



## COMBS TRADITIONAL ACADEMY

# November NEWSLETTER

### Principal's Message

November is a month of thanks for us as American citizens. It begins with us celebrating our democracy on Election Day, continues with honoring our Veterans on Veteran's Day, and finishes with the Thanksgiving holiday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support and encouragement you provide for us here at Combs Traditional Academy and for your children in their learning.

This month also sees the release of our AzMERIT scores. The J.O. Combs Unified School District has sent home information related to the scores and I encourage you to explore the resources related to the exam on the Arizona Department of Education's webpage as well as on Expect More Arizona's webpage ([www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov) and [www.expectmorearizona.org](http://www.expectmorearizona.org)). Both have excellent resources available to understand more about the exam and the raised expectations reflected on the exam. We will be sending home your child's individual score reports on November 16th. The state will release all school level scores at the end of November. We encourage you to talk to your child's teacher regarding your child's performance if you have any questions or concerns when you receive them. We will be analyzing our performance as a school and working to ensure that we continue to meet the rigor and expectations of the AzMERIT assessment.

Again, we thank you for being part of the Combs Traditional Academy and J.O. Combs Unified School District community. We believe that our school and district are essential elements to the San Tan Valley Community and your support of our school and district is important and something of which we are proud.

Marcus Berkshire  
Principal

### Arizona College & Career Ready Standards

On Monday, October 26, 2015, the State Board of Education voted to continue Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards, also continuing their ability to add, delete or modify the standards as needed. This vote does not change the current standards. What teachers are teaching and students are learning does not change as a result of the State Board of Education's vote. The State Board of Education has always been able to make changes to the standards. In fact, a review process is currently underway. The deadline has been extended to parents, teachers and community to make comments through November 20 at <https://k12standards.az.gov/comment-standards>.

We will continue to use the current state standards to instruct students.

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### Important Dates:

11/6	Battle of the Books, 8:30AM, Gym
11/10	Veteran's Day Flag Ceremony 8:30AM
11/10	PTO Quarterly Mtg, 6:00PM
11/11	No School-Veteran's Day
11/18	Little Caesars Night
11/26-27	No School- Thanksgiving Break
12/4	PTO Breakfast w/ Santa 6-8:00PM
12/9	Governing Board Mtg @ CMS, 6:00PM

# PTO News

Thank you for your support at Peter Piper Pizza Boo Bash! It was a great event and we love the support of our community! Your support at these events has allowed PTO to give back to the classrooms by reimbursing teachers for needed classroom supplies that our children would not be able to have otherwise.

We still have **Spirit Shirts(\$10) and Phonogram Cards(\$15)** available for purchase. If you would like to make an order, please see the front office to fill out an order form and to submit payment. Your order will be sent home with your student.

## Upcoming Events

11/10/15 — **PTO Meeting** 6pm in the library

11/11/15 — **VETERANS DAY - NO SCHOOL**

11/18/15 — **Little Caesar's Pizza Day** - \$1 of every pizza sold goes to our school! Don't forget to save your Little Caesar's Pizza Proof of Purchase tabs. For every 100 tabs collected the school gets a free pizza party for 1 class.

11/26/15 - 11/27/15 - **THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO SCHOOL**

12/04/15 — **Breakfast (for dinner) with Santa** 6pm-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**

## Donations

If your child has outgrown their CTA uniform, please consider donating it to the health office. We are in need of **boys tops and bottoms in all sizes**. Please keep in mind the clothing needs to adhere to the uniform guidelines.

Thank you!



## 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.ezschoolpay.com](http://www.ezschoolpay.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](http://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

# Nurse's Corner

## What is the flu?

The flu (influenza) is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs that is caused by influenza virus. The flu can spread from person to person. Most people with flu are sick for about a week, but then feel better. However, some people (especially young children, pregnant women, older people, and people with chronic health problems) can get very sick and some can die.

## What are the symptoms of the flu?

Most people with the flu feel tired and have fever (usually high), headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and sore muscles. Some people, especially children, may also have stomach problems and diarrhea. Cough can last two or more weeks.

## How does the flu spread?

People that have the flu usually cough, sneeze, and have a runny nose. This makes droplets with virus in them. Other people can get the flu by breathing in these droplets or getting them in their nose or mouth.

School Nurses



## How can I protect my child from the flu?

1. Take time to get a flu vaccine and get your child vaccinated too.
2. Take everyday steps to prevent the spread of germs. This includes:
  - Clean your hands often and cover your coughs and sneezes
  - Tell your child to: - Stay away from people who are sick - Clean hands often - Keep hands away from face - Cover coughs and sneezes to protect others (it's best to use a tissue. Then, throw it away).

## When can my child go back to school after having the flu?

Keep your child home from school until his or her temperature has been normal for 24 hours. Remind your child to cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing, to protect others (you may want to send some tissue and wipes or gels with alcohol in them to school with your child).

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

## Jupiter Grades

Mid-quarter progress reports will be available electronically on Jupiter. Paper copies *will not* be sent home with students. Contact the office or your child's teacher for login & password information. If you do not have internet access, please request a paper copy from the teacher.



## 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

## Orchestra Message

Dear Parents,

Please be advised that our Orchestra Programs have changed.

- Harmon Elementary will be on January 14 at 6:00 In the Harmon Cafeteria.
- Combined Simonton and CTA Elementary will be on January 21 at 6:00 in the Simonton Cafeteria.
- Ellsworth Elementary will on January 28 at 6:00 in the Ellsworth Cafeteria.

Our Advanced students are learning how to play: a medley of songs that feature dotted rhythms, eighth notes, playing on the "G" String, different types of Slurs, playing in a "Round," and a new "G" Scale.

Our Beginning 1<sup>st</sup> year students are building their musical vocabulary to read and play: D, E, F# and G, various types of rests with Half Note, Quarter Note and Eighth Note Rhythms and musical directions such as: Da Capo al Fine and Bow Lifts.

Please encourage your child to practice. I look forward to seeing all of you at the concert!

Sincerely,  
Guido Lavorata  
glavorata@jocombs.k12.az.us



## Band News

**Concert time is approaching!** Mark your calendars for the first band concert of the year. Like last year, CTA students will be combining with Simonton Elementary, and the concert will be on Thursday, December 10, at Simonton. This is a great opportunity for parents to see the progress that has been made so far this year, and for the students to combine and play with many other musicians. The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m.

**Practice.** Please make sure your child is doing regular, at-home practice! They need this frequent repetition of material in order to be successful. Practice is graded as homework, and should be logged on a Weekly Practice Record, which is due (with parent signature) every Monday or Tuesday. Students who only play during class, and not at home, are quickly falling behind, so make sure that doesn't happen in your family!

**T-shirts.** The t-shirts that were paid for and ordered are in, and will be distributed to those students in the next week. These (along with blue jeans) will be the concert dress for the December concert. If you missed the ordering time, another order will be placed in January. In the meantime, students without band shirts will be asked to wear a plain black t-shirt for the concert – no collar, no logos or letters on the front or back.

Karen Steele  
ksteele@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.



## Library Corner

A big thank you to all of you who purchased books for our library! Thanks to you we now have several new titles for our kids to read and enjoy! Now that kindergarten is full-day, we've ordered a bunch of new primary-level books from Scholastic and they are on their way!

If you love books and would like to volunteer in the library, contact me by email at [esabo@jocombs.org](mailto:esabo@jocombs.org)! There is always something to help with, whether it be making the library look fun for the kids, tidying up or helping with checkout. If that sounds like something you would be interested in, shoot me an email! :)

Emily Sabo  
Library Aide





# ~Congratulations Knights~



## ~Scholars of Distinction~

Jillian Barbeau  
Lyla Benjamin  
Abby Brown  
Madeleine Chaman  
Nicholas Gendarilla

Peyton Humbert  
Lahna Rosenbaum  
Dario Turk  
Sophia Byrd  
Derek Cisneros

Breanna Litviack  
Isabella Loyola  
Ashley Mabey  
Krista Turk  
Joe Urso

Alexis Vasquez  
Ashley Williams  
Alana Patubo  
Alexandra Garcia

## ~Principal's List~

Shevonne Johnson  
Kobe Kennedy  
Andrew Lemus  
Kaden Lewis  
Darlene Moreno  
Sophia Tew  
Holly Walker  
Micah Hoagland  
Haylee Herrick  
Logan Newton  
Ben Sanders  
Sylvia Sterling  
Lenny Tran  
Peyton Turner  
Devin Wilson  
Desirae Arellano  
Gracie Briggs  
Aeden Curtis  
Emmalee Hood  
Thomas Hannan  
Bella Piriz  
Ethan Rosenbaum  
Abbie Septer

Camren Tapia  
Adan Torres  
Chisom Ubosi  
Abery Anthony  
Elena Golden  
Tatum Lord  
Jessica Valdez  
Katelynne Andrew  
Logan Brower  
Savannah Emerson  
Faith Erickson  
Aydenn Galang  
Elijah Gonzalez  
Jace Hubbard  
Cole Lapham  
Brylee Litviak  
Rebecca Munoz  
Layla Robinson  
Sophia Tapia  
Dominic Vasquez  
Samantha Wolfe  
Thomas Andrew  
Jacob Barbeau

Malakye Brown  
Kemper Emerson  
Melanie Gross  
Matthew Howell  
Alauna Poole  
Chinonye Ubosi  
Kingston Young  
Atalie Aldama  
Mackenzie Anthony  
Mary-Addie Benjamin  
Chelsea Brower  
Ayden Budish  
Elijah Golden  
Jackson Knopp  
Haydin Miller  
Amaya Poole  
Carter Stinecipher  
Adrian Vasquez  
Taylor Walag  
Tristan Williams  
Ashley Bean  
Natalie Bonilla  
Emily Buson

Willow Emerson  
Delaney Macias  
Isabella Marines  
Genesis Martinez-Garcia  
Nathan Pinckard  
Lucy Tran  
Arianna Washington  
Zane Spears  
Andy Zavata  
Michaela Bell  
Brenna Cox  
Ariana Kizier  
Preston Lord  
Sammi Marviglia  
Chris Mault  
Fabian Moreno  
Jacob Nevinski  
Christopher Pinkard  
Leanna San Miguel  
Kateland Williams

## ~Honor Roll~

Braxton Bell  
Mylee Hubbard  
Autumn Lance  
Aniya Newton  
Violet Tanner  
Christopher Trindel  
Alanie Fontan  
Cooper Tolar  
Emma Betts  
Kristian Bourland  
Arielle Galang  
Caiden Kennedy

Londyn Walker  
Samantha Bourland  
Alexa Gross  
Danny Herrick  
Connor Mault  
Ella Rosado  
Shelby Walag  
Hailey Brundage  
Emily Gardner  
Tachiinii Holmes  
Alyssa Hood  
Broden Mathus

Lillian Robinson  
Keegan Seckman  
Avrianna Williams  
Rachel Baker  
Anissa Deel  
Anjali Kok  
Kirk Chapman  
Josiah Chavira  
Kylie Hannan  
Trevor Hood  
Evangeline Katz  
Emily Lustgraaf

Kane Young  
Kaylyn Adriano  
Hailey Bean  
Bella Herbein  
Dariana Nunez-Reyes  
Carissa Ochoa  
Connor Jennings  
Cara Fajardo  
Makayla Oberg  
Nevaeh Thompson

## Pinal County Anti-Drug Poster Contest Finalists

Anissa Deel and Dinay Holmes



**Sparkle On!**



**Artwork created by: Krista Turk-4th grade**



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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## **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**



### **Mission:**

**To provide a rigorous academic focus for all students in a collaborative environment that emphasizes responsibility and 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.**

## **November Birthdays**

### ***Students:***

Lucy Tran  
Christopher Trindel  
Ashley Bean  
Hailey Bean  
Lahna Rosenbaum  
Atalie Aldama  
Brenna Cox  
Miles Annis  
Josephina Katz  
Violet Tanner  
Oliver Monzon

Dario Turk  
Faith Erickson  
DeJore Willis  
Bradley Watson  
Devin Wilson-Seymour  
Jackson Knopp  
Brylee Litviak  
Chisom Ubosi  
Julia Betts  
Elijah Gonzalez  
Azrielle Pava  
Michael Perez

Olivia Tew  
Adrian Vasquez  
Brian Miller

### ***Staff:***

Autumn Lord  
Katie Slater  
Amy Alexander  
Susan Jennings  
Tyseea Briggs  
Amber Sutton



# **Happy Birthday!**