



Combs Traditional Academy

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

Welcome to March! Spring is in the air and we are excited to begin showing what our students know and can do with state testing rapidly approaching!

AzMERIT statewide assessment for Grades 3-6 and AIMS Science for 4th Grade begin this month. 4th Graders will take the AIMS Science test on Thursday, March 23rd and 3rd-6th grades begin AzMERIT on March 27th. Testing will continue through April 25th. We want our students to be successful and the information we receive from state testing provides our staff with feedback on student mastery and success with the state standards. We will be sending out a specific testing schedule following Spring Break. Please take the time to review the testing schedule once you receive it. We ask that you make sure your child is at school on time on their testing date and that you ensure that they have had a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast. Students that are absent will be provided with an opportunity to make up the testing sessions that are missed. We are looking forward to our students showing their Knight Pride and continue to lead Pinal County in our Tradition of Excellence with Rigor, Responsibility, Respect!

Spring break is the week of March 13-17th, with a PD Day for teachers on March 20th. J.O. Combs Unified School District will be hosting a Job Fair on March 21st at Combs High School. We will have our final Battle of the Books on Tuesday, March 21st. Our 3rd Quarter Recognition Assemblies will take place on Friday, March 24th.

We are currently enrolling for the 2017-2018 school year and have openings at all grade levels. Please share the good news about Combs Traditional Academy with your family and friends and have them call our front office for a school tour today!

Thank you for your support of the school and students at Combs Traditional Academy! You are an integral part of our success and we appreciate all that you do!

Marcus J. Berkshire

Principal



Inside this Newsletter:

PTO News	2
Counselor's Corner	2
CTA Staff	3
Acknowledgement	
District Survey	3
Registration/Early Kinder Testing	3
Band/Orchestra	4
District News	5
Spring Pictures	5
Nurse's Corner	5
Student Artwork	6
March Birthdays	5

Parent Reminders:

- ♦ *March 2nd -PTO Board Mtg- @ 3:30pm*
- ♦ *March 3rd-Read Under the Stars 6-7:30pm*
- ♦ *March 8th -Governing Board Meeting 6-7:00pm*
- ♦ *March 13th-17th- Spring Break - No School*
- ♦ *March 20th-Professional Development-No School*
- ♦ *March 21st- School Resumes*
- March 24th- Awards Assembly*
 - K-1 8:30-8:50*
 - 2-3 9:00-9:20*
 - 4-6 9:30-9:50*
- ♦ *March 21st-Job Fair 4-7pm @ CHS*
- ♦ *March 23rd-April 25th AZ Merit testing*
- ♦ *March 31st-Spring pictures*

PTO NEWS

Thank you to the families who supported CTA during our Book Fair and Muffins with Families event!



BOX TOPS/CAMPBELL'S/LITTLE CAESERS

Thank you for continuing to support CTA by collecting and sending in your Box tops, Campbell's labels, and Little Caesars' tabs! Keep sending them in!

Mark your Calendars

March 2	PTO Board Meeting 3:30-4:30 pm
March 2	Governing Board Meeting 6pm
March 13-17	Spring Break
March 20	Professional Development, No school
March 24	Awards Assembly 8:30 am

We appreciate all of the support we have received from CTA families. We couldn't make our events successful without you! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact us at combstraditionalpto@gmail.com.

Counselor's Corner

Springtime brings more daylight, warmer temperatures, desert blooms...all the good Arizona has to offer! With that, we see more zest and enthusiasm on the playground and in the classroom. During the month of March our classroom guidance will focus on Fairness. We will be talking about being open to ideas and facts before making decisions. We will talk about how you can make decisions without showing favoritism. Fairness is important in the classroom, on the playground, everywhere!



Combs Traditional Academy Staff Acknowledgement Form

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 _____

I would like to recognize _____ for _____



Registrations for 2017/2018

It's that time of the year to start looking to next year and we need your help! We have begun accepting enrollment registrations for next. Our growth as a school depends on our families and their positive reviews of the school. You can help us by telling others in your community about your positive experiences with Combs Traditional Academy and by visiting greatschools.org to submit a review. We have had a lot of phone calls expressing interest in Kindergarten and are anticipating a waiting list for some grade levels for next year! Thank you for your help!

Early Kindergarten Testing

Early Entry Testing

By law, students must turn 5 by December 31 of the school year to qualify for early kindergarten testing. The testing fee is \$30.00. If you are interested in early kindergarten testing, please complete the interest form by scanning the QR code below. The early kindergarten test will be administered on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 26, 2017 3:45-6 pm at Harmon Elementary
- Wednesday, May 17, 2017 3:45-6 pm at Harmon Elementary
- Wednesday, June 14, 2017 1:00-3:30 pm at Ellsworth Elementary
- Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:00-3:30 pm at Ellsworth Elementary



The **J.O. Combs Unified School District** values your opinion about your child's school and uses the information provided to improve the educational environment and services for your child. Please take the annual survey to provide your input.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Combs2017>

Band News

March is a busy month in the band world! We start with our Spring Concert, which will be held on Thursday, March 2, in the Harmon Elementary Multipurpose Room. All band students are expected to attend! Just as in our winter concert in December, students should be on the stage ready to practice, at 5:00 p.m. The doors will open for parents at 5:30, and the concert starts at 6:00. Come & see the progress that all band students have made!

Next is March 11, but just for one CTA Band member. Congratulations to Jessica Valdez for being selected to the Arizona 6th Grade All-State Band! Jessica will rehearse with that band all day on the 11th, with a concert at the end of the day, at 5:00 p.m. This festival is being held at Shadow Mountain H.S. in Phoenix.

On Wednesday, March 22, several 6th grade students will be performing with the 6th Grade Honor Band at the Combs H.S. Band Concert & Dinner Under the Stars. This is a fundraiser for the high school band, but the 6th graders are providing a portion of the musical entertainment for the evening.

This performance is partly in preparation for the following day, March 23rd. This is when the Honor Band will travel to Alhambra H.S. in Phoenix to perform at the Arizona Elementary Band Festival. They will receive scores and comments from judges, and then one of the judges will conduct them and offer ways that they can improve their playing. What a great opportunity for these motivated students



Karen Steele, Band Director

Orchestra

Dear Parents,

I was so happy for the great job our orchestra students did at our last performance. We are busy working towards our next performance on May 3 at Combs High School. Some musical concepts that our Beginning Students will be working on are: Eighth Notes, Accidentals, Medley, Pinky "A," and $\frac{3}{4}$ time signature. Advanced students will work on the following musical concepts: Slurs, Dotted Rhythms, Playing Harmonies in rounds and songs, mastery of the "C" Scale, Accidentals, and Syncopated Rhythms.

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



Combs Kidz Spring Break Camp

K-6 students will stay engaged and enjoy arts & crafts, planned activities, board games, ping-pong, indoor & outdoor action and oodles of fun during this Spring Break Camp.

Snack is provided, however, please pack a lunch.



REGISTER ONLINE
NOW!

Combs Kidz is the J.O. Combs Before and After school child care program. Combs Kidz is a licensed, safe, fun-filled extended learning program for children in kindergarten through 6th grade.

Date: March 13-17 & 20
Time: 6:30 am—6:00 pm
Location: Ellsworth Elementary

\$25 Registration fee (waived for students currently in Combs Kidz)

\$30/full day or \$15/half day

\$150/All 6 full days

\$75/All 6 half days

20% Sibling Discount

20% Employee Discount

*Camp will not be held if minimum enrollment is not met.

Register: www.jocombs.org

Under the "Community Ed" tab, choose



Community Education 480-987-5310

Nurse's corner

Hello parents! Are you unsure what to do with your child's outgrown school

uniforms? Are they gently used and still have life in them? Donate them to the Health

Office here at CTA!! We are happy to take all sizes although we are specifically looking

for size 8 bottoms in girls and size 12,14 and some 16's in boys shorts and pants. Drop

them off at anytime! It's all greatly appreciated.

Ms. Sam



Spring Pictures

Spring pictures will be on Friday, March 31st. Students may dress down and wear any color/pattern and school appropriate dresses will be allowed. Shoulders and backs need to be covered and shorts/skirts/dresses at least knee length. Please contact our front office if you have any questions regarding the dress code and pictures.



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

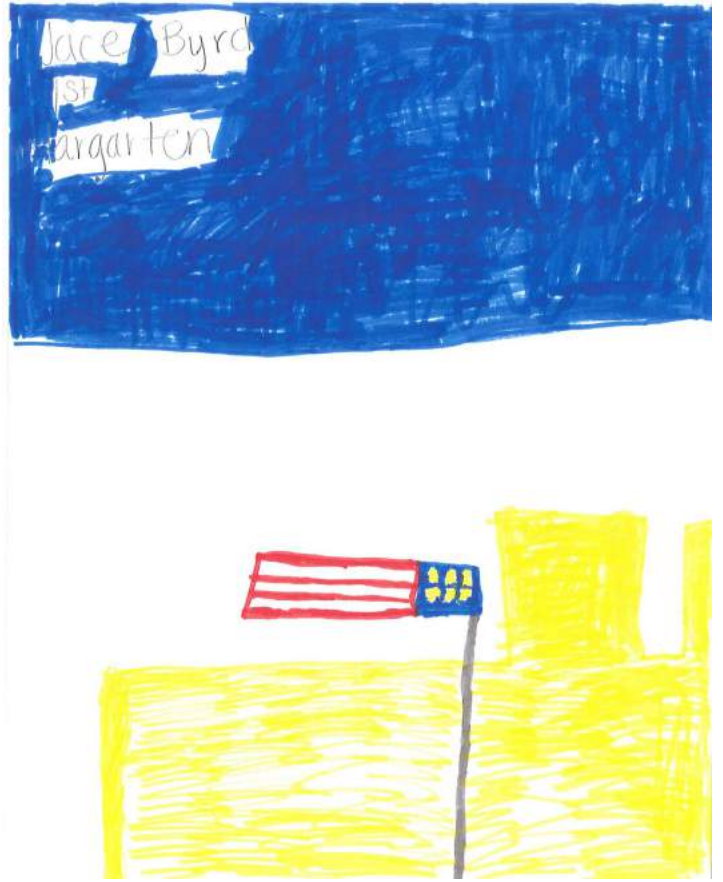
Combs
J.O. Combs Unified School District
Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Student Artwork by:

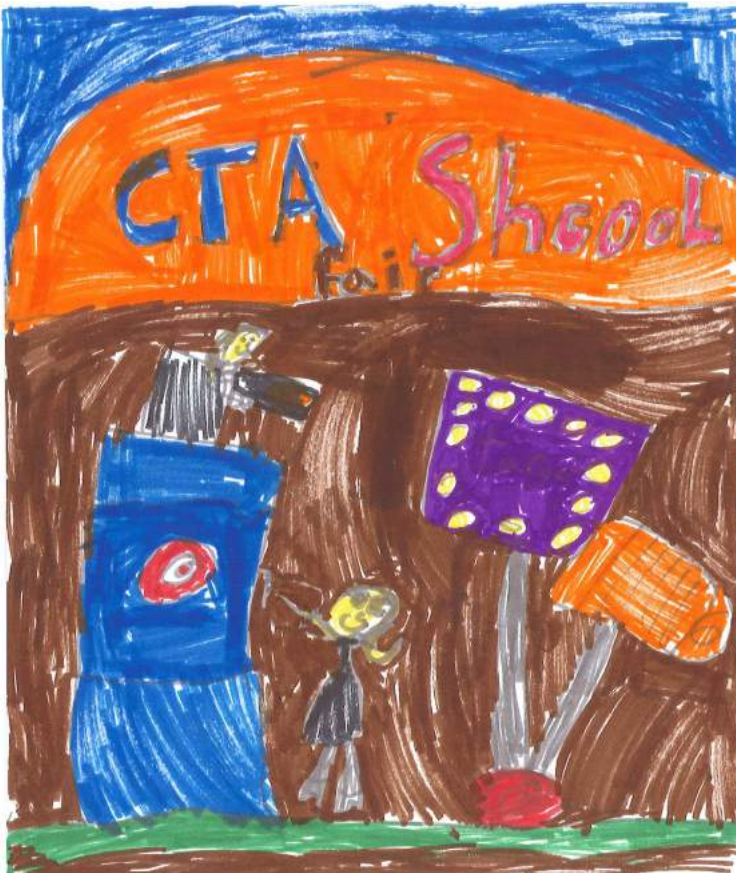
Addie B. ~ 3rd grade



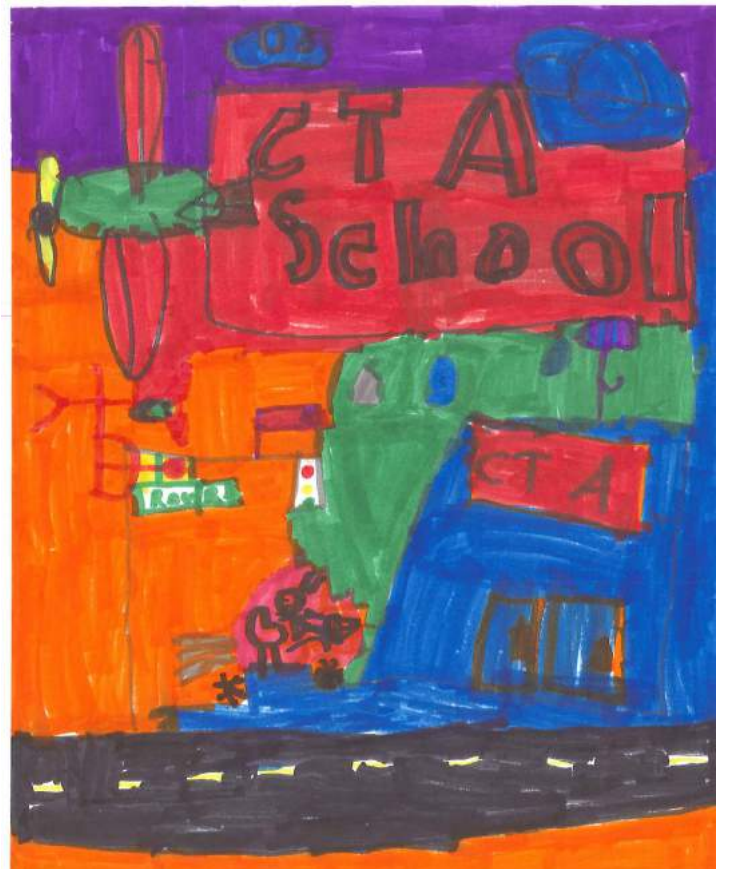
Jace B. ~ 1st grade



Piper B. ~ 1st grade



Rowan J. ~ 1st grade





**Combs
Traditional
Academy**

37327 N Gantzel Rd
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

Phone: 480-987-5320

Fax: 480-987-5009

Website:

www.combstraditional.jocombs.org

**Rigor, Responsibility, &
Respect**



Mission:

**To provide a rigorous academic
focus for all students in an
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.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Students:

Lukis Graham
Matthew Howell
Aydenn Galang
Joseph Flores
Christopher Allen
Michaela Bell
Isabella Loyola
Tristian Gonzalez
Abigail Vasquez
Emmalee Hood
Ashtyn Hubbard
Jace Machowski
Jillian Barbeau
Dominic Vasquez

Haydin Miller
Waylon Deel
Fabian Moreno
Landin Simpson
Ariana Kizier
Malachi Chavira
Abery Anthony
Natalie Bonilla
Hana Ali
Lily Gorham
Logan Baber

Staff:

Mrs. Keeli Torres
Ms. Cecilia Galvan
Mrs. Holly Hergarten

