



COMBS TRADITIONAL ACADEMY

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

It is finally starting to feel like the winter! This is one of my favorite times of the year, with the Thanksgiving and Winter Holidays, which go so well with our Character Counts Pillar of the month, caring.

I am thankful for the support and caring of our Combs Traditional Academy community. Our Student Council recently completed another successful food drive and our National Elementary Honor Society completed their first clothing drive. Both drives were student driven, but could not have been successful without your donations. The J.O. Combs Food and Clothing Bank gratefully received the items and they will go back out to families in need within our J.O. Combs community.

I am grateful for the staff with whom I work. Their smiles and the care with which they put into the school and the children in our charge are an inspiration to me. We are fortunate to have such a tremendous group of adults that work with our children.

I am thankful for the children with whom we work. Their hugs, smiles, and greetings bring warmth to the cold days! I love to see how much they love to learn and challenge themselves when I visit the classrooms. They, too, are an inspiration to me!

Finally, I am thankful for the collaboration we have between our parents and teachers, especially with our PTO. They help celebrate our staff birthdays, recognize our staff with dinner at conferences, and supply our Art Masterpiece program. We have two upcoming PTO programs which are always wonderful events, but they don't happen without your involvement! Please consider, in this time of thanksgiving and generosity, giving your time to Bingo Night or the Sweetheart Dance. You can contact our front office if you are interested and we can follow up with PTO.

The holidays are always busy times of the year. Thank you for your tireless efforts on our behalf. We truly couldn't be the school we are without you.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Marcus J. Berkshire

Marcus Berkshire
Principal

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Parent Reminders:

- ♦ 12/9 Bingo Night 6-8pm
- ♦ 12/13 Band Concert @ 6pm- Harmon
- ♦ 12/14 District Board Meeting @ 6pm- CMS
- ♦ 12/20- Half day-Release at 12:00pm (Lunch will be available)
- ♦ 12/21-1/3 Winter Break — No School
- ♦ 1/4 School Resumes





~PTO News~



The Combs Traditional Academy PTO would like to wish every one of our Knights Families a Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!!

Last call to order Knights Zip-Up Hoodies. They are \$25.00 and orders are due by Friday Dec. 2nd. There is also a very limited selection for purchase in the office or if you would like to see them prior to ordering. Orders will take approximately a week to arrive once the order is placed.

Bingo Night is next week, Dec 9th. Doors open at 5:30pm and Bingo starts at 6:00pm. We are still in need of volunteers so please see the Sign-Up Genius link below if you can help. Timeslots range from 30-60 minutes. Pre-ordering pizza is heavily recommended as there will be minimal available for purchase by the slice at the event. All pre-orders are due 12/6. In addition to Bingo, there will be a Silent Auction. Each grade level assembled a themed basket and 100% of the proceeds will go to those grade level teachers for classroom purchases. Please join us for a night of fun!

Thank you once again to all of our families and volunteers for making some of these events a success. Without your support the staff and school would not be able to get what it needs to make your kids great!! Thank You!!

Upcoming Events:

Bingo Night 12-9 5:30pm-8:00pm

Last Day of School for Winter Break: 12-20

Bingo Sign up Genius Link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044fa8aa22abf85-ctabingo>

Check us out on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/Combs-Traditional-Academy-PTO>



REMINDER

Lunch prices have changed for the 2016-17 school year. Please take note of the prices below when paying on your student's account:

Breakfast:

\$1.25 (reduced \$0.40)

Lunch:

\$2.65 (reduced \$0.40)

~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 account the same day



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 _____

Transportation Changes

If you need to make a change to your child's afternoon transportation, please be sure to contact our office prior to 12pm to give us adequate time to notify your child's teacher. If you must call after 12pm 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. Tanya 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.



Labeling Jackets and Lunch Boxes

Please make sure your child's jackets and lunch boxes are labeled with his or her name. This is the time of year when student's have a tendency to forget these items at school and we need your help in making sure that they can be returned. Thank you for your assistance.



Is it the **COLD** or the **FLU**??
CTA Health Office

It's that time of year that we all knew was coming. Cold and Flu season. Do you know the signs and symptoms of the cold and flu? While both have similarities they are still two very different illnesses. The chart below shows the differences between them.

Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Fever	Very rare	(100-102 degrees F) comes on quick & lasts 3-4 days.
Headache	Very rare	Prominent
General Aches, Pains	Slight	Common, can be severe
Fatigue & Weakness	Rare and quite mild	Common, can be severe, comes on quick & can last a few weeks
Sneezing, Runny/Stuffy Nose & Sore Throat	Almost Always	Sometimes
Chest Discomfort and Coughing	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common; can become severe

Let's all have a healthy December!!

Nurse's Corner

School Nurses



Care for Kids



~Counselor's Corner~



Thank you to all the families that were able to donate food and clothing in support of the JO Combs drives! As we approach the holidays and cooler weather, we know that families in our community may be in need of some resources. The JO Combs Food and Clothing Bank is available for families in our community. It is open on Tuesdays from 9 am to 11 am and 1 pm to 4 pm. It is housed at our district offices, 301 E. Combs Rd.

In the month of December students will be participating in classroom guidance lessons surrounding the character trait of CARING. We will define caring as showing others empathy, compassion and gratitude. Students will get a chance to talk about how they receive care and how they can give care to others.

Jette Thompson, Counselor



~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!!!!

Sincerely,

Mr. Guido Lavorata, Director of Orchestra:
CTA, Ellsworth, Simonton and Harmon



~Technology~

Students around the world are CODING! The annual HOUR OF CODE encourages students across the world to participate using hands-on and online activities to learn how code is used. This year the CODE.org website has added even more games that students can play as they learn the steps to code. To learn more about the Hour Of Code go to the links below.

<https://code.org/about>
<https://code.org/educate/curriculum/elementary-school>



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

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



~District News~



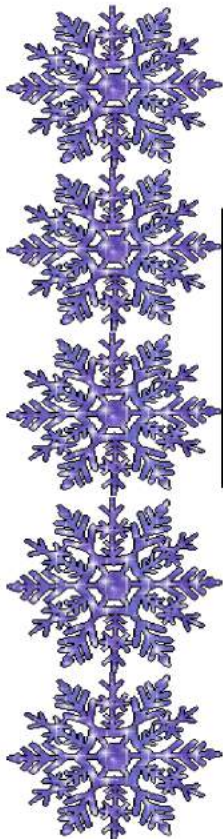
Thank you for supporting the Bond Election and making this election year a win for our students! Once the sale of bonds commences in July, the community will start to see their bond dollars at work over the next several years with the construction of the Combs High School auditorium, new busses, updated technology, and a district transportation and service center. Follow the progress of these projects on Twitter @JOCCombsUSD #CombsBond2016

Mark your calendars for Polarfest on December 10th from 11am - 5pm at Combs Middle School! Enjoy a fun filled day with carnival rides and pictures with Santa. Many Combs school organizations will be there with booths or student performances. Don't miss out!

On January 4th at the district professional development day, community members are invited to attend the Rejuvenation Vendor Fair at Combs High School from 12:30pm -1:30pm Help set your New Year's Resolutions in motion by visiting with representatives from colleges, gyms, credit unions, and health offices. While you're there, don't forget to stop by a food truck for lunch! We hope to see you there.

Combs is currently hiring for a number of positions including paraprofessionals, a high school science teacher, a middle school math teacher, and emergency substitutes. If you or someone you know is interested, please visit the Employment tab on the district web page at www.jocombs.org.

Combs Kidz Winter Camp is now registering! See the flyer for dates and details or visit the Community Education tab at www.jocombs.org for more information.



Combs Kidz Winter Break Camp at Ellsworth Elementary

We look forward to a fun-filled Camp on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Dec. 21
- Thursday, Dec. 22
- Tuesday, Dec. 27
- Wednesday, Dec. 28
- Thursday, Dec. 29
- Friday, Dec. 30
- Tuesday, Jan. 3
- Wednesday, Jan. 4

- \$30/full day or \$15/half day.
- 20% Sibling & Employee discount.
- DES payments are accepted.
- Register online by Dec. 16.
- www.jocombs.org website, please choose the "Community Education" tab at the top.
- For more information contact Tracie at (480) 987-5310 in Community Ed



Illustration by
Sylvia Sterling-5th grade



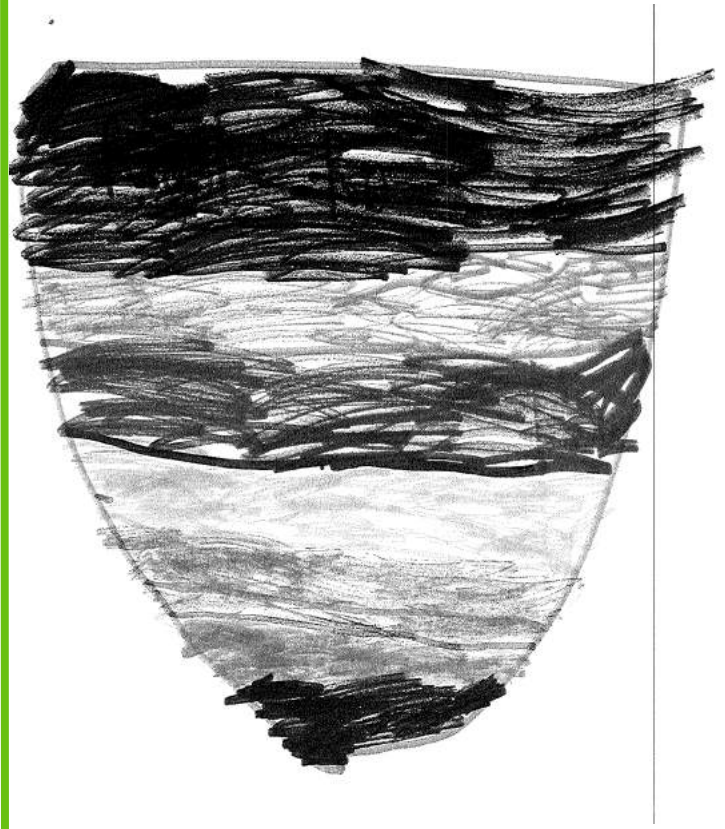
Illustration by
Uchechi Ubosi-1st grade



Illustration by
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Illustration by
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**COMBS
TRADITIONAL
ACADEMY**

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Website:

www.combstraditional.jocombs.org

Follow us: twitter at:

#rigorresponsibilityrespect

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/GreatSchools:Greatschools.org)

Great Schools: Greatschools.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.**



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**Happy
Birthday!!!**

Students:

Gabhen Dorman
Rebecca Munoz
Kamari Stewart
Micaela Amoako
Isabella Marines
Samantha Wolfe
Paige Culver
Cristian Garcia
Michael Santos
Danny Ta
Wilson Ta
Makayla Tabor

Mackenzie Anthony
Keiara Parker
Shelby Walag
Sopheya Pina
Thomas Andrew
Willow Emerson
Jessica Valdez
Kyle Knopp
Abigail Scarlett
Healdfene Riley
Alexandra Garcia
Brylie Hartman
Aaron Reedy
Arianna Burks
Oscar Sanchez

Staff:

Mr. Guido Lavorata
Ms. Lisa Hrubec
Megan Cox



happy birthday