (without the use of fever reducing medicines)
3. 24 hours of antibiotic treatment

**Students need to be healthy to be educated and
educated to be healthy!**



**COMBS
TRADITIONAL
ACADEMY**

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***Rigor, Responsibility
& Respect***



Vision:

Students will develop the essential skills to become higher level thinkers that will empower them to become respectful, self-disciplined, conscientious, and self-motivated leaders of society.



September Birthdays

Student Birthdays:

Calista Wiley
Ashley Williams
Elijah Golden
Olivia Minson
Sophia Byrd
Kristian Bourland
Kemper Emerson
Deborah Amoako
Bryson Berkebile
Isabella Villavazo
Makayla Oberg

Samantha Bourland
Tristan Williams
Preston Lord
Ashley Mabey
Mayson Koselke
Ignacio Baca
Jayden Boyle
Pierina Palma Barros
Kaya Stewart
Alyssa Navarre

Staff Birthdays:

Bianca Alva
Lisa McDonald
Krista Nino
Sonia Ochoa



Happy Birthday!