

COMBS TRADITIONAL ACADEMY

January NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! With 2017 officially upon us and the start of 3rd quarter, we have much to look forward to over the coming months!

Registration for the 2017-18 school year officially kicks off on February 9th with Kindergarten Roundup. We will gladly accept registrations earlier, but please let your friends and families know about our Roundup and to contact our front office for more information. We have already gotten inquiries for the upcoming school year, but there's still plenty of space available for new enrollment!

Our Spelling Bee is on January 13th, with the top three finishers moving on to the District Bee on January 23rd. Our next Battle of the Books is coming up on January 20th. 4th-6th graders will begin work on their Investigation/Invention Projects and the top projects will be on display at the SciTech Festival on February 16th.

Field Trips have begun, with 4th and 5th graders attending BizTown on January 9th, 2nd graders going to Casa Grande National Monument on January 26th, and 1st graders going to the Natural History Museum in February. The other grades are currently determining their field trips and more will be coming on those shortly!

Academically, we are gearing up for AzMERIT and AIMS Science, so keep encouraging your children to show Rigor, Responsibility, and Respect!

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday break! Thank you for making Combs Traditional Academy your school of choice! Don't forget to put out the good word on our school in social media and on Great Schools!

Marcus Berkshire
Principal

Inside this Newsletter:

PTO News	2
Technology	2
Cafeteria News	2
Orchestra News	3
Transportation	3
Academic Coaches	3
Health Office	4
Band News	4
District News	4
Student Artwork	5
CTA Staff	5
January Birthdays	6

Important Dates:

1/11	Governing Board Mtg, 6PM-CMS
1/12	Awards Assemblies, Gym K-1 8:30-8:50 2-3 9:00-9:20 4-6 9:30-9:50
1/13	Flag Ceremony 8:30am
1/13	Spelling Bee 9:30am
1/16	No School-MLK Day
1/17	PTO Panda Express Night 4pm-10pm
1/20	Battle of the Books #2 9am
1/26	CTA Orchestra Concert @ Ellsworth 6PM
1/31	PTO Meeting 6pm

PTO News

Thank you to all those families who joined us for Bingo Night!! We hope it was a fun and enjoyable! I also want to thank the staff at CTA and the parents who volunteered! Without your assistance, these events wouldn't be successful. We also want to welcome everyone back after break!

Here is a list of upcoming events and we hope to see you there!

Jan 19th 4-10:00 Panda Express Restaurant Night (Must Bring Flyer)
Jan 31st 6:00-7:00 Quarterly PTO Meeting (In Library) Please come and join us!!
Feb 3rd 5:30-8:00 Sweetheart Dance

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer, please check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Combs-Traditional-Academy-PTO> or email at combstraditionalpto@gmail.com

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



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

Technology

Our students joined other students around the world in December to learn about CODING! The annual HOUR OF CODE encourages students across the world to participate using hands-on and on-line activities to learn about programming. Students were able to do courses and even create their own games to share with others to play. Even our kinder kiddo's joined in!

To learn more about the Hour Of Code go to the links below. <https://code.org/about>

To try a tutorial go to <https://studio.code.org/>

REMINDER: You need to be practicing your keyboarding skills at home. <https://www.typing.com/>

Suzana Battaglia,
M.Ed. Curriculum
and Instruction:
Technology



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



Lunch payments must be made **prior to 9am** to be added to your child's

Orchestra News

Dear CTA Parents,

Please mark your calendars to attend our Orchestra Concert. Please make a note that our concert will be Hosted in the Cafetorium at Ellsworth Elementary School located at 38454 N Caroline Ave. San Tan Valley, AZ on January 26 at 6:00 pm. I am very proud of the progress our orchestra students have been making, and I would love for you to attend to help cheer these wonderful deserving students on. See you there!!!!



Musically Yours,

Mr. Guido Lavorata, Director of Orchestra: Combs Traditional Academy, Ellsworth, Simonton, and Harmon Elementary Schools

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 .



ACADEMIC COACHES CORNER

With the new year comes New Year's Resolutions, exercising more, eating healthier, and saving money are all popular on our lists. Have you considered making academic goals with your children in the new year as well? Here is an excerpt from an article that discusses the importance of making academic goals with students .

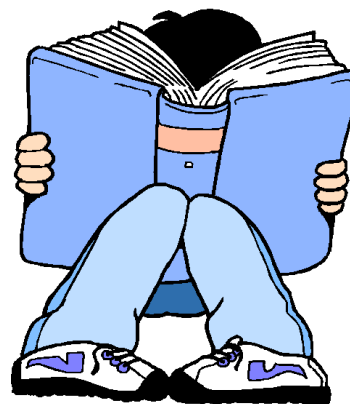
"The process of setting goals allows students to choose where they want to go in school and what they want to achieve. By knowing what they want to achieve, they know what they have to concentrate on and improve. Goal setting gives students long-term vision and short-term motivation.

Having sharp, clearly defined goals, which students can measure, will allow them to take pride in accomplishing those goals. They can see clear forward progress in what might have seemed a long drawn out process.

By setting goals students can:

- 1.improve their academic performance
- 2.increase their motivation to achieve
- 3.increase pride and satisfaction in performance
- 4.improve their self-confidence"

Effective Goal Setting for Students by Dorit Sasson





HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

The CTA Health Office would like to welcome all students back to school. We hope that everyone had a safe and healthy holiday season! Let's start the New Year by continuing to follow healthy habits. Remember to eat healthy, get plenty of rest and practice good hygiene habits! As a reminder if your child is vomiting or has a fever they must stay home until the fever has gone away and/or the vomiting has stopped. If your child is at school and they are vomiting or running a fever of 100.0 degrees or above they will be sent home and may not return to school for 24 hours.

Welcome back!!

CTA Health Office

"Students need to be healthy to be educated and educated to be healthy"

Band News

The first concert is history, but the work isn't finished! Please make sure your child is practicing their instrument regularly (and logging their time on a Practice Record), so we can continue to improve in the New Year. Regular band classes resume immediately upon return to school in 2017!

6th graders - the district honor band application is out! Make sure you have turned yours in, and watch for emails with more information about this exciting ensemble.



District News

January brings good news and great community events you won't want to miss!

Make sure to check out the special edition of the Ledger all about Combs! Keep a look out for the next publication in February. http://www.copperarea.com/pages/wp-content/uploads/12_7_16-Combs-Ledger.pdf

Combs Middle School has several exciting new elective courses to choose from including Photography, Graphic Design, TV/Film Production, Coding, Weight Training, Teens 'n Teaching, Introduction to Medical Professions, and Leadership Development. These and other elective classes provide students an opportunity to explore future careers and interests.

Jan. 25th - Combs High School Open House at 6 pm. Parents, incoming 9th graders and new students are invited to tour the school and learn about CHS.

Feb. 1st - Combs Middle School Open House at 6 pm. Parents, incoming 7th graders and new students are invited to tour the school and learn about CMS.

Feb 7th - Kindergarten Round-up at Ellsworth, Harmon, Ranch, Simonton Elementary Schools from 6 pm - 7 pm. Parents will tour the school and talk to teachers while students enjoy activities in the classroom.

Feb 9th - Kindergarten Round-up at Combs Traditional Academy from 6 pm - 7 pm. Parents will tour the school and talk to teachers while students enjoy activities in the classroom.

Feb 16th - District SciTech Festival will be hosted at Combs High School. Students from around the district, as well as community organizations, will demonstrate Science and Technology in Society. Join us for a fun evening highlighting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) projects and professions.



Artwork created by:

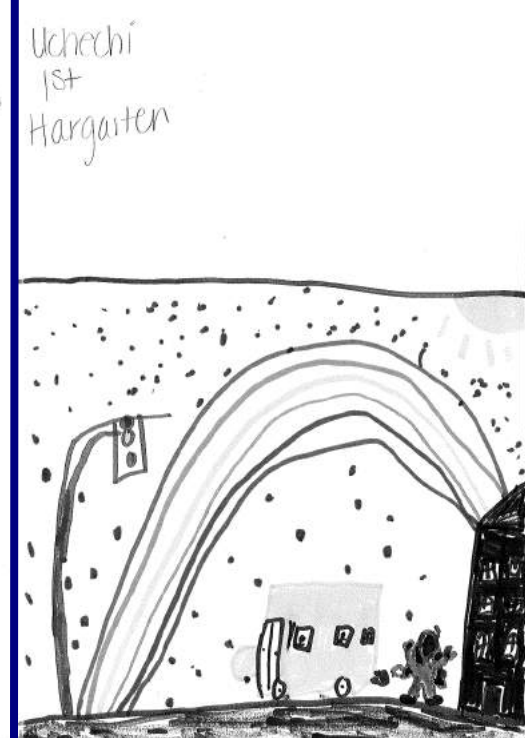
Krista-4th grade



Micaela-1st grade



Uchechi-1st 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: _____

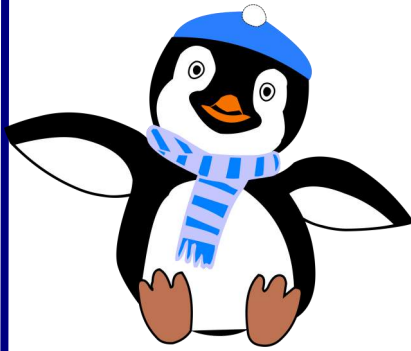


**COMBS
TRADITIONAL
ACADEMY**

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

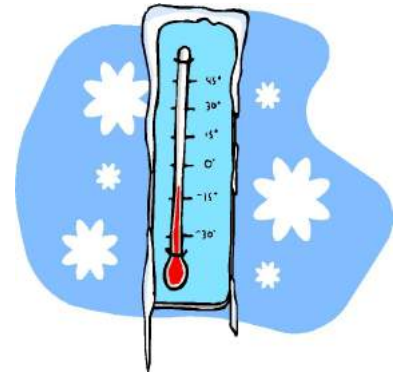
Website:
www.combstraditional.jocombs.org

***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.



January Birthdays

Students:

*Malachi Pollard
Max Curtis
Tya Howard
Andres Zavala
Shaye Castillo
Amara Hernandez
Jalil Westmoreland
Mason Lucas
Aubrey DeHart
Sara Anderson
Eduardo Ruvalcaba*

*Joseph Urso
Andrew Vasquez
Alexis Howley
Alyssa Yost
Aliyah Miranda
Dayvon Clayton
Destiny Douglas
David Fedjuk
Dash Matthews*

Staff:

*Jennifer Herrick
Gretchen Sheurich*

