

COMBS TRADITIONAL ACADEMY



MAY



NEWSLETTER



Principal's Message

This is an emotional and difficult letter for me to write, as it is the final one I will write as the Principal at Combs Traditional Academy. As was previously shared with you, I will be moving into the district office as the Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction next school year. The search for a new principal is underway and I am excited to soon meet and introduce to all of you the person that will be taking Combs Traditional Academy into its next chapter.

Over the last seven years, I have watched Combs Traditional Academy grow from a school of 85 students and five teachers to where we are now. I have enjoyed watching your children grow over the years, from the time our current 6th graders were Kindergartners with Mrs. Russell to where they are now. During that time the school earned the first A rating from the Arizona Department of Education for the J.O. Combs Unified School District, had numerous students represent the district at the Pinal County Spelling Bee and Regional Battle of the Books, and received a site visit in consideration for the Arizona Education Foundations A+ School of Excellence award.

I know I leave the school in good hands with the dedication and quality of the people that work with your children every day. We have a terrific staff and community. While we recently received news that we were not awarded the A+ award, the feedback from the committee was very positive. They found a school that has a family oriented environment with a high degree of community involvement, especially with our Art Masterpiece program. They found a school culture that encourages students to be kind and caring through our Knight's Notes program and motto of Rigor, Responsibility, and Respect. Within the classroom, our community values the rigor of our program and the work we have done towards helping students to set and monitor goals. The committee was also very impressed with our parent pickup/dropoff system and stated that it is a model for other schools to follow! This and all of the feedback we received from the team that visited us will be shared with the incoming principal, which I believe will help them to guide the school and our community to new heights of excellence.

Our students recently completed AzMERIT testing. The State Board of Education recently passed the new A-F accountability grade rubric for schools, which means that we will be receiving a letter grade in the fall. Much of the grade will be based on the performance of our students on AzMERIT and AIMS Science. Part of the grade will be on their proficiency and part of it will be based on their growth. I will be excitedly watching to see where we end up once the scores are released, but I believe we have what it takes to be an A school!

In addition to my departure, we will also be saying goodbye to three of our teachers. Ms. Hrubec, Ms. Dahl, and Mrs. Hargarten will be moving on to new stages in their lives. We wish them good luck and they will be sorely missed!

Finally, we will be saying goodbye to our 6th graders and other students that may be moving on to a new school next year. I would like to specifically mention the 6th grade students that will be our first students to leave Combs Traditional Academy that have been here since Kindergarten. Those are Alex Darby, Shelby Walag, Isaac Sedillo, and Arianna Burks. We are proud of them, as well as all of our departing 6th graders!

I want to finish by expressing my thanks and gratitude to all of you in the Combs Traditional Academy community. It has been a wonderful experience being your Principal. I am glad that I am still going to be close by, but I want you to know that I will miss each and every one of you.

Thank you,

Marvin J. Berkshire

Inside this Newsletter:

Recognition Assemblies	2
Instrument Night	2
Volunteer Tea	2
Library News	2
Band News	2
Yearbook Party	2
Technology	3
Nurse	3
Enrollment	3
Summer Camps	4
Counselor's Corner	5
Celebration of Learning	5
Enrichment Classes	6
Picture Orders	7
May/Summer Birthdays	8

Parent Reminders:

- ♦ *May 1st-5th- Staff Appreciation Week*
- ♦ *May 3rd- Mass Orchestra Concert@ CHS*
- ♦ *May 4th- Mass Band Concert @ CHS*
- ♦ *May 10th- Governing Board Mtg @ 6:00pm CMS*
- ♦ *May 11th- Kindergarten Orientation 6pm*
- ♦ *May 12th- Volunteer Tea*
- ♦ *May 18th- Celebration of Learning @ 6pm*
- ♦ *May 23rd- Awards Assembly*
K-1 8:30-8:50
2-3 9:00-9:20
4-6 9:30-9:50
- ♦ *May 23rd- Last Day of School- HALF DAY- Students Dismissed at 12pm*

End of the Year Recognition Assemblies

Mark your calendars as well for the 4th Quarter Recognition Assemblies on the last day of school, May 23rd. We will be recognizing 4th quarter honor roll recipients as well as perfect attendance. Additionally, we will recognize those students with perfect attendance for the school year and the Presidential Academic Awards Program.

KG & 1st Grades - 8:30-8:50
2nd & 3rd Grades - 9:00-9:20
4th-6th Grades - 9:30-10:00



It has been a very rewarding school year for our Orchestra Students. On May 9th, Orchestra and Band will be hosting a “**Recruitment Night/Instrument Petting Zoo**” at Ellsworth School. Music and Arts Music Stores will be providing instruments for your child to try in order to help them choose what instrument they would like to study for the 2017-2018 school year. 4th and 5th grade parents, watch for a flyer to come home in the next week with details about the event.



DISTRICT-WIDE BAND/ORCHESTRA INFO MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, May 9th

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Ellsworth Elementary School

FOR WHO: Any elementary student (and their parent) interested in joining band or orchestra next fall.

Discover what's involved in the program, what instruments are allowed, a general idea of cost, what commit-

We Love Our Volunteers!

And to show our love for your time and dedication to Combs Traditional Academy, you are invited to tea with our staff on Friday, May 12th during your child's/teacher's lunch time.



6th Grade - 10:45-11:20
5th Grade - 10:55-11:30
1st Grade - 11:10-11:45
KG - 11:20-12:00
2nd Grade - 11:35-12:10
3rd Grade - 11:50-12:25
4th Grade - 12:00-12:35

YEARBOOK PARTY



The CTA Yearbook Signing Party will be held after school on Friday, May 19th from 3-4 pm.

Students will have a chance to sign yearbooks, buy smens and smencils from Student council, purchase snacks and drinks, play games and win prizes! Permission slips will be sent home in the beginning of May. Students must have a signed permission slip turned in to be able to attend the party. We hope you can join us! :) :)

-Yearbook Club



Band News

The annual Mass Band Festival will take place at Combs High School on Thursday, May 4th. This involves ALL of the band students from the entire district, combining for a day of rehearsal and fun, followed by a concert in the evening. *Mark your calendars* - the concert will be in the CHS gym, starting at 6:00 p.m. Don't miss it!

4TH GRADE PARENTS! Mass Band or the Spring Concert is an excellent way to interest your soon-to-be-5th grader in the world of instrumental music! Please plan on attending and let your child see what possibilities there might be in his/her future!

Library News

Parents—May 5th is the last day for your student to check out a book from the CTA library. **ALL LIBRARY BOOKS WILL NEED TO BE RETURNED BY MAY 12th!!** Please check your bookshelves, backpacks, or cars for any of our library books and get them back to us as soon as possible. There will be no library time for students from May 17th until the end of school. I will be doing book inventory during that time. --Ms. Sabo



Technology

The end of school is quickly approaching! Students can continue to work over the summer to keep and improve new skills we have worked with this year. Some things students can do over the summer to prepare them for next year are:

- All Students should continue to practice typing at home using <https://www.typing.com/> (or <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr>) Don't forget to either sign into the school account or have your parent build a new account. Just practice!
- Kinder and First Graders can continue to use MS Paint to create pictures at home. If an adult can help them learn how to SAVE - that will get them a step ahead for next year.
- For older students: Log into Google Classroom and continue to create DOCS, and SLIDES and try out DRAWINGS. Using these programs will help you keep the skills that we were introduced to this year and allow you to explore and learn more on your own.

GOOGLE ACCOUNT LOGIN:

1. Get on the Internet
2. Search for classroom.google.com
3. You should see the blue sign in button
4. Use your username ex: 22bats56@jocombs.org
5. Enter your password: learn2lead(first&last initials)
6. Select I am a STUDENT (if it prompts you)
7. Enter the classroom and click on the SUMMER WORK assignment. In this area you can create as many documents as



Note from the Nurse

Spring is here! Please remember that this time of year in the Arizona sun, it is very important that your child be protected from the changes that can affect their health at school and at home. Dehydration is the main cause of headaches in school age children. Please send your child to school with a water bottle daily and remind them to DRINK every time they come inside from an outdoor activity, as well as often throughout the day.



We would like to encourage you to:

1. Before school-generously apply sunscreen to your child to all exposed skin using a lotion with at least 15+ SPF.
2. Have them wear protective clothing such as light-weight long sleeved shirts
3. Wear a hat when outside
4. Wear sunglasses to protect eyes when outside
5. Seek shade when appropriate
6. DRINK DRINK DRINK plenty of fluids!

Kindergarten/ New Student Enrollment

Thursday, May 11th is our New Kindergarten Parent Orientation at 6:00PM in our gym. Please invite any family, friends, or neighbors with incoming Kindergarten children to attend and learn more about what they can expect from our program, the first day of school, and what they can be doing this summer to help their child be ready for school. Please contact our front office if you have any questions.

We are currently accepting new student enrollment for all grade levels for the 2017-2018 school year. Please encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to contact us to set up a school tour!



Bruno Cabezas 1st Grade



J.O. Combs

SUMMER CAMP

MAY 24 - AUGUST 1
HOSTED AT ELLSWORTH ELEMENTARY



OUR FUN ACTIVITIES

Weekly themes, Arts & Crafts, Ping Pong, Technology, Indoor & Outdoor Activities, Science Experiments, Water Days, Weekly Field Trips!

LIMITED SPACE!

DAILY AND WEEKLY PRICING OPTIONS

Combine with Summer of Learning Classes for all day fun!

WWW.JOCOMBS.ORG COMMUNITY EDUCATION TAB

YOUNG COYOTES SUMMER CAMP

May 30th - July 28th



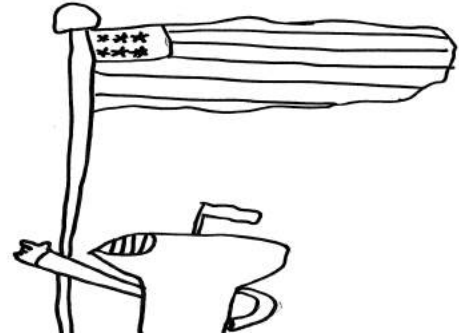
Monday - Friday | 6:30am - 6:00pm
Hosted at Ellsworth Elementary

Check out the Calendar of Events!

PosterMyWall.com

Ethan Rosenbaum 5th Grade

Rigor Responsibility
Respect



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 _____

Counselor's Corner

Where did the school year go?! CTA students have earned a well deserved summer break to rest and relax before the 2017/18 school year begins. Next year, we will be adding to our Character Education classroom guidance lessons. All the elementary schools in JO Combs will also be utilizing Second Step curriculum created by the Committee for Children. You can preview the material at <http://www.cfchildren.org/second-step>.

Mental Health Services

24/7/365 Crisis Services
Crisis Line
[602-222-9444](tel:602-222-9444)

Community Services (San Tan Valley)

Compassion Care Center
5418 E. Skyline Drive, Bldg. CO1, San Tan Valley, AZ 85140
[480-987-0885](tel:480-987-0885) www.stvccc.or

Community Information and Referral Services (Pinal County and all of Arizona)

Arizona 211
<http://www.211arizona.org>
211 from your phone



Our JO Combs School District food bank will be closed during the summer months, however we'd like to remind you to use the services before our closing date of May 23rd, 2017.



Celebration of Learning



Mark your calendars now to join us to celebrate your child's learning on Thursday, May 18, 2017 from 6:00PM-7:30PM. You will have an opportunity to visit your child's classrooms as well as other classrooms around the school to participate in the celebration. Additionally, we will be displaying our Art Masterpiece selections throughout the school and PTO will be actively soliciting donations for the program for the next school year. Please consider donating something to help fund the supplies and artwork that we use for Art Masterpiece every year. We also encourage you to think about volunteering for the program in the upcoming school year!

~REMINDER~



The **last day of school** is **May 23rd**.
Dismissal is at **12:00pm**.

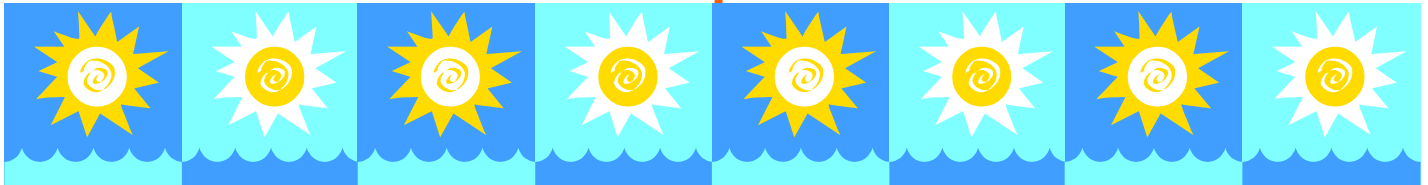
Students will have an opportunity to eat lunch at school.



Logan Baber 1st Grade



Mia Darby 1st Grade



Summer of Learning Enrichment Classes!

Hosted at Ellsworth Elementary
June 5 - June 29

ROBOTICS
FITNESS
Theater
Art
Dance and Cheer
GROSSOLOGY!

And Many MORE!

www.jocombs.org
Community Education
Tab

SUMMER Lunch Buddies

Helping kids eat healthy
Spend time with friends and enjoy meals at no cost while school is out.
Open to ages 18 and younger. No application is needed.

Location: Ellsworth Elementary School

Dates: 5/30/17-6/30/17 Monday-Friday

Times: 7:15-8:30 & 11:00-1:00

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Visit azsummerfood.gov or text **FOOD** to 877-877 for more information.

This meal is funded by USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP through the Arizona Nutrition Network. This is a special opportunity program.

Kaya Stewart 1st Grade



Spring Picture Orders

Order Now!

Picture orders are due **Wednesday, May 3rd.**
Late
orders need to be placed ONLINE at
www.inter-state.com/order
using the unique order code found on the inside
of the proof flyer. This unique order code stays
active up to one year from the original picture



Uchechi Ubosi 1st Grade



Cristian Garcia 1st Grade



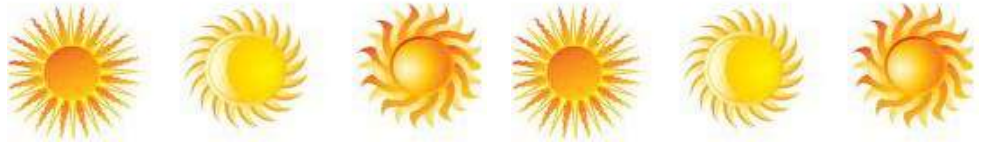
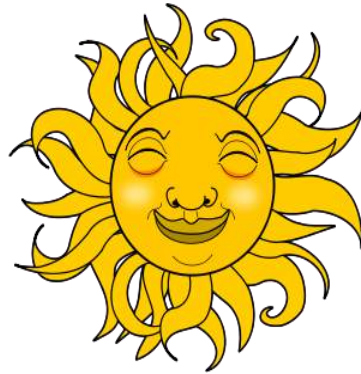


**COMBS
TRADITIONAL
ACADEMY**

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**

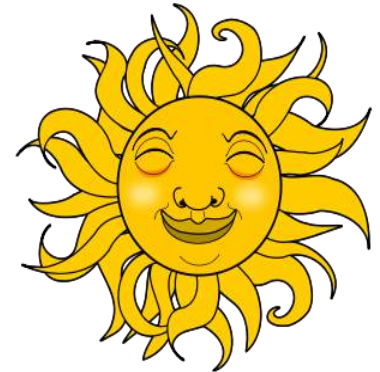


Mission:

**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.**



MAY & SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

May Students:

Nicodemus Holmes
Tachiinii Holmes
Ayden Budish
Gabrielle Figueroa
Makenzie Howley
Aniya Newton
Avrianna Williams
Whitaker
Emily Lustgraaf
Sophia Tapia
Braxton Bell
Aleah Fajardo
Alanie Fontan-
Juarez
Ariana Sanchez
Noah Sedillo
Victoria Yost

Glen Dimes

Roger Earley
Ashley McCue
Mason Ervin
Audrina Flores
Katelynne Andrew
Olivia Starr-Brown
Chinonye Ubosi
Connor Mault

June Students:

Ethyn Macias
Ivy Dierbeck
Camren Tapia
Miley Quick
Steven Erickson
Elijah Benjamin

Easton Payne

Ricardo Cervantes
Aeden Curtis
Cara Fajardo
Michael Morales
Rowan Jentsch
Haylee Herrick
Donovan Starr-
Brown
Joseph Bilducia
Caiden Kennady
Daesha Matthews
Roy Chavez
Jace Hubbard
Julia Federle
Sofia Munoz

July Students:

Adan Torres
Lenny Tran
Samuel Vasquez
Hernandez
Kolton Zahn
Christian Williams
Shevonne Johnson
Lillian Robinson
Jacob Federle
Brooklyne Davis
Alfonso Jaime
Justin Navarre
Ephraim Bunker
Anijwah Griggs
Arielle Galang
Kaylyn Adriano
Tyler Hood

Logan Newton

Summer McAfee
Arianna Washington
Sherman Mabey
Alana Patubo

Staff:

Chris Azanger
Emily Sabo
Samantha Fraser
Wendell Porterfield