



# COMBS TRADITIONAL ACADEMY

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

## Principal's Message

This month allows me to share with you some very positive news for Combs Traditional Academy. We are very excited to share that we continue to be one of the top rated schools in the area, with the state's release of individual school performance on last spring's AzMERIT testing. Overall, we had the highest passing rate of any school in Pinal County and San Tan Valley in both Mathematics and English Language Arts. For both English Language Arts and Mathematics, our 4th and 5th graders had the highest passing percentage in the county. Our 4th graders were in the top 15 of all schools and top 5 public schools in the state for ELA and our 5th graders were in the top 5% of all public schools in the state for Mathematics.

We also had our first induction ceremony on Thursday, September 29th for the National Elementary Honor Society. The fourteen 5th and 6th grade students that were inducted had to qualify based on grades, then apply for membership including an essay. A team of staff members reviewed each application and recommended students for membership based on the NEHS principles of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character, and Citizenship. They will now meet on a regular basis to continue to take a leadership role at CTA in terms of those principles and we will hold annual inductions of new students in the spring. We look forward to seeing our NEHS membership grow and continue to showcase the excellence that is Combs Traditional Academy!

Please don't forget some of the important dates coming up! Fall break is just around the corner during the week of October 10th. Students return on October 18th. We will have our first Recognition Assemblies for Honor Roll and Student Attendance on October 21st. PTO will be hosting a Peter Piper Pizza Night on October 28th. On November 4th, our first Battle of the Books will be held with 5th and 6th grade teams showing what they have learned over the first four books on the list. And please remember to register to vote by October 10th!

Thank you for your continued support of Combs Traditional Academy and the J.O. Combs Unified School District. Our mission is to provide a rigorous academic focus for all students in a collaborative environment that emphasizes responsibility and respect. Without our collaboration with you, that would not be possible! Thank you!

*Marcus J. Berkshire*

Marcus Berkshire  
Principal

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## Important Dates:

10/5	Fall Pictures
10/5	Governing Board Meeting at CMS @6:00PM
10/10-14	Fall Break – No School
10/17	Teacher PD Day – No School
10/18-21	Spirit Week
10/20	CHS Homecoming Parade, 4-6 PM, Begins at Ranch Elementary School
10/21	Awards Assemblies, Gym
	K-1 8:30-8:50
	2-3 9:00-9:20
	4-6 9:30-9:50
10/24-28	Gifted Testing
10/28	PTO Peter Piper Pizza Night, 4-8PM
11/6	Battle of the Books, 8:30AM, Gym

# PTO News

We are very happy to announce that with our Otis/Cherrydale Fundraiser we should have enough funds to start refreshing our Library and sprucing it up to make a fun learning and reading environment. Thank You parents for all your support in our fundraisers because of you this allows us as the PTO to purchase and give the teachers, staff, and school the items needed.

Thank You so much to all of our fabulous rock star volunteers who have helped with Book Fair, Donuts with Dads/Grandparents and Movie Night. These events cannot be a success without the wonderful support of our parents! I also want to thank the staff who also help out at the events and lend their time and support as well as the PTO Board for all of their help and hard work. These events in the end are a team effort and I am grateful for everyone. Please check out our upcoming events to continue to support and raise funds for our school.



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

## ~Upcoming Events~

10/19/16- **Otis Spunkmeyer/Cherrydale Delivery and Pick up Day** 1:35pm-5:30pm

10/28/16- **Peter Piper Pizza Night** 4pm-8pm

11/1/16- **PTO Quarterly Meeting** (Free Babysitting Provide) 6pm-7pm

11/16/16- **PTO Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser** (All Day)

\*Keep up to date on PTO Events by following us on Facebook at Combs Traditional Academy PTO!!

## Congratulations

to the following students for their induction into the **National Elementary Honors Society** on September 29th:

*Kristian Bourland  
Samantha Bourland  
Sophia Byrd  
Aeden Curtis  
Isabella Loyola  
Jaquarius Robinson  
Ethan Rosenbaum  
Isaac Sedillo  
Camren Tapia  
Krista Turk  
Chisom Ubosi  
Jessica Valdez  
Alexis Vasquez  
Shelby Walag*

We are proud of your accomplishments and continuing demonstration of Rigor, Responsibility and Respect!



## 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](http://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.

### **Reminder: Meal prices have changed for the 2016-17 school year.**

Breakfast: \$1.25 (Reduced \$0.30)

Lunch: \$2.65 (Reduced \$0.40)

Bianca Laguna at 480-987-5320 ext. 5325.



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

## Orchestra Message

**Beginning Orchestra Students:** are becoming more proficient at moving and holding their bows while learning to read music without having to write letter names over their notes. **Advanced Orchestra Students:** Are becoming more proficient at playing Dotted Quarter Note/Eighth Note (Hiccup) Rhythms, and Quarter Note/Two Eighth Notes (Shuffle) Rhythms. Many advanced songs require this ability, and so we are practicing scales and songs that include these rhythm patterns.

Sincerely,  
Guido Lavorata



## Band News



This month's focus in all Band classes is **PRACTICE RECORDS!!!** Every band student is given a blank practice record each Friday. They are to write the number of minutes each day that they practice in that week (starting on Friday). Practice records are to be signed by parents and turned in on the following Friday.

The expected practice time is 100 minutes per week, as it fits the student's schedule. Treat practice time as regular homework, and there won't be any problem fulfilling this expectation!

**Please be aware:** There **WILL** be a practice record to fill out during fall break. It will be a slightly different format, and the students will bring it home on October 7.

## Karate Classes

Karate will be held at CTA on Mondays from 3:10-4:10pm. Remaining sessions are listed below:

Session 2- 10/31-12/05

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.



## 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](http://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

# Technology News

Kindergarten - 6th grade students are now using their Google Classroom accounts (just to clarify - students do NOT have access to email). To learn more about what Google Classroom is:

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6020279?hl=en>

Students are already seeing the benefits of how easy it is to work on and turn in assignments using Google Classroom.

To help our kindergarten kiddos, if you have a computer with a keyboard at home, please help them type Pw, typing a capital P and lowercase w for their password is confusing to many of them up. The more they practice this, the quicker they will be able to log on. We use the number pad to type in their numbers, so letting them practice typing on the number pad will also aide them in learning to log on.

Here is an *example* of what a student username and password looks like:

123456  
Pw105123456

Suzana Battaglia,

M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction: Technology

WEBSITE <http://mrsbattaglia.weebly.com/index.html>



## Awards Assemblies

In an effort to recognize and promote academic excellence, eligible students will be acknowledged for the following achievements at our assemblies on **October 21st**

**Scholar of Distinction** (Gr.1-6): 98-100%

**Principal's Honor Roll** (Gr.1-6): 90-97%

**Honor Roll** (Gr.1-6): 84-89%

- Computed Quarterly
- Grades must fall in the corresponding range and are averaged in each core subject area: Math, Reading, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies
- Students must maintain a satisfactory rating or above in each special: Music/Band, PE, and Technology

**School Recognition** (Gr.K-6): Recognizes academic effort and improvement of students who meet their individual and teacher created classroom goals.

Please join us Friday, October 21st

K-1	8:30-8:50
2-3	9:00-9:20
4-6	9:30-9:50



## Nurse's Corner

Help us keep CTA happy and healthy! Please keep your child home if they have any of the following symptoms:

**\*Fever-** Temperature of 100.0° or greater. Child must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication before they can return to school.

**\*Strep Throat-** Child may return to school once they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and are fever free.

**\*Pink Eye-** Child may return to school once they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours

**\*Lice-** CTA has a no-nit policy. Please keep your child home if there are any eggs, nits, or live lice present. Students must be checked in the health office before they can return to school.

If you have any questions, please contact the health office at [480-987-5323](tel:480-987-5323). Thank you!



## 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.



# ~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 be visiting Combs High School from 12:15pm - 1:15pm to share information with the community about advanced education degrees. If you are interested in learning more about Bachelors or Masters Education programs, please come visit with school representatives. As a bonus, food trucks will be on-site ready to serve you and your family a great lunch!

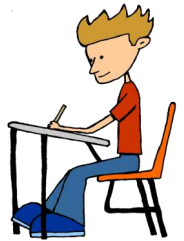


Mark your calendar for October 22nd and plan on attending Parent University from 9am - 12pm at Ranch Elementary. Parents can select from a wide-range of classes including STEAM in the Kitchen, Understanding the IEP process, Kindergarten Readiness, and Internet Safety just to name a few. We hope to see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

**Gifted Testing**

Fall Testing for Kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Week of October 24-28 at each elementary site. The request for testing form is online and can be found on the district website under Curriculum & Instruction. The deadline to submit the request for the October testing date is October 7th.

The testing session will be scheduled during the school day and should last approximately 90 minutes. New this year the test will be administered online.



## Combs KIDZ Fall Camp

There are great things happening at Combs Kidz Fall Camp this year!

Students will enjoy science projects, arts & crafts, technology, indoor & outdoor activities, Wii games, and Field Trips!

Tues., Oct 11th ~ Harkins ~ Storks!

AM Showing ~ \$8.00

&

Thurs., Oct 13th ~ Bowling

12:30—2:30 pm ~ \$6.00

**REGISTER TODAY!**

[jocombs.org](http://jocombs.org)

### Fall Camp Fee Schedule

#### No Registration Fee!

Full Day	\$ 30
Weekly/Full Days	\$130 / 5 days \$160 / 6 days
Half Days	\$ 15
(6:30 am - 12:00 pm / 12:30—6:00 pm)	
Weekly/Half Days	\$ 70 / 5 days \$ 85 / 6 days

20% Sibling Discount  
20% Employee Discount

DES Approved

Online registration is open until Friday, October 7th.

Dates:  
October 10-14 & October 17  
6:30 am - 6:00 pm

Location:  
Ellsworth Elementary  
38454 N. Carolina Ave.  
(Pecan Creek South)

Please contact the  
Community Education Office  
at 480-987-5310

**Combs**  
10, Combs Unified School District



## YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW!

ONLINE ORDERING IS NOW OPEN

[inter-state.com/yearbook](http://inter-state.com/yearbook)

Enter code: 09738E

*Cost :*

\$22 .00 before 10/8/16

\$26.00 10/8/16 through  
3/10/17

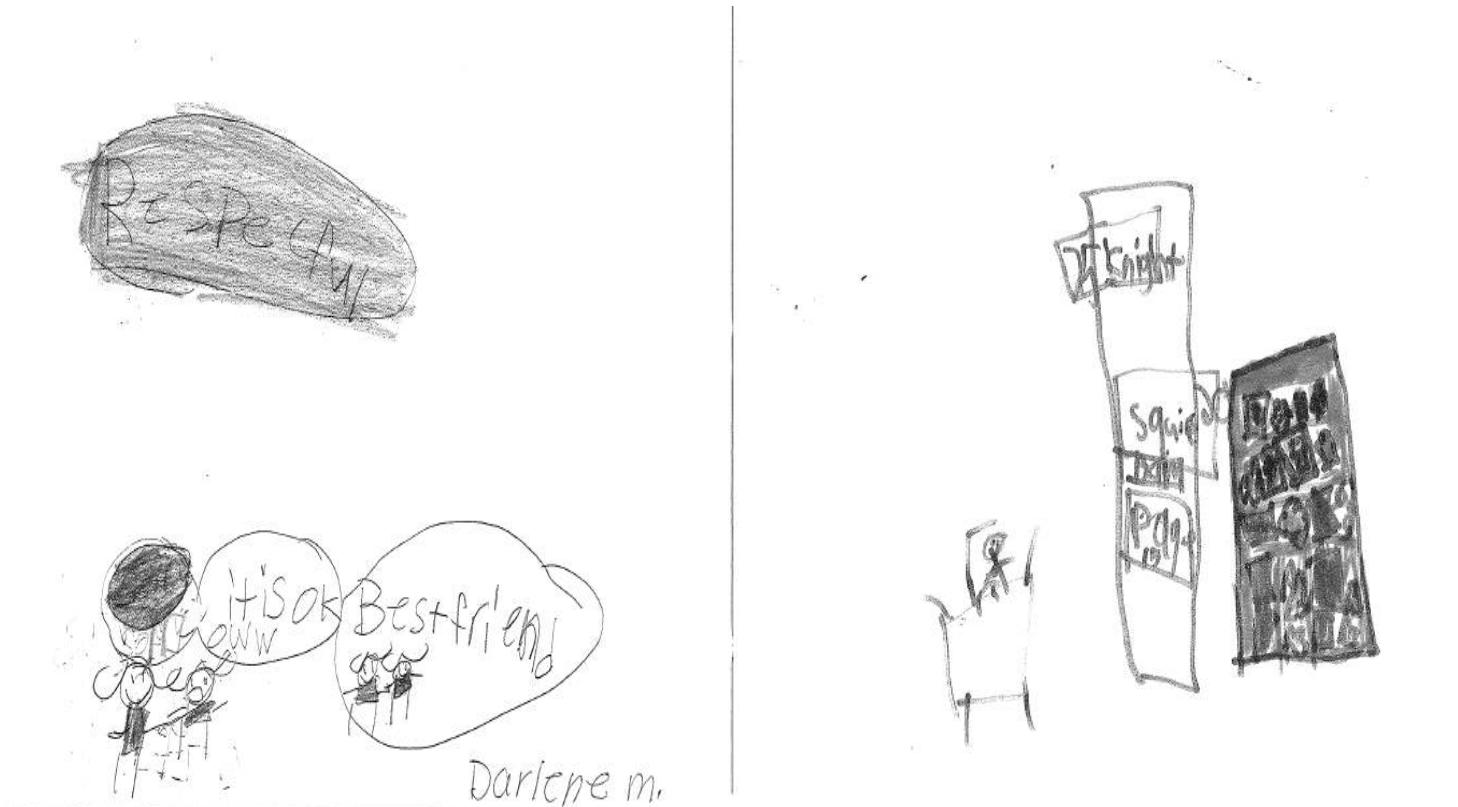
(all orders must be received  
by March 10th)



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**Artwork created by:**

**Darlene Moreno-2nd grade and Bam Miller-1st grade**



**Rigor, Responsibility, Respect**

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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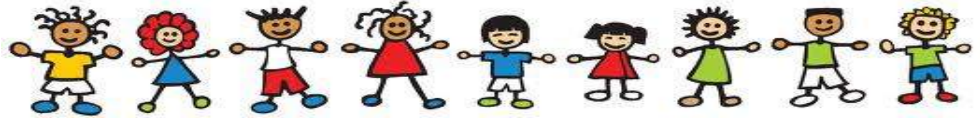


**COMBS  
TRADITIONAL  
ACADEMY**

37327 N Gantzel Rd  
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140  
Phone: 480-987-5320  
Fax: 480-987-3473

Website:  
[www.combstraditional.jocombs.org](http://www.combstraditional.jocombs.org)

***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.**



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## October Birthdays



Mylee Hubbard  
Zane Spears  
Sophia Tew  
Ashlyn Allen  
Sylvia Sterling  
Declyn Clasen  
Liat Hubbard  
Gabriel Sandoval  
Christopher Pinckard  
Ethan Rosenbaum  
Krista Turk

Isaac Sedillo  
Alexander Darby  
Kylie Smith  
Malick Farmer  
Emery Huffaker  
Alyssa Hood  
Elena Golden  
Trevor Hood  
Jacob Barbeau  
Christopher Mault  
Mary Addie Benjamin

Carter Stinecipher  
Daniel Herrick  
Layla Robinson  
Dominic Barthell  
Arman Galang  
Sophie Riley

**~STAFF~**

Leonor Hathaway

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# Happy Birthday!

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